

REPORT TO PARISH COUNCILS SEPT 2021 FROM CLLR DAVID BARTHOLOMEW

GENERAL OCC REPORT

PRIORITIES OF NEW ADMINISTRATION

The new LibDem/Green/Labour administration has announced its priorities. I have concerns that some of these areas, while laudable, are matters beyond the council's remit and are for central government, or that the council can have minimal impact upon them. The priorities are:

- Tackle the Climate Emergency
- Tackling inequalities
- Prioritisation of wellbeing
- Review and reform of the social care system
- Increased investment in travel network to reduce car journeys
- Improved access to nature and green spaces
- Supporting children and young people to achieve improved health, wellbeing and educational outcomes
- The creation of a resilient local democracy
- Support for local employment and businesses to make Oxfordshire a centre for green technologies

The vast majority of the emails I receive are about road maintenance/improvement, traffic accidents, drains, grass cutting, flooding, footpaths, waste disposal and planning matters – these important but unglamorous matters receive barely a mention and the administration seems to focus more on grandstanding on national issues than the fundamentals of running a local council.

THANKING PEOPLE IN OXFORDSHIRE FOR THEIR SUPPORT FOR AFGHAN REFUGEES

People in Oxfordshire who are wanting to donate items to help those who have been evacuated from Afghanistan are being thanked for their warm-hearted reaction to the situation. The generosity of Oxfordshire people to date means that no further donations are needed just now. Some of the items donated have already been distributed and gratefully received by arrivals at RAF Brize Norton from Afghanistan over recent days. OCC will be working closely with the district councils and the city council in coming days and weeks as the situation develops. Further information on support for refugees in Oxfordshire can be found here: <https://news.oxfordshire.gov.uk/support-afghan-refugees/>

OAKLEY WOOD HWRC UNDER THREAT?

I am concerned that once again, our Oakley Wood household waste recycling centre (HWRC) could be under threat. Please respond to the following consultation and forward it to any residents you think might be interested.

<https://news.oxfordshire.gov.uk/tell-us-what-you-think-of-countys-household-waste-and-recycling-centres/>

ROUTE REVEALED FOR OXFORDSHIRE STAGE OF WOMEN'S TOUR CYCLING RACE

This year's Women's Tour professional cycling race comes to Oxfordshire on **Monday 4 October**. Route details can be found here: <https://www.womenstour.co.uk/stages/stage-1/>