Cllr Robin Bennett, County Councillor Report: April 2024
Robin.bennett@Oxfordshire.gov.uk

Surface dressing to improve road surfaces and help prevent potholes

Nearly 100 roads across Oxfordshire will be improved as part of a £7 million highway maintenance programme beginning this spring.

Oxfordshire County Council and its contractor Milestone Infrastructure Ltd will be visiting more than 50 locations between 8 April and 3 June to carry out surface dressing work. The programme is part-funded by the government, with £2.629 million coming from the Department for Transport's road resurfacing fund.

Around one million square metres of carriageway will be treated, making it the biggest surface dressing programme undertaken in Oxfordshire for at least 20 years.

Surface dressing involves applying bituminous emulsion on to the road as a binder. This is followed immediately by the application of chippings to dress the emulsion layer. This method enables large amounts of road to be treated with minimal travel disruption and helps to prevent potholes.

Motorcycle safety training coming to Kidlington and Thame

Motorcyclists are being encouraged to sign-up for specialist training sessions, designed to improve their safety awareness and riding skills. The Be a Better Biker workshops are provided as part of road casualty reduction work by Oxfordshire County Council's Fire and Rescue Service and neighbouring local authorities (Bucks).

Training covers a range of advanced techniques including:

- Manoeuvring
- Overtaking
- Cornering techniques
- An on-road assessment with a qualified observer
- A review of the on-road session.

The next sessions will take place at Kidlington Fire Station on Saturday 13 April and Saturday 11 May, and at Thame Fire Station on Saturday 27 April.
The day includes classroom based learning and a two hour practical ride out.
Anyone wishing to take part must hold a full and valid motorbike licence and have access to their own vehicle to use during the course.
https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/travel-safe-bucks-41365202613

River levels in Oxfordshire

River levels in Oxfordshire have remained generally high and responsive to rainfall. Find links to relevant agencies here: https://news.oxfordshire.gov.uk/high-river-levels/

Service Changes at Oxford Bus Company

Oxford Bus Company has announced they are making some changes to services in Oxford City and South Oxfordshire from 14 April 2024. Find out more and view the changes services on the Oxford Bus Company website. The changes to the X40 River Rapids service may affect you so do check before you set off.

https://images-oxfordbus.passenger-website.com/downloads/X40%20booklet%20apr24%20v2%20web.pdf

Fly tipping

If you see fly tipped waste, please report it to Biffa – FixMyStreet no longer accepts reports of fly tipping.
Please call Biffa on 03000 610 610 or email: admin.southoxford@biffa.co.uk with details of where you saw the waste, the type of waste and when you spotted it. There is a form you can fill in (if you like forms) on the fly tipping pages on the council's website.
SODC's Envirocrime team can then be dispatched to investigate. The council has a successful track record of prosecuting fly tippers so please do report!

Road safety etc

Following recent incidents and concerns raised by residents, I have met again with County officers about, in particular, the Dorchester bypass stretch of the A415, and the A415/Tollgate Road crossing. I have asked for updates on what can be done to bring forward safety improvements and will report back as soon as I have more info. I've also asked for an update on the wider A4074 corridor study as the consultation on this took place some time ago.