Oxfordshire County Council News Aug/Sept 2025

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Road Resurfacing: A comprehensive programme of resurfacing work to improve roads across Oxfordshire is taking place with 111,000 square metres of roads being addressed. Oxfordshire County Council and its principal highways contractor M Group will visit 36 sites to carry out essential resurfacing. Work started at the end of June 2025 and is scheduled to run until 17 October 2025. More information at https://news.oxfordshire.gov.uk/latest-road-resurfacing-programme/

A4074 policing: Thames Valley Police (TVP) were out on Sunday 13th July with Inspectors and Chief Inspectors on the A4074 (finally!) tackling the speeding and dangerous driving issues we are all too aware of locally. Drones were used and several fines for speeding and dangerous driving were issued. The CEO of Oxfordshire County Council is visiting on 8th Sept (see item below) and I'll be introducing him and his officers to the problem then.

Climate Emergency UK: This organisation monitors the performance of the country's councils and full results can be seen at https://councilclimatescorecards.uk/scoring/county/. Oxfordshire County Council is currently in first place with a 65% rating across all the criteria, the average score for councils being 40%

Local Government reorganisation: In light of the Labour government's initiative to re-order local government into unitary or combined authorities the three different proposals for Oxfordshire are summarised here https://letstalk.oxfordshire.gov.uk/local-government-reorganisation

Drain clearing: OCC has committed to cleaning every roadside gully, drain and manhole every year for the duration of the current term. https://news.oxfordshire.gov.uk/every-roadside-drainage-gully-to-be-cleaned-this-year/

Encouraging active travel and reducing congestion: Living Streets, the charity for everyday walking, is encouraging parents to swap the school run for an active travel journey, with children self reporting how they get to school each day. All they have to do to join is either complete a simple online form or email: walktoschool@livingstreets.org.uk.

Additional funding to tackle serious violence in Thames Valley: Matthew Barber (Thames Valley Police and Crime Commissioner) has awarded £1.8m of Home Office funding to help tackle serious crime in the Thames Valley.

LOCAL QUESTIONS TO FULL COUNCIL (8th July):
At last full council I managed to ask Cabinet Member for Transport Management Andrew Gant what mitigations and measurements would be put in place for the river crossings at Culham and Clifton Hampden river crossings in light of the induced traffic demand created by the HIF1 Road Scheme (Didcot Relief Road). We were assured of full disclosure and attention to this matter. Full written response available from me at email above.

The next Full Council meeting is on Tuesday 9th September. I am allowed three questions per Council and will be asking: what provision for school transport has been put in place for Berinsfield, which has no designated local secondary school anymore; could we have an update on the proposals for the future or mineral extraction in South Oxfordshire (it has been recommended that 80% be taken from here); and, what plans and mitigations are in place for the terminus of the HIF1 Road scheme which ends abruptly at the Golden Balls roundabout on the A4074.

CURRENT CONSULTATIONS:
Congestion Charge (Oxford): With the Botley Road still closed, it has been suggested that a temporary Congestion Charge is put in place to reduce traffic and pollution in Oxford and to enable the public services to run on time. This will then morph into the previously agreed filter system once

Network Rail have finished the repairs on the Botley Road. 7,165 responses to the six week public consultation survey were received and proposals have now been amended to address some of those concerns, such as around impact on local businesses, the scheme's effectiveness and fairness. There are now recommendations to provide free park and ride journeys, additional permits etc., which will be reviewed by the council's Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 27 August and discussed by Cabinet on 10 September.

PARISH NEWS

Reminder: the CEO, CFO and Director of Adult Social Care of Oxfordshire County Council, will be visiting our area as well as Wallingford (Green County Councillor James Barlow) and Benson & Crowmarsh (Green County Councillor Gavin McLauchlan) on the 8th September. A Monday has been chosen to demonstrate the sheer volume of speeding traffic associated with the H Café. We will be collectively creating an agenda to cover the major issues in each of the parishes.

Please refer to:

https://fixmystreet.oxfordshire.gov.uk/around?lat=51.61533&lon=-1.1089&js=1&zoom=1

for all Fix My Street queries in your area.

COUNCILLOR PRIORITY FUND:

The £10,000 fund I am allocated 'to support local community projects in my division' has now gone live. The application deadline is **30 NOVEMBER 2026**. For details and how to apply please visit: https://www.oxfrdshire.gov.uk/residents/communities/councillor-priority-fund