Oxfordshire County Council News

September/October 2025

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CEO & Directors of Oxfordshire County Council Visit to Divisions:

September 8th. With my Green Party colleagues from Wallingford, (James Barlow), and Benson (Gavin McLauchlan) we arranged a visit to our area by Martin Reeves (CEO), Lorna Baxter (CFO) and Karen Fuller (Director of Adult Social Care). Our timetable aimed to demonstrate the reality on the ground of issues such as road and junction safety, lack of active travel provision, school and creche inadequacies, flooding, HIF1 road and gravel extraction impacts, etc. We are immensely grateful to all the residents who gave up their time to meet the officers and explain these local issues. We hope the briefings prove worthwhile as we grapple with these issues henceforth.

Motion on Gaza

September 9th: Full County Council meeting. The motion of 'one' opposition party payment as opposed to the current payments to 'two' equal oppositions, hastily formed after the elections in May, was brought, this time by the Lib Dems and voted in, although it was considerably watered down from the original motion we brought in June. Our motion this time was to write to the Oxfordshire MP's and the Police and Crime Commissioner about the use of Oxfordshire Air bases and Military Training Centres by the Israeli Defence Force (IDF). Although we had a lot of support, the motion fell. The feeling was that the wrong question had been asked (only because we hadn't been allowed to ask the question we wanted!). As the next tier of government down from national politicians it felt essential for us to signal to Westminster the mass disgust over Israel's prosecution of their response to October 2023.

Councillor Priority Fund

This grant fund is now open until the end of November 2026. I have £10k to award over two years. Individuals are not eligible, only groups with a committee and a constitution (or rules governing their operation. The application must demonstrate community benefit. Applications can only be made online through: www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/councillorpriorityfund

A4074 Layout

After concerted efforts with Thames Valley Police, H café owners, and local councillors, the road markings on the A4074 on the Berinsfield to Shillingford section, have at long last been re-drawn by Oxfordshire County Council Highways team during the recent re-surfacing. The extensive area between

lines in the middle of the road which encouraged disastrous speeding and overtaking has been drastically reduced. We hope the accidents and deaths are too - in line with OCC's Vision Zero strategy.

The Future of Rail.

OxRail 2040. The Council's consultation about the future strategy options for rail in Oxfordshire closed on October 1st but details for anyone interested in this vital transport option can find more at: https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/railplan There will no doubt be more discussion and engagement once plans are defined and those with issues of concern can talk to me.