

# Oxfordshire County Council News

March/April 2026

## **Cllr Robin Jones (Berinsfield & Garsington Division)**

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### **Formal Notice issued to Raise The Colours**

At the end of March, OCC formally notified the Raise The Colours group to desist from their flag campaign. Their founder Ryan Bridge was arrested on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March following a public order incident while continuing with the activity with a cherry-picker van on the Abingdon Road on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March. A fearless member of the public climbed underneath his van preventing its movement. He was released on bail. In Wallingford on 9<sup>th</sup> April, a Reform flag has been installed atop the existing Union and George flags.

### **Full County Council on March 24<sup>th</sup>**

At the last Full Council on the 24th March we (the Green Party) seconded a motion by the Labour Party recommending we pay all Oxfordshire County Council workers the Oxford Living Wage (95% of London Living Wage) as a minimum. The motion passed and Cabinet will now consider how to accommodate this in the 2026/2027 budget.

Due to the circular nature of the hearing of motions our own proposed was fourth on the day (ours being first at the previous council) and so ran out of time to be discussed at the meeting. It was based on the 2024 Oxfordshire Climate Risk and Vulnerability Assessment and how the impacts we are seeing now are worse than then, and looking to ringfence (increased) investment to ensure residents are safe from the ever-increasing risks of unprecedented flooding and rising temperatures.

We are still trying as a Group in Council to change the constitution to enable more motions to be heard at each Full Council along with an improved rotational approach.

## **Stakeholder Consultation on Speed Limits on Rural Roads**

The above is scheduled to take place concerning rural 'A' and 'B' roads this Spring, possibly late April. The aim is to rationalise the sometimes large variation in limits on the same stretches of roads making compliance difficult, as well as an obvious lowering where possible in line with the County's 'Vision Zero' policy – (zero road deaths in Oxfordshire by 2030.) Parishes with roads of concern should write to me in the first instance and I will collate to provide an overview document and liaison with the Officers.

## **Local Government Reorganisation (LGR)**

The public consultation has now closed and the government is now reviewing the feedback received alongside the proposals submitted by councils across the country. A 'minded-to' decision on whether there will be one, two or three unitary authorities for Oxfordshire is expected ahead of the Parliamentary summer recess, anticipated on or shortly after 16 July.

## **Local Elections**

District and City council elections are taking place across Oxfordshire on Thursday 7 May for Cherwell District Council, Oxford City Council and West Oxfordshire District Council.

## **THREE WRITTEN QUESTIONS FOR CABINET PERMITTED BY MEMBERS EACH FULL COUNCIL (24<sup>th</sup> March Berinsfield & Garsington Division)**

- 1.) *COUNCILLOR ROBIN JONES: Can the Cabinet member confirm that the public consultation on the draft revised Minerals and Waste Local Plan proceeded in Jan-Feb 2026 as outlined in the Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) Review Timetable and therefore that work towards the Minerals and Waste Development Scheme (MWDS) is on schedule for Adoption in March 2027?*

COUNCILLOR JUDY ROBERTS, CABINET MEMBER FOR PLACE, ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE ACTION In July 2025, Cabinet agreed to cease producing a new Minerals and Waste Local Plan under the current plan-making system and prepare to produce the plan under the new plan-making system, proposed by the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023, once it was brought into effect. Therefore, there is no current timetable for the Minerals and Waste Local Plan production, nor are we seeking to adopt by March 2027 and consequently no consultation was undertaken in January/February 2026. The Levelling Up and Regeneration Act commencement regulations relevant to Local Plans were made on 2 March 2026 and the substantive plan making sections comes into effect on 25 March 2026. We are now examining these Regulations, the new plan making guidance and the implications for the new Minerals and Waste Plan. A new timetable for the production of the Oxfordshire Minerals and Waste Plan will be published in due course. If Councillor Jones would like to discuss the Minerals and Waste Plan, the Minerals and Waste Policy and Strategy Team would be more than happy to meet.

- 2.) *COUNCILLOR ROBIN JONES: Could the Cabinet Member please advise on the status of the 'B480 scheme' or the proposal for the creation of a LTN from the Grenoble Road roundabout towards Oxford? Has this scheme been sequestered for now in light of the proposed Northfields and South Oxford Science Village developments?*

COUNCILLOR ANDREW GANT, CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT MANAGEMENT: There are no proposals for an LTN for the B480. As part of an emerging development proposal at the Northfield site <https://my.engaged.space/northfield/#home>, the developer has proposed a diversion of the Oxford Road between the B480 and Garsington for vehicle traffic, with the current road maintained for cycle and pedestrian use. The county council has undertaken high-level design work for the B480 to help inform potential highway proposals in this area. Should a developer bring forward proposals, it is anticipated that residents, stakeholders and the wider would have an opportunity to input into design proposals as part of a consultation process.

- 3.) *COUNCILLOR ROBIN JONES: Can the Cabinet Member please update as to the status of the Science Vale Movement and Place Plan?*

The Science Vale Movement and Place Plan (MAP Plan) was adopted by cabinet on 27 January 2026 and has been published on the Oxfordshire County Council website alongside an overview chapter. The MAP Plans form Part 2 of the council's Local Transport and Connectivity Plan (LTCP) and sit alongside a number of other supporting strategies (such as the Freight and Logistics Strategy and the Active Travel Strategy). The MAP Plans are policy guidance documents and will be used to support future workstreams, scheme development, funding bids, responses to planning applications and developer contributions. They will remain live documents, with regular updates to ensure that they reflect the latest policy guidance, future Local Plans and strategies, and the development of

schemes. The teams will continue to work towards the objectives and proposals contained within the delivery plan of the Science Vale MAP Plan