

County Councillor Juliette Ash REPORT- All parishes- Nov 2021

The Government spending review and budget released last week represents an extraordinary offering of support and financial boost for services that directly affect the lives of our residents, particularly families with children in the early years, those in education and vulnerable, elderly adults. More to follow in a special budget addition.

Changes to parking enforcement. Now live.

1. Changes to parking enforcement go live on 1 November

The way parking is controlled in parts of Oxfordshire has now changed in a bid to create safer roads and help traffic flow more freely. OCC now has responsibility for civil parking enforcement from Thames Valley Police. OCC already enforces parking in Oxford City and West Oxfordshire it has now taken over in South Oxfordshire, the Vale of White Horse and Cherwell districts, ensuring continuity across the whole County. The new arrangement means the creation of extra on-street pay and display car parking spaces in the Vale of White Horse, South Oxfordshire and Cherwell districts. Introduced by the previous administration, it will help market towns in the post COVID-19 recovery period as it leads to a greater turnover of spaces, which is better for shops and businesses.

Plans to make 20mph the new 30mph in Oxfordshire

1. The previous administration proposed and trialled a 'twenty is plenty' speed limit opportunity for many Oxfordshire villages but particularly those in rural settings.
2. It has just been formally endorsed and as a result, Parish Councils will soon be able to make their streets safer and more pleasant by reducing speed limits from 30mph to 20mph. As they are adopted, it is hoped that as 20mph areas become more common and breaking the limit would become socially unacceptable for drivers. OCC will shortly release a survey to garner interest from Parish Councils.

Supporting those in need in our communities.

A reminder of some of the support currently available for residents:

1. The Government provided additional funds to support schools and colleges to provide a free school meal equivalent over October Half-term. Families received £15 of support for each child. The scheme will also cover Feb half-term in '22.
2. Holiday activity fund. This will provide 10,000 funded childcare places during the Christmas school holidays.
3. Self-isolation support. Residents who are required to isolate can still apply for the £500 test and trace grant while community hubs can offer practical support.

Surveys and call for evidence-

- A. Strategic priorities (Closes 3rd Nov)
- B. Civility in public life. (LGA led & for Councillors. Closing date not released.)
 - A. OCC has invited residents and a range of voluntary organisations to share their views on the current strategic priorities and captured this.
<https://letstalk.oxfordshire.gov.uk/strategic-priorities-workshop-feedback>
 - B. The shocking events surrounding the death of the late Sir David Amess has reminded everyone of the risks that serving in public life can face. The Local Government Association have issued a call for evidence for all elected councillors and those serving in the public sphere.
https://research.local.gov.uk/jfe/form/SV_eW040OeIDMZvuqW

Closure of recycling centres for essential maintenance and deep cleaning.

1. During Nov, OCC household waste recycling centres will be closing to carry out a deep clean and essential maintenance to keep the sites safe, clean & with a better customer service experience. Residents are politely asked to plan ahead for these closures.

Site	Dates of closure
Alkerton (Banbury)	2 and 3 November
Ardley (Bicester)	4 and 5 November
Dix Pit (Stanton Harcourt)	23 and 24 November
Drayton (Abingdon)	9 and 10 November
Oakley Wood (Wallingford)	16 and 17 November
Redbridge (Oxford)	18 and 19 November
Stanford (Faringdon)	11 and 12 November

Remembrance Sunday 14th Nov.

1. I am looking forward to attending a service of remembrance this year in person alongside veterans, active service members and our community in remembrance of those that have lost their lives in order to keep our communities safe and in support of their families. www.britishlegion.org.uk
www.helpforheroes.org.uk
2. Supporting Afghan refugees. Further work has been carried out alongside our voluntary sector partners Asylum Welcome to provide support that refugees and their families need to settle safely in Oxfordshire.

Unauthorised encampments update: South and Vale.

Nothing to report.

Cllr Juliette Ash
1/11/21

Please see additional report for top 3 priorities by Parish