

HENDREDS AND HARWELL ROUND UP

***** OCC NEWS*****

Holding utilities companies to account: OCC is seeking permission from the government to adopt a 'lane rental scheme'. The scheme aims to reduce disruptive roadworks by utilities, incentivising them to keep to schedule and work off-peak. Fees of up to £2,500/day can be collected and reinvested in the road network. The surplus could be upwards of £2 million a year from 2024-2025.

Pothole trial: A trial took place in Steventon and East Hanney testing seven different methods of repairing minor defects in the road surface. Some of the methods are already in use in Oxfordshire, while others are new types of repairs. The trial will inform how defects are repaired in the future. I Volunteered the road, after speaking to officers when I was seeking assurances we are looking at Highways innovations and materials. I have to say the Hot Mastik definitely was a winner, and having been back since to have a look, it's a good finish!

Fees for DIY waste: The government has announced charges for DIY waste collected at household waste and recycling centres (HWRC) should be abolished. OCC is awaiting instruction from the government on when this change should be made. The charges currently help to subsidise the cost of running waste collection centres by £0.5m a year. Government is providing no additional funding to cover the shortfall created, meaning funding will need to be found through savings or increased council tax.

Nature recovery: Oxfordshire County Council has been designated as the lead authority for nature recovery in the county. The responsibility comes with additional funding from a £14 million pot to be divided between 48 councils. Local nature recovery plans were made a legal requirement by the Environment Act 2021

SEND Ofstead inspection: Ofstead and the Care Quality Commission are carrying out an inspection of services for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). Parents and other interested groups are being encouraged to respond to a survey (closes 9am 11 July)

*****Sally's Council News*****

People Scrutiny: I have been elected as the Deputy Chair of People Scrutiny Committee and the Chair of the SEND Task and Finish Group which I proposed back in March. I have deep concerns around SEND and Education and plenty of casework to back up these concerns. We have a new interim department director and I am hoping we can discover issues and look at options and come up with plenty co-creation opportunities for our children's futures.

Public Transport Champion – I complain a lot about service provision in the division and beyond, and have been appointed by the leader to this position this week, more info soon, once I have had a briefing.

Monday 10th July, I welcomed the new CEO Martin Reeves to the Division, it was great to spend time with him and we did the following visits

HEG Larder – Snells Hall, East Hendred – Martin met with volunteers, we talked about concerns for this coming winter and how OCC funding doesn't help organizations like us. We discussed this coming winters challenges and the spaces in Chilton, Harwell, Steventon and Hendreds.

Reservoir proposals – Martin met with members of Gard and the chair of Steventon PC, he has contacts in Ofwat and will follow up with a meeting between CEO and GARD on blockers and next steps.

Hendreds A417 West Crossing – met with children, users and parents who are aiding children across the road, Martin was staggered by the traffic volumes and will pick up the issue with officers.

Other visits, Oxfordshire Arts and Muster Camping about Featherbed Lane concerns, Hendred Vineyard about sustainability and food / drink tourism. Martin also met with residents about SEND issues. We also drove the Hanney Road to see the size of the SESRO landscape, Lockinge and Ardington, as well as A4130 GWP / Valley Park / HIF1. I hope to get him back again for the other half of the Division.

***** **OCC NEWS*******

Town and Parish Council Charter: [more info coming soon....](#)

*******NEWS IN BRIEF*******

£2 bus cap: The government's cap on bus fares has been extended to October

Recycling centres open until 8pm: HWRCs will be open until 8pm on Thursdays

Platform to promote care jobs: A website has been created to encourage people to enter care jobs

*******GRANTS AND COST OF LIVING*******

Councillor priority fund: Open for applications

Hardship fund: OCC's hardship fund (Resident Support Scheme) was launched in June. Phone: 01865 804171

Home Upgrade Grants: OCC & its partner AgilityEco is reaching out directly to households who will qualify to benefit from Home Upgrade Grants (to improve energy efficiency for 'off-grid' homes)

*******GRANTS AND COST OF LIVING*******

Councillor priority fund: Open for applications please discuss with me first the ideas.

*****PARISH ROUNDUP*****

One Network – check for permits and closures....

www.one.network

Harwell Parish

High Street design is open for public consultation. Find all the details on Let's Talk Oxfordshire

Western Valley PC

Now formed with a Clerk, the first meeting is 11th July 2023. OCC hasn't yet adopted GWP due to ongoing issues with Taylor Wimpey / ever extensive snagging list.

Steventon Parish

Pot Hole Innovation Day was carried out, covered by BBC news and various news outlets.

Chilton Parish

Hagbourne Hill Short Term fix completed, am pending a report of what they DID do, as the drains haven't been finished yet. No news on Chilton Fields adoption.

Upton Parish

Supporting some flood concerns, Highways now inspected and engaged with PC / resident. Attended Upton Hall fundraising evening, was brilliant (well don't to the organisers!)

East Hendred

Several emails of concern that the swings have been 'cut down' in the Sports Field Mill Lane Park. Have asked residents to raise with PC / DC ward councillor. Pushed back on Church Street Closure with OCC as unsuitable – have suggested one way with redirect options. Raised further concerns about Featherbed Lane, discussing Truck Fest and safety.

West Hendred

30mph consultation is open on Lets Talk Oxfordshire. Please do partake. I understand the 20mph village limit is back on the agenda for a PC in July. Pending feedback from TVP on Speedwatch set up.

Ardington and Lockinge

Pushing again on Bus Service now with my Champion Hat on.....

Have YOUR Say

Reminder that the OCC [website](#) has a lot of resources...

Consultations are all [here](#)

More info on the OUFC issues [here](#)

Healthwatch latest [here](#)

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Personal Note

My partners surgery went well, and he is recuperating at home and healing nicely. I am taking some leave in July and August to spend time with my family who are so often neglected. I did already mention I would be sparse on PC meetings this July. I have had lots of nice invites to events, and I do try and get to as many as I possibly can, and great to see so many community initiatives. I am focusing on Summer Holiday support, with Steventon and East Hendred doing packed lunches for kids, and also looking at Winter issues and warm spaces / energy concerns. Thank you all for your understanding.

Sally