

Oxfordshire County Council News

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Cllr Robin Jones (Berinsfield & Garsington Division)

(Berinsfield, Burcot, Clifton Hampden, Culham, Drayton St. Leonard, Garsington, Nuneham Courtenay, Sandford-on-Thames, The Baldons)

Email: Robin.Jones@Oxfordshire.gov.uk

Mob: +44 7916 29368



Culham: A415 Abingdon Road - proposed Sparrow crossing & traffic calming – Consultation

Following years of lobbying by Culham Parish Council, Culham Bike Users Group, and more recently Olly Glover MP in conjunction with other County and District Councillors, I'm delighted to report that the consultation has opened [here](#). The proposals, for which funding was approved by OCC Cabinet in October, are being put forward to help improve active travel routes & road safety in the area, especially for families cycling to Europa School from Culham. These include:

1. 'Sparrow' Crossing as pictured above (a signal-controlled crossing for use by both pedestrians and pedal cyclists, with a separate cycle track parallel to the pedestrian crossing) – to be located approx. 15 metres west of the signalised junction with Tollgate Road,
2. Side Road Entry Treatment (SRET) traffic calming feature – to be located at the junction with Thame Lane,
3. Shared-use path – a short section of footway on Tollgate Road in advance of the new crossing will be widened to 3 metres and converted to a shared use footway/cycleway.

Improvements to street lighting at the junction, and the existing foot & cycle-path on the northern side will also be developed as part of the proposals

Last Full County Council on February 10th

At the Full Council meeting the Lib Dem budget was voted in. Of the opposition parties only the Green Party managed to get their budget amendments accepted. This was achieved by working with OCC officers about the possibilities of the mechanisms available and then talking directly with the Liberal Democrat administration and Cabinet about our ideas and why they are important. Thankfully they agreed with us. This means that there will now be a dedicated fund (£900k) for footpaths, cycleways and

pavements which we have long campaigned for. These facilities are normally funded from within the Highways budget and therefore typically compete with the road network. We also guaranteed funding for community cohesion and public health focussed climate change adaptation and resilience.

Multi-agency operation targets anti-social parking and highway obstruction

OCC, SODC, the DVLA and the DVSA, the Parish Councils and Thames Valley Police conducted a joint operation on the garage businesses in Pettiwell in Garsington and in Littleworth this February resulting in business closures, vehicle impoundings, waste management and scrap investigations, and arrests including one for modern slavery. This latter relates to employees working illegally who were found locked in a small, windowless room. Full report [here](#)

Community Hubs

OCC are looking to understand more about what community hubs there are across the county. This will hopefully play its part in the push for improved work on 'community cohesion' as agreed in the budget. Please input [here](#) (closes March 10th).

OCC M Group Highways Oxfordshire Highways annual report

The Oxfordshire Highways Annual Report, compiled by OCC's principal highways contractor M Group Highways, captures the performance of OCC's highways maintenance contract. Full report available [here](#)

Crime statistics

For current crime statistics in our area, please see [here](#)

Sewage statistics

As the Channel 4 documentary "Dirty Business" brings the scandal of our national water situation into sharp focus a lot of questions relating to waste water and its treatment are rightly being asked. For those who wish to equip themselves with data see www.sewagemap.co.uk

Road Resurfacing

If you missed this the details can be found [here](#) – including which sites are being managed. Road surfacing and potholes, are of course very topical at the moment. The wet and cold winter has exacerbated existing holes, as well as the prevalence of on average 50% heavier electric cars – environmental benefits not always being easily gained! OCC have more than doubled the number of defect crews from an original level of 7 to address the scourge of potholes.

Oxford Rail Bridge

The Botley Road Rail bridge was demolished between 1-8 February (on time!) and trains have started to run across it.

Drain clearing:

OCC has committed to cleaning every roadside gully, drain and manhole every year for the duration the current term. (Info [here](#)). Drains have definitely been missed – so please report these directly to OCC via [FixMyStreet](#).