

Title	County Councillor's Report
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Parish	Thame Town Council
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Balanced budget that reinvests in Alliance priorities

The Oxfordshire Fair Deal Alliance presented its first budget at full council on February 8th. During the elections, candidates promised to prioritise the climate emergency – and treat it like the emergency it is! This means we have carved out £1.3 million to address climate change, including boosting active travel. The budget also sets aside an increase in £2 million for Special Educational Needs / Disability (SEND) to speed up assessments and placements. We will also be investing in infrastructure to improve the safety of roads, bridges and complete underfunded projects signed off by the previous administration.

We will be offering tenants of the Council in community assets a one-year rent holiday to take account of the financial pressures many community and voluntary organisations have faced during the pandemic – this includes the **Red Kite Family Centre** which is a vital source for new parents

20mph limits set to be fully funded:

Requests for 20mph speed limits will be fully funded by the county council in the budget set in February. Villages and towns that have already put in applications (or plan to do so), will be bundled into two batches. The first round will take place in summer 2022 and the second in winter 2022. Further rounds will be planned in 2023 and beyond.

Transport Plan (LTCP) – Last chance to have your say!

The public consultation will close on 16 March 2022. The consultation has lots of long documents, but don't feel like you need to read all of it to respond! The headlines are that the county wants to reduce car journeys and make active / public transport the first choice for travel. In rural areas like ours, this will be especially challenging but make sure to have your say on how you think it can be done! Would you like to see more buses (or old routes return)? More dedicated cycle routes between villages and towns? What about mobility hubs with better infrastructure for switching from bike to bus? More local foot and cycle paths? This will be a key piece of policy on which many planning decisions will hang their hat on, so have your say! <https://letstalk.oxfordshire.gov.uk/ltcp>

HGVs – timeline to county-wide solution:

Freight is an important part of the transport plan (LTCP). The core idea is to say 'yes' to freight on the strategic network (e.g., M40) and 'no, except local access' everywhere else. Between Spring and Autumn 2022 the freight strategy will be further developed, with local area strategies following. Our area will be called 'South Oxfordshire Rural'

More power to the council:

We are calling on the government to devolve more powers to the county council to allow for more effective enforcement of 'moving traffic' offences, including the ability to install speed cameras, and make better use of average speed cameras and ANPR technology. These technologies are critical for enforcing offences – including from HGVs!

Libraries and heritage strategy 2022-2027

Oxfordshire County Council's heritage and libraries strategy is open to consultation until 18th March

[Library and heritage strategy consultation 2022 - 2027 | Let's Talk Oxfordshire](#)

Parking enforcement changes

A reminder that the way parking is controlled in parts of the county is set to change in a bid to create safer roads and help traffic flow more freely. The government has approved OCC bid to take on responsibility for civil parking enforcement. OCC already enforce parking in Oxford City and West Oxfordshire and will now take over from Thames Valley Police in South Oxfordshire, the Vale of White Horse and Cherwell districts, ensuring continuity across the whole county when the change comes into place this month. You can [read more about this arrangement](#) in our recent news story.

Consultation date on paid parking is still to be confirmed and as part of the consultation we would like to organise an afternoon in the Town Hall so members of the public can ask officers questions.

Councillor Priority Fund now open (Both)

Applications to the Councillor Priority Fund are still open. This is a fund of £15,000 to be used over two years on projects in Thame, Chinnor and surrounding villages

<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/community-and-living/thriving-communities/councillor-priority-fund>

Awarded in Thame so far

Project	Kate	Nigel	Total
Volunteer Week	£800.00		£800.00
Barley Hill School sensory Room		£1,200.00	£1,200.00
TSFC Trolley	£600.00		£600.00
Red Kite Family Centre	£500.00	£500.00	£1,000.00
Men's Shed	£500.00	£500.00	£1,000.00
CAB Laptops	£900.00	£900.00	£1,800.00
Thame Players	£1,000.00	£1,000.00	£2,000.00
Enrych Oxfordshire	£100.00	£100.00	£200.00

Wellington Street Zebra Crossing

Details of the proposed Traffic scheme are available to view on the Councils new consultation portal at the address below:

[Thame: Wellington Street - proposed Zebra crossing | Let's Talk Oxfordshire](#)

Thame to Haddenham Greenway (Kate)

The Cabinet member for transport has included the Thame to Haddenham Cycleway in a central government funding bid – we're hoping to get an answer on this at the end of this month.

Red Kite Family Centre Peppercorn Rate (Kate)

We will be offering tenants of the Council in community assets a one-year rent holiday to take account of the financial pressures many community and voluntary organisations have faced during the pandemic – this includes the Red Kite Family Centre

Nelson Street (Both)

The junction at Nelson Street is dangerous and should have been changed with the S106 money from one of the developments.

S106 money (Both)

There appears to be a lot of S106 money sitting at OCC allocated to different projects which we are investigating on how we get it spent.

Junction Upper High St, Priestend & Oxford Road (Nigel)

Street signage to be changed to help stop accidents on this junction where house has been hit several times.