

Title	County Councillor's Report
Author	Cllrs Kate Gregory and Nigel Champken-woods
Parish	Thame Town Council
Date	20 th June 2022

Changes to Cabinet:

There have been a few changes to cabinet positions for the upcoming year. Cllr Tim Bearder moves to Adult Social Care (formerly in charge of Highways), while Cllr Andrew Gant joins the cabinet taking on the Highways portfolio. Cllr Neil Fawcett stepped down from cabinet, with Cllr Jenny Hannaby taking on the 2 Community Services position (which includes libraries, fire & rescue, and gypsy & traveller services). Cllr Liz Leffman remains leader of the Council. Meanwhile Cllr Dan Levy takes on the role of cycling champion (replacing Cllr Andrew Gant).

Food strategy to tackle food poverty:

A new Oxfordshire food strategy has been drawn up, focusing on fair access to good quality, sustainably produced food. 9-14% of Oxfordshire residents experience food insecurity. Because of this, priority areas for action include, reducing food poverty and diet ill-health, strengthening local food supply chains, and improving institutional (e.g., schools) catering. Watlington's brilliant Orange Bakery was included in the report as an example of local businesses that supports local producers and employment of disadvantaged people

SEND strategy:

Following a consultation period, the strategy is set to be published in June 2022.

More climate action:

Cabinet has approved plans which could see its own carbon emissions almost halved by 2024/25. Cabinet also approved a plan to decarbonize OCC's estate and operations by 2030, and transition Oxfordshire as a county to net zero ahead of the national target of 2050. One of the main projects to cut emissions is the conversion of Oxfordshire's streetlights to low-energy LED lighting. Nearly half have so far been changed as part of a £40 million project which will save council taxpayers £77m over a 20-year period.

OCC wins more money for Oxfordshire:

Oxfordshire County Council has won yet another government bid. This time £10.4 million for active travel schemes. This brings the total brought in by the Oxfordshire Fair Deal Alliance to over £55 million for bus and active travel schemes.

Warning on adult social care:

Oxfordshire County Council has called on the government to properly fund adult social care, rather than pushing yet more costs onto local taxpayers. Changes brought in by the government could double the number of people eligible for financial support. Lib Dem finance cabinet member, Cllr Calum Miller has said money from government 'doesn't even come close'. When the government demands councils spend more money on adult social care, without funding, it means rates rise, and money needs to be diverted from roads or libraries

Upcoming Meetings:

Wednesday 22 June-Charlotte Cox Trust Committee

[Live Stream Link.](#)

- Future Management of the Trust
- Rent for Watlington Library

Thursday 23 June- Delegated Decisions by Cabinet Member for Highway Management

[Live Stream Link.](#)

- Oxford: E-scooter trial- continuation of enabling traffic regulation orders for duration of extended trial period
- Bicester- various locations: new and amended waiting restrictions
- Caversfield - Fringford Road and Aunt Ems Lane - proposed 40mph speed limit
- Combe - proposed 20mph speed limit
- Didcot: B4493 Wantage Road - Proposed Waiting Restrictions
- Faringdon Market Place - proposed extension of days of operation of market waiting restrictions
- Middle Barton and Westcot Barton proposed 20mph and 30mph speed limits
- Warborough- Thame Road - proposed waiting restrictions

Friday 24 June-Thames Valley and Police Crime Panel

[Live Stream Link](#)

Friday 24 June - Thames Valley Police and Crime Panel – Confirmation Hearing

[Live Stream Link](#)

Councillor Priority Fund still 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, Tetsworth 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
Thame Wombles	£772.00		£772.00

Thame to Haddenham Greenway (Kate)

An options appraisal is in the plan as a joint project between Oxfordshire County Council and Bucks County Council

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)

We had a meeting with the resident of Nelson Street and an OCC officer regarding the dangerous junction at the bottom and the possibility of changing it to one way, but it should be considered as part of Rooks Lane

Car Parking (Both)

Waiting for a start date for the consultation