

Title	County Councillor's Report
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Parish	Thame Town Council
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Bledlow Ridge Recycling Centre

Bledlow Ridge Recycling Centre is set to reopen and will be open 5 days a week and visits are free for all Bucks residents but those in Oxfordshire will be charged a fee to use the site.

Costs range from £22.34 to £387.60 per visit depending what type of vehicle and waste you have.

We are speaking to officers about this to see if there's anything that can be done to reduce these high costs.

Cost of living support for low-income pensioners and families:

OCC are sending a one-off payment of £85 to 11,000 lower income pensionable households to support with energy bills. Eligible residents will receive an Oxfordshire-branded letter from the Post Office, redeemable for cash at Post Office branches. Schools and colleges will provide children entitled to free school meals with a £15 voucher.

100K pot to help community organisations with energy bills:

Applications for grants between £250 and £3000 can be made through the Oxfordshire Community Foundation. Expected to be popular - deadline is 21 November 2022.

Council votes to request more energy support for off-grid residents:

Many residents in rural areas live without access to mains energy and instead use heating oil, bottled gas, or other forms of fuel. The leader of the council will write to government to request off-grid residents receive the same level of support (£400) as on-grid residents.

OCC supports care business start-ups:

OCC is supporting new 'micro enterprises' to become established care providers, helping local businesses to grow, and develop greater local choice for people looking for additional support. The Community Catalysts' programme takes people through the standards, so that new micro-enterprises have a thorough understanding of what it takes to deliver quality care. Over one hundred people have signed up and have the combined capacity to support one thousand people in the county.

Renewed call on government to fund Special Educational Needs & Disabilities (SEND):

OCC is appealing to the government to urgently address the national funding issues facing all local authorities providing SEND services for children and young people. The county council has also submitted to the Department of Education bids for two further special free schools.

Tree services team successfully bids for funding:

OCC tree services team has been successful in a bid to the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA). Funding will be used to provide two new community tree and woodland planting officers who will work to increase tree cover across the county.

More sustainable streetlights policy:

OCC has approved a new policy for streetlights to reduce impact on climate change and the environment. The policy considers the impact of light pollution on nature and dark skies in assessing where lighting should be added. When new lighting is necessary, dimming and reduction in operating hours will be used to preserve the night sky.

Parking standards for new developments:

Developers will need to follow a revised set of guidelines when they consider parking provisions for new developments. New standards place much more emphasis on cycles, shared car clubs, and public transport than on multiple cars per household. A graduated approach is taken to allow for increased need for parking in rural settings.

Cheaper Park and Ride tickets up and running:

Passengers can now buy a combined ticket covering both parking and return bus travel for £4 for a car with only 1 adult and £5 for a car and 2 adults. With both options, up to three children under 16 can travel for free. Drivers are encouraged to purchase a combined ticket through the RingGo parking app, or at one of the onsite ticket machines.

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

Nelson Street (Both)

This is ongoing and we have had a number of meetings with the residents and officers to find a resolution.

Car Parking (Both)

Consultation is complete and the next steps are for officers to analyse the response, draft a report with recommendations. It was supposed to go to the Cabinet Member Delegated Decisions meeting this week but it's now likely to be the next meeting on the 26th.January.

Library Visit

The Cabinet member will be visiting Thame Library on Friday 25 November|