

Title	County Councillor's Report
Author	Cllrs Kate Gregory and Nigel Champken-woods
Parish	Thame Town Council
Date	17 th January 2023

Reduced bus fares:

For 3 months (Jan-Mar), bus passengers can enjoy a £2 cap on bus fares. Paid for by a government scheme, fares with participating bus firms will cost a maximum of £2 per adult single fare (includes Oxford Bus Company and Thames Travel). Concessions are unaffected and school services are excluded.

Anti-sewage motion passes and water summit:

A motion at Full Council in December condemning the practice of dumping sewage into waterways passed with near unanimity. Over the Christmas period, Thames Water released raw sewage 6 times into Oxfordshire rivers. A water summit in December also looked at challenges facing water supply and demand in Oxfordshire.

Three in four streetlamps now LED:

Over 75% of the 60,000+ street lighting assets in OCC control are now run with energy saving LED lights. Streetlighting is the largest source of carbon emissions in OCC's operations and is a growing cost due to rising energy prices. Since 2019/20 OCC has reduced carbon emissions by 21%, in large part thanks to the LED scheme. The milestone represents a significant improvement in the pace of rollout and will save the council £77m over 20 years.

Tree planting:

As part of the new Tree Policy for Oxfordshire, 450 trees will be planted on highways over the winter period, supported by £185,000 from budget reserves.

Successful bid for children's homes:

OCC has successfully bid for a £5.2m grant to part fund four new residential children's homes. The homes would provide accommodation and support for children requiring solo provision or who can only share with one other child, children with autism, and children who have had adverse childhood experiences. These new homes would add to OCC's portfolio of three homes, along with the new 4-bedroom home being constructed in Aston. The matched funding by OCC is still to be finalised.

Health consultation:

A draft strategy developed by local healthcare leaders from across the health and care system in the Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire, Berkshire (BOB) area is being consulted on (closes 29th Jan). Survey: link [Share your views on the BOB Integrated Care Partnership's strategic priorities | http://yourvoicebob-icb.uk.engagementhq.com](http://yourvoicebob-icb.uk.engagementhq.com)

Chilterns AONB boundaries:

Natural England are overseeing a review process of the boundaries of the Chilterns AONB. Natural England are appointing consultants who will carry out a technical assessment of natural beauty before consulting with stakeholders in spring and early summer of 2023. Contact email for enquiries: ChilternsAONBBoundaryReview@NaturalEngland.org.uk

News in short

New Chief Executive: Dr Martin Reeves has been appointed OCC's new chief executive

OCC wins three environmental awards

Councillor Priority Fund still open (Both) – CLOSES 31 January 2023

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, Sydenham 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

Car Parking (Both)

Consultation is complete and the Cabinet Member for Highways will be making a decision on 26 January. Reports for this are not yet published

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.

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.