

<b>Title</b>	County Councillor's Report
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<b>Parish</b>	Thame Town Council
<b>Date</b>	April 2024

### **New special schools**

The county council is planning [two new special schools](#) in the Didcot area to serve southeast Oxfordshire. One will specialise in educating children with Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) needs or Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) needs. Another special school is due to be built within the Valley Park development, and will specialise in educating children with Profound & Multiple Learning Difficulties (PMLD), Severe Learning Difficulties (SLD) and other need.

### **Taking on potholes**

OCC is launching [a £7m programme](#) this spring to refurbish nearly 100 roads across the county this spring from 8 April to 3 June. It is the biggest surface dressing programme for 20 years. The £7m is made up of £2.6m from the department for transport and additional budget for highways agreed in the 2024/2025 budget.

### **Money for cycling and walking**

Oxfordshire has been awarded £2.384 million for improving walking and cycling infrastructure. The award will be used for expansion of the school streets programme countywide and projects in Abingdon and Witney.

### **Tenants welcomed into supported housing**

Adults with learning disabilities and autism have moved into new [accommodation](#) in Witney, purchased by OCC.

### **Vision Zero Draft Strategy to eliminate deaths and serious injury has been approved**

A package of initiatives aimed at eliminating deaths and serious injuries on Oxfordshire's roads by 2050 has been approved. More details [here](#)

### **Heads of terms agreed with Oxford United for stadium land**

An agreement has been reached on heads of terms for the county council to lease land it owns near Kidlington for Oxford United to develop a new football stadium. More details [here](#)

\*\*\*\*\*GRANTS AND COST OF LIVING\*\*\*\*\*

**Councillor Priority Fund**

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>

**Hardship fund:** OCC's hardship fund (Resident Support Scheme) was launched in June.  
Phone: 01865 804171

**Home Upgrade Grants:** OCC & its partner AgilityEco is reaching out directly to households who will qualify to benefit from Home Upgrade Grants (to improve energy efficiency for 'off-grid' homes)