

REPORT TO SHIPLAKE PARISH COUNCIL MAY 2019

FROM CLLR DAVID BARTHOLOMEW

GENERAL OCC REPORT

DISTRICT COUNCIL ELECTION RESULTS

Cherwell

Remains under Conservative control.

South Oxfordshire

Moved from Conservative to No Overall Control; Liberal Democrat/Green coalition likely.

Vale of White Horse

Moved from Conservative to Liberal Democrat control.

West Oxfordshire

Remains under Conservative control.

SIX RECYCLING CENTRES SET FOR SPRING CLEAN IN MAY

During May six of OCC's Household Waste Recycling Centres will be closing for two days to carry out a deep clean and essential maintenance at the sites. This is part of the council's planned approach to maintenance, and is designed to keep sites safe, looking clean and fresh and helping improve the customer experience when using these much valued facilities. Only one site will be closed at any one time and all other sites will be open on those days. Residents are asked to plan ahead for these closures, ideally holding on to your waste until the site reopens or if that is not possible visiting one of the neighbouring sites. Site Closure Dates:

- Alkerton - Wednesday 8th & Thursday 9th May
- Ardley - Tuesday 14th & Wednesday 15th May
- Drayton - Thursday 16th & Friday 17th May
- Stanford - Tuesday 21st & Wednesday 22nd May
- Oakley Wood- Thursday 23rd & Friday 24th May
- Redbridge - Wednesday 29th & Thursday 30th May

For those residents with permits, please note that these can be used at any of the sites.

MORE THAN 93 PER CENT GET THEIR FIRST CHOICE OF PRIMARY SCHOOL FOR 2019

More than nine out of ten parents whose children are set to enter the classroom for the first time this September have been offered their first choice of primary school in Oxfordshire. A total of 93.39 per cent of the 7,125 applicants have received their first choice – above all recent national averages across the UK. The consistent high number of first choices achieved in Oxfordshire is due to the county council's careful forward planning to make sure the right numbers of school places exist – since 2010 the council has created more than 10,000 new primary school places. That means that since 2010 the number of primary school places in Oxfordshire has risen by 22 per cent. About a fifth of that has been achieved via the building and opening of new schools and the rest through expansions of existing schools – new buildings, making better use of existing accommodation, or marginal increases in admission numbers. This year's figure of 93.39 per cent for first preference offers compares with the 2018 figure of 92.77 per cent. Although the national average for 2019 will not be published for some time, Oxfordshire remains ahead of the averages for 2018 (91 per cent) and 2017 (90 per cent).

AMBITIOUS NEW OXFORDSHIRE PARTNERSHIP IS BREAKING NEW GROUND

Residents in Oxfordshire are already benefiting from the impact of an ambitious and innovative new partnership between two councils – with plans being explored to develop closer working over coming months. Cherwell District Council and Oxfordshire County Council set up a joint

working partnership in October 2018 – it is one of a very small number of examples of a district and county council sharing staff and services in the whole of the country. The county council's cabinet approved the continuation of the partnership at its meeting on April 23.

HENLEY-ON-THAMES REVEALED AS START LOCATION FOR WOMEN'S CYCLING RACE

Henley-on-Thames will be the start location for stage three of the OVO Energy Women's Tour professional cycling race. Full details of the Oxfordshire route were revealed at a ceremony at the town's Leander Club – home to rowing greats like Sir Steve Redgrave CBE and Rebecca Romero – on Monday 15 April. The famous South Oxfordshire town will host a Big Bike Breakfast on the morning of the race, Wednesday 12 June. Crowds will line the streets, cheering off participants on the 145 kilometre-leg that will finish outside Blenheim Palace in West Oxfordshire. Elite cyclist Sophie Wright announced that Oxfordshire's race section will start from Market Place in the centre of Henley. Oxfordshire's county, city and district councils announced last month that a stage of the OVO Energy Women's Tour, the UK's most prestigious women's cycle race, had been agreed to race through the county for the next three years, in partnership with event organisers SweetSpot Group. From Henley, stage three will traverse the Chilterns via Pishill to Watlington, before returning via the climb of Britwell Hill to Sonning Common and Goring. Crossing the River Thames at Wallingford, the route will pass through Didcot, Harwell and Wantage, crossing the Vale of White Horse to Faringdon, before looping through the West Oxfordshire towns of Burford, Charlbury and finally Woodstock in the closing kilometres. Oxfordshire is expecting economic and health benefits from hosting the prestigious event, with cycling fans expected to visit the county to watch the race, generating additional business for restaurants, bars, hotels, B&Bs and shops.

SPECIFIC REPORT FOR SHIPLAKE

SIGNAGE AT SHIPLAKE PRIMARY FMS 764229

The officer spoke with Solagen (the manufacturer of the apparatus) on 26th March. They subsequently sent a crew to the site on 8th April. I have had confirmation that repairs have been completed (it was a missing battery).

PROPOSED TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF A4155 AT TOWER HOUSE, TRO T6403

A request has been received from Thames Water for a temporary road closure to apply to a section of Reading Road (A4155) at Tower House whilst 'X1 new water connection' works are carried out. A temporary notice is being made to implement the temporary closures and will operate from the 14/06/2019 to and including 16/06/2019. The official diversion is via Crowmarsh Gifford, which may or not be adhered to by HGVs. However, my view is that with respect to light vehicles, southbound traffic from the A4155 would turn left into Station Road and then right into Mill Road, while northbound traffic on the A4155 would turn right into Mill Lane (effectively a single track road) and thence left into Mill Road. The nett result of this would be utter chaos for Shiplake and I am not prepared to accept it as a solution. However, I met with strong resistance from officers and a Thames Water representative at a site visit on 10 April. Cllr Pheasant was also present. I have referred the matter to Director level at OCC and the matter is being further investigated.

STATION ROAD CLOSURE 30TH APRIL

Station Road was closed on this date and traffic was diverted down the unmade part of New Road. I was able to get the diversion cancelled and the works postponed within a couple of hours of becoming aware of the situation. There was an ICT error which meant that neither I nor Shiplake PC were made aware of the diversion in advance.

IMPROVING SAFETY ON A4155

The speed limit change proposal was approved by the Cabinet Member for Environment at a meeting Cllr Pheasant and I attended on 25 April, however an objection was subsequently received from lawyers acting on behalf of Retirement Villages. I am awaiting an update from officers.

SONNING QUARRY LIAISON COMMITTEE

At the Liaison Committee meeting on 25 April, as Chairman, I asked Tarmac to extend an invitation to Shiplake PC to send a representative to future meetings. I understand that Cllr Penrose subsequently accepted this invitation on behalf of the PC.