

REPORT TO BIX & ASSENDON PARISH COUNCIL JULY 2020 FROM CLLR DAVID BARTHOLOMEW

GENERAL OCC REPORT

LONGER TERM PLANS FOR PERMANENT INCREASES IN CYCLEWAYS

Residents of all ages can look forward to a step-change in cycling infrastructure aimed at making this green form of transport safer and more attractive for a range of journeys across Oxfordshire. A series of bold plans by OCC, combined with a £2.9m two-stage Government grant, will transform residents' experience of cycling as part of a move to support active and healthy travel combined with a firm commitment to cutting carbon emissions and air pollution. The popularity of cycling has soared since lockdown began in March. The council is determined to build on this trend and to ensure that the related reduction in air pollution (which is down by as much as 64% in some parts of the county) is sustained in the future. Research by market research firm Mintel found that, at the beginning of the year, a third of adults in Britain who didn't currently cycle said they would consider doing so in the future. The active travel fund will allow Oxfordshire to address some of the key factors that deter people from cycling and encourage more journeys by bike. Current measures include prioritising road space for bikes to improve road safety; improving signage and road markings for cycle lanes; and creating more cycle parking in all market towns and Oxford.

GRADUAL AND SAFE REOPENING OF CULTURAL SERVICES IN OXFORDSHIRE

Residents in Oxfordshire will see a very gradual and safe reopening of cultural facilities such as libraries, the Oxfordshire Museum, History Centre and Registration services over the coming weeks and months following the Prime Minister's further easing of lockdown arrangements across the UK. Oxfordshire County Council is planning a phased approach to the reopening of public buildings with every precaution being taken to make sure that this happens safely for those staff who will work in them and members of the public who visit them. On June 23 Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced in parliament a number of changes to the UK's response to COVID-19. These will be applicable from July 4. Previous changes to lockdown arrangements in Oxfordshire have seen household waste recycling centres reopen and schools welcome back more pupils. All of the county council's cultural services sites have been closed in Oxfordshire and elsewhere since late March.

OCC SIGNS AGREEMENT FOR £218M WITH HOMES ENGLAND

Residents will benefit from a funding deal with Homes England for £218m from the Housing Infrastructure Fund (HIF) dedicated to providing access to the Didcot Garden Town area with the formal signing of the agreement announced in June. The development is great news for the people of Oxfordshire, allowing the council to improve sustainable travel for residents, communities and business whilst supporting thousands of new homes and jobs. This £218m (towards costs of £234m) will deliver:

- Widening the A4130 from A34 Milton Interchange towards Didcot from single to dual carriageway;
- A new Science Bridge over the A4130, Great Western Railway Line and Milton Road into the former Didcot A Power Station site;
- A new Didcot to Culham bridge between the A4130 and A415; and
- A Clifton Hampden bypass

OXFORDSHIRE RESIDENTS WARNED AGAINST CORONAVIRUS SCAMS

Residents have been warned to be on their guard against criminals and scammers exploiting the coronavirus situation. In Oxfordshire, OCC's Trading Standards has received reports of scams targeting people via emails, text messages, and on the doorstep. Useful contacts: **Action Fraud** 0300 123 2040. **Citizens Advice Consumer Helpline** 0808 223 1133. **Age UK** 01865 411288.

SPECIFIC REPORT FOR BIX & ASSENDON

READING TRANSPORT STRATEGY 2036 (INCLUDING THIRD READING BRIDGE)

I emailed all clerks in my Division on 17th May to let you know that Reading is now consulting on its Transport Strategy 2036. Several proposals would have major impacts on South Oxfordshire including:

- North Reading Orbital Route (p97)
- A Third Thames crossing (see p98)
- North Reading Park and Rides (p111)

The consultation closes on 30 August and I urge you to respond here:

<https://consult.reading.gov.uk/dens/reading-transport-strategy-2036/>

In addition, you may wish to email the Leader of OCC ian.hudspeth@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Also, Kidmore End Parish Council is coordinating a joint parish response and I trust they have been in contact.

FMS WHITE LANE 1770645 (SOIL BUILD UP)

Whilst not deemed to be an immediate or significant risk, a request has been placed with the District Council who are responsible for street cleansing to sweep the road and thus resolve the matter.

OLD CYCLE PATH AT BIX

I put the clerk in touch with the relevant OCC Cabinet Member to see if any funding is available for reinstating this path. I will follow the matter up at a Locality meeting later this week.