

REPORT TO FARINGDON DIVISION (Buckland with Gainfield, Buscot, Coleshill, Eaton Hastings, Faringdon, Gt Coxwell, Littleworth with Tubney and Little Coxwell) October 2020

All that is detailed within my monthly report is in the public domain and thus in the media. My monthly report is a document of varied information which will be of interest both to local Town/Parish Councillors, residents and rate payers. The report provides local news and a wider picture of the strategic work that Oxfordshire County Council undertakes and thus involves me both as your local County Councillor and as Deputy Leader for the County Council. Most of the strategic work will have implications locally and thus is “useful” for the local town and parish councillors.

Once again, life at County Hall has been busy and challenging. I have attended a wide variety of meetings this last month, and I have tried to keep you all fully informed with regard to on-going and breaking news. As I receive news up-dates I circulate them to you all. I have also attended Parish Council Meetings.

I feel that I should re-iterate that there has been **mis-information** circulated across the piece with regard to children going hungry during half-term. I would advise that all six Oxfordshire councils (County Council and the 5 District Councils), have been working together very closely with community and voluntary partners to help families across the county access food and essential supplies. Support mechanisms are in place to help vulnerable families, these had been targeted at those most in need. Oxfordshire councils have a strong track record of delivery through third-sector partners. The County Council has already passed a grant of more than £500,000 received from Central Government on 31st July to the district councils, Good Food Oxford and South Oxfordshire Food and Education Alliance. County wide services for children have been open as normal during half-term.

Cabinet 13th October:- Two Agenda items of particular local interest:

Civil Parking Enforcement. OCC, as the Highways Authority were formally approached by South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse to investigate the feasibility of implementing CPE within their Districts. Cabinet agreed to apply to Government to take over the responsibility for civil parking enforcement across the whole of the county. OCC already enforces parking in Oxford City and West Oxfordshire and this arrangement would be extended to Cherwell, South Oxfordshire and the Vale. An application to the DfT will be made in April 2021 and if the plans are approved the new measures could come into force by November 2021.

Climate Action Framework. This agenda item set out the county council's plans to make itself a carbon neutral organisation by 2030, and to enable Oxfordshire as a whole to become zero-carbon by 2050. It acknowledged that the council and the county have adapted to cope with coronavirus, and that some of these adaptations have helped reduce carbon emissions. One of the priorities for the council's Climate Action working group is to retrofit the county's streetlighting with highly efficient, environmentally friendly LED (light-emitting diode) streetlights. Scheduled to take four years to complete, the county council is investing £38m over this period – but is expecting it to lead to savings of more than £75m over the next 20 years. As well as the retrofitting, the £38m will also fund the replacement of 23,000 lighting columns which are nearing the end of their lives. The move will reduce the amount of carbon dioxide being produced by 70%. Currently, the county's street lights account for around 7,596 tonnes of CO2 every year – representing nearly 35% of the council's total emissions.

The Climate Action Framework will affect all aspects of council policy and responsibility, including:

- Replacing its fleet with electric vehicles (EVs) and creating more EV charging points
- Generating its own clean power and buying from green energy sources
- Seeing what services can be delivered digitally
- Promoting active travel such as walking and cycling
- Reducing its demand for energy
- Setting sustainability standards for its suppliers
- Helping schools meet their low-carbon targets
- Maximising waste reduction and recycling

To read the Climate Action Framework in full go to

https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/sites/default/files/file/about-council/OCC_Climate_Action_Framework-August2020.pdf

Safety and Health Messages:- as **Bonfire Night** approaches, the County is publicising the safety message and reminding residents that the safest way to celebrate is to attend a professionally organised public event that is confirmed as COVID-19 safety compliant, following local and national guidance. However, I know it will not be practical for everyone to attend organised public events, particularly this year, the Oxfordshire County Council Fire and Rescue Service is providing the following guidance for anyone planning to have their own fireworks display:

- Only buy CE marked fireworks from reputable and licensed shops.
- Keep fireworks in a closed, metal box.
- Light the firework at arm's length with a taper and stand well back.
- Keep naked flames, including cigarettes, away from fireworks.
- Don't put fireworks in pockets and never throw them.
- Never return to a firework that has not gone off, and never throw used or unused fireworks onto a bonfire.
- Never drink alcohol while lighting a bonfire or setting off fireworks.
- Always supervise children and don't give sparklers to a child under five.
- Keep your bonfire at least 18 metres away from houses, trees and hedges. There should be a barrier around the bonfire to keep spectators five metres away. Before lighting a bonfire, check it is stable and that there are no children or animals inside.
- Only burn dry wood, **never use paraffin or petrol** on a bonfire and think about the direction of smoke travel.
- Keep some buckets of water nearby.
- Have consideration for those around you, including notifying neighbours who may have pets or farm animals.
- Consider where fireworks and debris might fall, ensuring safety distances are provided for people to keep safe. Safety distances are provided on each firework label or package.

If anyone has concerns that retailers are not storing fireworks appropriately, selling fireworks that do not display a CE mark, or selling to anyone under 18; please contact Trading Standards on 01865 895999.

During the Covid pandemic I have not been holding my monthly Divisional Surgeries. However, I will meet people as long as the meeting conditions are Covid compliant. I can be reached by Judith.heathcoat@oxfordshire.gov.uk or 01367 241468.

Judith Heathcoat

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Cabinet Member for Community Safety

County Councillor for the Faringdon Division

November 2020