

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

For information, all that is detailed within my monthly reports is already within the public domain and thus in the media. My monthly report is a document of varied information which will be of interest both to locally elected Parish Councillors and to the residents and rate payers of my Division. The report provides both a local news update 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. Much of the strategic work will have implications locally and thus is “useful” for the local town and parish councillors.

General OCC Report – Cabinet met on 21st January and the agenda included 1) Budget Proposals for 2020/21 (the Cabinet approved the budget proposals and these will go forward to full Council on 11th February for final approval). A resume – the gross budget is £600m on services plus £200m on schools giving a total of £800m. A net operating budget of £475m after taking out Government grants includes:

£132m Children's Services, £194m Adult Services, £97m Communities – a council tax rise of £1.99 plus 2% Social Care Precept.

The Corporate Plan (this is a key document for the council and sets our strategic direction and has been refreshed to 2020/24).

Business Management Report & Monitoring Report (this gives a comprehensive picture of the council's performance and progress towards our Corporate Plan and supports our ambition on transparency for the general public to read).

Council Tax Discount for Care Leavers, this innovative scheme will establish a joint Council Tax Discount Scheme for Care Leavers across the County with all Oxon Authorities, and Thames Valley Police who are signatories to a joint Memorandum of Understanding,

Innovation Sustainability Funds - the Bromsgrove Day Centre will benefit from a total £12,000 and Farcycles a total of £12,445 both organisations receiving this funding from 2020/21, 2021/22 and 2022/23)

“Connecting Oxford” the report outlined proposals for traffic restrictions across the city and a workplace parking levy in the city's Eastern Arc. – there will of course be full consultation on the proposals during winter 2020/21 with a possible Public Inquiry during the early summer of 2021 and a request to the Department of Transport for approval in the Autumn of 2021. .

A prosecution brought by **Oxfordshire** County Council's Trading Service has led to a rogue trader being sentenced to 12 months' imprisonment, suspended for 18 months. At a previous hearing, James Joseph Dolan pleaded guilty to two counts of fraud and two counts of money laundering under the Fraud Act and Proceeds of Crime Act, for carrying out property repair and maintenance work which was unnecessary and for a grossly inflated price, at the home of a vulnerable person. Trading as All Stone Home Improvements, Mr Dolan charged £4,750 for work which was carried out so poorly that it had little or no value. In court, it was commented that these were 'nasty offences' and that 'ripping off elderly people causes lots of distress, far beyond money'. In addition to the suspended sentence, Mr Dolan was ordered to undertake 40 Rehabilitation Activity Requirement days and pay £1,000 in compensation to the victim. The press release in my name read thus:-

Councillor Judith Heathcoat, the Deputy Leader of Oxfordshire County Council, who also has Cabinet responsibility for the Trading Standards Service, said: “This is a great result for the County Council's Trading Standards Service. Trading Standards are working hard to tackle and deal with those who target and prey on the most vulnerable people in Oxfordshire. Not only was this matter brought successfully before the courts, but hopefully it will provide some level of closure for the victim and see some of their money returned.”

Oxfordshire Launches “Waste Wizard” to Help Beat the Confusion of Recycling

There's an all-new tool that has just been launched to help provide a magical solution to help Oxfordshire residents in their quest to solve the riddle of household waste. “Waste Wizard” is Oxfordshire County Council's response to the evil spell that no-longer-needed items sometimes cast over residents when it's time to recycle or reuse them. It also aims to defeat the menace that is contaminated recycling which cannot then be processed. We know our residents try hard to recycle well but we can do more to drive up what we recycle; around 50% of what goes in general waste bins could be recycled. Waste Wizard an interactive online resource that allows anyone puzzled by the bin to type in the name of any item along with their postcode to find out whether it can be reused, repaired, donated, recycled or if it needs to go

into a specific bin or collection to be disposed of properly. We know that one of the biggest barriers to good recycling is confusion over which product to put in which bin. Some of the most commonly confused materials are plastics, crisp packets, pizza boxes and coffee cups. Common items that contaminate kerbside recycling bins include textiles and disposable nappies. Overall, food is the biggest product that could be recycled that is put in general waste bins. Waste Wizard aims to clarify exactly what and where goods can be recycled or given a new life which will help us all to improve recycling rates whilst cutting waste. **Over 58 per cent of all waste is reused, composted or recycled** in Oxfordshire compared to the national rate of 45 per cent. It can be found online at www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/wastewizard. Although Oxfordshire is the best area in the UK for recycling, there is still more that can be done to make the most of what would otherwise be regarded as rubbish."

Oxfordshire has been named the best performing county council waste disposal authority in England for the sixth year in a row, thanks to residents' commitment to the environment.

Last year residents recycled or composted a larger proportion of their household waste than the previous year, while the national average for recycling fell, according to new government figures released on Friday (29 November).

Recycling officers at Oxfordshire County Council point to residents recycling more of their food waste as an important reason for the increase. Nearly 20,000 tonnes of food waste was recycled in 2018-19 – up 6% on the previous year. The four district councils and the city council in Oxford operate the kerbside collections of household recycling and waste, which Oxfordshire County Council then disposes of.

Overall 58% of household waste was recycled in Oxfordshire last year, compared to 57% the previous year. The national average was only 44.8%, according to the new figures from the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra). Individually, the five District and City Authorities in Oxfordshire have also achieved excellent results above the national average.

I have attended a variety of meetings since my last report and travelled 706 miles on Council business: These meetings have included:- Jt. Shared Services at Bodicote House, District Officers for Cherwell, Political Cabinet, Informal Cabinet and full Cabinet, I have attended at County Hall Planning & Regulation Committee where I spoke as the local member with regard to the Grondon's application to increase the HGV movements to 44 per day from the Faringdon Quarry. The Committee decision was to allow this increase which I was very upset about as the heavy slow moving HGV's will be joining the A420 where the speed limit is 60mph. Officers felt that there was no danger for potential accidents! I have attended the Growth Board held in Dictot where I am an observer to ensure that I am fully conversant with the business of the Growth Board for when I substitute for the Leader of the Council. I have attended the OCC/Cherwell Partnership meeting as a substitute, the Remuneration Board meeting and I presented prizes and certificates at Didcot Fire Station to young people who had undertaken "The Prince's Trust – "Get Started Programme" for 16-25 year olds NEETS (Not in Employment, Education or Training Scheme) and the Parish/Town Council meetings for Coleshill, Great Coxwell, Buscot and Faringdon.

My next surgery is on Saturday 7th March in the Faringdon Library from 1000-1130. If you are unable to make the surgery and you want to contact me my phone number is home: 01367 241468 and County Hall 01865 815284 and my email address is Judith.Heathcoat@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Judith Heathcoat

Deputy Leader to the Council, Cabinet Member for Community Safety

Oxfordshire County Council