

REPORT TO FARINGDON DIVISION (Buckland with Gainfield, Buscot, Coleshill, Eaton Hastings, Faringdon, Gt Coxwell, Littleworth and Little Coxwell – May/June 2019

For information, all that is detailed within my monthly reports is already within the public domain and thus in the media.

General OCC Report

We have announced that there are multi-million pound transport improvement plans to transform the Botley Road in Oxford for cyclists, pedestrians and public transport, and these plans are to go on show during June.

Two appointments have been announced, firstly the appointment of the new Chief Fire Officer, Rob MacDougall was announced. Rob MacDougall is currently the Assistant Chief Fire Officer and will replace Simon Furlong our current Chief Fire Officer who will be retiring in the Autumn of this year. To read more see:<https://bit.ly/2VPeZxE>. Secondly the new Director of Public Health Ansaf Anzhar is to replace Kate Terroni who left OCC earlier this year to a new appointment with CQC (Care Quality Commission).

A summer of road surfacing in the county has begun – to find out more and where the work is taking place see:<https://bit.ly/2Wt4mFa>

This is not the only resurfacing, repair and maintenance the county council will be doing in the coming months, but it does represent a significant investment. More than half a million square metres – more than 83km – of road across Oxfordshire will have a new lease of life thanks to the “surface-dressing” technique which waterproofs and extends the life of roads. The cost of the work is in the region of £3.5m which is seen as a good investment, potentially preventing the need for more costly resurfacing for several years.

The **OVO Energy Women’s Tour professional cycling race on 12th June** is attracting a lot of attention and I am thrilled that this will pass through this part of the County and my Division – travelling along the A417/A420 onto Park Road (A417), Gravel Walk, Gloucester Street, Cornmarket, A4095 Church Street, Radcot Road and onto Clanfield. The rolling road closures planned for will minimise disruption during the bike race. This event will be held with a different route in 2020 and 2021 in Oxfordshire and it is anticipated to bring economic benefits.

****Oxfordshire’s Fire and Rescue Service goes electric to reduce emissions**

The drive to reduce carbon emissions and clean up the air has stepped up a gear as Oxfordshire County Council takes delivery of a new fleet of electric cars and vans.

As the largest council in Oxfordshire, the county council has already taken a strong lead and committed to being carbon neutral by 2030. Achieving that aim will benefit the county’s thriving communities and mean radically changing the way some things are done.

Along with the commitment to being carbon neutral the county council has also signalled its dedication through high-profile sustainable energy projects like Local Energy Oxfordshire, the V2GO charging initiative as well as seeking to reduce the number of miles its staff travel for things like meetings by encouraging flexible working and greater use of virtual meeting technology.

Moving to an electric-powered fleet of vehicles is seen as a key step and the Fire and Rescue Service is positively charged about its new Renault Zoe and Kangoo vans – all of which produce absolutely no exhaust emissions and are cheaper to run.

Because of this the new fleet, which is the first part of a strategy that will see the council replacing as much of its vehicles fleet with zero exhaust emission alternatives as soon as possible, is already starting to make a contribution to improving air quality.

The vehicles can travel up to 160 miles on a single charge and will be used by Fire Safety Officers as pool cars and as fire station vans and can be charged at any of the fire stations.

The county council has also replaced its general pool cars with rechargeable models. I would advise that I am hugely excited by this piece of news **and I travelled to London with the DCFO when I attended the Fire Fighters Annual Memorial Service – the journey cost a total of £3. A little different to using public transport! I am fully supportive of this and as Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service sits within my Cabinet Portfolio, I couldn't be more pleased and because of this I am giving a completely full report for everyone to read! I know this lengthens my report but, I feel it is well worth it!**

Banishing pollutants from our communities

Grahame Mitchell, Assistant Chief Fire Officer, explained: "Transport can make a major contribution to air quality and the environment. Making positive changes like switching to electric vehicles is just one way in which key pollutants can be banished from our roads and communities.

"The performance of electric vehicles has come on immensely in recent years and the ones that we have chosen meet our needs very well. They will be put through their paces by our staff and their experiences will help us when we replace more of our fleet.

"Although the initial costs of electric vehicles are higher than conventional vehicles, the much lower servicing and running costs soon re-coup this difference and provide the council with both a clean and cost effective transport."

Cheaper and greener to get around

A full charge in a pure electric vehicle will give a typical range of 100 miles and will cost £2 to £4. Driving 100 miles in a petrol or diesel car will cost around £13 to £16 in fuel, which is around four times the cost of the electric car.

There are greater savings to be had if owners can access off-peak overnight electricity tariffs.

There are fewer mechanical components in an electric vehicle when compared with conventional vehicles, which often results in lower servicing and maintenance costs.

Sustainable transport and sustainable energy

Oxfordshire County Council is also amongst the organisations leading the way to a new smart, local, sustainable energy system as part of the Local Energy Oxfordshire (LEO) consortium.

Project LEO, which recently kicked off following the award of more than £40m in funding will show how an energy system of the future can support more local renewable energy generation, charging for electric cars and storage by creating the systems to balance supply and demand in Oxfordshire.

The project will demonstrate the potential for individuals and communities to become active participants in the energy systems of the future. It will enable the buying and selling of energy between local communities, businesses and residents. Over 90 local energy projects – many owned and invested in by communities in Oxfordshire – will be integrated into the LEO systems

Zero-emission plan for transport in Oxford

Oxfordshire County Council jointly with Oxford City Council published updated [proposals](#) for a Zero Emission Zone (ZEZ) in Oxford centre, setting a journey to zero transport emissions in the city by 2035.

From 2020 onwards, a ZEZ will apply to some vehicles and journey types, with restrictions increased gradually to all vehicles in the following years to create a largely transport emissions-free city centre. The aim of the ZEZ is to tackle Oxford's toxic air pollution and protect the health of everyone who lives in, works in and visits the city.

It is also expected that the ZEZ will improve air pollution levels across Oxfordshire because the buses and taxis that serve Oxford also serve towns and villages across the county.

Could electric vehicles be right for you?

Some EV manufacturers will install a homecharge unit free of charge when you purchase a vehicle.

The government also offers a grant of up to £500 towards installing home charging. Most people will prefer to charge at home but for charging on the go see Zap Map (<https://www.zap-map.com/>)

The council realises that not everyone has access to off-street parking and is therefore partnering with Oxford City Council to trial a variety of solutions for on street charging. For all sorts of information about charging, range and the benefits of EV visit www.goultralow.com

Specific report for the Faringdon Division

During the month I have attended the usual meetings and briefings at County Hall, Informal Cabinet, Cabinet, member of the Appointments Committee for the post of Chief Fire Officer, the annual full Council meeting and the usual 1:1 briefing meetings in my role of Deputy Leader with senior officers. I have attended Parish Council meetings in the Division. Additionally, Wednesday 1st May I attended with an OCC officer the Faringdon Peace Group meeting where a presentation was made relating to the County's Armed Forces Military Covenant.

Saturday 4th May was my surgery and I had several local people come to talk to regarding local issues.

Sunday 5th May I attended the annual Firefighters Memorial Trust service of Remembrance at the Holy Sepulchre Church in the City of London and I laid a wreath at the Fire Fighters Cenotaph. Some 350+ people attend. It is a very poignant occasion especially when one sees children wearing the medals of a dead firefighter who may have been their mother or father. I travelled to London with the Deputy Chief Fire Officer in one of the fleet of newly purchased electrical vehicles – the County Council has committed to being Carbon Neutral by 2030 and these are fuelled by renewable energy.**

Sunday 12th May I was invited and attended “Farcycles” Champagne Tea Party in the Corn Exchange. Farcycles has been supported by Oxfordshire County Council with monies from the County’s Community Fund and the County Councillor’s own Community Fund plus the Faringdon Educational Activities Trust of which I am a Trustee. I wholeheartedly support this project which aims to ensure a safe place to learn to cycle for children, adults, learners and improvers.

Monday 13th May I attended FEAT (Faringdon Educational Activities Trust) meeting in Little Coxwell. This Trust provides small grants to individuals and local groups of young people in the area. Do write to me if you wish to make an application to FEAT. This Trust aims to support young people locally. We have supported local youth groups – the scouting and guiding movements, youth teams from the Faringdon Academy of Schools and young people with various talents, horse riding and musicians.

Judith Heathcoat
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Deputy Leader Oxfordshire County Council
May/June 2019