

September 2018 County Update Report Prepared by Ian Corkin

Trees of Remembrance

I recently emailed parishes about OCC's Trees of Remembrance commemoration of the Centenary of the Armistice of WW1, *(Oxfordshire County Council is partnering with The Woodland Trust for a project of lasting remembrance. They have donated young native species tree saplings and the county council is offering a commemorative plaque to go alongside these to all town and parish councils in Oxfordshire to be planted by local councils and other community groups on sites they identify within their communities. Ideally, we would like this to be accompanied by a commemorative planting event involving the community. The planting and ongoing maintenance of the saplings will be the responsibility of each event organiser; however we are committing to replacing free of charge any saplings that fail within six months of planting)*

The trees and commemorative plaque will be available from early November and communities who wish to take part should email the policy team now to register your interest: communitycovenant@oxfordshire.gov.uk . (I'd be grateful if you could copy me into your email)

No Cold Caller Door Stickers

I have a qty of no cold caller door stickers (picture attached). Please let me know if you would like some for elderly or vulnerable residents in your village.

CDC/Oxfordshire Joint Working

Following the turmoil in Northamptonshire County Council, CDC decided to exit the joint working agreement with South Northants District Council and seek a new joint working initiative with Oxfordshire County Council. The Cherwell/Oxfordshire partnership is an important project for both councils. Following talks between the leaders of both councils, they have agreed a joint Cabinet position and I have been appointed to it from the 1st of September. That means I will be on both Cabinets to better facilitate what services can be joined up for the benefit of residents as well as the councils. It will be a cross directorate role looking at all aspects of County service delivery in Cherwell. I will also chair the Joint Partnership Committee that will assess opportunities for joint working on a case by case basis.

OCC COUNTS THE COST OF THE CARILLION COLLAPSE

OCC is carrying out a detailed review of the costs and liabilities related to its properties following the Carillion collapse so that a robust financial plan can be considered by councillors in the autumn and included in the council's budget. Carillion provided services on behalf of OCC including maintenance of council buildings; property services, and building work such as school extensions. OCC made a net payment of £10.6m at the end of December 2017 to Carillion to cover work already completed as part of the final settlement to end the contract with the company, limiting any future financial liability. However, the costs of dealing with ongoing construction and property maintenance problems following the Carillion collapse have not yet been calculated but are expected to be "very significant". Surveys to assess defects in buildings including schools are continuing across the county

council's properties. Compliance with health and safety requirements is also being considered, with any safety issues that emerge being dealt with quickly.

CONTINUED IMPROVEMENT IN DELAYED TRANSFER OF CARE NUMBERS

The latest published figures on people who are unnecessarily in hospital while they await confirmation of care arrangements have been published. The figures for June 2018 show that on average 90 Oxfordshire residents had their hospital discharge delayed. This is 9% fewer than in May and less than half the number of people delayed than the same time last year. Oxfordshire's delays figure trajectory continues to be better than national improvement with a 0.3% improvement in the last month and a drop of a quarter in the last year.

£80K BOOST FOR KIDS' CYCLING SAFETY

Almost every primary school child in the county will now be able to get free cycle safety training after the award of an £84,500 [Bikeability](#) grant which will pay for an additional 2000 places. The bulk of cycling training in the county is carried out by a 700-strong army of volunteer instructors under the Oxfordshire Cycle Training Scheme, which has been running for more than 40 years. Training is offered to children from nine-years-old and up and is a mixture of learning about the Highways Code and practical 'on the road' tuition. Parents and carers who want their children to take part in training should contact their school's head teacher.

Specific Issues

- **Traffic Issues:** Following an onsite meeting on the A41 with members of Launton and Blackthorn PC with officers from OCC a traffic survey was agreed and commissioned by Blackthorn PC. Once the PC receives the results we can plan next steps.
- **Hummingbird Centre Footpath:** Following an onsite meeting, in record time, OCC Highways Team have installed the new footpath.
- **Blackthorn Road Drainage:** Work completed
- **Bridge Road Surface:** This work will take place with a one night road closure on 21st of September
- **COUNCILLOR PRIORITY FUND:** As mentioned in recent reports the Councillors Priority Fund is now in place. I have a budget of £15,000 this year to use on projects that are important to local communities and where some degree of match funding is available. Applications are welcomed from PC's and community groups as per my recent email. (further funding details on the email I sent last week)
- **Oxcam expressway:** Highways England tell me that all the information is now with the minister of state and an announcement will be made by the 12th of Sept
- **Application No 18/00211/F-2 Network Rail:** This application allows us to review the issues that result in flooding in Blackthorn. OCC have suggested a joint meeting between the parish, CDC, OCC & Network Rail to discuss the situation. I am currently waiting to hear back from NWR
- **HS2 & East West Rail:** This continues to impact various areas of Ploughley division. Jnc 9 & 10 of the M40 will feature in transport routes for both HS2 and EW

rail construction, so expect amendments around the junction to prepare it for increased HGV movements as well as major impacts on all the approved HGV routes.

- **HS2 community funds:** There are some substantial funds available for affected communities and I would urge the most affected to think big with their schemes. I am happy to help working up funding applications.