

REPORT TO BIX & ASSENDON PARISH COUNCIL

NOV 2019 FROM CLLR DAVID BARTHOLOMEW

GENERAL OCC REPORT

OCC BACKS PROPOSALS FOR INTEGRATED HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE SYSTEM

Proposals for a new 'integrated care system' for Oxfordshire designed to improve health and social care services were welcomed by the OCC's Cabinet. The new joined-up health and care system will also cover Buckinghamshire and Berkshire West. A draft of the five-year plan for an integrated care system has been published and is due to be submitted to NHS England in November. In the draft plan, the NHS and local authorities in the three areas have committed to planning health and care services around individual needs. Health and care organisations will work collectively to help people enjoy better health by focusing on preventing illness and improving care for those who need it. The principle of 'local first' has been established, with community-run services a vital part of the integrated care system. GP practices will become part of 'primary care networks' that serve communities of around 30-50,000 people. By working together, GP practices will offer access to a wide range of local services, such as NHS and social services, as well as services provided by voluntary groups. These care networks will also be part of larger 'integrated care partnerships' – one for each of the three county areas, including Oxfordshire. The partnerships will join up local hospital and mental health services with, council and community services.

AMBITIOUS REGIONAL TRANSPORT AND CONNECTIVITY PLAN

OCC has endorsed the development of a strategy which sets out a vision for a regional zero-carbon transport network by 2050. England's Economic Heartland is currently engaging on the first stage of a region-wide strategy which sets out a vision for the development and investment in 'connectivity' – the ability to travel and communicate – across an area which stretches between Swindon and Cambridgeshire. The strategy will be out for full public consultation in 2020 and will set out the region's strategic infrastructure needs to both Government and the private sector. Oxfordshire County Council's Cabinet discussed its response to the outline strategy last month, details here:

<https://mycouncil.oxfordshire.gov.uk/documents/s48783/Background%20Document%20EEH%20Outline%20Transport%20Strategy%20-%20OCC%20Final%20Response-Following%20consideration%20at%20C.pdf>

COMMUNITIES INVITED TO BID FOR £1M FUND TO PROVIDE YOUTH SERVICES

Voluntary and community organisations are being invited to bid for a share of OCC's new £1m Youth Opportunity Fund. The fund is aimed at groups that can provide activities and opportunities for young people between the ages of 11-18, and 11-25 with special educational needs. Feedback from Oxfordshire residents points to strong support for improving community-run youth services. This new fund is available to help existing projects expand and new ones get started. Grants of up to £70,000 are available. By offering start-up funding in previous years, the council has already helped many community-run groups provide support for younger children and families. Now the aim is to do the same for youth services. Community-run youth schemes complement the work of the OCC's children's services, which target resources at young people and families with additional needs and those at risk of abuse and neglect. The council also has a desire for more youth clubs to be established. Further information on the fund including how communities can bid for the fund can be found here:

<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/community-and-living/our-work-communities/oxfordshire-together/community-led-childrens-services/youth-opportunity-fund>

MINERALS AND WASTE SITES APPROVED IN A DRAFT PLAN FOR CONSULTATION

Following public consultation, OCC's Cabinet approved a list of preferred sites for mineral extraction and waste allocation. OCC has a statutory duty to prepare a new Oxfordshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan to replace the existing Minerals and Waste Local Plan, which was adopted in 1996. The 'core strategy' for the Oxfordshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan was adopted by the council in September 2017, stating that a site allocations plan would be prepared with a target date for adoption of November 2020. Public consultation on site options took place in 2018, which covered all the minerals and waste sites that had been nominated for possible inclusion within the Site Allocations Plan. Following site assessments by council-appointed consultants and a review by council officers, a list of preferred sites was produced. The Cabinet has now approved that list of preferred sites for inclusion in the draft plan for consultation. Details are available on the OCC website.

SPECIFIC REPORT FOR BIX & ASSENDON

THIRD READING BRIDGE

I successfully moved a motion in relation to this matter at OCC Full Council on Tuesday 10th September and SODC Full Council on Thursday 10th October. As a consequence, the Leaders of both councils have written to council leaders at Reading, Wokingham and Bracknell, plus MPs John Howell, John Redwood, Matt Rodda and Theresa May, stating that:

- a) In the context of the Climate Emergency a car-based solution to a car-based problem that would pour thousands of cars and HGVs into Oxfordshire is totally inappropriate and should a new bridge be built it should be restricted to public transport, cyclists and pedestrians;
- b) Notwithstanding the above, if a car-based solution is pursued, the bridge and necessary mitigation measures (i.e. improvements to the Oxfordshire road network) must not be considered as two separate projects, but as one project so that the benefits, disadvantages and costs of the scheme can be holistically assessed.

A 'Summit Meeting' of MPs, leaders, other key councillors (including me) and officers, met on Friday 18th October to review the project. It was revealed at the meeting that the Berkshire parties have submitted a bid to Government for £800,000 to fund the Outline Business Case.

Despite my best efforts, the project protagonists continue to deflect questions about mitigation measures saying this will be dealt with via 'traffic calming' and is for discussion at a later date. I have stated that such vague assertions are not acceptable from Oxfordshire's perspective.

There will be another 'Summit Meeting' in March, meanwhile officers from the various authorities will meet to suggest next steps.

VEHICLE ACTIVATED SPEED SIGNS

Having been assured by the clerk that there has been local consultation with favourable results, I have agreed to contribute 2 x £500 towards the cost of two VAS devices. The clerk needs to complete the application form and submit it to the Councillor Priority Fund email address for approval.

BOX IN LOWER ASSENDON LAYBY

At the last meeting I was asked to identify a box at the above location. Highways officers later confirmed it was a traffic counting monitor.

DOBSONS LANE, LOWER ASSENDON

Stage I of the remedial work was completed at the end of February. Stage II of the works was completed in September. I have received emails from residents pleased with the improvements, although there remains an issue with some uncollected debris which I am investigating.

SPEED LIMITS ON FAIRMILE & BIX DUALS

I have received emails from residents in connection with this. I advised that the Fairmile speed limit changes are part of a Henley Town Council initiative and I have not been involved in the project. With regard for a reduction in speed limit on the Bix Duals, I advised this would be in conflict with national guidelines, Additionally, I mentioned that speeding bikers were a matter for the police and not the county council.