

REPORT TO BIX & ASSENDON PARISH COUNCIL

JAN 2020 FROM CLLR DAVID BARTHOLOMEW

GENERAL OCC REPORT

OXFORDSHIRE IS NAMED TOP WASTE RECYCLER IN ENGLAND

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. In 2018, 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. 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 district and city councils operate the kerbside collections of household recycling and waste, which OCC 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.

SERVICES FOR CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS ARE IMPROVING

Support for children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) has made progress in Oxfordshire with senior leaders from the education, health and care services working effectively together. This was the finding of a recent Ofsted review of SEND services following a full inspection in 2017. In the report Ofsted described the leaders as having an 'aspirational vision' for children with special educational needs and disabilities and inspectors found that leaders across the education, health and care system were taking full responsibility to improve the service. "Accountability has been strengthened and there is now a helpful mechanism for overseeing improvement," the inspectors said.

COUNCIL PLANS TO IMPROVE ONLINE SERVICES AND REDUCE CYBER-THREATS

As more people access public services on computers or mobile phones, residents will see real improvements after OCC revealed plans to 'future-proof' its digital systems as part of a two-year overhaul. Councillors approved a new information and communication technology (ICT) strategy, which will lead to investment in smarter, more secure systems and better customer services. OCC's website gets 370,000 page views per week and receives around 1300 online payments per week. A new online Blue Badge application process with credit card payments launched earlier this year. Since then, nearly 70% of applications are online - previously it was 40%. The county council has also signed up to the Government 'local digital declaration'. The declaration was made at the council's Cabinet and commits the county council to designing online services that meet the needs of residents, while protecting their privacy and security.

FREE NASAL SPRAY VACCINATION FOR YOUNG CHILDREN

Parents in Oxfordshire are being urged to have their young children vaccinated against the flu this winter. Children aged two and three can have a free, quick and painless NHS nasal spray vaccine at their GP surgery. In addition, primary school children in Oxfordshire can have the nasal spray vaccine via the school nurse service. For more information on the NHS flu vaccine visit: www.oxfordshireccg.nhs.uk/

HEALTHCARE TEAM WORK TO HELP OLDER PEOPLE RETURN HOME FROM HOSPITAL

Age UK Oxfordshire has joined forces with the NHS to help older people keep well during the colder months in a project backed by OCC. Patients will be given specialist support by Age UK Oxfordshire staff to feel more confident on returning home from hospital and helped with accessing support in the community. Age UK Oxfordshire staff are based at the John Radcliffe Hospital. The support ties in with the health and social care system-wide 'home first' winter plan, which prioritises treating people closer to home and avoiding prolonged hospital stays. Supported by the Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group, Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust, Oxfordshire County Council, and the South Central Ambulance Service, the system has encouraged this approach with initiatives such as additional support from HART services. Contracted to work with the Trust for a year, the Age UK Oxfordshire team expect to assist with at least four discharges a day. The team are funded by Oxfordshire County Council and the Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group.

SPECIFIC REPORT FOR BIX & ASSENDON

SPECIAL THIRD READING BRIDGE MEETING FRIDAY 30TH JANUARY 2020

The chair at Sonning Common has called a meeting of parishes in my Division to consider a joint response to the situation in advance of the MP 'Summit Meeting' in March. I very much hope two representatives from each parish will attend. Please respond to the email sent by the SC PC clerk on 21st November if you haven't done so already.

Date and time: Friday 31 January 3.00pm to 5.00pm

Venue: Sonning Common Village Hall, Wood Lane, Sonning Common RG4 9SL

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. This is now urgent as the closing date for applications is imminent.

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 some complaints about uncollected debris which I investigated and I believe the matter has now been resolved.