

HENDREDS AND HARWELL ROUND UP – SEPT/OCT 23

***** OCC NEWS*****

Change in political control: The ruling Oxfordshire Fair Deal Alliance collapsed following the withdrawal of the Labour Party. This followed multiple failures of the Cabinet Member for Children's Services (Liz Brighthouse), and her refusal to take responsibility around children's education and SEND provision. There is always more than a news headline. A minority administration has been formed with new cabinet members announced (see below)

New SEND improvement cabinet position: The new minority Lib-Dem-Green administration has created a specific cabinet position dedicated to SEND improvement. Cllr Kate Gregory (Thame & Chinnor) has been appointed to this position. A priority SEND action plan is being drawn up. Experienced former teacher and school governor, Cllr John Howson, has also been appointed to the Children's portfolio (see below).

Cabinet reshuffle: Cabinet positions are now as follows,

Leader: Liz Leffman

Deputy Leader and Climate Change delivery & Environment: Pete Sudbury

Children, Education & Young People's Services: John Howson

SEND Improvement: Kate Gregory

Community & Corporate Services: Neil Fawcett

Transport Network Management: Andrew Gant

Infrastructure & Development: Judy Roberts

Finance: Dan Levy

Adult Social Care: Tim Bearder

Public Health, Inequalities & Community Safety: Nathan Ley

Freight strategy: The Atkins study into area weight restrictions has been published. The study outlines a process for all villages and towns to request further work to reduce HGVs on inappropriate roads. The process will be published on OCC's website for parishes and towns to apply to. When I have more news I will share it but I am not happy to be honest with this strategy and will keep pushing. See attached presentation
– **FOR COUNCILLORS ONLY**

20mph policy robustly defended: As the government seeks to intervene in the responsibilities of local councils, cabinet member Andrew Gant has robustly defended Oxfordshire's pioneering 20mph policy.

New countywide air quality website launched for Oxfordshire: A new Oxfordshire air quality website has launched – providing air quality guidance and resources across the county. The website oxonair.uk, which has been created in partnership between Oxfordshire County Council and district councils, aims to integrate all relevant air quality-related information in Oxfordshire under one single platform.

Permission granted for release of land for new Oxford United stadium: Oxfordshire County Council's cabinet has agreed to the release of a parcel of land at 'the triangle' north of Oxford near Kidlington. This will now be on a leasehold basis. Oxford United Football Club (OUFC) will be required to meet a series of conditions and secure planning permission from Cherwell District Council.

Ukrainian nationals are starting to rebuild their future and look for more independence.

We're working in partnership with the district and city councils to look for existing landlords, or people who have a vacant property and would consider becoming one month rent in advance; To informally discuss what's involved, contact the central housing team who is managing this on behalf of the city and district councils. The team can be contacted by email at oxfordshirehousingcapacity@southandvale.gov.uk.

Pothole innovation trials: We know we had our local pot hole innovations in Steventon, but there are now results from a maintenance trial in Berrick Salome suggest a recycling-based technique reduces carbon by 71% and speeds up the scheme by 60%. 'In-situ cold recycling' reuses the existing surfacing material and saves hundreds of tonnes of carbon.

Boundary review: The Electoral Commission has issued its draft recommended changes to boundaries of County Council divisions, which would be in use for 2025 local elections. The Commission agrees with the recommendation of OCC to increase the number of councillors from 63 to 69, in line with population growth. A consultation will be open from 3 October to 11 December. <https://www.lgbce.org.uk/>

Extra Links to help

- [Current roadworks around the county](#)
- [Oxon Travel Twitter feed](#) (for the latest traffic and travel news)

*****Sally's Council News*****

People Scrutiny: We called in the Ofsted report for an urgent review as well as a deep dive of the Education Commission. What's clear is for many years, there has been an increasing lack of direction, management and engagement in this area. Voices need to

be heard and our recommendations included pausing all tribunals, focus on co production.

Public Transport Champion – I am focusing on Youth Fares and increasing uptake of concessionary passes, looking at ways of people accessing applications that aren't online (libraries and maybe a Community Larder trial in East Hendred and Kidlington!)

Reservoir proposals – Its still ongoing and the fight is stepping up – would your parish council be interested in joining a 'group' of PC's to have a stronger voice? Please contact Steventon Parish Council – Chris Wilding - Steventon Parish Council <steventonpc@tiscali.co.uk>

Hendreds A417 West Crossing – So things are progressing, and currently pending a tree survey. However, the Village gates are now up and the 30mph proposal is in this October for Council cabinet sign off (I will be speaking at this). I have also seen a provisional timeline for consultations next summer, I have pushed back and asked for better timing and more urgency.

We have an emergency Full Council on 13th October 2023.

All meetings are online and **here** -

<https://mycouncil.oxfordshire.gov.uk/mgCalendarMonthView.aspx?GL=1&bcr=1>

*******GRANTS AND COST OF LIVING*******

Councillor priority fund: Open for applications please discuss with me first the ideas.

*******NEWS IN BRIEF*******

Highways works: Check this OCC website showing upcoming highways repairs

HIF1 Road: The secretary of state will now take the decision on new road and active travel infrastructure from A34 / Didcot to Golden Balls Roundabout

Benson relief road: Approval given to enter agreement with construction company

Remembrance Sunday: Invitations to the chair of the council to attend wreath laying can be sent to - chairofthecouncil@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Smoking cessation: Support is being offered during 'Stoptober'

OCC wins bid for EV charging street lamps: OCC one of 6 authorities to win funding

Period poverty: my motion was passed to supply free menstruation products in OCC owned buildings, and I also spoke to the LD motion at annual conference in my maiden speech.

Speedwatch: Information shared by TVP – available for interested parishes, we have groups now in Blewbury, Steventon, Harwell, Rowstock and now Hendreds is being formed. Thanks to all residents for their time and commitment to road safety.

*******PARISH ROUNDUP*******

One Network – check for permits and closures....

www.one.network

Harwell Parish

In constant contact with Chair of Council for rapid resolution of issues. Primary focus now is Comet Scheme and organising a public meeting to discuss a Wednesday trial.

Steventon Parish

Updates on bridge and October closures now with the parish. Chasing potential safety review of Hanney Road.

Chilton Parish

Concerns around blocked bridleway due to Harwell campus construction work is now with Countryside access team and various emails between residents and developer.

Priority funding signed off for recreational accessible equipment. Presentation on democracy to Chilton Primary with District Councillor.

Upton Parish

Chasing final reparations on verge and landscaping from crossing.

East Hendred

Setting up speed watch group and talking to parents about safer crossings / roads for children at school time.

West Hendred

Attended the speedwatch starter meeting and helping to get volunteers signed up. Gates are up and cabinet sign off at next Highways cabinet member meeting.

Ardington and Lockinge

Been expressing concerns over new Roundabout at West Lockinge and traffic. Thankfully the layby improvements are complete and as it looks so much better. Am

also chasing the kingsgrove next steps on link road. CEO of Bus company due to come back to me this week about routing.

Have YOUR Say

Reminder that the OCC [website](#) has a lot of resources...

Consultations are all [here](#)

More info on the OUFC issues [here](#)

Healthwatch latest [here](#)

Cllr Sally Povolotsky

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Whats app is best – 07939 912 997

Facebook – sally4hundredsandharwell

IG and TT – Sally4Change

Personal Note

Next week my partner has the second part of his surgery, and so I won't be attending any meetings in person (apart from a compulsory Full EO Council on 13th Oct) from 11th October for around 7-10 days, as I will be needed at home. I am more than happy to dial into any parish council meetings so please just ask and I can set this up.

Sally