

Annual and updated report County Councillor Andy Graham – April 2026

I would like to update you on the work of Oxfordshire County Council over the past year, and importantly, give some practical examples of what that has meant both at a county level and here in Woodstock and our surrounding villages.

This has been a challenging year, with rising demand and continued financial pressure. However, there have been tangible achievements.

At a county level, we have delivered a more targeted highways maintenance programme, focusing not just on reactive repairs but on preventative work to stop roads deteriorating further. That includes increased investment in surface dressing and patching programmes, which are now being deployed more systematically across the network.

In adult social care, the Council has helped more people remain in their own homes through expanded community-based support, reducing pressure on hospitals and improving outcomes for residents. That work, while often unseen, is critical to the functioning of the wider system.

In education, we have taken steps to expand local SEND provision, reducing reliance on expensive out-of-county placements and beginning to address long-standing capacity issues.

And in transport, despite a difficult national funding environment, the Council has continued to support subsidised bus services and trial alternative models where traditional routes are no longer viable.

Turning to the local picture, I want to highlight some specific interventions and outcomes within the Woodstock division.

On highways, I have directly raised and followed through on a number of resident concerns. For example, working with officers to secure patching and drainage improvements on key rural roads where repeated flooding was accelerating road damage. In several cases, this has resulted in works being reprioritised and delivered sooner than originally scheduled.

In Woodstock, a key priority has been progressing plans for a new doctors' surgery. I have been working to support and move this forward, and I am hopeful that this project is now closer to becoming a reality than at any point previously. This is an important step in ensuring that local healthcare provision keeps pace with community need.

Across villages such as Steeple Barton, Westcote Barton, Sandford St Martin, Stonesfield, Combe, Tackley, Wootton by Woodstock and Bladon, I have worked with parish councils to escalate persistent issues—whether that is road safety concerns, signage, or maintenance—and to ensure they are formally logged, tracked, and acted

upon. As a result, plans are coming forward this year for safety measures on the A44 /Judds Garage junction.

Flooding mitigation measures and a collaborative partnership has been developing in the past year in the Barton's with excellent progress currently underway to resolve flooding in this area.

My thanks to chairs of the parish councils and district councillor together with OCC officers to making this possible.

In Combe in particular, I was pleased to receive letters from children in Years 1 and 2 raising concerns about the condition of road markings and signage outside their school. Their focus on safety has rightly drawn attention to this issue, and I will be ensuring that this is acted upon.

I am also pleased to see the Local Cycling and Walking Improvement Plan approved for the Woodstock division. This provides a clear framework for improving active travel routes, safety, and connectivity across our communities over the coming years.

On public transport, I have engaged with residents and operators where services have come under threat or experienced reliability issues, helping to ensure concerns are fed directly into County-level discussions about supported routes.

I have been involved in discussions and meetings over the Tackley crossing/railway bridge changes and expressed concerns to the rail company over the impacts of changes proposed and recommending that residents are not financially disadvantaged during the construction period in 26/27 when the station is not operating fully. This is ongoing.

In education, I have supported families navigating the SEND system, raising individual cases where delays or gaps in provision have occurred, and ensuring those cases receive appropriate attention.

Drainage and flooding have also been recurring issues this year. I have worked with officers to investigate problem areas and push for remedial action, particularly where infrastructure has struggled to cope with sustained periods of heavy rainfall.

Alongside these specific examples, a significant part of the role remains ongoing casework—responding to resident concerns, coordinating with officers, and ensuring that local issues are not overlooked within a large county system.

What I hope these examples demonstrate is that, while the challenges are real, there is also consistent work happening—both strategically at County level and practically at a local level—to deliver improvements.

Looking ahead, my priorities remain focused on the issues you raise most often: better road maintenance, more reliable transport, stronger SEND provision, and ensuring that infrastructure keeps pace with any future growth.

I remain committed to representing this community and to working constructively with parish councils and residents to deliver results.

Cllr Andy Graham
OCC Woodstock Division