The increase in physical activity is one of the positive outcomes from the pandemic. The Government has recognised this by announcing funds to continue to promote active travel. I am keen we encourage active travel across the county. I have submitted my request that Woodstock and all villages in the Division have 20mph speed limits along with cycle racks by bus stops. Unfortunately, we now know that we can’t fund 20 mph schemes from the 1st funding tranche for Oxfordshire which is £597,000, due to the conditions imposed. The 2nd tranche of around £2.4 million will be issued later in the summer and will depend on how successful we are in delivering the 1st tranche of funding. The highways teams have been working hard to identify schemes that can be delivered quickly and successfully.

We must be realistic that even if we receive all the funds, probably they won’t be enough to cover all projects across the county, but I think it’s right to be ambitious.

I am working with a group of interested parties to see if we can put forward a proposal, even on a temporary basis, to encourage a more continental style outdoor approach to the centre of Woodstock to help the businesses as they reopen in the summer.

Oxfordshire County Council is working with all the other councils on a recovery programme as we move out of the lockdown. The reopening of Household Waste Recycling Centres is an example of a return to the new normal as there are restrictions, please check before visiting them.

The County Council is supporting Care Homes and Care providers by purchasing PPE, to date the total is £2 million. This is to assist them to have the stock particularly the smaller organisations who are unable to achieve quantity of scale discounts.

To assist in the reopening of schools, Oxfordshire County Council has provided every school across the county with PPE. We have been working closely with schools to help them to prepare should they decide to reopen.

Test and Trace was launched across England. The service is designed to help identify, contain and control coronavirus, reduce the spread of the virus and save lives. It forms a central part of the Government’s COVID-19 recovery strategy, which seeks to return life to as close to normal as possible, for as many people as possible, in a way that is safe and protects the NHS and social care.

There are responsibilities placed upon OCC as the Public Health Authorities to work with Public Health England and with local District, City and health system partners to investigate and control outbreaks and to support the community to ensure safe and effective self-isolation. We are currently in discussions across the Oxfordshire system about the development of a local outbreak control plan, and we will update you with further details as soon as we can.

Once again, I would like to thank all the community groups across the Woodstock division that have been created to help and support our vulnerable residents. The groups are working well with the District & County councils. If you have any concerns regarding residents who may need to be on the NHS shielded list, please contact us on: 01865 89 78 20 or shield@oxfordshire.gov.uk

I continue to hold weekly conference call meetings with the other Oxfordshire Leaders; Cherwell, City, South, Vale and West to ensure we all are working together and not duplicating work. I also hold weekly conference calls with the Labour & Liberal opposition parties at County to ensure that everybody is kept up to date with the latest information and again we can share ideas.

The way councils including Town and Parish have adapted to virtual meetings has been tremendous to enable us all to continue with the democratic process. I’m sure we’ll continue once we return to the new normal as it does save many journeys. However, the down side is that the meetings can be back to back over the day and into the evenings. Perhaps we need to be careful to ensure we don’t end up sitting in front of the screen too much.

I’ve continued to take some of my daily exercise by walking round the villages in my division to report any defects on roads or pavements, if you notice any then please report them on Fix My Street as the repair teams are still working.

Anybody can download the app which is easy to use and provides an exact location along with a photograph or you can log any defects at:

<https://fixmystreet.oxfordshire.gov.uk/>

Please do not hesitate to contact me and keep safe.

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