

Councillor Andy Graham January 2023 report

Dear All,

Here is my report from the county for onward distribution to pc councillors.

OCC news

Reduced bus fares: For 3 months (Jan-Mar), bus passengers can enjoy a £2 cap on bus fares. Paid for by a government scheme, fares with participating bus firms will cost a maximum of £2 per adult single fare (includes Oxford Bus Company and Thames Travel). Concessions are unaffected and school services are excluded.

Anti-sewage motion passes and water summit: A Lib Dem motion at Full Council in December condemning the practice of dumping sewage into waterways passed with near unanimity (one conservative opposed). Over the Christmas period, Thames Water released raw sewage 6 times into Oxfordshire rivers. A water summit in December also looked at challenges facing water supply and demand in Oxfordshire.

Three in four streetlamps now LED: Over 75% of the 60,000+ street lighting assets in OCC control are now run with energy saving LED lights. Streetlighting is the largest source of carbon emissions in OCC's operations and is a growing cost due to rising energy prices. Since 2019/20 OCC has reduced carbon emissions by 21%, in large part thanks to the LED scheme. The milestone represents a significant improvement in the pace of rollout and will save the council £77m over 20 years.

Tree planting: As part of the new Tree Policy for Oxfordshire, 450 trees will be planted on highways over the winter period, supported by £185,000 from budget reserves.

Successful bid for children's homes: OCC has successfully bid for a £5.2m grant to part fund four new residential children's homes. The homes would provide accommodation and support for children requiring solo provision or who can only share with one other child, children with autism, and children who have had adverse childhood experiences. These new homes would add to OCC's portfolio of three homes, along with the new 4-bedroom home being constructed in Aston. The matched funding by OCC is still to be finalised.

Health consultation: A draft strategy developed by local healthcare leaders from across the health and care system in the Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire, Berkshire (BOB) area is being consulted on (closes 29th Jan). Survey: [link](#)

Chilterns AONB boundaries: Natural England are overseeing a review process of the boundaries of the Chilterns AONB. Natural England are appointing consultants who will carry out a technical assessment of natural beauty before consulting with stakeholders in spring and early summer of 2023. Contact email for enquiries:

ChilternsAONBBoundaryReview@NaturalEngland.org.uk

News in short

New Chief Executive: Dr Martin Reeves has been appointed OCC's new chief executive

Traffic filter fake news rebutted: Watch rebuttals here

Award winning council: OCC wins three environmental awards

Guide to adulthood for SEND children: Guide on refreshed website

Increase in highways funding 22/23: OCC increased funding by £0.8m for 22/23