



**Focus on Parishes with Cllr Freddie van Mierlo (Chalgrove and Watlington)**

**April 2024**

*Welcome to my monthly update, shared in the first week of every month.*

**Upcoming meetings:**

- 2<sup>nd</sup> April: Nettlebed Parish Council
- 4<sup>th</sup> April: Chalgrove Parish Council
- 8<sup>th</sup> April: Great Haseley Parish Council
- 9<sup>th</sup> April: Watlington Parish Council
- 10<sup>th</sup> April: Little Milton Parish Council
- 17<sup>th</sup> April: Place Scrutiny Committee, Oxford
- 18<sup>th</sup> April: Health Overview Scrutiny Committee, Oxford

**\*\*\*\*\* OCC NEWS\*\*\*\*\***

**Chalgrove Airfield:** Homes England have requested an Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Opinion, with SODC holding a consultation. An EIA is a required part of any new planning application. Homes England have also conducted traffic surveys in the local area. Residents have also been receiving invitations to attend information events by Homes England. However, there is no new planning application to date.

**New special schools:** The county council is planning two [new special schools](#) in the Didcot area to serve southeast Oxfordshire. One will specialise in educating children with Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) needs or Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) needs. Another special school is due to be built within the Valley Park development, and will specialise in educating children with Profound & Multiple Learning Difficulties (PMLD), Severe Learning Difficulties (SLD) and other needs.

**Taking on potholes:** OCC is launching a [£7m programme](#) this spring to refurbish nearly 100 roads across the county this spring from 8 April to 3 June. It is the biggest surface dressing programme for 20 years. The £7m is made up of £2.6m from the department

for transport and additional budget for highways agreed in the 2024/2025 Lib Dem/Green budget (not supported by the Tories).

**Money for cycling and walking:** Oxfordshire has been awarded £2.384 million for improving walking and cycling infrastructure. The award will be used for expansion of the school streets programme countywide and projects in Abingdon and Witney.

**Tenants welcomed into supported housing:** Adults with learning disabilities and autism have moved into new [accommodation](#) in Witney, purchased by OCC. A further four homes are planned, including in Horspath.

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

**EV chargers:** Oxfordshire has won another £3.6m to upgrade [EV infrastructure](#)

**Buy loose:** Campaign to [reduce food waste](#) launched

\*\*\*\*\*PARISH ROUND-UP \*\*\*\*\*

*Not all parishes are covered – below is a selection of the main updates.*

**Brightwell Baldwin**

- **20mph:** Scheme included in current and final round. Implementation will take time however (6 months+)

**Chalgrove**

- **Village maintenance:** Issues highlighted by Parish Council are being worked through by OCC, including damage to bridge and uncollected barriers at Chapel lane.

**Ewelme**

- **CLEUD:** Decision is still pending.
- **Drainage improvements:** Ongoing discussion with OCC officers on the proposed drainage improvements for Ewelme, with work carried out in March

**Lewknor**

- **Manor Close:** OCC is awaiting edits to plans by developer
- **Hill Road steps:** Work to install a handrail planned for new financial year
- **Funeral Path:** Ongoing discussions with Countryside Rights of Way team on non-pedestrian use of path

## Watlington

- **Charlotte Coxe Trust:** Quote received for necessary work to bring up EPC rating to E of 33 High Street. A decision will be made on funding the work.
- **Red Kite View to Cuxham Road path:** Legal agreements have been completed between OCC and Bloor Homes. Next steps for Bloor to apply for road closure/traffic management to carry out the work.
- **Relief Road:** Consultation on planning application has closed.