

OCC News August 2025

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August has been a month of harvesting.

OCC headlines:

August, after the manic previous months, has been very quiet. It seems that along with all the schools, universities and main government, County Councils also appreciate a lull in proceedings. It's not that nothing happens, but what does happen actually seems to be more efficient! For those still working at OCC during this period there seems to be a can-do approach which at other times is probably there, but like all of us they get swamped with the noise of daily activities. One notable local action was the clearing of vegetation in Crowmarsh rapidly following a meeting with OCC officers. So, like many others, I have taken time out to revel in my allotment and growing fabulous fresh products!

September the 9th sees the next Oxfordshire Full Council meeting. We are grappling with questions to ask of cabinet (please see mine below) and which motion to propose. At the last Full Council, we ran out of time to discuss our proposal which was centred around treating all opposition parties proportionately (i.e. only having one financial sum allocated across all opposing parties based on a ratio of seats instead of fully funding two opposing parties). This seems to be broadly accepted by the Lib Dems and thus we looked to another motion. Our original motion may still be revived if nothing happens, but for this Council meeting we want to ask the council to write to the Oxfordshire MP's and the Police and Crime Commissioner about the use of Oxfordshire Air bases and Military Training Centres by the Israeli Air Force - Reports have suggested that Oxfordshire air bases have been used to support Israeli Air Force actions in Gaza and that Israeli military personnel may have received training at the Defence Academy in Shrivenham. We strongly believe that we should not support the genocide and war crimes in Gaza. We are as yet unsure as to whether we will be allowed to submit this motion as we have been asked to revamp our proposed motion a few times already.

Road Resurfacing: If you missed this last month the details can be found [here](#) – including which sites are being managed.

My roles: Are as per last month, although there is (yet) another position is in the offing!

NEWS IN BRIEF:

A4074 policing: In August TVP have continued to monitor the A4074.

Local Government reorganisation: There is a lot of talk over the proposed new Unitary Councils. In Oxfordshire we have three options which can be found [here](#).

Drain clearing: OCC has committed to cleaning every roadside gully, drain and manhole every year for the duration the current term. (more [here](#)).

LOCAL QUESTIONS TO FULL COUNCIL (9th September):

At last full council we managed to get to all of our local questions – full questions available in June Newsletter, the below is a summary of the responses:

1. The inhabitants of Millars Close in Benson were recently asked (by OCC) to manage the hedges on the inside corner of the Watlington Road, outside of their boundaries

(as described in their deeds). This has since been rescinded by OCC, but I really do not want others to be put through the concern that the inhabitants of Millars Close have been - unnecessarily.

2. **Hazell & Jeffries operation hours.** In Ewelme there has been considerable concern over the hours of operation of H&J, including very late nights. Much of the activity has been outside that allowed by the CLEUD. H&J need to be held to account and to the agreed CLEUD.
3. **Speeding along the A4074:** In the past inhabitants have been encouraged to call 999 or 101 to report incidents for what are increasingly becoming race meetings. I have now had two inhabitants reach out to me about speeding because the TVP operator has pointed them in my direction. Are Councillors now those responsible for cracking down on speeding, when I thought that this was a police matter?

Please contact me (details at top) if you wish me to raise any questions on your behalf. Questions for the September Full Council need to be submitted by the end of August (to me).

CURRENT CONSULTATIONS:

No new consultations were launched in August.

Congestion Charge (Oxford): A decision on this will be reached on the 10th September after it was debated by Place Scrutiny on the 27th August.

PARISH ROUND-UP

Reminder: the OCC CEO will be visiting our area (as well as Wallingford and Berinsfield/Garsington) on the 8th September (along with two other senior officers). A Monday has been chosen to demonstrate the sheer volume of speeding traffic associated with the H Café. We will be collectively creating an agenda to cover the major issues in each of the parishes. I will be liaising with Parish Councils this week and defining broad times for their visit.

Please refer [here](#): for all Fix My Street queries in your area. There is a huge volume of these currently and cover the gamut of OCC responsibilities.

By Parish Council – in alphabetical order. These will expand as I get increasingly involved in your Parish Council meetings and understand more about your requirements.

Benson:

Questions have been raised about:

- Management of the various areas of land in Benson belonging to OCC. Ongoing.
- Inhabitants of the Cala development have concerns over water management which they are currently working on with SODC and Thames Water. Waiting on meeting with OCC.
- Possible drug dealing “gangs” in the alleyway between Birmingham Yard and St.Helens Way. Keeping a watch and reporting sightings to Community Police.

Crowmarsh:

- Need for a footpath exiting the French Gardens development. Discussed with OCC in August and approach agreed. ✓
- Need for a 30mph sign on the Port Way.
- Desire for a 40mph speed limit on Nosworthy Way (as opposed to 50).
- SID post requirement & replacement SID in North Stoke. Chased August.
- Reduction in speed request for B4009.

Dorchester:

We are waiting on input on:

- The various Unitaries that are competing with the Ridgeway option.
- What time the lights would be turned off should Dorchester opt for this post a village review. ✓
- When the new markings will be implemented on the A4074. ✓
- Armco repair alongside the barrier (which was repaired) which is over the pedestrian underpass of the A4074 from Dorchester. ✓
- Pathway from Meadside to Dorchester needs fixing. ✓

Ewelme:

- A public meeting will happen on the 8th September about the proposed pathway on Cat Lane, hopefully after the visit (same day) from Martin Reeves.
- Introduced PC to those responsible for paths at OCC. ✓
- Introduced to those who understand land ownership along
- Hazell & Jeffries operating hours versus that defined in the CLEUD.

Warborough / Shillingford:

- Have fed into the Neighbourhood plan (from OCC perspective). ✓
- Bollards – now registered on FixMyStreet.

Days off in September:

I will be taking one day off on the 4th September.