

“Getting Things Done !”

August County Council Report from County Councillor Andy Graham



Bulletin 11 for August

Woodstock and Bladon

Parking

A meeting with Cabinet Portfolio Holders Cllr Bearder(OCC) , Norman McCrae and Leader of WODC with OCC officers has been held with a commitment to future meetings.

I have invited OCC officers to the Woodstock Traffic Advisory Group to outline /discuss options with a timeline at a virtual meeting on 30th September.

I have received many emails and met with a number of residents and business's and believe that a plan can be pooled together to go a long way to solving this.

I am determined to drive this to that end.

Bus Stops on the A44

I am pleased to report that the repainting of bus stop bays has now being completed putting safety of passengers first and restricting the indiscriminate parking of cars which had happened in the past.

Priority to buses is now No.1

Parking now in these bays is strictly reserved for buses.

HGV Traffic resulting out of the Banning order at Burford bridge

I spoke about the concerns of safety and air pollution on the A44 resulting out of the banning order at Burford and the increase of HGV traffic as being unacceptable.

It has been agreed that further data collection will be done and I am meeting officers on September 7th to discuss how more accurate figures using the A44 and A4095

can be obtained so that the evidence can be used when a final decision will be made by OCC to rescind the order in February 2022

Reducing Speed on the A44

I have arranged with The Mayor and Deputy Mayor, District Councillors and OCC Highways a meeting/walk on the spine of Woodstock to draft the determination plan for reducing speed in mid- september along the A44.

This will need approval from Woodstock Town Council and OCC, costed and then scheduled.

Stratford Cottages A44 leading into Woodstock Flooding

I visited the site and reported drains and pipeways to drainage ditches to be cleared to avoid flooding of cottages.

Footpath FP8 - 413/8

I am pleased to report an issued temporary closure to allow for resurfacing.

Footway/cycleway between Hanborough and Bladon.

This path did initially form part of a larger scheme to complete the route from Bladon to North Leigh. However, unfortunately at the time there was insufficient funding for the final section (Hanborough to Bladon).

It is accepted that this section is currently inadequate for its purpose. However, I am pleased to advise that as part of the County Councils Accessibility and Road Safety Fund we shall be looking to widen the path to a more acceptable and befitting width. An element of flooding is possibly inevitable and noted that along this route there will be sections, due to existing structures such as the river bridge, where it will not be possible for any widening to take place; But overall, it is hoped there will be a significant improvement.

The plan according to officer at OCC is for this work to be undertaken this financial year.

Reducing speed - a key priority in The Bartons

Great credit to the parish councils who, working together, have produced an in depth scheme/plan.

I have been able to locate some funds to take this forward allocated from developments at Upper Heyford through a section 106 agreement.

I am awaiting confirmation and pushing for this to be allocated towards the cost of the scheme.

Cllr Jackson has led the Speedwatch - an essential part of the evidence needed to approve the scheme. OCC officers have been engaged in the scheme development and I will be giving my support when it goes to cabinet.

(The Enstone Mullins development cannot be relied upon as the development has stalled although funding was allocated for traffic calming in The Bartons.)

The Fox Inn

Congratulations to the community for making an application to keep the Fox Inn as an asset of community value.

This is a community led initiative and I will lend my support to this project as it develops

Flooding

I have worked to ensure OCC Principle Officer and a member of the Parish Council can meet to look at the flooding by the school in church lane this month. I am hopeful that shared drainage expertise can bring opportunities for more creative and longer lasting solution. More to follow

Tackley

Flooding

Pleased to report the road surface in Ball Lane that caused constant splashing onto windows has been repaired which I visited and reported. It was done in record time!

Transport to Schools

Parents of 6th formers contacted me about having been informed that no transport was available in September. I have now been able to report that this has been resolved by re-routing the bus - happier days ahead !

Stonesfield

Pleased to support the generous donations made by members of the community of £950 to purchase SID2 (Speed Indicator Display) by contributing a further £250 from my priority fund.

Combe

Attended the walk with parish councillors around the village.

Reducing Speed scheme needed in the village and work has commenced on the scheme with OCC Highways.

Wooton

A fallen rock from the quarry is blocking the footpath and has been reported whilst the footpath is closed. Awaiting a scheduled date for this huge boulder to be broken up and taken away.

Weeding needed on the gutter ways in many parts of the village but it is the Parish Council's responsibility having agreed to do this as an arrangement with WODC

Village Transport Network

I have spoken to Blenheim Estates about the scheme and their positive input. This network has been working together (7 villages) to provide a cycle network. Attending the next meeting in September and have arranged for the Infrastructure Officer from OCC to attend to see what further assistance can be given and to look at future opportunities for extending connectivity with walk ways and bus routes.

I am now on holiday (my first since lockdown) so there will be only 1 report in September

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Many thanks for your support and great village initiatives.