

PARISH COUNCIL REPORT AUGUST 2016 FROM CLLR LORRAINE LINDSAY-GALE

PROPOSALS FOR UNITARY COUNCIL

Oxfordshire County Council and Oxfordshire's district/city councils have issued the following joints statement:

With a new Prime Minister and new Secretary of State now in place and a number of pressing economic and policy issues to work through at national level, we recognise that it is sensible to take the time to understand how the government intends to take forward devolution and local government reorganisation in Oxfordshire and other areas before presenting further proposals for reforming public services and changes to council structures in the county.

Following discussions with civil servants all the Oxfordshire councils have agreed to work together to discuss areas of common ground, assess potential options and establish whether we can agree a way forward building on the work we have both done to date. We have agreed to postpone publication of both the Grant Thornton and PwC studies, and pause plans for consultation until these plans have been jointly developed.

Our aim has always been to seek investment in housing and transport infrastructure, to improve skills training and develop the local economy. This investment is needed if we are to reach our potential, and therefore agreeing a way forward with government is a high priority for all of us.

HOUSEHOLD WASTE RECYCLING CENTRES CONSULTATION

As part of securing Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) sites across Oxfordshire, OCC will be seeking a new management contract to operate these sites. OCC would like to know residents' views on measures that could be taken to make savings and to create income, in order to provide the most affordable service for residents of Oxfordshire. Note that this is different to the previous HWRC consultation, which focused on the number and location of sites. There will be a consultation on the proposals running until 11 August 2016. The consultation documents are available online at www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/waste and people are encouraged to complete the response questionnaire. If residents need support to take part in this consultation, contact Oxfordshire County Council on 01865 816043 or email waste.management@oxfordshire.gov.uk.

OXFORDSHIRE BUCKS TREND IN HOSPITAL DELAYS

The number of people delayed in Oxfordshire's hospital beds when they no longer need to be there has fallen more than 45%. The latest figures are in marked contrast to national numbers, which saw Delayed Transfers of Care (DToC) rise by 25% between May 2015 and May 2016. The improvement in Oxfordshire is the result of a joint initiative by Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group (OCCG), Oxford University Hospitals, Oxford Health and Oxfordshire County Council, to move people out of hospital more quickly when they have been appropriately treated and no longer need to be there. The £2m initiative, launched in December 2015, includes: funding extra temporary care home beds where people can stay until they are ready to return to their own home or move to a permanent care home; and the recruitment of more home care staff to support people in their own homes.

RAILWAY CLOSURES IN OXFORDSHIRE

Between 30 July and 14 August Network Rail will be carrying out work to maintain the railway and prevent them from being affected by floods. This work is part of the wider flood prevention scheme, which is being carried out to protect homes to the south of Oxford.

Some railways lines will be closed during the work, including on weekdays.

30 July - 14 August the railway will be closed between Oxford and Didcot Parkway to enable Network Rail to carry out flood prevention work in the Hinksey area.

30 July - 7 August the railway will be closed between Oxford and Banbury for re-signalling work.

3 - 7 August the railway will be closed between Oxford and Hanborough for bridge repair work.

Buses will replace trains on affected routes for travel within Oxfordshire.

Rail tickets will be accepted on local buses and on Chiltern Railways services to London.

Go to the Great Western Railway (GWR) website for full details of all replacement services and alternate routes.