

REPORT TO PARISH COUNCILS NOVEMBER 2016 FROM CLLR LORRAINE LINDSAY-GALE

MINERALS & WASTE EXAMINATION IN PUBLIC

The Minerals and Waste Core Strategy was the subject of an Examination in Public in September. The Inspector has published his Interim Report. This is a short document giving interested parties the opportunity to see the overall direction that he wants the County Council to adopt. To the deep disappointment of all the community groups across the county the Inspector did not accept our proposal that the Local Area Assessment (the amount of gravel that the county must provide per year) was far too high. This means that the applications for widespread gravel extraction at Wallingford/Cholsey and Clifton Hampden/Culham are more vulnerable than had been hoped. He did, however, support the submission that the case for extracting gravel from the South of the county rather than the West had not been proved by OCC and has asked for a considerable amount of further work to be done on this. The modifications to the plan will take some time. The new timetable for the progress of the Core Strategy is:

Cabinet to consider modifications 24.01.2017.

Public Consultation 3.02.2017 to 20.03.2017.

Receipt of Inspector's final report May 2017.

Final Report presented to Cabinet 20.06.2017.

Adoption of Core Strategy 11.07.2017.

Of course this may slip, depending upon how the modifications progress. In the meantime the community groups PAGE and BACHPort will continue the fight to protect our local environment with my support.

PUBLIC HEALTH ANNUAL REPORT

The Annual Report by OCC's Director of Public Health has been published and it summarises key issues associated with the Public Health in Oxfordshire. It includes details of progress over the past year as well as information on future work. It is an independent report for all organisations and individuals. The report covers the following areas: Chapter 1, The Demographic Challenge; Chapter 2, Building Healthy Communities; Chapter 3, Breaking the Cycle of Disadvantage; Chapter 4, Lifestyles and Preventing Disease Before it Starts; Chapter 5, Mental Health; Chapter 6, Fighting Killer Diseases. The report can be found by following the link: <http://ow.ly/Fsok305C9RS>

SECURING THE FUTURE FOR OXFORDSHIRE'S DAYTIME SUPPORT SERVICES

OCC is proposing a new daytime support system that will enable older people and people with disabilities to live independently in their community. The new proposals include a guaranteed core service for people who require daytime support, alongside financial support to enable community-based services to continue to flourish. People with assessed needs who receive help from OCC's adult social services would continue to receive support under a new proposed structure for daytime support in the county. The council values day time support services run by volunteers and will continue to support these services while encouraging new community initiatives to be launched. Three-quarters of all community-based services do not receive funding from OCC so would be unaffected by the changes. OCC has listened to more than 600 people who use services and carers to understand their priorities and develop a new approach. More details can be found here: <http://news.oxfordshire.gov.uk/dayservices/>

APPLY ONLINE FOR PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL PLACES

Applications for children due to start primary or secondary school in September 2017 can now be made online. Families with children born between 1 September 2012 and 31 August 2013 are urged to visit the [primary school admissions pages](#) on OCC's website to find out how to apply for places for next year. Applications for primary or junior schools also need to be made for children currently attending an infant school who were born between 1 September 2009 and 31 August 2010. Families with children due to move up to secondary school next September should visit the [secondary school admissions pages](#). (There is also information for anyone interested in applying for a Year 10 transfer to a [University Technical College \(UTC\) or Studio School](#).) When applying parents are strongly advised to state three preferences and include their catchment school as one of these – even if it is their third preference school. This does not in any way affect families' chances of securing a place at their first-preference school. OCC still accepts postal applications but recommends families apply online where possible, as this helps speed up the applications process. It also means families receive an automatic response confirming their application has been received and can be quickly notified if further information is needed.

UNITARY DEBATE

OCC is continuing to develop a model for a single unitary council with some decision making devolved to different parts of the county based on the current boundaries of the five District and City councils. There is no agreement with District Councils about this and there needs to be a lot of detailed negotiation in the weeks and months ahead. The only way to unlock this situation is for central government to either legislate or incentivise Councils to come together. It has been proved that to do so would save £100million in Oxfordshire over five years, money which could be spent on front line services.