|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Title** | County Councillor’s Report |
| **Author** | Cllr Robin Bennett |
|  | Berinsfield & Garsington Division |
| **Date**  | January 2022 |
| **Contact** | robin.bennett@oxfordshire.gov.uk 07979 646815 |

**Local Transport and Connectivity Plan consultation**

The Local Transport and Connectivity Plan (LTCP) document and supporting strategies for freight, active travel and innovation were approved by Cabinet on 19 October for public consultation. The consultation will start on 5 January 2022 and run until 16 March 2022. View the approved documents here- <https://mycouncil.oxfordshire.gov.uk/mgAi.aspx?ID=24140#mgDocuments>

The LTCP is Oxfordshire’s statutory Local Transport Plan. It outlines the long-term vision for transport in the county and the policies required to deliver this. This includes how we look at things like park & rides, which could be replaced with more innovative transport hubs.

**Golden Balls roundabout scoping**

Oxfordshire County Council has set up a project team to specifically investigate the Golden Balls roundabout. A consultant has recently been appointed to undertake updates to OCC’s strategic transport model to enable testing of potential interventions at/near Golden Balls, and to undertake high-level initial assessments of a variety of potential Park and Ride locations and bus priority measures. Following this, a larger scale options assessment process will be undertaken to further investigate number of potential options in accordance with Department for Transport’s (DfT) WebTAG (Web-based Transport Analysis Guidance) process. Public engagement will be key to this process, and the project team will contact Parish Councils (and others) to engage specifically on this at the relevant time.

**Oxfordshire at top of recycling table for eighth year**

In 2020-21, residents recycled, reused, or composted 59.5 per cent of their household waste, an increase on the previous year’s figure of 58.8 per cent, according to government figures. The continuing COVID-19 pandemic has made it another very difficult year for everyone, so we appreciate the effort that has gone into keeping our recycling rates so high. However, over half of the waste that is thrown away could have been recycled, repaired or reused.

The total amount of household waste produced in Oxfordshire was 310,479 tonnes for 2020/2021. And 186,052 tonnes were reused, recycled and composted, which created a carbon benefit of 126,603 tonnes of CO2e compared to disposing of it through landfill.

Oxfordshire’s five district and city councils, which operate the kerbside collections, also achieved excellent results in their national categories - South Oxfordshire DC came second.

For those looking to reduce their waste further, the [Community Action Group](https://cagoxfordshire.org.uk/) network and [Replenish](https://replenishoxfordshire.com/) project have lots of opportunities to get involved with local schemes, and tips on how to reduce waste and improve their local environment.

**Using libraries and heritage services to help people in Oxfordshire connect, create, learn and grow**

We are publishing a new draft heritage and libraries strategy. The strategy sets out how such services will be delivered in the years up to 2027 considering the changing needs of Oxfordshire's growing population. Residents will be able to take part in the consultation on our digital consultation and engagement platform Let’s Talk Oxfordshire,

 <https://letstalk.oxfordshire.gov.uk>, from 24 January 2022.

**Reporting issues using Fix My Street**

It is now newly possible to report problems with footpaths and cycle routes, as well as the usual potholes and highways issues, using the app- <https://fixmystreet.oxfordshire.gov.uk>

**Shillingford Bridge**

We are looking closely at ways to improve safety and reduce non-local traffic on Shillingford Bridge. OCC Cabinet members Tim Bearder and Pete Sudbury visited the bridge with me and local residents to have a closer look just before Christmas, and we are in discussions with OCC officers on what next steps can be taken.

**County Councillor Priority Fund**

I still have some funds remaining in my fund, which is for the period 2021-23.

To be deemed eligible for funding, applying organisations must have a committee and a constitution or appropriate rules setting out aims and objectives and how the group will operate. Projects must benefit Oxfordshire communities, be inclusive and provide good value for money. More info here –<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/community-and-living/thriving-communities/councillor-priority-fund>

**Information on vaccinations for Covid-19**

* Getting vaccinated and boosted remains the best thing you can do to protect yourself and your families against getting seriously ill from Covid-19.
* There are plenty of appointments across a number of sites this week. Please go to the National Booking Service to book a slot or you may be able to bring your appointment forward that you had previously booked.
* Some GP-led local vaccination services will contact patients directly for them to book booster appointments; please do not get in touch with your GP practice about an appointment for a booster unless they contact you.
* If you test positive for COVID and have a vaccine appointment booked, please cancel it, as soon as possible, so that someone else can use your space. You can re- book your appointment for 28 days after you tested positive or from when your symptoms first started.
* If you are unable to attend your vaccination appointment for any other reason, please cancel or rebook it at soon as possible so your space opens up for someone else.
* If you're unvaccinated it is never too late to come forward for a vaccine – all vaccination sites will welcome you: please book an appointment.