



Focus on Parishes with Cllr Freddie van Mierlo (Chalgrove and Watlington)

October 2021

Welcome to my monthly update. I will be sharing a regular update in the first week of every month. In the interests of transparency and sharing good ideas I will be sharing this update publicly as well as with parish councils in Chalgrove and Watlington division.

Following the hiatus in August parish council meetings, it's been back to business as usual in September with lots of meetings. Very exciting progress has been made on some fronts, while other issues have been harder to move ahead.

My recent meetings

- 12th August: Britwell Salome Parish Council
- 2nd September: Cabinet member for highways, item relating to Cuxham
- 7th September: Nettlebed Parish Council
- 8th September: Ewelme Parish Council
- 9th September: Berrick Salome Parish Council
- 13th September: Great Haseley Parish council
- 14th September: Full Council (Oxford)
- 14th September: Watlington Parish Council
- 15th September: Shirburn Parish Meeting
- 16th September: Meeting with chair of Little Milton Parish Council
- 21st September: Cabinet meeting, item relating to Watlington Relief Road
- 23rd September: Oxfordshire Joint Health and Overview Scrutiny Committee
- 23rd September: Shirburn Parish meeting (site visit)
- 28th September: Open evening hosted by Le Manoir, Great Milton
- 29th September: Joint meeting with Pyrton and Watlington Parish councillors

Upcoming meetings:

- 5th October: Nettlebed Parish Council
- 5th & 6th October: Meetings with cycling champion and Watlington Parish Council
- 7th October: Chalgrove Parish Council

- 11th October: Horton Health and Overview Scrutiny Committee
- 11th October: Lewknor Parish Council
- 12th October: Watlington Parish Council
- 13th October: Little Milton Parish Council

If there are meetings you would like to invite me to please get in touch: freddie.vanmierlo@oxfordshire.gov.uk

OCC news:

One to watch out for: A paper will come before the OCC Cabinet on October 19th outlining plans to facilitate 20mph zones across the county.

Oakley Wood not under threat: Rumours circulated by some Conservative councillors have been quashed by the County Council. I was first made aware of these rumours at parish council meetings and on Facebook and followed up immediately with colleagues. The [council has since stated](#), "We have no plans or intention to close this site or any site at this juncture"

New Oxford SEND school: Children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) will benefit from a new [£12 million school](#) in the Blackbird Leys area of Oxford. The school forms part of the council's commitment to provide more school places for children with special educational needs and will have capacity for 108 pupils.

Zero Emissions Zone (ZEZ) Oxford: The UK's first ZEZ will [start in February 2020](#). The ZEZ pilot will work in a similar way to the London Congestion Charge. Zero emissions vehicles will be able to enter the zone for free, while ultra-low emissions vehicles will be charged £2. The zone will initially start with a pilot of a small part of Oxford's city centre. The registration system for exemptions and discounts will go live in December.

Civil parking enforcement: From November 1st the County Council will take over from Thames Valley Police in enforcing parking restrictions in the county. The change will relieve our overstretched police from enforcement and allow the county council to improve the flow of traffic in our villages and towns. The council has set up an email to allow residents to suggest areas for enforcement ahead of the change - CPEenquiries@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Parish round up

Not all parishes are covered – below is a selection of the main updates I have worked on this month.

Cuxham

- **Traffic calming:** The 20mph trial was [given the green light in early September](#). I was delighted to speak in favour of the scheme at a meeting held by the cabinet member for highway management.

Chalgrove

- **£149,000 to be spent to improve flood infrastructure:** Oxfordshire County Council and SODC are funding work that will [improve flooding protection in Chalgrove](#). Work will be carried out to create a new flood relief channel designed to help homes along Mill Lane. Cllr David Turner (SODC), has campaigned tirelessly for improved flood protection in the area, said: "I'm delighted to see this work finally taking place. The new flood relief channel will be warmly welcomed by Mill Lane residents" The project is expected to be completed by late October

Ewelme

- **Support for solar panels:** I have provided councillor priority funding to Ewelme Watercress Centre. This fantastic local educational and heritage centre is seeking to become carbon-neutral, which I have been very pleased to support
- **Traffic calming:** The parish council is pressing ahead with a 20mph and traffic calming scheme, which I am pleased to support. It is hoped that, following a public consultation, work can be carried out before April 2022.

Great Milton

- **Le Manoir aux Quatre Saisons:** The revised planning application for is available for comment on the [SODC website](#). As part of OCC's response I have submitted comments expressing my concern about the speed of traffic on the A329, but was supportive of Le Manoir and its commitment to the village.

Lewknor

- **Overhanging trees:** Overhanging trees have been cut back by the landowner on Box Tree Lane following action taken by OCC

Nettlebed

- **Funding for speed signs:** I am pleased to provide partial funding to Nettlebed Parish Council for 3 new speed signs for the village.

Watlington

- **Pyrtton Lane traffic calming:** Heads have been knocked together to finally move ahead with traffic calming measures for Pyrtton Lane. I'm delighted that, with the parish council, plans will be drawn up by consultants Glanville for traffic calming measures. The (obligatory) public consultation will take place in 2021, with the work being carried out before Easter 2022.

- **Allotments funding:** Councillor priority funding has been awarded to Watlington allotments to improve the creaking water system. Monies will also be used to support community engagement with this fantastic local resource
- **Watlington Relief Road moves to Stage 2 planning:** A decision was taken by the Cabinet of the Oxfordshire Fair Deal Alliance to move to stage 2 planning for the Watlington Relief Road. This means that work can be carried out to develop designs and carry out the necessary studies. I spoke in favour of this important piece of infrastructure for Watlington at the cabinet meeting and am pleased to see it progress. It is hoped that a public consultation can take place in May-June 2022.