

**Minutes of the Meeting of Great Milton Parish Council  
held on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> June at 7.30pm in the Pavilion:**

**Present:** P Fewell (Acting Chair) P Allen, C Deacon.

**In Attendance:** Ms H Cherry (Clerk) four members of the public.

**75/16 Apologies for Absence**  
Cllrs. S Harrod, B Fox and G Harris.

**76/16 Variations of order of business**  
None

**77/16 Declarations of member's interest**  
None

**78/16 Matters to Report**  
The District Councillor and County Councillor provided the meeting with updates from their respective councils to be published in The Bulletin.

District Councillor Report  
Appendix 78/16a

County Councillor Report  
Appendix 78/16b

Police Report  
No police report was received

**79/16 Correspondence and Public Discussion**

a) New Director appointed - Citizens Advice in South Oxfordshire and the Vale – Jon Bright

b) Liz Sands and Lesley Bush are both stepping down from the role of Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators. The new contact will be Jola Miziniak

c) Letter from the Chair Oxfordshire Countryside Access Forum - Protecting your local public rights of way and planning applications. The letter outlined areas that Parish Councils may wish to consider whilst reviewing planning proposals:

- Making sure the development doesn't alter or obstruct the legal line of the right of way (you can check the definitive map on line at <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/countrysideaccess-maps>)
- Could the surface of the route be improved by the developer to make access easier all year round for new residents, visitors and the local community?
- Could the path 'furniture' like stiles, gates and bridges be improved to make them more accessible to more people? E.g. parents with buggies, wheelchair users or those with reduced mobility.
- Are there any new links between paths needed through the site? This might include existing 'desire' lines where people walk a preferred route.
- Do any footpaths need making available for cyclists or equestrians? The developer may be open to a request to upgrade them.

e) After publishing the recent speed survey report a resident asked if another speed survey could be carried out along Lower End, Great Milton. It was RESOLVED to wait

until the Clerk had clarification of what traffic calming measures would be available to Great Milton and the costs involved.

**80/16 Planning Applications**

It was RESOLVED to hold a separate planning meeting to review the following applications received from SODC:

P16/S1848/FUL — Heath Farm, Thame Rd, Great Milton OX44 7JD  
Demolition of tin workshop and erection of barn for hay storage

P16/S1816/FUL – Heath Farm, Thame Rd, Great Milton OX44 7JD  
Proposed new grain store and demolition of redundant building

B There were no planning decisions to review.

**81/16 Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

It was resolved to APPROVE the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> May 2016 as a true and accurate record.

**82/16 Great Milton Parish Council Insurance**

Revision and Confirmation of Insurance Arrangements

Three insurance quotes were received from Aviva, Hiscox and Ecclesiastical

It was RESOLVED to take advantage of the 3 year long-term agreement at a cost of £327.09 from Ecclesiastical

**83/16 Financial Resolutions**

A To authorise cheques for payment:

Helen Cherry. Salary, Tax and Expenses.

Jonathan Dudley. Bulletin production. £270.85

Great Milton PCC, Grass Cutting Grant, Churchyard. £600

Great Milton PCC, funding for Her Majesty the Queen 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration, Fete £306

Parish Council Insurance, Came and Company. £327.09

Gillett & Johnston, Service to Clock at St Mary The Virgin. £202.80

SLCC, Local Council Administration 10<sup>th</sup> edition book. £76.60

B Internal Audit Report

Mr Hale (Internal Auditor) presented the Internal Audit Report for the year-ending 31 March 2016 to the council.

It was noted that the report confirmed that the Council continued to have sound financial controls. The report included some recommendations which might further improve controls and these were discussed: the conclusion was that most were not really appropriate for a small Council but further consideration would be given to preparing a 3-year plan.

C Great Milton Parish Council Asset Register

It was RESOLVED to approve the asset register.

**84/16 Parish Clerk and Cllr's update of matters in hand (Action update)**

Community bus

Update regarding the bus service proposal that was raised at the April GMPC meeting. The Clerk contacted neighbouring parishes and is currently waiting to receive all responses. The responses received so far suggested to wait and see how the reduced 103 bus service runs before taking this matter further.

### Great Milton Website – Transparency Grants for Councils

Update regarding whether GMPC would be eligible to apply for a grant. One of the criteria was if GMPC had limited access or control to post its own information. Carina (website developer) was invited to the meeting and confirmed that the website could upload any document the council so wishes and is not restricted to certain document sizes. Carina also confirmed that the electronic version of the bulletin has now been uploaded to the website. Therefore GMPC are not eligible to apply for a transparency grant.

### **85/16 Emergency Planning**

#### a) Great Milton Grass Cutting Contractor

The council were informed of Countrywide Grounds Maintenance decision to give a months' notice to terminate their contract. The councils' view was to ask a contractor to carry out the work on an ad-hoc basis. It was agreed to hold a special meeting and discuss this item further and agree on the relevant action to be taken.

It was RESOLVED to put an advert in the bulletin.

#### b) Community Emergency Plan

It was proposed whether Great Milton would like to consider producing a Community Emergency Plan to help prepare for any emergencies that could affect the community. It was RESOLVED not to produce a plan.

### **86/16 Clerk/RFO Annual Appraisal**

It was noted that an appraisal committee meeting took place on 31<sup>st</sup> May 2016 with Cllr Steve Harrod, Cllr Peter Allen and Helen Cherry in attendance and confirmed that objectives were set for the following year (2017).

The meeting closed at 20:29

The next meeting of Great Milton Parish Council will be held on **Monday 18<sup>th</sup> July 2016 starting at 7:30pm in the Pavilion.**

**Signed:**

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## *Parish Notes for June 2016* from your District Councillor

SODC Parish Notes – 08 June 2016 Page: 1

### **New Chief Executive**

David Hill has been appointed as our new Chief Executive. David is currently the chief executive of Humber NHS Foundation Trust and used to work for South Oxfordshire District Council as Strategic Director. As soon as we have a confirmed start date, we'll let you know.

### **PCC elections summary**

Anthony Stansfeld has been re-elected as the Police and Crime Commissioner for the Thames Valley. To see a full breakdown of the results, **see our Thames Valley PCC election website**. The total turnout across the whole Thames Valley for the PCC election was 25.6 per cent – 427,994 votes. In South Oxfordshire it was 18.2 per cent and the Vale 20.2 per cent, which were both improvements on the last election.

### **More money for your local area**

Community groups and parish councils can now apply for the latest batch of funding we offer to improve local facilities like sports pavilions, community centres and play areas. Applications for this round of funding close on Friday 1 July 2016.

**Email the grants team** or **visit our webpage** to find out more.

### **Our housing supply statement**

Two recent planning appeals have had an impact on how we'll have to decide future planning applications for a while, so we have published a statement explaining our position. At the appeals against our decision to reject applications for developments at Winterbrook and Chinnor, the inspectors said we should be using a higher housing target than we have set out in our adopted Core Strategy - this means our policies in the Core Strategy carry less weight when we make decisions. We'll address this by working with neighbourhood planning groups, and town and parish councils, and by rapidly progressing our Local Plan.

### **Neighbourhood plan updates**

Here's a quick update on a few neighbourhood plans:

#### **Berinsfield**

The independent examiner has recommend that the **Berinsfield neighbourhood plan** should not proceed to referendum as it doesn't meet the basic conditions. We are now discussing possible ways forward with Berinsfield parish council.

#### **Sonning Common**

Subject to several modifications, the examiner has recommended that the **Sonning Common neighbourhood plan** can proceed to a referendum. We'll look at the recommendations that have been made and decide what action to take before moving forward with plans for the referendum.

**Cholsey and Whitchurch** Cholsey parish council and Whitchurch parish council are starting to work with their local communities and are preparing their applicaitons to set the areas covered by their respective plans.

**Henley and Harpsden Neighbourhood Plan** A planning inspector has given this the green light and we've adopted it as part of our overall development plan. The official referendum result was: Votes in favour – 2,105 (81.7 per cent) Votes against – 471 (18.3 per cent) **Other updates** The consultation into the application to set the area for Beckley and Stowood neighbourhood plan closes on 12 May. To check the progress of all our neighbourhood plans, **take a look at the South Oxfordshire chart**.

### **Sale of former council homes**

Some residents have raised concerns that restrictions on the sale of former council homes in Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty are making it difficult for them to sell or rent their homes, so we're asking for people's views on whether we need to change the rules. You can find out more and leave your comments by visiting **our consultation** page. The deadline for comments is midnight on 25 June. If you have any questions about this consultation, please contact our **legal team**.

### **PCSO update**

Each year we provide £100,000 to part fund six PCSOs. Here's a quick update of just some of the activities they carried out to support people in South Oxfordshire during Quarter four. Between 1 January and 31 March 2016 our PCSOs organised and attended a number of events, including visiting schools in Didcot to engage with staff, pupils and parents and to address parking issues, attending a Schools' Community Action Day in Thame, and holding a well-attended fraud awareness event in Wallingford which received very positive feedback. They also assisted 227 victims of crime. To read the full Quarter Four report from our PCSOs visit our **neighbourhood policing page**.

### **Improving our Homechoice service**

We've launched a brand new service to help people looking for a suitable home - it provides users with a personalised action plan that explains exactly what options are available to them, and what they should try first. It's available through our Homechoice websites, and not only is it very helpful to residents, it will help us reduce the number of unnecessary calls to our housing needs team, so they can concentrate on helping people who really need it. We've significantly improved the Homechoice website as well, including making it mobile-friendly so people on the housing register can search for homes to bid on when they're out and about. For more information, visit the **South** or **Vale** Homechoice websites or **contact Phil Ealey**.

### **New section 106 bulletins for parishes**

If you're interested in how we're securing and spending infrastructure money in your area, head to the **South** and **Vale** websites for our latest parish by parish bulletins on the funds we're raising through Section 106 agreements. We're also sending these bulletins directly to the relevant town and parish councils, so they can stay up to date. We'll issue these bulletins twice a year.

### **Outdoor pools to open for the summer season**

**Abbey Meadow outdoor pool** in Abingdon and **Riverside Park and Pools** in Wallingford will open for the summer season on Saturday. Abbey Meadow is open 9am to 6pm and Riverside 7am to 6pm Monday to Friday and 9am to 6pm at weekends. From Monday 4 July until Saturday 10 September, Abbey Meadow will be open longer because it is also being used for lessons whilst the pools at the White Horse Leisure and Tennis Centre are closed for essential maintenance.

### **New law to promote home ownership**

The Housing and Planning Act 2016, which is designed to help more people buy or build their own home, has become law. There are a number of ways this will impact on our planning service, including the need for councils to promote the development of starter homes, changes to how we measure our performance when dealing with minor applications, and increasing planning application fees. For more on the changes introduced by the new act see **the government's announcement**.

### **Local Plan briefings**

We're going to publish our draft Local Plan 2032 Preferred Options document for consultation on 27 June Please come along to a briefing for district councillors on Tuesday 21 June from 6 - 7pm in Didcot Civic Hall. You're also welcome to come to one of the confidential meetings we're holding for town and parish councils, which we're hosting at the council offices on Milton Park. The dates are:

**Larger villages** 31 May – 6.30pm. Meeting room 1

**Smaller villages** 1 June – 6.30pm. Meeting room 1 7 June – 6.30pm. Meeting room 1

**Towns Thame:** 14 June – 6-7pm. Meeting rooms 5 - 7

**Wallingford:** 16 June – 6-7pm. Meeting room 1

**Henley and Didcot:** 16 June – 7-8pm. Meeting room 1  
Any questions please email **Planning Policy** or call 01235 422600.

### **New phone numbers**

Our new phone numbers are now all up and running. Our main customer service number is **01235 422422**. Our new department numbers are: Planning - **01235 422600** Building control - **01235 422700** Environmental health, food and safety - **01235 422403** Licensing - **01235 422556** Elections - **01235 422407** Car parks - **01235 422417** Community safety - **01235 422590** Street naming and numbering - **01235 422344** You can find new team and service manager numbers on our **latest phone guide**.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you need any further information on any of these items, or indeed any issues not addressed here.

Kind regards

**Steve Harrod**

*District Councillor*

Haseley Brook Ward

M: 07944 077 209

T: 01844 278 068

E: [Stephen.Harrod@southoxon.gov.uk](mailto:Stephen.Harrod@southoxon.gov.uk)

County Councillor Report  
Appendix 78/16b

**June 2016**

News

Update

**PROPOSALS FOR UNITARY COUNCIL**

## Oxfordshire County Council

As previously reported, Oxfordshire's District Councils have appointed consultants PwC to prepare a report on the future of local government in Oxfordshire, and OCC has appointed consultants Grant Thornton to do the same. The districts' previously preferred option that comprised four unitary councils, including parts of Gloucestershire and Nottinghamshire has collapsed because of legislative issues relating to cross-border authorities. It is unclear whether the reduced size of four unitaries that don't include the neighbours could be viable.

# Parish Briefing

PwC will report in June, followed by Grant Thornton in July. All councils will then submit proposals to central government in the autumn, following a period of public consultation. In advance of this, stakeholders can participate in a 'call for evidence' here:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/oxfordshire-evidence>

Additionally, town **Locality**  
and parish councils

are invited to  
attend workshops  
to discuss the  
issues on the  
following dates:

**Date**

Mon 6 June	Thame
Tues 7 June	Henley
Thurs 9 June	Witney
Tues 14 June	Chipping Norton
Wed 15 June	Banbury
Thurs 16 June	Faringdon
Tues 21 June	Bicester
Wed 22 June	Abingdon
Tues 28 June	Didcot
Wed 29 June	Wantage

Bus subsidies will end on 20 July. The council subsidises 118 bus services in the county which make up 9 per cent of the bus network which means 91 per cent of the bus network undertaken in the county is commercially operated and therefore not affected.

Not all 118 subsidised bus services will be terminated because bus operators are still considering if they can continue to operate any of the routes commercially.

seventeen operators who operate subsidised bus services have responded to say that 16 routes will continue to operate commercially, either with the same or amended service. Discussions continue with other bus operators.

The county council is developing an innovative new pilot scheme which will utilise the downtime of its 16-seater minibus fleet during off peak times and offer journeys to anyone without suitable access to transport. The scheme is intended to reduce the community impact of withdrawing bus subsidies to commercial bus operators.

The pilot will provide a completely flexible and affordable service where anyone can request the county council to provide transport (individuals of all ages, groups, schools, parish councils, etc.). We could run both one-off journeys and regular scheduled routes. Further work is required to develop this pilot, as it is a completely new way of operating council owned vehicles. The proposal for this pilot scheme was agreed at Cabinet on 24th May and the pilot scheme will launch ahead of the termination of bus subsidies in late July. This pilot scheme is one of several measures to minimise the impact of the end of bus subsidies, following the Council decision in February to stop subsidies in order to save £3.7million.

The other measures include;

**Discussions with bus operators** – sixteen of the previously subsidised routes will continue, now as commercial services, with either the same or amended services/timetables, and discussions continuing on the remaining routes.

**Use of public transport for home to school transport** – The council has reviewed all home to school travel arrangements and identified a small number of routes where it is more economical for the council to pay for schoolchildren to use season tickets on an existing public bus route. This has contributed to the ability of some operators to run some routes commercially, thus benefitting the whole community by retaining the service.

**Developer funding** - Whilst the use of s.106 funding is legally restricted and relates to specific developments, the county council can use it to pump prime a small handful of routes which can become commercially viable in advance of the s.106 funding running out. This is usually only possible where there is significant new housing planned in the area. The county council has reviewed all of the routes and identified those where such a s.106 funding opportunity exists.

Councillor Ian Hudspeth, Leader of Oxfordshire County Council said: “We would all prefer not to be making any cuts at all but Oxfordshire County Council and bus operators have risen to the challenge and been working closely together to progress measures to minimise the impact on local communities. “The pilot being proposed is an excellent example of Oxfordshire County Council being imaginative about potential ways to deliver more for the people of Oxfordshire. You won’t find many local authorities in Britain who offer a similar service.

“It is only possible because Oxfordshire County Council has the strategic overview of the whole transport network.

“It can be used by anyone in the county for one-off or regular trips which would be pre-booked and paid for in advance. Designing the service in this way allows the council to make maximum use of its fleet and keep it affordable for the benefit of everyone in Oxfordshire.”

## **OXFORDSHIRE’S ADULT SOCIAL CARE SERVICES SCORES IN TOP 5%**

Recently announced results show that last year, Oxfordshire’s Adults Social Care services ranked as the 6th best of 152 upper tier authorities in achieving outcomes judged against the ‘Adult Social Care Outcome Framework’. This framework measures how well services achieve outcomes that are most important to people and informs the development of reporting local priorities and progress to citizens. Last year Oxfordshire performed above the national average on 20 of the 27 measures included in the framework.

Around two-thirds of users of social care for adults in Oxfordshire are “extremely or very satisfied” with the service they receive after determined efforts to make services more personal to individuals - including scrapping 15 minute visits for personal care in 2014.

An annual Department of Health report on satisfaction with care showed that 90 per cent of users were extremely/very or quite satisfied with care.

A total of 700 Oxfordshire care users responded out of the 6,000 recipients of care users in Oxfordshire. No		%
I am extremely / very satisfied	456	66%
I am quite satisfied	169	24%
I am neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	50	7.2%
I am quite dissatisfied	10	1.4%
I am extremely / very dissatisfied	9	1.3%
Total	694	100.0%

The 66 per cent figure compares with a 61 per cent figure for 2015.

Cllr Judith Heathcoat, Oxfordshire County Council’s Cabinet Member for adult social care, said: “These are very encouraging results. Against a backdrop in which all councils in England are experiencing real funding issues we have improved satisfaction and very few people are dissatisfied with the service they receive.

“Our aim as a council in this difficult financial climate is to put our focus on our service users whether they be in adult social care or any other the 80 per cent of local government services provided to the people of Oxfordshire by the county council.”

“In recent times we have made great efforts to make services more personal to individual services users. We have worked with providers to improve standards - for example we stopped 15 minute visits in 2015 and implemented new service standards. I have no doubt these factors have influenced the upturn in satisfaction. My thanks go to all of our staff and people who work with our staff in adult social care settings in Oxfordshire.”

The full results of the Department of Health survey will be published by Central Government during the Autumn.

## **RESPONSIBLE LOCALITIES – A NEW MODEL FOR ADULT SOCIAL CARE**

Rising demographic pressures, broader statutory responsibilities and the challenge of significant funding reductions has led to a review of the way adult social care is delivered in Oxfordshire.

‘Responsible Localities’ provides the foundation for this new model by matching up the geographical boundaries of Adult Social Care with those of the Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group and Oxford Health boundaries, which for historical reasons had slightly differed. This will ensure available resources can be utilised together more effectively and enable people to get the support they need at the right time, in the right place and in the right way.

The shared health and social care vision is for services to be delivered through ‘patches’ or ‘neighbourhood teams’, each serving a population of 30,000 to 50,000 (4 to 6 GP practices). Adult Social Care teams will continue to focus and deliver on statutory responsibilities and where integrated working is required, teams will work with primary care and community services and local people to manage local population health and social care needs. This will involve moving from a culture of ‘I can fix it for you’ to one of ‘I will enable you to fix it for yourself’ wherever possible.

All teams in the new model will work with older people and people with physical disabilities and learning disabilities, but not with people who have mental health problems. The mental health service will continue to be provided by Oxford Health Foundation Trust.

There will be six distinct functions in the new model:

1. **Rapid Response Teams** will work closely with health partners to provide a same day rapid assessment and service provision for people at acute risk of hospital admission or placement in a care home.
2. **Integrated Locality Teams** will be multi-disciplinary teams who work more intensively and for a longer time with high end users of health and social care services, to meet their needs.
3. **A Review Team** will be responsible for all community and residential annual support plan reviews.
4. **Acute Hospital Teams** will work with Acute Trusts to achieve safe and timely hospital discharges and avoid 'bed blocking'.
5. **A Safeguarding Service** will be comprehensive and countywide.
6. **A Service Improvement Team** will drive forward the integration, transformation and digitalisation agendas within Adult Social Care.

The new model will be implemented in October 2016.

### **OXFORDSHIRE CARE HOME WINS RARE 'OUTSTANDING' RATING**

Vale House, a 40 bed specialist dementia home in Sandford, has recently been inspected by CQC and as a result was given the most positive grading available to the inspectorate. It is the first in the county to be rated 'outstanding' by the CQC – a feat achieved by only one per cent of homes in the South East. The home is privately run and the organisation is 'not for profit'. The original Vale House was located in Botley, and began operating in 1990. It relocated to Sandford in 2012, after the organisation bought the land from Oxfordshire County Council. Vale House had won a competitive tender process to build their new home, fulfilling the ambition of OCC to use the land for a specialist Dementia Care Home for the people of Oxfordshire. OCC buys 25 of the 40 beds in the home and has ambitions for similar projects elsewhere in the county.

### **FUTURE PROVISION OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES IN OXFORDSHIRE**

Cabinet has agreed plans to combine children's social care and early intervention in one seamless service at a time of rising demand and reduced Government funding.

Further to last month's MP briefing we can now provide more detail on the proposals agreed at the county council's Cabinet meeting on 24th May, regarding how an additional £2 million may be spent to boost the future provision of children's services.

The proposals build on the brand new service for 0-19 year olds agreed by the council's Cabinet in February and deliver services in a wider range of locations than originally proposed.

#### **a) Two new 'Shared Locality Bases' (£100,000)**

The council has agreed to base the new service around eight Children and Family Centres at Banbury, Bicester, Witney, Abingdon, Didcot and three locations in Oxford (Barton, Rose Hill and Blackbird Leys), with significant outreach to all parts of the county, targeted group sessions and some open access sessions.

The extra £100,000 would enable the council to retain two additional buildings as Shared Locality Bases from which the new service would offer support and group programmes to vulnerable children and their families. These would be located at the current East Oxford Early Intervention Hub/Children's Centre in Cowley and in Banbury at the current East Street Children's Centre.

#### **b) An enhanced 'Locality and Community Service' (£1million)**

A total of £1 million of the new funding would be allocated to the Locality and Community Service component of the new service, providing 30 extra staff to work alongside organisations which provide universal services in order to identify vulnerable children before concerns become more serious.

The funding would also allow the service to undertake a "community coordinator" role – supporting communities to maximise the universal services they offer, with a particular focus on developing sustainable services within buildings that were previously children's centres.

#### **c) More staff for 'Family Support' teams (£900,000)**

A total of £900,000 would be used to provide more staff in the Family Support Service component of the new model. This would enable an increase in preventative support for families whose needs do not meet the threshold for statutory social care. This will significantly boost the ability of the service to work directly with children and their families who may be at risk of needing statutory services in future.

The increase in budget also means that outreach offered to venues across the county can be extended, increasing the availability of programmes in venues other than the Children and Family Centres.

Meanwhile the council continues to have discussions with communities about how current children's centres might be able to continue to operate in different ways and via different funding streams in the future. The recent contract extension for existing centres (until the end of March 2017 – see April MP briefing) also gives the council more time to continue working with community groups to develop the best possible local solutions for the continuation of open access services.

More information can be found [here](#).

## **BROADBAND FOR OXFORDSHIRE UPDATE**

Successful collaboration between the County Council and BT in phase 1 of the Broadband for Oxfordshire programme means that the project has saved over £2million against originally projected costs. This saving is to be reinvested to extend coverage throughout the county.

In addition, take-up of fibre broadband enabled by the programme is now over 33% (and over 50% where the service has been available for two years). This take-up rate has triggered an early 'success dividend' offer from BT of £2.5million. Combined with the savings achieved, it is expected this will enable a total of £4.5million to be invested in extending broadband coverage in Oxfordshire without the need for any further public sector funding.

The Better Broadband for Oxfordshire team is proud to announce that we are running on track, under budget and on time. Around 80,000 premises across Oxfordshire now have access to faster fibre broadband as a result of the Better Broadband for Oxfordshire roll-out, including many in some of the more difficult to reach parts of the county.

Of those 80,000, more than 64,500 households and businesses have access to 'superfast' broadband speeds of 24 megabits and above. This delivery rate means that the programme has achieved what was agreed ahead of time and under budget.

We are now progressing with phase 2 of the programme - delivering broadband to even more communities across Oxfordshire over the next 2 years. This work builds on the commercial delivery that providers such as BT, Virgin and Gigaclear have done in the county ensuring that over 90% of residents now have access to superfast broadband.

Residents of two south Oxfordshire villages have successfully implemented an innovative broadband connectivity solution to ensure they could access fibre broadband which would not otherwise fall within the scope of the Better Broadband Programme

Pusey and Gainfield residents agreed to share the costs of installing new road-side fibre broadband cabinets and fibre optic cabling with BT and the County Council. The result - around 90 households and businesses in this community now have access to the fastest broadband speeds in the country. Local MP and Minister of State for Culture and the Digital Economy, Ed Vaizey, paid tribute to his constituents, "This is a brilliant example of local communities, BT and local authorities working together on an innovative approach to boosting broadband speeds in the area."

## **POSITIVE RESULTS FROM INITIATIVE TO TACKLE DELAYED TRANSFERS OF CARE**

A new initiative by OCC and NHS has seen the number of delayed transfers of care reduced by 30% since December 2015, despite higher demands over the winter and a reduction in hospital beds. The Oxfordshire health and social care system has long struggled with the timely discharge of patients from acute and community hospitals to the next stage of their care. This is often referred to as 'bed-blocking' or 'delayed transfers of care', which are costly to the system as a whole and can increase people's dependence rather than promoting their independence.

The initiative involved the block purchase of 150 care beds and the development of an integrated hub to manage assessments and bed allocations.

## **COUNCILLOR MICHAEL WAINE ELECTED NEW OCC CHAIRMAN**

OCC elected a new Chairman for the 2016/17 council year at its Annual General Meeting in May. Cllr Michael Waine is OCC's elected representative for the Bicester Town Division. He taught in Oxfordshire for 37 years, 27 of which were as Headteacher of Glory Farm School in Bicester. He previously served on OCC's cabinet and is chairman of the Bicester Learning Academy.

## **DECISION TAKEN ON LONG-TERM STRATEGY FOR A40**

A landmark decision to take decisive action to solve transport problems on the A40 between Witney and Oxford has been made by OCC's Cabinet. A long-term strategy will be pursued which will focus on a new dual carriageway from Witney to a new Park and Ride at Eynsham, as well as further bus priority lanes connecting the Eynsham Park and Ride toward Oxford. Council transport planners will now draw up more detailed plans which, it is hoped, will help to secure more than £50m in government funding to make the proposals a reality.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you require any further information.

Kind regards

**Stephen Harrod**

County Councillor

*Chalgrove & Watlington Division*

**Oxfordshire County Council**

M: 07944 077 209

T: 01844 278 068

E: [steve.harrod@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:steve.harrod@oxfordshire.gov.uk)