

Focus on Parishes with Cllr Bethia Thomas

Faringdon Division

October 2025

I have decided to create a parish report, covering all the smaller parishes within the division as there are various workstreams in the area which I am tracking which affect many of you collectively. Please let me know of any further concerns that you would like me to follow up.



Parish News

- **Old Hayes Solar Farm:** I have responded to the planning application of the Solar Farm located off Snowswick Lane between Coleshill and Buscot. The parishes have objected to this application, and I have added to this, expressing concerns around highways matters, flooding considerations and overall impact on the landscape.
- **Speed Reduction on the A417:** I have recently responded to the informal consultation on the speed review on the A417 between Faringdon and Lechlade reflecting the views of Buscot Parish Council, namely to ask for the 30MPH Zone through the village, to reduce the overall speed limit to 50MPH, removing the National Speed Limit throughout, and extend the 40MPH from Eaton Hastings to the entry at eastern end of the village. A decision should be made later this year, with installation of signage next year.
- **Traffic Lights on the A420 at Great Coxwell:** Wain Homes that the forecasted occupation of the site, and the completion of these junction works through the s278 process, will not accord with the timelines stipulated in the S106 agreement. Now recognising the delay, Wain Homes has undertaken further modelling of the junction in question. As a result, OCC will agree to relax the no-occupation trigger within the Section 106 agreement through a deed of variation. This variation will permit up to 40 occupations prior to the completion of the junction works, or alternatively, require the works to be completed within 18 months of the signing of the Section 278 agreement—whichever occurs first. It is obviously disappointing that the applicant has not fulfilled their obligation to deliver the junction works in a timely manner. However, considering the recent progress made on their technical audit and the updated junction modelling, OCC is adopting a pragmatic approach and believe that the revised trigger will maintain pressure on the applicant to deliver the works promptly; failure to do so will result in enforcement action.
- **Response to the National Trust:** I have recently written to the National Trust's Coleshill Office to ask that they reconsider the decision to delay construction of the proposed natural flood alleviation scheme that had been proposed for the area. I would do everything to encourage that this scheme go ahead at the earliest possible opportunity, to prevent further disruption to residents' lives and livelihoods

General News, Grants and Consultations

General News

Youth support in Oxfordshire receives government funding: Support provided for young people by Oxfordshire County Council and partners has been recognised by central government through a Local Youth Transformation Pilot grant of £634,347. The council is one of the few in the country that continues to invest significantly in youth services, despite having no statutory obligation to do so. The funding will be used to help shape a sustainable model for youth services that can be adopted both locally and nationally.

'Team Oxfordshire' united in tackling winter pressures across health and social care services: As the colder months approach, health and social care partners across Oxfordshire are once again coming together as 'Team Oxfordshire' to prepare for and respond to the growing pressures that winter brings. Teams from across the county's hospitals, GP practices, adult social care, mental health services, ambulance services, community health services, and the voluntary and community sector are working together to keep services running smoothly, and ensure people receive the right care, in the right place, at the right time. Winter brings additional challenges each year, including a rise in respiratory illnesses, flu and COVID-19, and worsening health conditions caused by colder weather.

Highways

- Resurfacing B4019 at Coleshill – complete
- Resurfacing B4019 at Badbury Hill – in progress
- Traffic Lights at the Great Coxwell Junction – in progress
- Speed Reduction on the A420 – in progress

Grants

- **Councillor Priority Fund:** This is open again and I have already had applications from the Bromsgrove Day Centre and Oxfordshire Play Association, as well as interest from The Place and ARCH, a reading charity that has volunteers in Folly View Primary. Applications can be made on the website: [Councillor Priority Fund](#).
- **Warm Homes:** [Grant funding for retrofitting homes to reduce energy bills.](#)

Consultations

- [Cost of living support - residents' survey 2025](#)

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