

Monthly Oxfordshire County Councillor update

Cllr Emma Markham - Oxfordshire County Council, Shrivenham Division

The Green Party Real Hope Real Change

Updates

- **Bus Fares:** The government have announced a return to the £2 cap on single bus fares. This will come into effect on Jan 1st, 2027.
- **Policing:** If you are interested in the crime statistics for our area see here: [Faringdon | Your area | Thames Valley Police | Thames Valley Police](#) Please report any anti-social behaviour issues here: [Report antisocial behaviour | Thames Valley Police](#)
- **Local Government Reorganisation:** This has now been paused for review. It is unclear if we will still be forming the Ridgeway Unitary or not, but District Councils have been instructed to hold local elections in May.
- **Road resurfacing:** Repairs on the Highworth road outside of the memorial hall in Shrivenham will take place 19-21st Oct.
- **Housing policy:** the motion was passed and OCC will be calling on the Secretary of State to match housing requirements to genuine infrastructure availability, as well as reviewing Section 38 agreements to enable more timely adoption of services by utility companies and OCC. [Green Oxfordshire councillors back housing-infrastructure link | Oxford Mail](#)
- **Planning Enquiry:** I spoke in opposition to the proposed development of 200 houses by Bloor Homes on Shrivenham golf course, which would result in a loss of local business, loss of leisure facilities, loss of a vital third space, negative impact on Tuckmill nature reserve and additional pressure on the overcapacity sewage works.
- **School Transport:** There has been a reduction in the number of spare seats available on school transport and this has resulted in issues for many parents in the area to try and find alternative transport options. There is a backlog of emails, but the council aims to reply as soon as possible and find resolutions.
- **Road Safety:** A new report on traffic collisions data for Oxfordshire [OCC Road Traffic Collisions Casualty Data Summary 2025](#)
- **Fire service:** proposed changes to the fire service has been paused. More support for rural fire services to tackle wild fires likely to be announced in the autumn.
- **Solar consultation:** Cearn Solar Farm is a proposed new solar project on land within the Vale of White Horse District, Oxfordshire, a site comprising approximately 2,800 acres of land across three development areas, one is between Baulking, Challow and Stanford in the Vale. [Homepage - Cearn Solar Farm](#)
WestMill solar and wind farm in Watchfield are also looking to expand, with a small 30-acre expansion on their site, and will deliver community benefit.
- **Remembrance Sunday:** 8th November 2026. Please let me know if you would like me to attend your local remembrance service, I will try to attend as many services as possible across the area.

- **Disabled benefits:** Oxfordshire County cabinet members approved reductions in disability living allowances and new charges for council-arranged transport and an independent living service. I oppose these changes and I'm meeting with Oxfordshire Disabled People Against Cuts on Monday 5th Oct to support them.