



Photo - Cllrs Freddie van Mierlo, Liz Leffman and David Turner at Martin-Baker, Chalgrove

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

August 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.

It has been a very busy month with lots of progress on all fronts! See below for more details!

My recent meetings

- 5th July: Britwell Salome Parish Council
- 6th July: Nettlebed Parish Council
- 8th July: Berrick Salome Parish Council
- 12th July: Swyncombe Parish Council
- 13th July: Full County Council Meeting
- 13th July: Pyrton Parish Council
- 13th July: Watlington Parish Council
- 14th July: Little Milton Parish Council
- 3rd August: Pishill with Stonor Parish Council
- 5th August: Martin-Baker Aircraft Company (Chalgrove airfield)
- 6th August: Resident of Watlington on issue of special educational needs

Upcoming meetings:

- 12th August: Britwell Salome Parish Council

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

OCC news:

Oxfordshire Plan 2050 Consultation: A [consultation](#) has been launched on a plan that will set out how much new development there will be in Oxfordshire by 2050 and where this new development is located

Oxfordshire County Council joins the UK100 to take on the climate emergency: UK100 is the only network for UK locally elected leaders who have pledged to play their part in the global effort to avoid the worst impacts of climate change by switching to 100% clean energy by 2050.

Watch out for HGV consultation in October / November -> opportunity to influence policy: OCC is the process of updating its Local Transport Plan into a new "Local Transport & Connectivity Plan". This will include an updated Freight Strategy and will be submitted to the Council's Cabinet in October, followed by public consultation. If you want to see changes in how freight is managing in the county, I urge you to respond to this consultation, or share your thoughts with me.

Parish round up

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

Berrick Salome:

- **Benson Relief Road:** Following a meeting with the parish council, I have raised with OCC a proposal to extend the 30mph zone for the relief road towards Watlington.
- **Housing development:** Parish Council concerns around a proposed footpath on Braze Lane to accompany a 19 house development next to The Orchard were also raised with officers

Britwell Salome:

- **Traffic calming:** I was pleased to be able to support traffic calming efforts in Britwell Salome, with a contribution from councilor priority funds for a Speed Indicator Device (a flashy sign in lay terms!)

Chalgrove

- **Airfield development:** On 5th August I met with Martin-Baker representatives, including James Martin. Joining me was OCC leader Liz Leffman, and SODC Chalgrove councilor David Turner. The aim of the meeting was to understand better the specialized nature of Martin-Baker's operations – and its incompatibility with housing development on the site!

Cuxham

- **Traffic calming:** A public [consultation](#) has been launched for the trial traffic calming measures to be introduced in the village. This is an exciting new project that will be split into two phases. The first phase implements a 20-mph zone in the village, while the second phase would see a series of traffic calming measure introduced, including planters and white posts to narrow the road. Comments need to be submitted by 13th August

Great Milton

- **Verge cutting:** Exception weather (rain!) this summer has put additional pressure on OCC resources for cutting verges. However, I am pleased to report that verges were cut in areas important for road safety at the end of July

Lewknor

- **Overhanging trees:** A site visit was conducted with a Highway Records Officer on the 27th July to assess overhanging trees on Box Tree Lane. A letter has been sent to land owner
- **Postcombe speed survey:** Following reports of speeding on the A40 in Postcombe I'm delighted that OCC will arrange for two 'tube type' speed surveys to be undertaken in September / early October. The tubes will be placed between Salt Lane and the petrol station, and after the vehicle activated sign (VAS) North-West of the pub. Speed surveys are the first step in assessing what the situation is and informs OCC on what action can be taken

Little Milton

- **HGVs:** I've been working with OCC officers to push for a response to a letter from the Parish council on HGV movements through the village. In the letter, OCC wrote that while HGV movements are a significant issue for Little Milton and many communities in Oxfordshire, it is unable to implement a weight restriction on the A329 currently. However, OCC is (1) conducting a review of current freight policy that could change its position on weight restrictions and (2) conducting studies to better understand HGV origins/destinations to better assess the balance of local vs through movements

Nettlebed:

- **Road sign cleaning:** In early July, I joined parish councillors and SODC councillor Jo Robb to clean road signs. Equipment was borrowed from OCC and, with a bit of elbow grease (and eco-friendly soap), resulted in [10 signs being cleaned](#) over the course of an afternoon

Watlington

- **Edge road & Charlotte Coxe Trust:** These two issues remain a high priority. There are no major updates from last month, but I am continuing to press for progress on the issues
- **Pyrton lane traffic calming:** Plans for much needed traffic calming measures on Pyrton lane have been dusted off and agreement reached to move ahead. The parish council and OCC will work together with engineering consultants to advance the plans and put them formal consultation
- **Red Kite Development Street Lighting:** Following concern from local residents about the lighting close to Britwell Road, I wrote to Bloor Homes to express my support to residents seeking lower levels of lighting. Bloor Homes has now agreed to change the street lighting on 11th August to lower level lighting. Car park lights will also be turned off at 9.00pm
- **Green Plan Arts Trial:** I was delighted to be able to support Watlington's Green Plan arts Trail with Cllr Priority Funding. Funding will go towards educational activities at the 'Marlbrook Meadows' Station. The [event](#) will take place from 28th-30th August