

## Monthly Oxfordshire County Councillor update

Cllr Emma Markham - Oxfordshire County Council, Shrivenham Division

The Green Party Real Hope Real Change

### Updates

- Following the fatal accident near Uffington, the junction between Dragon Hill Road and the B4507 will have the grass verges cut to improve visibility and the junction markings (give way line & approach hazard lines) on Dragon Hill Road will receive a refresh and a replacement upright give way sign on Dragon Hill Road will be replaced.
- The Compton Beauchamp 20mph scheme was approved on 18 June, the work is scheduled to start 3 August, this has been slightly delayed.
- Repairs on the Highworth road outside of the memorial hall in Shrivenham have been scheduled and the road will be closed in Oct for 2 days to allow resurfacing work to take place.
- There is the new website to report problems on public footpaths in Oxfordshire instead of FixMyStreet. You will need to login / create an account before you can see the options to report a footpath for repair. [Public Rights of Way - Report a Problem](#)
- Bus changes 68 - Thames Travel company has taken over the contract, the new timetable is here: [68 - Wantage to Faringdon | Oxford Bus Company and Thames Travel](#)
- Oxfordshire County Council's temporary restrictions on fridge and freezer disposal due to the national shortage in specialist recycling capacity
- **Oxford congestion charge**  
From 28<sup>th</sup> Sept 2026, six new traffic filters will replace Oxford's temporary congestion charge. This will follow the planned reopening of Botley Road on 20 September. Any Oxfordshire resident can apply for a permit allowing up to 25 free day passes through the new traffic filters. If you already have a congestion charge permit it will automatically transfer to the traffic filters. Additional permits are available for many groups, including Blue Badge holders, unpaid carers, community health and care workers, mobile traders and patients who need frequent hospital appointments in the Oxford area. [Congestion charge exemptions and permits | Oxfordshire County Council](#)
- I will be taking a motion on Housing development road adoption to the County council meeting on Tues 8<sup>th</sup> Sept to recommend stricter requirements for timelines for road, drainage, pavement and verge adoption to prevent residents being left without recourse with deteriorating roads.
- I'm escalating issues with blocked drains across our villages (including Watchfield, Ashbury, Childrey, Little Coxwell and Kingston Lisle), as Highways announced an additional £4M to address complex blockages.
- I'm speaking at the Planning Enquiry between 22<sup>nd</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> Sept 2026 in Shrivenham memorial hall, against the proposed new housing development of 200 houses on Shrivenham Golf Course. I would encourage all community groups and concerned residents to please attend and speak at the enquiry to raise their concerns about this development.

- New road works at the Little Coxwell junction of the A420 to install lights to make the junction safer, this begins in Sept 2026 and should be completed by April 2027. Traffic is being diverted through Faringdon, via London street and Coxwell street.
- New tree planting due for Autumn 2026, maps of potential sites can be found here: [TreePlotter - Oxfordshire County Council](#)
- A recent increase in anti-social behaviour in the region, this has been raised with Thames Valley Police and they are increasing their patrols and rural police presence. Please report any issues to here: [Report antisocial behaviour | Thames Valley Police](#)
- **Local Government Reorganisation**  
on the 16<sup>th</sup> July parliament announced that Oxfordshire and West Berkshire's seven existing councils will be replaced by three unitary councils from 1 April 2028 as part of its plans for local government reorganisation (LGR). We will be part of the new Ridgeway Council – covering most of the existing South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse districts, combined with West Berkshire. Elections for the new unitary will occur in May 2027. It is currently likely that the representation for our area will be using the county council division and reducing the number of elected councillors to only two to represent 8,000 residents.