

OCC News March 2026

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OCC issue formal legal notice to Raise the Colours to cease putting flags on council property.

OCC headlines:

Welcome to my March Newsletter.

At the Full Council meeting on the 24th March we (the Green Party) seconded a motion by the Labour Party on giving all Oxfordshire County Council workers the Oxford Living Wage (95% of London Living Wage) as a minimum. This was passed and Cabinet will now consider how this can be accommodated in the 2026/2027 budget.

Due to the circular nature of motions our motion was fourth and did not get discussed at the meeting. Our motion was based on the 2024 Oxfordshire Climate Risk and Vulnerability Assessment and how the impacts we are seeing now are acknowledged to be worse now than then – and looking to ringfence (increased) investment in ensuring our residents are safe from the ever-increasing risks of flooding and heat.

We are still trying to change the constitution to enable more motions to be heard in each Full Council along with an improved rotational approach. It would appear that there is an appetite for this.

The Dorchester Festival: I have been asked to abseil down the Abbey Tower to raise funds for the Abbey and Be Free Young Carers, which is something I'm looking forward to immensely! **Please do sponsor me [here](#).** This will stay as a constant reminder here until done!

Road Resurfacing: If you missed this the details can be found [here](#) – including which sites are being managed. I know that this, and potholes, are very topical at the moment. OCC have more than doubled the number of defect crews from an original level of 7 to address the scourge of potholes.

OCC announced in the latest week that **£8million** will be invested in surface treatment for the county's roads. This is a preventative measure, hopefully reducing the chance of having as many potholes next winter. The full report is [here](#).

Crime statistics: If you are interested in the crime statistics for our area please see this [URL](#).

Councillor Grants: The full £10k of my Councillor Priority Fund has now been allocated.

Flags: OCC has issued a formal legal [notice](#) to Raise the Colours to stop flagging street furniture.

My roles: No new roles to report.

NEWS IN BRIEF:

Oxfordshire Highways Annual Report: The annual report can be found [here](#).

Local Government reorganisation (LGR):

Work is happening in the background to be LGR ready, but full planning can only happen once we hear back from government. The public consultation is now closed.

Drain clearing: OCC has committed to cleaning every roadside gully, drain and manhole every year for the duration the current term. (more [here](#)). **I know some drains have been missed** – so please do report these directly to OCC via FixMyStreet.

LOCAL QUESTIONS TO FULL COUNCIL:

At the March Full Council, the following questions were asked of the Cabinet:

- 1) What are the overall plans for Benson Lane in Crowmarsh?
- 2) When is the Thame Road in Warborough going to be resurfaced?
- 3) When will the results be available for the Benson Mobility Hub?

Please contact me (details at top) if you wish me to raise any questions on your behalf in future Full Council meetings.

CURRENT CONSULTATIONS:

There are no current consultations (unusually!).

PARISH ROUND-UP

Please refer [here](#): for all Fix My Street queries in your area. There is a huge volume of these and cover the gamut of OCC responsibilities. Completed actions have been removed.

By Parish Council – in alphabetical order.

Benson:

Questions have been raised about:

- Drainage issues continue in Littleworth Road with three trucks removing sewage per day from Thames Water. Longer term TW and Cala need to come to an accord.
- Mobility Hub consultation now closed. Work on monitoring existing traffic flows completed. Should hear results of both (and funding available) soon.
- Speeding in Benson is still a considerable issue.
- Cameras to be set up to monitor lorry movements within Benson and Ewelme.
- Salt Store – OCC may be willing to rent this area out for a peppercorn rent to the Scouts / Guides etc.
- Benson is having a “Freshers Day” on May 16th. This will include most clubs and societies in the village.
- Have chased up on flag removal at the MacDonalds roundabout.

Crowmarsh:

- All plans for Benson Lane questioned at last Full Council. Andrew Gant will be visiting the area, which we hope will give some certainty over the full plans.
- Need for a 30mph sign on the Port Way (Newnham Manor development dependant).

- SID post requirement & replacement SID in North Stoke. Post being installed on April 8th with SIDs coming on the 20th (we hope).
- Reduction in speed request for B4009 (in planning for before Spring 2027 along with other speed restriction changes).
- Consultation on 30mph limit along Benson Lane now complete.

Dorchester:

We are waiting on input on:

- Armco repair alongside the barrier (which was repaired) which is over the pedestrian underpass of the A4074 from Dorchester – assured would be done, hasn't been. PC chased OCC.
- Lighting on path to Reading direction bus stop on A4074. Have agreed £2k towards cost of doing this from Councillor Fund, although due to complexities may need reallocating to other projects.
- Gully clearance incomplete as per pictures provided by David Ross. Chasing. This has been resolved, twice, but is still an issue.
- Continuation of path work to bus stop.
- Provision of flooding signs to be sent to Mike for Watling Lane.

Ewelme:

- Cat Lane pathway / road repair discussions on-going.
- Hazell & Jeffries operating hours versus that defined in the CLEUD.
- Hazell & Jeffries traffic volumes – will be measured soon using trail cams – both in Ewelme and in Benson.
- Will have a meeting in Ewelme re Quiet Lane status for Cat Lane.
- Bicycle parking stands to be placed at the common and the watercress beds.

Warborough / Shillingford:

- Bollards – now registered on FixMyStreet.
- Shillingford bridge railing repairs in progress – waiting on email response to request to meet at site.
- Drop curb agreed in village centre.
- Potholes have been chased up – question raised with Cabinet on when Thame Road will be resurfaced as in an awful state.
- Culvert on Warborough Road has now been put on FMS.
- Chased up on flag removal from the roundabout.

Days off in April:

I will be taking some days off over the Easter holidays.