

OCC News August 2026
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It has been very dry...and hot (Benson Allotments).

OCC headlines:

Welcome to my August Newsletter.

Last month I reported on the government decision on LGR, and the fallout from that. This month, being August, all has been quiet, very quiet. To the degree that from next year I will not be producing an August report, there really isn't much point!

The next Full Council meeting is on September 8th. This month's motion is about adoption of roads, pipework (etc.) in new developments. I thought that this was a local issue when I first came across it, but in reality, it is a national one. We are 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.

Following the second postponement of the visit to our area by Councillors Epps and Leffman (Highways and Potholes / resurfacing respectively), I am now following a different tack. We will be visited by an OCC Officer in the near future. Dates / timings to be confirmed soon.

Road Resurfacing: The **£8million** surface treatment for the county's roads is progressing well, including some roads within our area.

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

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.

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

My roles: No new roles to report.

NEWS IN BRIEF:

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

Drain clearing: OCC has gone back on its commitment to cleaning every roadside gully, drain and manhole every year for the duration the current term. **It is therefore more important than ever to report any issues via FixMyStreet.**

Water Safety: Guidance has been issued by OCC on staying safe during hot weather (can be found [here](#)). Thames Water have announced a hosepipe ban effective Thursday 23rd July which is still in place despite a somewhat wetter August.

LOCAL QUESTIONS TO FULL COUNCIL:

Questions can be asked of the cabinet at the next Full Council on September 8th. In the absence of any suggestions I have submitted two questions on Palantir's involvement in the NHS (and whether OCC's money is invested in any of their acquired companies), plus a further question on how the population growth in our locality is impacting the ability of children to get into an easily accessible school and what the council are doing to organise public transport to get them there (note: many local families are being tasked with getting their children to Watlington (Icknield School) – there is no public transport between us and Watlington).

CURRENT CONSULTATIONS:

There are no current consultations.

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. Longer term TW and Cala need to come to an accord. Thames Water are visiting Benson for a meeting and tour on July 22nd.
- Mobility Hub consultation now closed. Work on monitoring existing traffic flows completed. Should hear results of both (and funding available) soon. Still waiting...
- Cameras to be set up to monitor lorry movements within Benson and Ewelme. Images taken need to be worked through.
- Salt Store – OCC may be willing to rent this area out for a peppercorn rent to the Scouts / Guides etc. Document now supplied to OCC from Scouts / Guides.
- Many people are asking when the Relief Road will be opened...setting up meeting with SODC.

Crowmarsh:

- All plans for Benson Lane questioned at last Full Council. Officer to visit Crowmarsh date to be confirmed. Met with OCC project manager on site.
- Need for a 30mph sign on Port Way (Newnham Manor development dependant...).
- Reduction in speed request for B4009 (in planning for before Spring 2027 along with other speed restriction changes – Part of Vision Zero). Will be part of an officers visit.

Dorchester:

- Lighting on path to Reading direction bus stop on A4074 going ahead £2k applied for and received.
- 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 promised as part of the path refurb – on going.
- Provision of flooding signs to be sent to Mike for Watling Lane. Not yet received. Chasing.
- Local Government Restructure.

Ewelme:

- Cat Lane pathway / road repair – Issues on-going. Quiet Lane application decided against.
- Hazell & Jeffries – meeting arranged with H&J and Ewelme / Benson Parish Councils.
- Some bicycle parking stands installed. More to follow.

Warborough / Shillingford:

- Bollards – now registered on FixMyStreet.
- Shillingford bridge railing repairs in progress – several abortive attempts at meeting.
- Potholes have been chased up – question raised with Cabinet on when Thame Road will be resurfaced as in an awful state. Officer visit being arranged.
- Waiting on response re road access to tennis courts.
- Local Government Restructure ...

Days off in September:

None.