

## **PARISH REPORT AUGUST 2017**

### **COUNTRYFILE LIVE**

The event returns to Blenheim Palace this weekend. With 120,000 visitors expected there will be added congestion on the roads particularly in the early morning. There is a new traffic management company who has been working with all the relevant agencies to deliver the plan. This will involve some diversions but they are all designed to aid the traffic flow at the peak time. Car parks will be open early with facilities to enable visitors to arrive ahead of the opening time. There will be a bus service direct into the Palace grounds.

We must not forget that hotels, bars and restaurants, not just in Woodstock but across the area will all have a busy weekend; meaning lots of job opportunities. Also visitors may decide to come back and visit Woodstock and the surrounding area later in the year.

I hope this will be a successful event not just for the visitors but residents too.

### **BUS TURNING**

Woodstock residents have benefited greatly from the new bus services to Oxford Parkway with increased frequency and reduced fares. It has to be acknowledged that the turning of the buses has caused concern not just in the town centre but for residents in Old Woodstock. I'm pleased to say that funding has been found for a turning circle at the Wootton turn. Engineers have been given instructions to deliver the new turning circle ASAP.

### **COTSWOLD LINE TASK FORCE.**

I was pleased to attend the inaugural Cotswold Line Task force meeting. The group is made of the County council, LEPs, GWR and Network Rail to lobby for improvements to the service mainly focussing on how to increase train frequency and reliability. I would also like to see improved bus services to Hanborough to enable more residents to leave their cars at home reducing congestion on the roads.

### **COUNCIL AND CARILLION REACH AGREEMENT OVER CONTRACT**

Oxfordshire County Council is to exit a significant proportion of the contract with Carillion that sees the latter provide many services on the council's behalf. Constructive negotiations have been ongoing for many months and both parties have now reached a mutually beneficial agreement, which involves no termination costs for the taxpayer and allows for changes to the contract that were not efficient for either side. The deal was originally signed in 2012 and the vision at that time was that it would last for 10 years through to 2022. Since 2012 the council's policies and strategies – particularly in relation to property and its estate – have evolved in such a way that the tie-up with Carillion makes less commercial sense now than it did in 2012. New arrangements for the design and construction element of the contract that has been terminated will take effect later this year on September 1. They will be procured externally. One element of the contract, strategic asset management, had already been agreed to transfer back to being directly run by the county council. This is on track for a transfer date of August 1. The Council will continue to work with Carillion on a non-exclusive basis to deliver elements of strategic asset management where it is in the Council's interest to do so to meet its corporate and financial objectives. A key area of the contract that will remain in operation is Facilities Management – the work that takes place to ensure the general upkeep and day to day operation of council buildings. A review is to be carried out to ensure that this operates in the best way for the council.

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### **OXFORDSHIRE MINERALS AND WASTE LOCAL PLAN**

A plan which will govern how Oxfordshire's minerals and waste needs will be met for fifteen years has received Government support. The County Council's new minerals and waste core strategy, which outlines the planning strategy and policies for the supply of minerals and the management of waste in Oxfordshire until 2031, has received support from the Government's Planning Inspectorate, and following approval by Cabinet on 18th July will now go to Full Council in September. Following an independent examination of the strategy, the Inspector concluded that the strategy, with modifications, meets legal requirements and provides a sound and appropriate basis for the planning of future quarrying and waste management in Oxfordshire for the next 15 years. More information can be found here;  
<http://news.oxfordshire.gov.uk/inspector-backs-oxfordshire-minerals-and-waste-strategy/>

### **OXFORDSHIRE COUNCILS NEED £9BN FOR INFRASTRUCTURE TO SUPPORT GROWTH**

An independent report commissioned by Oxfordshire's six councils who make up the Oxfordshire Growth Board sets out the investment in transport, schools, hospitals and other infrastructure needed to support the predicted growth in population, jobs and homes to 2040 and beyond. The report by AECOM, a professional and technical services firm highlights the need for long-term investment that will be required to plan for and manage growth in a way that supports the local economy and protects quality of life across the county. For the first time Oxfordshire councils are working together to develop a joint infrastructure strategy, detailing the county's key infrastructure requirements. Some of these have been outlined already in individual Local Plans and the Local Transport Plan, but the Oxfordshire Growth Board has looked more comprehensively at what is going to be required further into the future across all areas.

### **LIBRARIES LAUNCH 'ANIMAL AGENTS' READING CHALLENGE FOR CHILDREN**

Oxfordshire County Council's libraries are inviting thousands of youngsters to take part in a detective-themed reading challenge this summer. Children aged four to 11 can 'join' the Animal Agents investigative team and solve a mystery by reading six library books and collecting special stickers. All children need to do is sign up at their local library and receive a collector's folder. As they read their books over the summer, they will receive stickers to help them crack the clues and help the Animal Agents find out what's really been going on behind the scenes! When they've completed the Challenge they can claim their medal and certificate. Young volunteers aged 13-24 are also needed to help library staff promote the challenge, talk to children about the books they have read and help them to choose others. More information and application forms for volunteers can be found at [www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/libraries](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/libraries)

### **SCHOOLS WIN AWARDS FOR SUPPORTING YOUNG CARERS**

Eight Oxfordshire schools have received awards as part of a county council support scheme for pupils who care for family members at home. The Young Carers Standard recognises schools' efforts to identify young carers and provide targeted support to help them achieve their potential. Since its launch in 2013 more than 60 schools have received training and support to deliver the scheme and earn an accreditation. Any school across Oxfordshire can sign up to the programme run by Oxfordshire County Council Young Carers Team. The team offers free support, advice and guidance for schools to identify and support young carers. Schools can work towards the Bronze, Silver and Gold Award level. Schools interested in taking part should email the Oxfordshire County Council Young Carers team: [young.carers@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:young.carers@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

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