

PARISH REPORT MAY 2019

OUR BUS



I'm pleased to provide funds for the Our Bus project in the Bartons again with a grant of £5,000 to help them to continue to provide a community bus service. They have gone from strength to strength as they now have 3 vehicles providing more routes and having a backup vehicle to cover servicing or breakdown. The Councillor Priority fund of £15,000 for each councillor for local projects will continue this financial year please contact me if you know of a project that might benefit from additional funding.

DISTRICT COUNCIL ELECTION RESULTS

Cherwell

Remains under Conservative control.

South Oxfordshire

Moved from Conservative to No Overall Control.

Vale of White Horse

Moved from Conservative to Liberal Democrat control.

West Oxfordshire

Remains under Conservative control.

PRIMARY SCHOOL PLACES

More than nine out of ten parents whose children are set to enter the classroom for the first time this September have been offered their first choice of primary school in Oxfordshire. A total of 93.39 per cent of the 7,125 applicants have been allocated to their first choice – above all recent national averages across the UK. In the Woodstock division out of 112 applicants 110 were successful with their first choice with 1 family being offered their 2nd choice and another their 3rd choice.

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The consistent high number of first choices achieved in Oxfordshire is due to the county council's careful forward planning to make sure the right numbers of school places exist – since 2010 the council has created more than 10,000 new primary school places.

BBQ

The good weather has meant many of us getting the BBQs out. Unfortunately, Oxfordshire Fire & Rescue has already been called out to deal with out of control grills. Many of these incidents could be avoided by following these top tips:

- Make sure your barbecue is standing on a flat surface and away from fences, trees and sheds.
- Keep a bucket of water or a garden hose nearby and don't leave the barbecue unattended.
- Always ensure you fully inspect the BBQ and cylinder you are going to use for wear and tear and any damage

KEEPING THE ROADS CLEAR DURING THE WINTER

After mentioning summer BBQs it may appear strange that the next item is about winter maintenance but we can now look back on the winter to see how much work is done to keep the roads open. Winter is the time when our gritting crews are on standby to get out on Oxfordshire's roads to spread salt and deal with potential icy conditions. Whilst we are all asleep the drivers go out in the worst of conditions to ensure the roads are usable in the mornings. Since October 2018 the crews have been out on Oxfordshire's roads 39 times, covering a total of 47016 miles – that's just under twice round the Earth – using more than 7,400 tonnes of salt. Each gritting run takes the team on a combined run equivalent to driving from London to Iceland. During each gritting run we salt approximately 1,200 miles which is the equivalent of travelling from London to Iceland, this being approximately 43 % of Oxfordshire's network. The last day of the season this year is 5 April, although if the weather takes an unseasonal turn the crews will still turn out.

The Oxfordshire winter team numbers 28 including drivers and support staff working out of depots at Drayton and Deddington and a smaller satellite depot at Woodcote. At the end of March, the drivers and support team stand down until October having spent the winter months, as well as a bit of Autumn and Spring, doing their day job while keeping an eye on the weather forecasts so that they can swing into action.

WOODSTOCK LIBRARY

I'm pleased to confirm that members of the public at Woodstock Library can connect their own devices to the Internet via Council supplied WiFi. The Library staff have been instructed on how to connect to the Wi-Fi. I must apologise that I gave incorrect information in a previous report however WIFI is now available. The council have ordered the full public Wi-Fi access but until it's in place this will enable library users to connect to the internet.

Currently all options for a permanent solution are being considered to maintain a library facility within Woodstock. I would urge residents to visit Charlbury and Wood Green in Banbury to see what a new library shared facility could look like. The County Council will work with Woodstock TC and residents before a final decision is taken.

Cllr Ian Hudspeth

07956270 318

ian.hudspeth@oxfordshire.gov.uk