

Whitchurch-on-Thames Parish Council

MINUTES of the Whitchurch On Thames Parish Council Meeting held in “The Old Stables”, Tuesday, 11th September 2018, commencing at 8pm

PRESENT:

Chairman- Jim Donahue

Vice Chair- Rachel Hatcher

Councillors- Dave Bowen, Keith Brooks, Sarah Hanfrey.

Clerk- Felipa House, Amy Wales

Public: Diana Smith, Hilary Jensen, Peter Worsley, Dianne Brooks, John Bradon.

District Councillor- Rob Simister

1. Apologies for Absence

Cllr Bulmer.

2. Appointment of New Clerk

Amy Wales was appointed to the role of Clerk, following a unanimous vote. The contract was signed at the end of the meeting.

3. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Brooks mentioned a potential interest in the fence on the village green as his property is adjacent to village green. Cllr Donahue noted this but did not think that this would constitute an interest.

4. Public Forum

Opportunity for members of the public to address the Council. With the permission of the Chairman, the public may also speak about specific items of business as they arise.

- i. Peter Worsley wanted to draw attention to a current controversy occurring in the neighbouring parish of Goring Heath, relating to using a resin-bonded surface instead of cobbles on the Alnutt Almshouses. The SODC and SO District Council have both been approached in relation to this issue, but with no success. Peter suggested the council should show support for Goring Heath on this issue and also support their rejection of the new surface and object to the procedures of the planning department. (For more information please see Peter Worsley’s letter attached to these minutes.) Cllr Donahue stated that he felt the council could not object to something that isn’t on the agenda but could attach Peter’s letter to the minutes and put on the public record. Cllr Hatcher asked whether there was a current place to put an objection on website.

The District Councillor, Rob Simister, stated that in defence of SODC planning, English Heritage need to be contacted if there is disagreement, as they have decided the issue is not worth perusing and are not willing to be involved and the local officers therefore have the right to decide. The SODC has gone to seek legal consultation and are listening (?) legal review on the matter. No current application has been made.

Action: The Clerk will check with Goring Heath Parish Council on the matter and Peter's letter will be put as an attachment to minutes.

- ii. Hilary Jensen stated that the boat and flowers issue was ongoing and wanted to mention her support to keep the boat, which was also supported by others in the audience as well as some of the councillors. Cllr Donahue noted that there was a MOWS meeting and the 6 people present voted in agreement to remove it and replace it with an alternative design. They plan to develop a more specific proposal to take to the Parish Council for approval at a future meeting. It was noted that there are concerns that the MOWS meeting wasn't publicised and that some people present today hadn't known there was a meeting. Cllr Hatcher agreed that everyone should have an opportunity to have a say on the matter and that the issue will be looked in to further.

Action: Cllr Donahue to provide this feedback to Leslie Maynerd and MOWS.

5. Agree minutes of Parish Council meetings 12th June & 10th July 2018

Two sets of minutes were to be agreed involving minor changes. June and July minutes were approved as a true record by all councillors.

6. Receive District Councillor's Report

- i. The issue of Eastfield House (non-residential home) was brought to the attention of the Council again by the District Councillor (DC).

Due to the nature of the issue the Councillors have asked for extension to next month and to be placed on the October Agenda.

The DC stated that the Consideration Officer involved said that there is no need to take any action and the issue won't be put forward to secretary of state, as explained in the letter he sent to the Councillors. This is because, though it is in a conservation area, the way it has been left currently is not seen to be damaging to the property. The SODC says it will not be damaged to an extent that will change the current use or facility and it is not a listed building.

- ii. The next item the DC brought forward was that there is £25,000 available for volunteering grants and that this might be useful for the community. Also the

Councillor Grant Scheme is open again and he has been given £5000 to distribute which can also be applied for by the Parish Council.

7. Receive County Councillor's Report

County Councillor Kevin Bulmer sent in the report. The main points are provided in Attachment II.

8. Review planning applications

i. P18/S2509/HH, 2 Whitchurch House, High Street (exterior & interior refurbishment works)

Cllr Hanfrey said that the changes were to make the house more traditional and felt the changes were positive. A vote was taken and this was approved and the councillors unanimously support this application.

ii. P18/S2495/LB, 'The Old Rectory', High Street (conversion of junk rooms into en-suite bathrooms)

Cllr Hanfrey stated that this is an internal conversion with small internal change. Cllr Donahue stated there seemed to be no issues here. The Councillors unanimously support and approve this application.

iii. P18/S2777/LB, 'HillHouse', Hardwick Road (replacement door & wall & internal alterations)

This application involved internal alterations. Cllr Hanfrey thought these changes were positive and not controversial. The councillors unanimously support and approve this application.

iv. P18/S2918/HH, 'Lane End', Eastfield Lane (first floor extension)

There is an issue of whether this is an extension to the property or a rebuild.

Action: Clerk to ask for extension in order to properly assess this application and allow Councillors to talk to and gather views from neighbours.

v. P17/S3578/HH, 'Prospect House', High Street (replacement of existing garage)

Cllr Hanfrey noted that this was in keeping with the house, and that the Forestry Commission and neighbours are both happy with the proposed plans. The councillors unanimously support and approve the application.

vi. Discuss assignment of planning applications to councillors by location

Cllr Donahue proposed to make reviewing planning applications more efficient and effective by assigning 1 or 2 councillors per street. Applications could then be assigned to a lead councillor by the Clerk as they are received, enabling a lead reviewer to make a more in-depth review, including talking to the neighbours or owner if it was warranted.

Resolution: Councillors agreed to this approach in principal.

Action: Cllr Donahue to send out a list of streets for councilors to volunteer for. The final list of assignments would be agreed at the next meeting.

9. Finance

i. Approve payments & note receipts for the preceding month.

- Invoice from Nova Press for July Bulletin (470)
- Invoice from SODC dog bin emptying April-June 2018 52.38
- Parish Clerk expenses (advert in Henley Standard) £86.82
- Payment to MOWS for plants £27.97
- Invoice from Play Safety Limited (annual playground inspection) £92.40
- Payment to Cllr Donahue parish clerk advert £76.14
- Invoice from the Wallingford Window Company, village hall windows £6786.6
- Payment to going forward buses July-September 2018 £300
- Invoice from survey monkey for July-August £74
- Purchase of USB hard drive amazon £43.99
- Invoice from Chubb fire and security, village hall fire extinguisher £130.08
- Invoice from OALC Clerk Training Course, £96.
- Payment received £40 Bulletin revenue
- Second half of precept £12,987.5

Cheques approved and signed by Cllrs.

ii. Discussion over councillor training. Training could take place over two 2hr evening sessions for £1100 or one 4 hr session over a weekend at £800 pounds.

Resolution: Councillors decided it was important to wait until new people had been appointed to the council.

iii. Expenses approved for Clerk training and the new Clerk will receive first training next week on the 19th, first session costing £80.

10. Village Green

i. Discuss purchase of new fence

Cllr Brooks introduced the continuing issue regarding the fence and Cllr Hanfrey sought clarification on what the aim is in regard to the fence. The repair of the fence has been requested by the owners due to damage to the fence caused by use of those using the village green when playing on the sports field and also using the fence to climb over to retrieve balls. The owners are not currently able to keep horses in the paddock due to exposed barbed wire from the damage. They are requesting that the portion of the fence that is damaged near the football pitch be replaced with a sturdier design. The owners have also asked to move football pitch to stop footballs going in.

Resolution: The councillors agreed to pay for repair of the fence, even though the fence is not the responsibility of the Parish Council but, as a gesture of good will assign £400 pounds to pay for the repairs. There was also a discussion on how best to prevent this happening in the future with Cllr Hatcher suggesting a notice and Cllr Hanfrey suggesting communication to those who regularly use it to make them aware of the issue. Based on feedback from members of the Village Green Working Group, the Council did not support the movement of the football pitch. There was also discussion over the quotes given by the owners and confusion over which is the correct one.

They also stipulated that there must be a crossing place and that this is clear and easy to use. As the councillors are not clear on quotes, the Clerk should seek clarification before payment is made.

11. Village green pavilion project

i. Receive update from Cllr. Brooks on planning application

Cllr Brooks says the planning application is moving forward but wanted to discuss the use of toilet and when they will be open to the public, this was clarified that toilets will only be open when Pavilion is open, so only one disabled access ramp is needed. Cllr Brooks is in talks with the architect and there is an estimated cost of £500 to submit plans.

Resolution: Councillors agreed that they can budget £750 plus VAT and gave approval to continue.

12. Village environment/maintenance

i. Discuss email from resident regarding school sign visibility

The email discussed the issue of school sign visibility and the issue of whether more could be done to tackle the issue. Discussions at the meeting considered whether the sign was visible enough and what could be done to rectify this. Councillors suggested painting "school" on the road. Discussions also looked at a flashing sign on Muddy Lane.

Action: Cllr Hatcher will look in to getting a quote from a contractor. Cllr Hanfrey will also look at speaking to the school regarding their thoughts on the issue before anything else will be approved in regard to this matter.

ii. Discuss winter salt refills

Discussion on refilling the salt, Cllr Donahue said that this should be done and is something that will be spoken to the OCC about.

Action: Clerk to ask OCC if they will repair the Salt bin leading up to the narrow section on Hardwick Road near the Worsley's house. This has fallen back as is not supported and not currently usable.

iii. Discuss & agree purchase of replacement village sign

The replacement of the village sign should go ahead but in order to do so Cllr Donahue considered whether this can be claimed on the insurance policy and what are the excesses and premiums. The quote currently is £400 plus VAT. Cllr Hatcher and Cllr Bowen said it was also important to make sure security is looked in to and how to ensure the next one isn't stolen.

Action: Clerk will contact the insurance company about cover, and the sign company to ask about security ideas.

v. Receive proposal for '20 is plenty' stickers

Cllr Hanfrey says it is important to get started with the stickers and discussed the options for perhaps selling the stickers.

Resolution: 250 stickers should be purchased and given to those on the three main streets who would want to use them based on use if door to door flyers. The council will assign 1 or 2 volunteers per street to provide flyers and ask who would like to put stickers on their bins. Approved and unanimous by all councillors.

Action: Clerk to order 250 to get started with for £200.

Action: Cllr Hanfrey to modify the flyer and request volunteers.

13. Village Plan

i. Receive any updates

Discussion led by John Bradon who gave out a draft outline of what the Village Plan contents could look like.

He also discussed a recommendation that 4 or 5 people are needed to volunteer in order to set up a draft Emergency plan. The councillors thought it was best to wait to set up a meeting until Cllr Hanfrey has completed her course, in order to have the best input going forward.

Also discussion involved looking at the Village Hall and the Pavilion in order to best see where the village is going, discussion is needed to ascertain, "What do we want to use the Village Hall for compared to the new Pavilion?"

Cllr Brooks also discussed the Pavilion costs and that there is a potential £150,000 SODC capital grants fund.

14. Polish Church Site

i. Receive update from Cllr. Brooks

Cllr Brooks says there is a new bench and that people can now go there and enjoy the area. He also says that there is an aim to have it all completed by spring 2019, this will be linked with Village Plan.

15. Parish Council owned/managed land

i. Review security & agree measures to mitigate risk of vehicles gaining access

To be discussed at a future meeting. Cllr Hanfrey is investigating this.

16. Updates from WGs

i. TAPAG

Diana says she has received a verbal agreement from BP to pay for their traffic consultant to do a survey for us. She is aiming to get this agreement in writing and what will be paid for, and any further updates will be given on progress. Cllr Hatcher says it is nice to have financial support from businesses, but there also needs to be control as a council and that we choose a consultant that will meet the needs of the village.

Resolution: TAPAG will send the statement of requirements for the consultant to both BP consultant and other private consultants to compare their offerings.

Cllr Brooks also mentioned an issue that he had been present at concerning a huge lorry coming down the hill, and coming out of BP and going the wrong way.

Action: Diana Smith and Cllr Hatcher from TAPAG will talk to BP about informing drivers of the right way to exit BP to avoid the issue of oversized lorries in the village. BP was initially willing to make a sign but it was rejected the Highways Agency. The issue should be revisited again.

17. Other matters for Chairman and PC to consider

Items that arise that are not on this agenda but need discussion and to be proposed or not for a future agenda

- i. Discussion involving a management committee and the Village Hall. Ask the council about the £25,000 grant application. £1000 this to be paid this year and another £1,000 next year. Cllrs stated that they already pay this, but it was mentioned that this would be an extra £2000 on top of this. In order to succeed Council needs to show commitment to village hall and plans.

Resolution: Councillors agreed to commit £1000 pounds for the next two years and will discuss this further and want to put this on the Agenda for next month's meeting.

- ii. Electrics for Village Hall and the quote for testing, were also discussed. PAT testing is important and needs to be looked at. The Village Hall Management Committee should discuss this issue.
- iii. Cllr Brooks reported that the Bridge Club made a comment about the windows in the Village Hall being frosted and wondered why this was the case. Cllr Brooks said that this was part of the quote that was communicated to the council. The reasons for this included security and cost.. Cllrs should have a chance to look at the new windows before commenting on them ahead of the next meeting
- iv. **Action:** Village Hall Management Committee to identify any backlog and maintenance for village hall that requires the PC to approve funds for. Any requirement should be added to the agenda.

18. Date of next meeting: Tuesday 9th October 2018

The meeting closed at 10.07pm

Signed.....

Date.....

Chairman

The Alnutt Almshouses (Goring Heath) Cobbled Forecourt Controversy.

Introduction.

Within the Whitchurch -Goring Heath civil parishes, arguably the most important historic buildings from a landscape perspective, are the brick-built almshouses and chapel at Goring Heath. These were built at the behest of the will of Henry Alnutt, a barrister at the Middle Temple and former Lord Mayor of London. He died, unmarried on March 11, 1724 and he left his lands at Ipsden (12 km to the NNW) to finance them. His executor, Richard Clement Gent., supervised the construction c. 1726. The buildings form a south-west facing an open rectangle, with the Church of England St. Bartholomew's chapel forming the centre piece. Flanking the chapel are two sets of four one-story houses fronting a courtyard. The latter is enclosed by a low brick wall and pedestrian entrance gate which forms an integral part of the building. Visually, the whole site constitutes a sublime assemblage and is rightly classified as Grade 1 by Historic England. Major building restorations occurred in 1953 funded by an Alnutt descendent Major Alfred Ernest Allnatt (changed spelling) and in 2013-4.

Until late 2013, the courtyard was mainly surfaced by naturally rounded quartzite cobbles (quartzites are a very dense form of sandstones). Earlier, in 1992-3, a network of flagstone slabs was inserted into the cobbled surface to facilitate walking on a hitherto uneven surface. However, the visual impact of this was small as most of the courtyard remained surfaced by cobbles. This reconstruction or restoration is commemorated by a plaque which records the generosity of Mrs Pam Toyee of Path Hill.

In eighteenth century Oxfordshire, it was normal practice for public circulation areas to be surfaced by carefully selected rounded cobbles. An impressive example is the area around the square containing the Radcliff Camera in central Oxford. Nearer to, similar cobbled surfaces occur adjacent to the almshouses at Mapledurham and in Whitchurch village small scale examples can be seen in front of two cottages which form part of a terrace at the western end of Hardwick Road. Very recently, by chance rather than design, repetition of this practice has occurred, as the Whitchurch-on-Thames Parish Council has placed a similar cobbled surface around the new boat 'planter' on the High Street, adjacent to the driveway to St Mary's church, although they have yet to be properly laid.

Geology and landscape.

Although the Chiltern Hills are normally assumed to be undulating, parts of the south easterly inclined dip slope display planar facets. Most of these reflect fragments of the former floodplains of the ancestral River Thames produced as the river progressively cut down into the underlying chalk. These 'River Terraces' are normally underlain by several metres of gravel. One such facet, now some 80 m above the river, corresponds to Goring Heath and the almshouses are built on it. The Goring Heath feature forms part of a dissected system of surfaces which are inclined at a very low angle towards the south east and these can be traced to the North Sea coast in Essex. 'Upstream' the surface disappears above Goring as to the north west it has been totally removed by river erosion. A generalised age for this particular fragment of the old river Thames is about one million years. Geologists now call it the Beaconsfield terrace although earlier it was known as the Lower Gravel Train.

When the terrace formed, the River Thames was much larger than it is today, and its headwaters extended well into the Midlands, an area which is currently outside its drainage area. Pieces of rock derived from the rock types which underlie the Midlands, were being supplied to the river by erosion and moved along its channel towards the North Sea. The outcome is that the bulk of the gravel beneath the Goring Heath area was sourced in the Midlands, their composition reflects the geology of that area. The most obvious component of the 'exotic' materials are the very well-rounded purple or liver coloured cobbles of an exceptionally hard quartzite, these are popularly referred to as 'Bunters' (this name is derived from the rock formation known as the 'Bunter Pebble Beds'). An example of Bunter cobbles at outcrop are found in the cliffs at Budleigh Salterton in Devon. At Goring Heath in winter, after ploughing, the land surface is littered by these Bunter cobbles. Consequently, the builders of the almshouses had a ready local supply of suitable material to surface their courtyard. Significantly, the cobbles must have been carefully selected as they were exclusively Bunters. These have the advantage over flint cobbles in that they are difficult to fracture and even if they do the edges are not razor-sharp like the former when it breaks.

One of the frustrations in demonstrating the local geology to interested parties is the lack of guaranteed exposure, i.e. the rocks are normally covered by a combination of vegetation, crops and urbanisation etc unless an open excavation is by chance found. This problem particularly applies to the former Thames gravels. Accordingly, the cobbled courtyard at the almshouses was a very valuable resource as it provided a clean, convenient and secure insight into the 'foreign' composition of the Goring Heath 'terrace' sub-surface. It also beautifully demonstrated the role of the local geology in determining the character of an engineered construction. Additionally, the Queen Anne style architecture of the adjacent historic buildings could be enjoyed.

Basis of the controversy.

Unexpectedly on a routine geologically orientated group visit to observe the cobbles at the almshouses in late 2014 the shocking discovery was that they had been entirely removed and replaced by a resin-bonded very fine gravel surface. The contractor was the driveway division of Cirencester Civil Engineering and they were asked to store the cobbles rather than dispose them. Alas the storage location is currently unknown.

By this action, the site has been rendered useless for geological demonstration purposes. Apart from this, it was apparent that the setting of the Grade 1 buildings had been seriously compromised – vandalised is not too strong a word. After an unfruitful conversation with the chapel priest, who was unable understand the problem, Historic England was approached as it was difficult to believe that the removal of the cobbles had been sanctioned by them (about that time English Heritage was being split at the dictate of government).

The response of English Heritage [Historic England].

English Heritage was surprisingly unhelpful considering that this was the publicly funded body charged with '*championing England's built heritage*' and '*giving expert, constructive advice*'. Initially a brief report of the Alnott situation was sent to Customer Services at English Heritage and given contact number 507984363. The first response was 'I would advise you to contact our Case Work Team at your local English Heritage Office'. It was then pointed out that it was the job of Customer Services to forward the report to the appropriate office. Under the threat of making an official complaint the report was forwarded within minutes! This turned out to be the south east office in Guildford. A reply on March

24, 2015, from an ‘Inspector of Historic Buildings and Areas’ (R.P.) was not exactly encouraging. Although it was asserted that listed building consent had not been applied for in this instance, the advice was to contact the conservation Team of the Local Planning Authority as they had the power to take enforcement action. Effectively English Heritage was passing the buck and saying it was not interested any further.

South Oxfordshire and Vale of the White Horse District Council [SODC].

Consequently, the report was sent to SODC. On May 15, 2015, the Senior Enforcement Officer (T.S.) was the first respondent and he asked for the site address of ‘the complaint’. Not an auspicious start and precisely why ‘Alnutt Almshouses’ was not in the lexicon of the SODC planning department was not explained. On May 20, 2015, an Enforcement Officer (L.V.) made contact. He reported that ‘it appears listed building consent was not sought at the time of the works which was apparently over 10 years ago’. Clearly, he was totally confused since the removal of the cobbles was just over six months previously! He went further to say - ‘My early thoughts are that [it] is probably not expedient or proportionate to take enforcement action’. ‘I will keep you informed’. In response it was pointed out (a), he had muddled the current case with the courtyard modifications undertaken in 1993, (b) the geoconservation importance of the cobbles, (c) it being an integral part of a Grade 1 listed building and (d) that there was now no safety hazard because of the path network installed in 1993. The main justification for removing the cobbles given by the Almshouses Trustees was that the cobbles, despite the flagged path network, were a safety concern. Yet ironically, on their web site, is a colour picture of Morris Dancers performing on the cobbles (taken pre-2014). Obviously, the cobbles were insufficiently hazardous to discourage dancing on them!

In a follow-up email, on September 21, 2015, re Planning Enforcement Investigation SE15/120, L.V. stated ‘whist there is a breach of planning control, I am of the opinion the works do not amount to any significant planning harm in relation to the listed building’. ‘I have given the owner the opportunity to apply for retrospective planning permission in order to regularise the works – this would receive officer support and the matter will not be pursued further’. Note that there was no reference to any consultation with the SODC conservation officers. It was LV’s decision alone.

Yet on June 4, 1992, SODC granted listed building consent to the trustees for – (i) formation of stone flag paths, (ii) setting of cobbles into a concrete bed and (iii) provision of surface water drains to the courtyard. Specifically, *the reuse of the existing cobbles* was mandated. This was justified so as ‘to safeguard the architectural and historic character and appearance of the listed building and the amenity of the area.

The plot thickens. It is now known that on July 15, 2011 (i.e. four years earlier), a conservation officer (JP) wrote to the trustees informing them that the proposed resurfacing needed planning permission although it was likely to receive officer support. Further a site visit had occurred with the very English Heritage Inspector who had shown little interest in the 2015 exchanges. It is hard to believe that the latter was not fully informed on the proposed removal of the cobbles. Apparently end of story until

After almost three years, the Chair of the Whitchurch-on-Thames Parish Council (KB) knowing of the earlier 2015 SODC exchanges, forwarded a copy of a letter to SODC which he had received. This was from the Listed buildings Sub Committee of the Oxfordshire Architectural and Historical Society (OAHS). As democratic protocol demands, as part of the

normal planning procedure, the Goring Heath Parish Council, had been given details by the SODC of a retrospective planning application from the Trustees of the Almshouses. Note that this was seven years after being advised that this was necessary. In view of the nature of the application, the Oxfordshire branch of the Council for the Protection of Rural England was appraised of the issue and it alerted OAHS as an interested party. The latter was able to act as a local agent of the Council of British Archaeology. All these bodies unanimously believed the SODC had displayed total incompetence in handling the cobble issue. Even Private Eye has run the story.

The SODC Conservation and Design Officer (SA) advised the current Principal Planning Officer - Enforcement (RC) on June 28, 2018 that lifting of the cobbles required planning permission, but in her view listed building consent was not required. Interestingly, she noted that the now lifted cobbled surface was consistent with other similarly cobbled surfaces within the Chiltern AONB yet considered its removal was unharmed. The Trustee's view is that the cobbles are modern and that negates their importance. However, this flies against a formidable amount of evidence that this view is totally erroneous.

Mysteriously, it was then discovered that the Trustees had withdrawn their application for retrospective planning permission and instead have now applied for a 'Certificate of lawful development'. This has not been copied to Goring Heath Parish Council for comment. A stitch-up avoiding planning law is suspected with SODC as an accomplice. Predictably the planning department is digging in its heels in the face of mounting opposition to its irrational behaviour – are they the guardians of the people's interests? What this space!

Acknowledgements

Invaluable help has been received from George Lambrick & Liz Woolly (OAHS), Richard Wingfield, Nici Worth (CCE), Keith Brooks (WPC), and especially Peter Dragonetti (GHPC).

Peter Worsley, Svartisen House, Whitchurch-on-Thames.

Attachment II – Summary of County Councillor’s Report

i. New Partnership approved by OCC and Cherwell District Council

The partnership will offer long term opportunities to join up services for residents, reduce the costs of providing services, and secure investment in Cherwell to enable the continued growth in homes and jobs. Also the role of joint chief executive was appointed to Yvonne Rees, the current chief executive of Cherwell and South Northamptonshire councils.

ii. Student receive A levels Across Oxfordshire

Confirmed pass rates for the county as a whole will be confirmed when national figures are published later this year. For anyone unsure of their next steps after A-Level or GCSE exam results, further help can be found at the Oxme website and through the National Careers Service which has a helpline number - 0800 100 900. Throughout the results period and beyond, county council staff will be available via the web chat service on the Oxme website or over the phone (01865 328460) to talk to young people and parents about the wide range of learning and employment opportunities available in Oxfordshire for 16-19-year-olds, and to help with applications.

iii. OCC Counts the cost of the Carillion Collapse

OCC is carrying out a detailed review of the costs and liabilities related to its properties following the Carillion collapse so that a robust financial plan can be considered by councillors in the autumn and included in the council’s budget.

iv. Continued improvement in delayed transfer of care number

Figures show improvement, in June 2018, 90 residents had delayed discharge from hospital, which is 9% fewer than in May, which is half of the people delayed at the same time last year.

v. Active and healthy travel encouraged by OCC

The council is championing healthy alternatives to the car, which will also help to reduce congestion and pollution on the county’s roads. The council has appointed an active and healthy travel officer, using central government funding, to assess existing walking and cycling routes. Priority will be given to improvements and maintenance schemes designed to encourage active travel and reduce pollution. Over 85,000 new jobs and 100,000 new homes are planned in Oxfordshire by 2031.

vi. £80K boost for Kid’s cycling safety

Almost every primary school child in the county will now be able to get free cycle safety training after the award of an £84,500 Bikeability grant, which will pay for an additional 2000 places. Parents and carers who want their children to take part in training should contact their school’s head teacher. (Training offered to 9 years old +)