

Title: County Councillor's Report
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Parishes: Yarnton, Begbroke and Kidlington.
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Dear Parish Councillors and residents,

This is an update for late 2025 covering the key matters affecting our division. My focus over recent months has been pressing for clarity on the proposed closure of Roundham Crossing, confirmation of additional tree planting in the area, flooding issues and the provision of an appropriate bus route for the area, where there has been some success!

Best wishes
Lesley

Roundham Level Crossing

Network Rail wants to close Roundham Crossing to pedestrians and cyclists. This is a lifeline for residents in Begbroke, Yarnton and Kidlington and provides essential connectivity across our villages. I have already met with local groups to raise awareness, and a petition will be launched shortly. In addition, I have requested a meeting with Network Rail and Council officials to discuss this issue, and I will keep Clerks and relevant groups updated.

Bus services

New bus timetables will be in place from 9th November. Additionally, there is now an extension to the 800 routes providing coverage through Kidlington, Begbroke and Yarnton, this should provide inter-village connectivity.

New Bus Service Launch: Starting **Sunday 30th November 2025**, Stagecoach will extend services **600 and 800** to increase capacity to/from **Oxford Parkway Park & Ride**.

Route Details: **Service 800** will continue beyond Oxford Parkway to **Yarnton via Kidlington (Black Horse), Langford Lane, and Begbroke (Royal Sun)**.

It will run hourly, seven days a week, in a one-way anti-clockwise loop around Yarnton (southbound via Rutten Lane, northbound via A44). The route lies within the **Oxford Smartzone**, so it will use **zero-emission electric buses**.

Timings: First bus from Yarnton: **0745 (Mon–Sat), 1000 (Sun)**.
Last return from Oxford: **1755 (Mon–Sat), 1700 (Sun)**.

Other Changes: Minor tweaks to services **2/2A** between Kidlington and Oxford, but no change in overall frequency.

Further detail can be found here: - <https://www.stagecoachbus.com/service-updates/serviceupdatesarticle?SituationId=ID-23/10/2025-11:48:34:984#>

Congestion charge & Place Scrutiny

The County Council has taken forward the temporary congestion charge. The scheme is intended to reduce city centre congestion and improve air quality. Whilst at Place Scrutiny I

pressed for local traffic-monitoring, an audit of local transport routes, and additional exemptions for those waiting for a SEND diagnosis.

What you need to know

The free Oxfordshire area resident permit allows 25 days of free travel through all six congestion charging locations during charging hours.

Apply for a permit here: <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/transport-and-travel/oxfords-temporary-congestion-charge-cars/congestion-charge-permits/tcc-oxfordshire-permit-area>

Trees.

I have circulated a suggested tree-planting plan to all Parish Clerks. Some additional sites have been requested; locations and maintenance arrangements are now being finalised and hopefully planting should be carried out in the winter season 25/26.

Emergency planning

Paul Mann (Resilience Officer) has emailed all Parish Councils requesting confirmation of Parish Emergency Plans. Following last year's flooding it is suggested plans are reviewed, should you require any assistance please do let me know or contact Paul Mann directly at: paul.mann@oxfordshire.gov.uk

OxRAIL 2040

Begbroke Station has been announced as part of the local rail strategy, this will sit within the PR8 – Begbroke Science Park site. I will provide further updates as they are available.

Connect to Work

This goes live in Oxfordshire in November 2025. The programme is designed to support people who find it hard to find and stay in work, and provides support to people in work but who are at risk of losing their job. Further details can be found here:

<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/social-and-health-care/adult-social-care/connect-work>

Councillor Priority Fund – Apply Now.

Each county councillor has a budget of £10,000 that they can use to support community projects in their division over the course of the 2025-2027 financial years.

I hope to channel funding to education to help our struggling schools, and projects associated with flooding. Applications can be made [here](#).

Community Capacity Grants.

The Community Capacity Fund will open for grant applications from 6th September. Grants of between £5,000 and £20,000 are funded by OCC and applications processed by Oxfordshire Community Foundation. Grants are given to projects that “support people to live well in their community, remaining fit and healthy for as long as possible”.

Kids in Museums – Take Over Day, 21st November,

Two Oxfordshire Museums are offering an opportunity for four young people to take over some of the roles in the museum. To find out more contact:

handsonheritage@oxfordshire.gov.uk