

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

It was an extremely busy end of the year. The New Year bringing meetings with the Fire and Rescue teams, a focus on infrastructure requirements of the local area and on social isolation in our community.

I have been pushing for additional meetings to discuss the bus provision locally, and to review and understand the data provided in light of the recent changes to the services.

Flooding meetings are in planning, and the S19 report for Mill End/Oxford Road Kidlington should be released shortly.

The HWRC booking system has been introduced, and whilst I understand the need to resolve capacity issues, I am sceptical of the evidence used in the decision making and will keep you informed of any updates and progress.

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 has been launched. 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.

Community Meeting is being held at Begbroke Village Hall on 26th January at 7pm.

Bus services

The new 800 route is running well providing coverage through Kidlington, Begbroke and Yarnton.

Questions have been raised in relation to the timings of the 2/2A and the 700 and I am progressing those with officers.

Congestion charge & Place Scrutiny

The temporary congestion charge is now in place. Oxfordshire resident can apply for 25 permits to travel through all six congestion charging locations during the charging hours.

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

Or call: 01865 519800.

Fire and Rescue Consultation – Have your say.

Proposals can be viewed online, please do respond and provide feedback to the consultation which is open to 20th January. <https://letstalk.oxfordshire.gov.uk/ofrs-consultation>

Carers Oxfordshire

New service to support unpaid carers by connecting them with trained volunteers. You can find out more here: <https://www.carersoxfordshire.org.uk/carers-phone-friends/> or by calling 01295 234 850.

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](#).

Gritters.

OCC has 30 new gritters to keep the roads salted over the winter period. They have all been named; Sir Winston Churchill, Agatha Christie amongst others, further details can be found here: <https://news.oxfordshire.gov.uk/famous-oxfordshire-figures-inspire-names-for-countys-fleet-of-gritters/>

High Sheriff's Awards 2025–26

Each year, the High Sheriff invites nominations for individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the communities in which they live and work. If you know someone in our community who quietly goes the extra mile to make life better for others, without seeking recognition, you can submit your nomination here:

<https://highsheriffsoxfordshire.co.uk/high-sheriffs-awards-applications>