

Title: County Councillor's Report
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Dear Residents and Councillors

As we move into late spring and early summer, it has been good to see progress on a number of long-standing local issues. Over the past couple of months, much of my time has continued to be taken up with highways matters, particularly potholes, drainage and keeping residents informed about roadworks and closures.

Alongside this, I have been engaging with Oxfordshire County Council on wider transport and place-based policy work, including the development of the Movement and Place Strategy, as well as continuing work on flood resilience and responding to the Fire & Rescue Service consultation. I aim to keep parish and town councils and residents informed through reports such as this, as well as via my Facebook page.



Potholes, Road Condition and Resurfacing

Potholes remain one of the most frequently raised concerns across Kidlington, Yarnton and Begbroke, particularly on the main roads and bus routes. During this period, I have been very active reporting defects, following up repairs and escalating repeat failures.

There has been good success in securing individual repairs, and I would like to thank residents for continuing to report issues via FixMyStreet, which remains the most effective way to ensure problems are logged and addressed.

Many of the most problematic roads locally are key bus corridors, which are under constant pressure but are not currently included in the resurfacing programme. I continue to push for a more strategic approach, including resurfacing of these routes, and will keep pressing this case with officers.



Gully Cleaning and Drainage

Drainage and gully maintenance are closely linked to both road condition and localised flooding. While the countywide gully-cleaning cycle has been completed, it is clear that timing, targeting and follow-up are critical.



In addition to raising individual issues, I am currently awaiting a report from the highways drainage team to establish what issues have been identified locally.

I have also been pressing for better-timed gully cleaning, particularly ahead of wetter periods and in known problem locations. Once the report is available, I will update parish councils and residents on the findings and next steps.

In Yarnton additional culvert clearance has been carried out by Sanctuary Homes and the Parish Council supported by additional grant funding from OCC. In Kidlington the OCC additional funding covered mapping of the water course and drainage systems across the area.

Flood Grants

OCC are repeating the flood grant scheme for 2026/2027. Communities can now apply for grants of up to £25000 to fund projects that help reduce the impact of flooding. Further details can be found here: <https://www.oxfordshirefloodtoolkit.com/>

Flood Warden Recruitment – Please Get Involved

Flooding and community resilience remain important priorities, and the Flood Warden scheme is a great way for local people to help protect their community. Flood Wardens act as local “eyes and ears”, spotting blocked drains, ditches and other flood risks before problems escalate. Training is provided, there’s no fixed time commitment, and I would warmly encourage parish councils and residents to consider whether this is something they—or someone they know—might like to support.

Movement & Place Strategy – Overview

Movement and Place (MAP) Plans set out a long-term approach to how our streets work for everyday life—covering walking, cycling, public transport, traffic and safety. Work is starting on the Kidlington and Surrounding Villages MAP Plan, and I am working with officers to make sure local priorities and community views help shape it as it develops. I will keep parish and town councils updated as this progresses.

Upcoming Road Closures

There have been a number of announcements for road closures and traffic restrictions to allow works to be carried out safely.

5 th May	Gravel Pits Lane, Yarnton	Limited access maintained.
22 nd June	Sandy Lane, Yarnton	Broadband cabling.
19 June	The Moors, Kidlington	Limited access. Overhead power maintenance.

Kidlington Library Events:

Lego Club	Saturday 25 th April, Saturday 27 th June, 2026.
Rhyme time	Tuesday 28 th April, Tuesday 5 th May, 2026
Community Help and Information	Thursday 7 th May, Thursday 14 th May, 2026
Elmer Day	Saturday 23 rd May, 2026

Further details can be found here: <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/events?venue=2248>

A44 Speed Limit Review

The A44 corridor remains under review as part of wider work on road safety. Evidence from elsewhere suggests that changes to speed limits can improve safety, particularly where communities, pedestrians and cyclists interact with through-traffic.

I will continue to monitor this review and ensure local views are reflected as proposals develop.

Fire & Rescue Service Consultation – Kidlington

The consultation on improving Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service has now concluded, and the County Council has published its response.

Kidlington Fire Station is not currently proposed for closure, and no decision has been taken to close or downgrade the station. However, there has also been no explicit statement guaranteeing its long-term future, and future options are under review.



There is now a focus on recruitment, resilience and response cover. I will continue to follow this carefully and make sure the voices and safety of residents are clearly represented. Full details of the published report they can be found here:

Independent Consultation Analysis Report:

<https://mycouncil.oxfordshire.gov.uk/documents/s81598/Annex%20%20-%20OFRS%20Consultation%20Analysis%20Report.pdf>

Cabinet Report – Improving our Fire and Rescue Service:

<https://mycouncil.oxfordshire.gov.uk/documents/s81566/Improving%20our%20Fire%20and%20Rescue%20Service%20Cover%20Review%20-%20Cabinet%20v3.0%20FINAL.pdf>

Councillor Priority Fund – Applications Welcome

A reminder that parish councils and community groups can apply to the Councillor Priority Fund (CPF). Each county councillor has £10,000 available over the 2025–2027 period to support local projects.

I am particularly keen to support projects linked to flooding, drainage, resilience and education, and I am very happy to discuss ideas before an application is submitted.

Further details are available here:

 <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/communities/councillor-priority-fund>

Keeping in Touch

Thank you to everyone who has raised issues, shared local insight or kept in touch during this period. Please do continue to get in contact—your feedback really does make a difference.

Best wishes
Lesley