

County Councillor's Report - Cllr Lesley McLean

Division: Yarnton, Begbroke and Kidlington (Kidlington West)

Date: September / October 2026

Contact:  lesley.mclean@oxfordshire.gov.uk

 Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/CllrLesleyMcLean>

Dear Councillors and Residents,

Since my last report, I have attended County Council meetings, local consultation events and community meetings, raising the issues residents have brought to me. These have included flooding and drainage, SEND school transport, Roundham Crossing, EV charging at The Phelps and the connections between Kidlington, Begbroke and Yarnton.

Thank you to everyone who has attended meetings, responded to consultations or contacted me directly. Your local knowledge and experience help me raise stronger and better-evidenced cases with the County Council.

Best wishes

Lesley

Out and about

During the last period, I have attended:

- **Oxfordshire County Council Full Council**, where I raised a formal question and follow-up on drainage and gully cleansing across Kidlington, Begbroke and Yarnton;
- the **Movement and Place Plan public consultation events**;
- the **Roundham Crossing and Begbroke Station community meeting** at Exeter Hall on 2 September; and
- a meeting of the **Oxfordshire Growth Commission**, where I contributed to discussions about infrastructure-led growth and the wider Kidlington areas future.

At the Roundham meeting, Oxfordshire County Council led the presentation, with representatives from Oxford University Development and Bloombridge also attending. The meeting provided an important opportunity for residents to hear about the current position, ask questions and explain why local connections matter.

Alongside these meetings, I have spoken with Cabinet Members, officers, schools and community representatives about flooding, SEND transport, mental health support in schools and the proposed EV charging bays at The Phelps.

Movement and Place Plan

The public consultation on the Movement and Place Plan for the wider area is now closed. The plan considers the future of transport, public spaces and connections across the area and neighbouring communities.

I attended the local consultation events and submitted comments highlighting the need to:

- protect connections between our communities;
- address congestion and road safety;
- improve walking, cycling and public transport;
- recognise local flooding and drainage pressures; and
- provide realistic funding and delivery arrangements.

The County Council will now review the responses. I will monitor how residents' and parish councils' comments are reflected in the revised plan.

Flooding and drainage

Flooding and drainage remain one of my highest priorities, particularly as we approach the anniversary of the serious flooding experienced on 23 and 24 September 2024.

My review of 4,329 local gully records identified 122 gullies recorded as not cleaned, comprising:

- **86 in Kidlington**

- **33 in Yarnton**
- **3 in Begbroke**

Further records identified slow-running, non-operational or damaged assets that may require investigation or repair.

At Full Council, I asked the Cabinet Member to confirm the future cleansing and remedial arrangements. The response confirmed that gullies in areas covered by Section 19 flood investigations will continue to receive annual cleansing.

In my follow-up question, I made clear that cleansing is only part of the solution. Where gullies or connecting pipework remain blocked, damaged or non-operational, further investigation and repair are required.

I have requested clear timescales for outstanding work, with priority given to places where homes and businesses have previously flooded. I am pleased that the Cabinet Member has agreed to attend a future local Flood Group meeting so that progress can be reviewed with residents, parish councils and officers.

Flood preparedness equipment

Cherwell District Council allocated **£18,000** for locally held flood-response equipment, which has been ordered.

Separately, Oxfordshire County Council is due to provide flood barriers and signs. I am seeking confirmation of delivery dates, proposed locations and arrangements for storage, access and deployment.

The equipment from both councils needs to form part of a coordinated local response so that it can be accessed and deployed quickly when required.

Roundham Crossing and Begbroke Station

The community meeting on 2 September demonstrated how important Roundham Crossing is to local people. The crossing connects Kidlington and Begbroke and provides access to the canal towpath, local rights of way and employment areas.

Further information is being sought from Oxfordshire County Council and Network Rail about the safety assessment, possible alternative routes and the relationship with a potential future station at Begbroke.

I will continue working with residents, parish councils and the organisations involved to seek a safe and practical way forward that protects connections between our communities.

I would welcome residents' views on the information presented at the meeting and the next steps they would like to see.

EV charging at The Phelps

Residents at The Phelps took part in the EV charging consultation, submitted written representations and spoke at the decision meeting on 3 September.

I support the expansion of public EV charging, particularly for residents without off-street parking. However, I understand residents' concerns about losing general parking spaces in an area where parking is already very limited.

Residents have constructively identified possible alternative locations nearby. I have asked the Cabinet Member and officers to assess these options and provide residents with a clear explanation of the outcome before the proposal progresses.

SEND home-to-school transport

Several families experienced uncertainty about SEND home-to-school transport at the beginning of the academic year.

I registered individual cases through the councillor portal, raised them with the service and spoke to the responsible Cabinet Member. I am continuing to support the families concerned and seek clear responses about their arrangements.

Families still experiencing difficulties with SEND school transport are welcome to contact me.

Mental health support in schools

I have begun initial conversations about mental health support for children and young people through local schools. This work is at an early stage. I want to understand what support is available, how easily children and families can access it and whether there are gaps in local provision.

Councillor Priority Fund



Local community groups can apply to the Oxfordshire County Council Councillor Priority Fund. Groups must contact me first to discuss their proposal and obtain my support before applying online.

The deadline is **5pm on 30 November 2026**, so interested groups should get in touch as soon as possible. Further information is available on the QR code link.

Langford Lane

The County Council previously consulted on extending the 30mph speed limit westwards along Langford Lane towards the A44. The change was intended to improve safety for pedestrians and cyclists.

The extension has now been agreed. I will continue to monitor its implementation and any related highway-safety measures. The previous report recorded this as an agreed scheme.

Looking ahead

My immediate priorities are to:

- secure clear timescales for outstanding drainage investigations and repairs;
- confirm arrangements for local flood equipment, barriers and signs;
- continue supporting families affected by SEND transport issues;
- progress conversations about mental health support in schools;
- help suitable community projects meet the Councillor Priority Fund deadline;
- seek a review of the EV charging location at The Phelps;
- follow up the Roundham community meeting;
- explore possible local routes for the Quiet Lanes programme;
- monitor the next stage of the Movement and Place Plan;
- continue monitoring the Campsfield House proposals; and
- keep residents informed about local government reorganisation.

Have your say

I welcome residents' views, local knowledge and suggestions. I would particularly like to hear from you about:

- unresolved flooding or drainage problems;
- SEND school transport;
- mental health support in schools;
- possible Quiet Lane routes;
- Roundham Crossing and local connectivity; and
- community projects that may be suitable for the Councillor Priority Fund.

Keeping in Touch

Thank you to everyone who has contacted me, reported issues, shared information or helped follow up local concerns.

Best wishes
Lesley