

REPORT TO PARISH COUNCILS

FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR

SEPTEMBER 2014

COUNTY'S THRIVING FAMILIES SCHEME ON NATIONAL STAGE

Oxfordshire County Council's Thriving Families project is set to expand ahead of schedule after the Government named it as **one of the best performing in the country**.

The scheme is part of a national initiative to identify the families most in need of help within society and directly **tackle problems such as crime and antisocial behaviour, poor school attendance and unemployment**. It is also aimed at making long-term savings by reducing the financial burden these issues place on society.

The Government will provide funding for the council to begin working with **more than 400 new families by the end of March 2015**. As an 'early starter' area, the results from Oxfordshire will also inform and influence the national roll-out of the expanded programme in April 2015.

Families are assigned a dedicated worker from the County Council's Thriving Families Team who acts as the single point of contact for the family. The worker liaises with other agencies including police, health services, probation, schools, job centres and voluntary agencies to deliver an agreed plan of action geared towards achieving specific results.

Progress is measured through real-terms improvements in school attendance, behaviour and reductions in levels of offending over a sustained period of time.

Each family taking part meets national criteria identifying them as among the most in need of help in terms of poor school attendance and behaviour, anti-social and criminal behaviour, youth offending and adults out of work.

The expanded Thriving Families programme will target families where a combination of two or more of the following issues has been identified:

- Parents and children involved in crime and antisocial behaviour
- Children not attending school regularly
- Adults out of work or at risk of financial exclusion and young people at risk of worklessness
- Families affected by domestic violence and abuse
- Parents and children with a range of health problems

This is all part of the County Council's on-going commitment to protect the most vulnerable in our society.

ROAD PROJECTS AROUND OXFORDSHIRE

The reduction in road use during the school holidays often means the County Council conducts major transport schemes over August. We have a number of projects taking place at the moment and we are trying to minimise disruption as much as possible, but sometimes we are restricted as to when we can do work (for example where Central Government funding has a time limit placed upon it).

We assess the entire county's road network based on surface condition and vehicle usage so that we can get the best value for money from our limited funds. Much of the work will provide significant improvements that are expected to increase capacity and reduce journey times.

▪ **KENNINGTON & HINKSEY HILL ROUNDABOUT**

The improvements to Kennington and Hinksey Hill roundabouts is a £6 million project that is designed to increase capacity by 30 per cent in the evening peak period for the 60,000 vehicles a day which pass through the junctions. Work is due to be completed by the end of November 2014. This will cause delays and we urge road users to find alternative routes or methods of transport.



▪ **DUCKLINGTON STAGE OF WITNEY TRANSPORT STRATEGY**

The Ducklington Lane corridor is the first phase of the Witney transport strategy and we have just finished resurfacing Corn Street, along with resurfacing a large section of the B4044 Farmoor Road.

▪ **A4130 BIX MAINTENANCE PROJECT**

The A4130 Bix maintenance project is a 2.5km section of dual carriageway located just north of Henley-on-Thames between Bix Village and Fair Mile at the junction of the B480 to Lower Assendon.

▪ **OXFORD CITY**

Enabling work will start on **Frideswide Square** to improve the junction ahead of the new station and Westgate development. As part of the Cycle City bid there will be work at **The Plain** to improve the junction.

▪ **MILTON INTERCHANGE**

Major project work on the Milton Interchange and Chilton A34 Junction will help to improve traffic flow along the A34.

▪ **A420 AT SHRIVENHAM**

We work closely with our contractors to try to reduce the time a scheme takes to deliver and I'm delighted to say that the **£3.5 million resurfacing of the A420 at Shrivenham was completed a week early.**

▪ **A44 (NR WOODSTOCK)**

The recent work on the A44 will extend the life of the road for several more years.

EXAM RESULTS: 'A' LEVELS & GCSES

'A' LEVELS

Thousands of students received their 'A' level results on 14th August. Provisional data shows that results are similar to 2013 with 93% achieving at A*-E in at least two or more subjects. Around 43% have achieved two or more 'A' levels at A*-B. Confirmed results are always published later in the year.

GCSES

On 21st August more than 6000 Oxfordshire students received their GCSE results. The Government has introduced a number of changes to the system so the County Council will only be able to provide the A*-C percentage after the results are verified in the autumn. At this stage the council has received a mix of results from schools and academies, with some reporting their 'best results', and others reporting results based only on 'first exams' taken.

CHANGES TO ELECTORAL REGISTRATION

Since 10th June, the voter registration system in England and Wales has changed. Previously the 'head of the household' was required to register all its eligible residents. The new system, known as IER, requires that **everyone is individually registered** using their National Insurance number and date of birth.

The Government has stated that 35 million voters will automatically be transferred using the Department of Work & Pensions database.

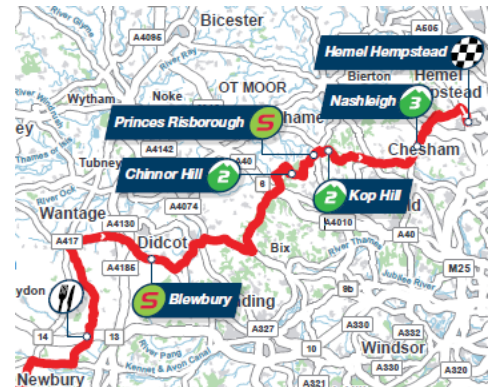
If you have concerns that you might not have been transferred, more information is available here (including a link to register): <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/biggest-change-to-voter-registration-in-a-generation>

MAJOR CYCLING RACE THROUGH SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE

Oxfordshire residents will get a rare chance to see some of the world's best cyclists, including Sir Bradley Wiggins, on Friday 12th September when the Friends Life Tour of Britain passes through the area.

More information at:

<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/news/2014/aug/southern-oxfordshire-welcome-friends-life-tour-britain>



TRADING STANDARDS AIDS ELDERLY RESIDENT

The County Council's Trading Standards team has taken part in the prosecution of a dishonest trader. He had attempted to charge a 72 year old Carterton resident £13,600 for work that was not required.

More information is available at:

<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/news/2014/aug/trading-standards-secure-convictions-against-roofer-who-tried-con-72-year-old>

FOOTPATH CONSULTATIONS ACROSS OXFORDSHIRE

There are a number of diversions proposed to public footpaths around the county:

- **North Leigh** Footpath No. 26 (ends 10th September)
<https://consultations.oxfordshire.gov.uk/consult.ti/northleighfootpath26/consultationHome>
- **Piddington** Footpath No. 6 (ends 15th September)
<https://consultations.oxfordshire.gov.uk/consult.ti/piddingtonfootpath6/consultationHome>
- **Goring Heath** Footpath No. 18a (ends 15th September)
<https://consultations.oxfordshire.gov.uk/consult.ti/goringheathfp18a/consultationHome>

ONGOING CONSULTATIONS

There is still an opportunity to comment on the developments at Oxford Station (Frideswide Square) and the county's flood risk strategy:

- **Frideswide Square** Transport & Public Realm scheme (ends 12th September)
<https://consultations.oxfordshire.gov.uk/consult.ti/FWSAug14/consultationHome>
- Draft local **flood risk management strategy** consultation (ends 15th September)
<https://consultations.oxfordshire.gov.uk/consult.ti/floodriskmgmt/consultationHome>

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