

District Councillor Report for East Challow Parish Council December 13th 2023

Community bus

The new 68 service started on Monday November 27th. I used it mid-morning on Wednesday 29th from East Challow to Wantage. There were 9 people on the bus, some from Childrey and Sparsholt but also Fernham and Faringdon. I will use it for the full journey in the next couple of weeks to try and see where most passengers join the bus. The stop in East Challow is Sarajac Avenue. There were no other people waiting. The bus may be hailed. Bizarrely the bus is a Blenheim Palace shuttle bus.

Flooding at Mellor's

Heavy rain overnight on the 3rd meant that there is again flooding on the A417 at Mellor's. Water has been running down the A417! I have contacted Gordon Kelman (OCC) and Leigh Travers (VWHDC) for an update on the time scale for this repair work which is long overdue. They are waiting for the water to subside before they can start work – for reasons of safety and it is unfortunate to say the last that just as levels were going down we have had more rain. Although clearing ditches is landowners' work they will also do some of this. I have asked for landowners' contacts so that I can also chivvy them up. Some of the businesses on W&G and Mellor's are suffering badly.

I have also put the local flooding at the bottom of Hedgehill Road on FixMyStreet and the Thames Water site (both twice).

Flooding in West Challow

The awful road drainage at Canal Bridge Cottages in West Challow has been repaired although we understand that there is also a leaking water main there which Thames Water will fix in February so it is possible that the newly tarmac-ed road will be taken up again!!

You may also have seen that the leak in the Wasborough field at the canal bend, which has been leaking onto the road, has been diverted into the canal by Bryan Pert. The longer-term aim is to pipe this into the canal rather than using an open channel.

Hedge planting

You will have also seen that 160 m of mixed species hedge has been planted along Silver Lane (Whitelands Road).

HOSC

The county health scrutiny committee met on November 23rd. Much of the discussion was about child and adolescent mental health. This is an increasing problem in Oxfordshire exacerbated by Lockdown. Rather than wait until symptoms require referral to the CAMHS (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services) which deal with all cases, including those who require hospitalisation, the BOB ICB (Integrated Care Board), Director of Place in Oxfordshire and the county council are putting in place a plan to catch cases early by liaising more closely with schools, parents and with a new App which the youngsters are very keen on!

Cllr Dr Paul Barrow

Ridgeway Ward

Vale of White Horse District Council

December 4th 2023