

East Challow Parish Council District Councillor Report April 10th 2024

There is little to report this month.

A417 and flooding

Having been unsuccessful in getting the Vale or OCC drainage officers to meet the parish councils, I did meet Leigh Travers on site to look at the various plans they have for the long-term resolution of this mess. This includes clearing out the culvert under the road, clearing the drainage pipe under Smith's field opposite Mellor's and getting Wasboroughs and another farmer to clear silt from the stream as it runs through their land. I have written to them about this.

I will report separately on this topic to all our parish councils in due course.

New bus service

There is now also a new bus service No 83 connecting Wantage, Grove, The Hanneys, Charney Bassett and Denchworth. It is being run on Wednesday around midday to ensure that minibuses are not standing idle in the middle of the day.

School transport

This is not directly relevant to our parish except through Childrey school children using Childrey Way which they are now expected to do. Together with representatives of parent groups from Childrey and Uffington we met the KA Principal about eligibility for free school transport and the spare seat scheme. With the proposed bus it is likely that not all Childrey children can be accommodated which leaves walking (which wont happen) or car transport.

Paul Barrow

Vale of White Horse District Council

20240402

Cllr Bethia Thomas reporting on behalf of Cllr Yvonne Constance Eaton Hastings, Shrivenham Division

April 2024

As you know I have been standing in for Cllr Yvonne Constance during her convalescence. I have been dealing with major concerns and queries, but am not able to make a decision on her Priority Fund, nor give any detailed report – the following is a more general report that may be informative.

Parish Round-Up

- **Flooding on the A417** – flooding on the A417 continues to be a problem; the county council are aware and have been working with VoWHDC to ensure private landowners improve their drainage which should alleviate the flooding there.
- **Planning Application P24/V0078/ADV** – I have been working with Cllr Paul Barrow and Trevor Hayes to seek clarification on this matter; having spoken to officers I believe it is up to the parish to provide further information on the location and fixing of the sign.

General News

- **New special schools:** As well as the new school in Faringdon, the county council is planning two new special schools in the Didcot area to serve southern Oxfordshire. One will specialise in educating children with Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) needs or Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) needs. Another special school is due to be built within the Valley Park development and will specialise in educating children with Profound & Multiple Learning Difficulties (PMLD), Severe Learning Difficulties (SLD) and other needs.
- **Taking on potholes:** OCC is launching a £7m programme this spring to refurbish nearly 100 roads across the county this spring from 8 April to 3 June. It is the biggest surface dressing programme for 20 years. The £7m is made up of £2.6m from the department for transport and additional budget for highways agreed in the 2024/2025 budget.
- **Money for cycling and walking:** Oxfordshire has been awarded £2.384 million for improving walking and cycling infrastructure. The award will be used for expansion of the school streets programme countywide and projects in Abingdon and Witney.
- **Tenants welcomed into supported housing:** Adults with learning disabilities and autism have moved into new accommodation in Witney, purchased by OCC. A further four homes are planned for the county.
- **EV chargers:** Oxfordshire has won another £3.6m to upgrade EV infrastructure.

Contact Details

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