

DC report for East Challow Parish Council 11th June 2025

HOSC and health

We had a meeting of the county health scrutiny committee last Thursday. After the county council elections all the county members are now new. The chair (Cllr Jane Hanna) remains chair – she has been an excellent chair.

We had three public speakers who spoke on concerns about (i) private companies carrying out cataracts and overcharging which costs the NHS, (ii) the wish that the BOB ICB (Integrated Bare Board) liaise more closely with planning authorities to ensure that CIL money is used to expand the primary care estate (GPs), and (iii) the fact that we have not yet received a full list of the services projected to be rolled out of Wantage Hospital.

The main topics discussed were:

An update on NHS Reforms. Administration of health in Oxfordshire is now run across Ox, Bucks and West Berks (BOB) by the ICB. Last year they were required to cut their running costs by 30%. This year they are required to cut by a further 50%. This combined with the coming local government reorganisation and the new NHS 10 year plan could lead to disruption in some services which, however, is likely to affect NHS staff rather than patients.

System pressure updates. This affects Mental Health, Emergency Care and its Teams, Neighbourhood Care Teams, waiting times, Ambulance waiting times, GP access, Multi-disciplinary Neighbourhood Teams (MDNT). SCAS - the Southern Counties Ambulance Service. Although some of these services such as SCAS and the MDNT are performing well with the latter being rolled out across the country with patients being treated and/or discharged home, staffing levels and resources continue to be an issue. We have pushed for Oxfordshire being considered for special salary waiting but this is unlikely to occur.

International recruiting is taking place.

Inequalities in access to health services. This affects many in urban areas who are doing well (low income, poor education etc) but also rural areas where connectivity may be an issue. This is a hugely difficult nut to crack involving housing, employment and drug use.

Flooding, Childrey Brook and the A417.

The ecological survey was projected to take place on the 10th. It will be some time before we hear anything although I will pester them in a few weeks. This is relevant to (i) clearing the ditch in between the East entrance to the W&G and the pipe running from Ben Smith's field and (ii) pressure being put on the landowners to clear their sections of the stream.

Paul Barrow

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