

BENSON PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Hall, Sunnyside, Benson, Wallingford. OX10 6LZ
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Minutes of the Benson Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 24th March 2016 at 7:30pm in the Benson Parish Hall Committee Room.

Present:

Cllr P Peers	(Chair)	(CPP)
Cllr P Baylis		(CPB)
Cllrs J Fowler		(CJF)
Cllr R Jordan		(CRJ)
Cllr F Lovesey		(CFL)
Cllr S McCann		(CSM)
Cllr P Murray		(CPM)
Cllr D Olley		(CDO)
Cllr T Stevenson		(CTS)
Cllr M Winton		(CMW)
Cllr R Workman		(CRW)

Proper Officer: P Eldridge (CLK)

OCC Cllr M Gray

There was 1 member of the public present

1. **Apologies.** Cllr T McTeague and SODC Cllr R Pullen.
2. **Declarations of Interest.** – Cllr M Winton declared a pecuniary interest in 7.b.i. planning amendment for BPC15/16/P15/S3916/O Land north of Littleworth Road Benson.
3. **To receive reports from the following:**
 - a. Cllr M Gray – OCC Member. Cllr M Gray reported:
 - i. I have been in touch with Thames Travel about the Wallingford to Henley 139 service. Thames Travel is still in the process of reviewing the service but did say they may be unable to continue the service after 20th July 2016. Some short term funding may be available from Great Western Railway as part of the rail closures for upgrades to railway infrastructure. Cllr P Peers commented that she had spoken with the RAF who confirmed they need the service for families to use including 6th form students travelling to Henley College.
 - ii. I have an update on the Oxford Road ditch issue in that OCC pays SODC to fix drainage issues. I will be in contact with SODC representatives as soon as I return from the Easter holidays.
 - iii. Negotiations are still ongoing on devolution to District Council unitary bodies. Currently councils are looking at issues concerning working across NHS boundaries.
 - iv. Questions to Cllr Gray:
 - 1) Cllr J Fowler asked if Cholsey had made any progress liaising with OCC on the Oxfordshire Together initiative. Cllr Gray responded as far as he was aware not so far.
 - 2) Cllr D Olly asked for confirmation that works on the A4074 and

the bus stop at the junction A4074 and Church Road in the direction of Oxford was still scheduled for Financial Year 2016. Cllr Gray confirmed that it was.

b. Cllr F Bloomfield – SODC Member. Cllr F Bloomfield was not present at the meeting but had submitted a written report which is at Annex B to the minutes.

c. Cllr R Pullen – SODC Member. Cllr R Pullen was not present at the meeting but gave apologies by email.

4. Transport Advisory Group (TAG). Cllr P Murray reported that TAG had not yet found a replacement chair for the TAG. Cllr Murray continued that most of the functions of TAG are currently being incorporated into the transport working group of the Neighbourhood Plan.

5. **Public Session.** The member of the public present addressed the chairman saying that from his residence in Castle Square he had seen 3 serious accidents and many near misses on the B4009 going past his house in the last 18 Months. The parishioner continued that they had watched teachers and pupils from the Benson Primary School along with other pedestrian's including mothers with pushchairs attempting to cross this dangerous road. The parishioner noted that crossing the road safely can take a considerable amount of time due to the speed of vehicles driving through the village. Cllr J Fowler responded saying that OCC place pedestrian crossings based on statistics. Cllr P Peers asked Cllr Gray if he would arrange with Mark Francis OCC Highways to review the area. Cllr Peers continued that over the years several attempts had been made by the parish council to get a pedestrian crossing installed but all of these had been rejected. Reading from a briefing paper provided by the past chairman of the TAG Cllr Peers noted that money was available for a school crossing patrol but no individual had applied for the role. Cllr Peer's asked the clerk to provide a copy of the briefing to the parishioner. Cllr Gray noted that a school crossing patrol would only be available for school children and provide no help to other pedestrians particularly the elderly. Cllr M Winton noted that more speed checks are required to fully understand the issues and stated that he had requested the police and OCC Highways to do speed checks on Oxford Road as traffic can travel at speeds well in excess of 30 mph. Cllr P Murray responded that as part of the work on the neighbourhood plan the Transport Working Group is looking for more speed checks. Cllr Murray finished the public session by suggesting that it might be a good idea to invite the member of the public to the review of the area by Cllr Gray and Mark Francis.

Action: Clerk to provide TAG briefing to parishioner.

CLK

6. **Minutes of Last Meeting:** To approve and sign minutes of the meetings held on Thursday 25^h February 2016. **Members who were present at the Benson Parish Council meeting held Thursday 25^h February 2016 unanimously resolved to approve the minutes of the meeting.** Cllr P Peers chair of the parish council signed the minutes as a true record.

7. **Benson Parish Council Planning Committee:**

a. To approve and sign the minutes of the planning meeting held on Thursday 17th March 2016. **Members who were present at the planning meeting held Thursday 17th March 2016 unanimously resolved to approve the minutes of the meeting.** Cllr J Fowler chair of the planning committee signed the minutes as a true record.

b. To consider Planning Applications:

i. **BPC15/16/P15/S3916/O.** Land north of Littleworth Road Benson

Application Type (see definition over): Major
Amendment : No. 1 - dated 26th February 2016

Outline application (with all matters reserved except access) for the erection of 241 dwellings (40% of which will be affordable) with associated access, public open space, landscaping, sports provision, nature park and woodland; Up to 230 sqm retail space; Provision of community facilities including relocated school playing fields, youth facilities hut, skate park and play space. As amended by drawings and accompanying letter from agent dated 26 February 2016.

After a vigorous discussion Cllr M Winton signed the Declaration of Interests book and left the Council Chamber.

Members discussed the application noting that there was nothing in the amendment that changed their view on the application in the amendment.

Members unanimously resolved to object to the application on the same grounds as that for the original application:

- 1) The development is not required to meet the housing quota for Benson identified in the SHMA. The figure for Benson has already been achieved taking into account the Phase 1 application and other developments in the village.
- 2) The application does not fully comply with the SODC Core Strategy policies CSR1, CSS1, CSQ3 and CSQ4.
- 3) Substantial transport and traffic issues will be caused by the currently designed road layout and access points.
- 4) This number of houses on a single site will have a detrimental impact upon the infrastructure services in the village.
- 5) The number of houses combined with the proposed road changes to Littleworth Road will substantially increase the risk of flooding in an area which has recent history of flooding.

Members also made an observation highlighting that in the letter supporting the amendments to the approved Phase 1 application from WestWaddy they state that an extension to the school could be built on the existing playing fields in order to increase capacity at the school due to the increased number of dwellings proposed at Littleworth Road.

Members note that the current school playing field is not owned by OCC but by the Church Trustees of the Diocese of Oxford. Unless their permission has been obtained to build on this land, which members doubt, the proposed extension to the school will not be feasible.

Action: Cllr J Fowler to write to the Church Trustees to confirm status of the playing field land adjacent to Benson Primary School.

CJF

Cllr M Winton re-entered the council chamber.

ii. **BPC16/16/P16/S0812/HH.** 17 Blacklands Road Benson OX10 6NW
Two-storey side extension.

Members unanimously resolved to return no objections.

c. To note Planning Decisions.

i. **BPC08/16/MW.0163/15 dated 14th January 2016.** Ambrose Quarry, Old Henley Road, Ewelme, Wallingford, Oxfordshire, RG9 5SS.

Planning application by Grundon Waste Management Ltd Estate Offices, Grange Lane, Beenham, Reading, Berkshire, RG7 5PY for planning permission for the Section 73 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) to vary Condition 2 of planning consent no. MW.0156/12 (P11/E2232/CM) dated 6 December 2012, in order to continue the use of the land for the storage of skips and containers for another 3 years to 31 December 2018 at Ambrose Quarry, Old Henley Road, Ewelme, Wallingford, Oxfordshire, RG9 5SS.

Permission Granted.

d. To receive a report from the Chairman of the Planning Committee. The chairman reported that members of the planning committee had met with Gladman about a housing development on BEN7 adjacent to St Helens Avenue at their request. Cllr Fowler continued that the meeting had been amicable and that Gladman had explained that they worked with land owners to obtain planning permission for housing developments Gladman also explained that they incurred the upfront costs for the planning and once obtained usually sold on the development to a major developer. Cllr Fowler completed his report by noting that the planning committee would also be meeting with Archstone Projects Limited for a similar discussion on plans to develop BEN8 also adjacent to St Helens Avenue. Cllr S McCann noted that the RAF Base had made no objection to any development on either BEN7 or BEN8 but had provided information that the area was a known departure route for emergency service helicopters.

8. Benson Parish Council Finance Committee:

a. To approve and sign the minutes of the Finance Committee held on Tuesday 22nd March 2016. Due to the short time minutes had been available to Cllrs for review the signing of the minutes was deferred until the next meeting. **Action:** Clerk to add the signing of finance minutes dated 22nd March 2016 to next parish council meeting agenda. **CLK**

b. To receive a report from the Chairman of the Finance Committee. Chairman had nothing to report.

9. Benson Parish Council Halls Committee:

a. To approve the minutes of:

i. The extraordinary Halls Committee meeting held on Thursday 18th February 2016. **Members who were present at the extraordinary halls committee meeting held Thursday 18th February 2016 unanimously resolved to approve the minutes of the meeting.** Due to the absence of Cllr T McTeague chair of the Halls committee the Chairman of the parish council Cllr P Peers signed the minutes as a true record.

ii. Halls Committee Meeting held Thursday 10th March 2016. **Members who were present at the halls committee meeting held Thursday 10th March 2016 unanimously resolved to approve the minutes of the meeting.** Due to the absence of Cllr T McTeague chair of the Halls committee the Chairman of the parish council Cllr P Peers signed the minutes as a true record.

b. To present recommendations to Council:

i. **Recommendation to Full Council that Executive Security Locksmiths Ltd be selected as the contractor to replace the main**

parish hall doors at a cost of £10,670 +VAT. (As reviewed at the Halls meeting Thursday 10th March 2016). Cllr P Peers commented that if the front of the hall was remodelled as part of the hall extension plans the new door could be relocated.

Members present resolved to approve the recommendation by 10 votes with 1 abstention.

ii. **Recommendation to Full Council that hall hire rates for the financial year 2016 - 2017 be increased by 2% for parishioners and 4% for non-parishioners and commercial.** (Held over from previous meeting). **Members present unanimously resolved to approve the recommendation.**

iii. **Recommendation to full council that badminton lines are painted on the parish hall refurbished floor and the costs be incorporated into the total cost of the hall refurbishment.** Cllr P Peers noted that the Chair of halls had asked for this recommendation to be deferred.

iv. **Recommendation to full council that the clerk to obtain a quote to pave over the small garden at the front of the parish hall.** Cllrs discussed the recommendation and it was agreed to defer the recommendation to give the recreation and lands committee an opportunity to discuss it.

c. To receive a report from the Chairman of the Halls Committee. Chairman of the halls committee was not present.

10. **Benson Parish Council Recreation and Lands Committee.** There was no meeting of the recreation and lands committee held in March 2016.

a. To receive a report from the Chairman of the Recreation and Lands Committee. Chairman reported:

i. That a meeting had been arranged between Mr T Shickle OCC Operational Development Manager and the recreation and lands committee to discuss the way forward with the 'Oxfordshire Together' initiative.

ii. The small weir in Benson Brook adjacent to the Cuckoo Pen had been removed by the Green Gym.

iii. Cllr D Olley noted that work had commenced on building the houses to the rear of 31 and 33 High Street.

11. **Benson Parish Council Working Groups:**

a. To receive reports from the Benson Parish Council Working Groups.

i. Benson Neighbourhood Plan. Cllr J Fowler reported that a Steering Group had been selected to run the plan and that work on the plan was proceeding well. Cllr Fowler continued that according to the consultant assisting with the preparation of the plan the work was on schedule. Currently a housing needs survey is being prepared.

At this point Cllr J Fowler left the meeting.

ii. Cllr D Olley council representative for the Benson Community Association (BCA) noted that he had recently attended the BCA AGM. Cllr Olley continued that during the AGM the BCA Committee had agreed to meet to discuss the future of the land known as Warwick Spinney and

that he would attend this meeting so he could report back to Benson Parish Council.

12. Benson Parish Council Chairman:

a. To receive a report from the Chairman. Cllr P Peers reported that there had been a meeting between the RAF and representatives of the parish council to discuss the requirement to maintain some trees on private land on the perimeter of the RAF Base. Cllr Peers continued that the meeting had gone well and that 5 actions had been agreed to proceed with the requirement:

i. RAF Benson will provide Benson Parish Council (BPC) with copies of the reports that stipulate the requirement for maintenance of trees bordering the base.

ii. RAF Benson will provide BPC with dates and timings for a joint reconnaissance of the interior base perimeter to identify the location of trees requiring maintenance.

iii. BPC will identify names and contact details of the owners of trees requiring maintenance.

iv. RAF Benson and BPC will liaise with tree owners, possibly in an open forum, to explain to owners and interested parties the maintenance requirement.

v. RAF Benson will arrange for the work to be carried out after the 2016 bird nesting season ensuring that all trees to be maintained are clear of bats. This is expected to be around August 2016.

b. To report on any items or issues brought forward. No items or issues were brought to the meeting.

13. To discuss and agree any Proposals or Approvals. No proposals were brought to the meeting

14. Correspondence:

a. To review correspondence and post received as detailed on attached list:

1.	OCC Oxfordshire Devolution circulated Wed 2 nd Mar 2016 at 15:01.	Note
2.	Public Service reorganisation for Oxfordshire circulated Mon 21 st Mar 2016 at 12:14.	Note
3.	Compost giveaway Apr 2016 circulated Wed 9 th Mar 2016 at 11:45	Note
4.	Thank you Letter for £100 Grant from Citizens Advice Bureau circulated Mon 21 st Mar 2016 at 12:45.	Note
5.	South Oxfordshire District Council Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) – Call for Sites circulated Mon 21 st Mar 2016 at 12:58.	Note
6.	Grant for New Parish Hall Disabled Doors circulated Mon 21 st Mar 2016 at 13:07.	Note
7.	Final letter of apology for damage to parish hall external cigarette box circulated Mon 21 st Mar 2016 at 13:37.	Note
8.	Compost Giveaway Day circulated Mon 21 st Mar 2016 at 13:47.	Note
9.	Bee keeping on parish allotments circulated Mon 21 st Mar 2016 at 14:04.	Note
10.	Response from Benson Badminton Club on painting badminton lines on hall floor circulated Mon 21 st Mar 2016 at 14:17.	Note

11. BUFC response to halls regeneration public meeting circulated Wed 9 th Mar 2016 at 09:59	Note
12. SODC precept payment instalments letter circulated Mon 21 st Mar 2016 at 14:29.	Note
13. Network Rail important safety notice rail electrification circulated Mon 21 st Mar 2016 at 14:38.	Note
14. Erection of 6 new residential dwellings to be numbered: 17 to 27 Oxford Road, Benson, WALLINGFORD OX10 6LX circulated Tue 22 nd Mar 2016 at 09:08	Note
15. Subsidised bus services - Town or Parish Clerks circulated Tue 22 nd Mar 2016 at 14:14.	Note
16. FOBL booking for Bob's Corner Sat 14 th May 2016 9AM – 12PM for cake sale circulated Mon 21 st Mar 2016 at 13:00. Members present unanimously resolved to allow FOBL to use 'Bob's Corner' for the cake sale. Action: Clerk to inform FOBL that they can use 'Bob's Corner'.	CLK
17. Bensington Society History Group Heritage Centre Letter circulated Mon 21 st Mar 2016 at 13:23. After a short discussion it was agreed the letter should be passed to the next regular halls committee meeting for discussion. Action: Clerk to place an item on the next regular halls meeting.	CLK
18. Grass Cutting of Aldridge Triangle and the placement of a large log circulated Tue 22 nd Mar 2016 at 14:36. After a short discussion it was agreed the letter should be passed to next recreation and lands committee meeting for discussion. Action: Clerk to place an item on the next recreation and lands meeting agenda.	CLK
19. Queen's Birthday Celebrations Grants circulated Wed 23 rd Mar 2016 at 12:09. Members agreed that the availability of grants for the Queen's Birthday Celebrations should be advertised in the Benson Bulletin so any organisation planning an event could request a grant. It was also agreed that the clerk should directly inform the Bensington Society, Youth Club and WI that grants are available. Action: Clerk to note availability of grants in parish notes section of Benson Bulletin. Action: Clerk to directly inform Bensington Society, Youth Club and WI of availability of grants.	CLK

b. To review Parish Office Notes. No parish notes were brought to the meeting.

15. Finance:

a. To sign off the reconciled bank statement for the current account as at 29th February 2016.

Members present unanimously resolved to approve the reconciled bank statement as at 29th February 2016

b. To sign cheques as detailed on the attached list:

Date of Invoice	Organisation/ Individual	Description	Cheque Number	Amount
23/03/2016	OCC	Pensions March 2016	505930	1057.85
23/03/2016	HMRC	PAYE and NI March 2016	505931	567.86
1/2/2016	Viking	Stationery	505932	78.30
16/3/2016	E Crockett	Repointing paddling pool surrounds	505933	485.00
1/4/2016	SODC	Business Rates – Millstream Toilets	505934	74.54
8/3/2016	SODC	Dog bin emptying	505935	326.51

29/2/2016	Grundon	Waste collection Feb 2016	505936	108.56
7/3/2016	Cutler Architects	PH Regen plans	505937	4613.99
24/1/2016	Choices	Dishwasher fluid and Rinseaid	505938	106.56
07/03/2016	Mrs L Powell	War memorial plants summer and autumn 2015	505939	286.84
29/2/2016	Colliers	Maintenance sundries	505940	12.95
17/2/2016	OALC	Subscription 2016/17	505941	706.74
01/03/2016	Community First Oxfordshire (formerly ORCC)	Subscription 2016/17	505942	50.00

16. **Questions to the Chairman:** There were no questions to the chairman.

17. **Items for Councillors to Note.**

a. Cllr P Baylis wished councillors and parish staff a happy Easter.

18. **To confirm the date of the next council meeting.** Thursday 21st April 2016.

19. **Dates of Next Meetings:**

a. Parish Council Meeting. Thursday 21st April 2016.

b. Finance Meeting Tuesday 17th May 2016.

c. Halls Meeting Tuesday 14th July 2016.

d. Recreation and Lands Meeting Thursday 14th April 2016.

e. Planning Meetings (to be notified).



Peter Eldridge
Proper Officer
5th April 2016

**Annex A
Actions for Parish Council Meetings as at
24th March 2016**

Serial No	Action	Initials
1.	Clerk to provide TAG briefing to parishioner council meeting minutes 24 th March 2016 (5.). <i>Briefing provided. Action closed.</i>	CLK
2.	Cllr J Fowler to write to the Church Trustees to confirm status of the playing field land adjacent to Benson Primary School council meeting minutes 24 th March 2016 (7.b.i.). <i>Letter sent. Action closed.</i>	CJF
3.	Clerk to add the signing of finance minutes dated 22 nd March 2016 to next parish council meeting agenda council meeting minutes 24 th March 2016 (8.a.). <i>Agenda item added. Action closed.</i>	CLK
4.	Clerk to inform FOBL that they can use 'Bob's Corner' council meeting minutes 24 th March 2016 (14.a.16.). <i>FOBL informed. Action closed.</i>	CLK
5.	Clerk to place an item on the next regular halls meeting council meeting minutes 24 th March 2016 (14.a.17.). <i>In progress.</i>	CLK
6.	Clerk to place an item on the next recreation and lands meeting agenda council meeting minutes 24 th March 2016 (14.a.18.). <i>Item added. Action closed.</i>	CLK
7.	Clerk to note availability of grants in parish notes section of Benson Bulletin council meeting minutes 24 th March 2016 (14.a.19.). <i>In progress.</i>	CLK
8.	Clerk to directly inform Bensington Society, Youth Club and WI of availability of grants council meeting minutes 24 th March 2016 (14.a.19.). <i>Organisations informed. Action closed.</i>	CLK

Annex B
SODC Cllr F Bloomfield Report
17th March 2016

The thing foremost in our minds is the terrible event at Didcot Power Station. All of us have those hurt or lost and their families in our thoughts and prays at this time. Anything that we can do to help will be done.

Council Tax

Firstly, when Council met on the 18th February it approved the budget for 2016/2017, which means that, whilst OCC have increased their bill by 3.99% and with a 1.99% rise for the Police and Crime Commissioner, SODC has kept it's element of the Council Tax frozen. This has been achieved without cuts to any of our services, which will be maintained at or above their present standards.

Corporate Services Project

This financial 'win' is due, in no small part, to the pioneering work done by SODC in linking with the Vale of the White Horse in commissioning the original outsourcing of services some years ago. Without the experience gained, it would not have been possible for SODC to come to agreement with the four other councils now to sign up to the new Corporate Services Agreement. For SODC there is a saving of around £1 Million for each year of the new contract. Now that all parties have formally agreed, the work of recruiting the Contract Manager has begun. By now you will have probably heard that our Chief Executive, David Buckle, has decided that this is a good time for him to take retirement. David has worked hard to make SODC the success story it is today, and will be very active in recruiting our new Chief Executive as well before he leaves us.

Oxfordshire Vision

The third announcement is that the five district councils in Oxfordshire - including Oxford City Council - have announced their bid for devolution by the formation of three unitary authorities. This would mean the abolition of Oxfordshire County Council. If agreed, for us this will mean that SODC will merge with the Vale of the White Horse, taking on many responsibilities presently with the County Council and gaining new powers from Westminster. At the same time, we will manage others such as transport planning and waste disposal, through a combined authority formed by the new unitary councils. Crucially, and possibly uniquely in the country, the plan proposes the transfer of adult social care to the NHS. The needs of rural and city communities are very different and the Oxfordshire Vision proposal will ensure that the new councils replacing the existing two tiers with one are the best match for those needs. This proposal has cross-party support from all of the MPs within our county - including the Prime Minister - and we hope that everyone will join us in supporting this exciting evolution of local government. More information, and news as it developments can be found on our website <http://www.oxfordshire.vision/>

Team News

Our Food and Safety Team won Team of the Year at an independent Employee of the Year Awards in Oxford. The awards are open to organisations from both the public and private sector, so it's a great prize to pick up. In addition to this the council's legal team has passed their annual Lexcel assessment. This is the Law Society's mark for excellence in management and customer care.

Planning and Development

A public inquiry into **89 homes near Icknield Way** in Chinnor was held at Thame Town Hall. We refused permission for this development as the site is not in our development plan and in our view would be harmful to the local area. It was heard at a public inquiry due to the level of interest in the case and because of the similarities with two other cases which we are challenging in the High Court this May. The council's Officers and witnesses and Chinnor's Parish Council and Neighbourhood Plan Team put up a strong defence of the Council's position. We must now wait for the Inspector's decision later this year.

This year, one of our housing associations, Soha Housing is celebrating the building of its 2,000th home.

Ewelme will soon have a new sports pavilion. This is exciting news for the residents of Ewelme and users of the recreation ground. We recently gave permission for the removal of the existing structure and storage sheds which will be replaced by a new sectional timber sports pavilion.

Didcot Gateway Update

The Planning Committee unanimously approved outline plans to develop the 'Didcot Gateway' area opposite the station.

This is big news as it means we can move forward with exciting plans to breathe new life into this important area of the town. We'll keep you up to date with progress as it occurs.

Rubbish and Waste

We're holding a focus group with residents to help us improve our waste collection service. It is happening on Wednesday 23 March.

If you know of any residents who might want to take part, ask them to email haveyoursay@southandvale.gov.uk with a brief note telling us why they want to get involved. Everyone who attends the group will receive £20 to cover travel and any other expenses.

Bin stickers

We've started putting stickers on bins in Abingdon and Didcot to try and address the ongoing problem we're having with recycling being contaminated with food waste and nappies. This is a trial run, and the stickers have our recycling website address on. - visit www.morerecycling.co.uk.

Grants

The window for grants is still open, running until 1 April 2016 for decisions by 10 July 2016 and as previously reported, we have made changes to this process to make it easier to apply so we hope that our communities will make full use of this opportunity. The Working Group's first recommendation regarding the Council Tax Reduction Scheme funding has been agreed by the Cabinet, so Town and Parish Council's should soon receive our letter explaining that a Grant is being made available to help support celebrations to mark our Queen's 90th Birthday. Plans for the remaining funds are still being worked on and we expect to announce these shortly.

Forum for community groups

Our annual event to get local community and voluntary groups together so they can share ideas and advice is coming up soon.

The South and Vale Voluntary and Community Sector Forum will take place on Wednesday 23 March at Cornerstone from 9am to 4.30pm. Please invite community and voluntary groups in your area to come along.

For more details about the day's programme please see [OCVA's forum page](#). If you have any questions about the event please email OCVA or call them on 01865 251946.

Air quality consultation

We want to know what everybody thinks of some ideas that could reduce harmful vehicle emissions in South Oxfordshire, in particular in Wallingford, Watlington and Henley. We employed some air quality experts to look into the problem, and they've made some suggestions, including a couple of ideas that would make a big difference in Wallingford and Watlington.

You can find out more and comment on what the air quality experts have recommended at www.southoxon.gov.uk/lowemissions until 25 March.

PCSO report

We part fund six PCSOs in South Oxfordshire. Between July and December 2015 the work they carried out included:

Providing support for 491 victims of crime, an under age test purchase operation in Wallingford, a drink and drug driving awareness event in Wheatley and a pre-Halloween awareness crime reduction event in Didcot.

For more about what our PCSOs have been up to see the [Q2 and Q3 neighbourhood policing report](#).

The Crown PH

Finally, I would like to wish Gary Flux and his team every success with his new venture of running The Crown.

With so many of our rural pubs under threat of closure in recent years it is always good to see these key amenities under new ownership and having new life breathed into them. Pop in and support this new venture.

If there are any District matters you feel I may be able to help with please do get in touch.
Councillor Felix Bloomfield

**Annex C
Benson Parish Council Transport
Representative Report**

17th March 2016

Thames Travel Route 139

1) Oxfordshire CC has notified us that the current contract to operate service 139 will cease after operation on Wednesday 20 July 2016. However, the 136 has NOT been cancelled as it is funded by section 106 contributions.

2) We are in discussions with Oxfordshire CC about putting additional scholars on the 'figure of 8' service linking Benson to Cholsey so that we can continue to operate a service in this new form but this will require the service 136 to be varied AND the scholars to be put onto the new service. Initial discussions have been encouraging but there is still a long way to go on this.

3) Regarding the saving of the 139, I am in discussions with Oxfordshire County Council regarding potential use of section 106 money from Nettlebed to try and keep a 'new' service 139 Henley to Wallingford direct going for a short while whilst we sort something more sustainable out. We have also put a proposal to Henley College and are awaiting their feedback. However, none of this is at all certain and is very much 50/50 at the moment. We will continue to have discussions to try and save the service.

That is about all I can say for the minute but hopefully this is helpful. I will advise you if I think you can assist in anyway and a final decision on all this will need to be made in mid May 2016 in order to give 56 days' notice to the Traffic Commissioner to cancel the existing service 139 from the contract termination date of 20 July 2016.