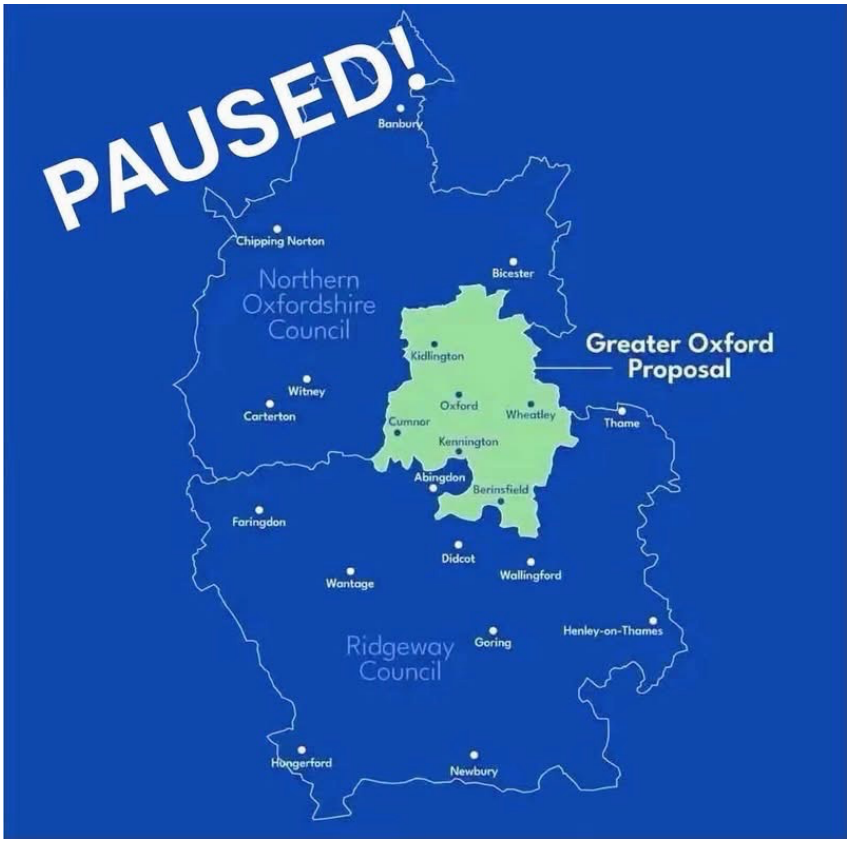
OCC News September 2026

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We are none the wiser! But pleased for now…

OCC headlines:

Welcome to my September Newsletter.

"Time changes everything except something within us which is always surprised by change." - Thomas Hardy

Two months ago, we were all surprised (to say the least) at the governmental minded to decision on its approach to Unitary Councils in Oxfordshire. Fast forward to now…everything is on hold, and not just in Oxfordshire. We are told we will hear further news in October, but for now the District Council elections will definitely happen next May.

At the Full Council in September our (Green Party) motion was passed. This means that OCC will be calling on the Secretary of State to match housing requirements to genuine infrastructure availability, as well as reviewing Section 38 agreements to enable more timely adoption of services by utility companies and OCC. Surprisingly the Labour Party voted against the motion, but everyone else in the room thought that infrastructure was important (including some of the Labour councillors when questioned outside the meeting)!

The next Full Council is on November 3rd.

I am still waiting on dates for several OCC Officers to visit our area. We are trying to combine our needs with those of Wallingford to be more efficient with the officers and our time. A date in October is the target.

Policing: If you are interested in the crime statistics for our area please see this URL.

Bus Fares: The government have announced a return to the £2 cap on single bus fares. This will come into effect on Jan 1st, 2027.

Councillor Grants: The full £10k of my Councillor Priority Fund has now been allocated.

NEWS IN BRIEF:
Oxfordshire Highways Annual Report: The annual report can be found here.

Drain clearing: OCC has gone back on its commitment to cleaning every roadside gully, drain and manhole every year for the duration the current term. **It is therefore more important than ever to report any issues via FixMyStreet.**

Thames Water: A reminder - Thames Waters hosepipe ban is still in place.

LOCAL QUESTIONS TO FULL COUNCIL:
Questions can be asked of the cabinet at the next Full Council on November 3rd. Please let me know if you have any questions you would like me to ask of Cabinet at this meeting or at any relevant Cabinet meeting.

CURRENT CONSULTATIONS:
Traffic Filters Trial in Oxford: OCC want your views. Please head here to comment and find out more about them. They came into effect on Monday 28th September. The consultation runs until March 28th, 2027.
School Streets Trials: OCC want your views on the Oxfordshire School Streets trial which is being trialled in four areas of Oxfordshire, including Didcot. The trial started on the 2nd September. The consultation (here) runs until 1st March 2027.

PIZZA & POLITICS:
If you have any children aged 11-18 who are interested in politics please make them aware of these Pizza & Politics sessions. This one will be held in Central Oxford. Others may be communicated from time to time in different locations (we held one in Wallingford last year).

PARISH ROUND-UP
Please refer here: for all Fix My Street queries in your area. There is a huge volume of these and cover the gamut of OCC responsibilities. Completed actions have been removed.
By Parish Council – in alphabetical order.

Benson:
Questions have been raised about:

- Thames Water visited Benson for a meeting and tour on July 22nd.
- Mobility Hub consultation now closed. Work on monitoring existing traffic flows completed. Should hear results of both (and funding available) soon. **Still waiting…**
- Positive meeting with Hazell & Jeffries and Ewelme Parish Council held in September. We will be told about significant movements in advance in the future.
- Salt Store – OCC may be willing to rent this area out for a peppercorn rent to the Scouts / Guides etc. Document now supplied to OCC from Scouts / Guides.
- Many people are asking when the Relief Road will be opened…setting up meeting with SODC.

Crowmarsh:

- All plans for Benson Lane questioned at last Full Council. Officer to visit Crowmarsh date to be confirmed. Met with OCC project manager on site.
- Need for a 30mph sign on Port Way (Newnham Manor development dependant…).
- Reduction in speed request for B4009 (in planning for before Spring 2027 along with other speed restriction changes – Part of Vision Zero). Will be part of an officers visit.

Dorchester:

- Gulley clearance incomplete as per pictures provided by David Ross. Chasing. This has been “resolved”, twice, but is still an issue.
- Continuation of path work to bus stop promised as part of the path refurb – on going.
- Provision of flooding signs to be sent to Mike for Watling Lane. Not yet received. Chasing.
- Local Government Restructure.

Ewelme:

- Cat Lane pathway / road repair – Issues on-going. Quiet Lane application decided against.
- Positive meeting with Hazell & Jeffries and Benson Parish Council held in September. We will be told about significant movements in advance in the future.
- All bicycle parking stands now installed.

Warborough / Shillingford:

- Shillingford bridge railing repairs – several abortive attempts at meeting.
- Potholes have been chased up – question raised with Cabinet on when Thame Road will be resurfaced as in an awful state. Officer visit being arranged.
- Waiting on response re road access to tennis courts.
- Councillor Grant applied for?
- Local Government Restructure.

Days off in October:

I will be taking the 9th and 12th October off.