

## **Report to Adderbury Annual Parish Meeting**

It has always been a privilege to represent this area and I am grateful for the opportunity to continue to do so. I hope that this will continue to be the case after 6<sup>th</sup> May.

Every year, I highlight some of the interesting casework but needless to say that this year has been unique in the challenges it has presented.

### **Highways**

No sooner had I seen the sentinel camera being deployed around the village that we soon found ourselves in lockdown. As we emerge, I look forward to seeing this being used again. Throughout the year offices kept me informed and updated on the proposed speed calming measures and I was delighted that the proposals went out to consultation and are now being developed. This has been a long-time coming and will hopefully have a marked improvement for this stretch of roads.

When the government announced money for councils to invest in active travel, I did suggest to the County that schemes to be considered include a pavement on Berry Hill road and widening / improving the cycling and walking provision between Adderbury and Deddington and Bodicote. Unfortunately, due to the criteria for success determined by national government, none of these have been taken forward.

Over the last year there has been a general improvement in road surfaces and my inbox has been less busy in dealing with issues surrounding potholes! Although sadly, OCC staff did receive abuse whilst out repairing road defects.

Over the next year, there will be surface dressing improvements on the A4260 towards Bodicote and structural patching and improved drainage on the main road between the institute and Duchess bridge

### **OCC**

I would start by paying tribute to the fantastic work of all local authority staff who have worked tirelessly to ensure services have continued throughout the pandemic. This has been often behind the scenes and place on record my thanks to everyone for the local authority effort in both ensuring services run as normal but also in the additional tasks that they have been required to undertake as part of the response.

The joint working between OCC and CDC continues to bear fruit and is a positive relationship as well as delivering on savings. I know that throughout the year there has been much discussion of unitary and I think these discussions will continue as has been the case over the last four years.

The OCC Budget was passed in Feb and:

- Frontline services are being given high levels of protection and new investment as part of OCC's budget for 2021/22.
  - This includes a 1.99% rise in basic council tax rise, plus an extra 1% specifically for adult social care, making a total of 2.99%.
- Next year and beyond, the council is committing to strengthening its approach towards climate action, an enhanced focus on addressing inequality, developing its youth offer and delivering its COVID-19 recovery strategy.
- A total of £19.6m of savings are being proposed in total across all services. £14.6m of these savings were already planned and are centred on the transformation of services to make them more efficient while protecting the frontline.
- The council is also dedicated to investing in services that will have positive long-term impact for local communities. The budget proposals reflect this with more than £25m of additional funding included. Some of this funding has been previously agreed but £9.5m of this is newly proposed for 2021/22 to help meet additional demands, including within adult social care.

#### New Investments include

- A total of £1m long-term funding would be invested in expanding the youth offer in Oxfordshire. A study is due to report in the Spring on the needs of young people and how the wider partnership of the voluntary, community and public services can best provide support. An additional £500,000 of one-off accelerator funding will also be provided to develop sustainable long term approaches and help tackle the impacts of the pandemic on young people.
- An extra £4m will be added to the adult social care budget for 2021/22. This includes a total of £1.35m for managing risks such as provider sustainability.
- The Better Care Fund (BCF) is a programme spanning both the NHS and local government. It seeks to join up health and care services so that people can manage their own health and wellbeing and live independently in their communities for as long as possible. For 2020/21, the county council agreed with health partners that £1.2m of the improved BCF for Oxfordshire would be used to support activities agreed to deliver better outcomes over the winter period in the county. However, it was one-off funding. The council is proposing to continue the funding for 2021/22, which would be used to support measures to help people be discharged from hospital and enable new ways of working and better outcomes for residents.
- OCC has been part of a joint partnership to procure and manage services for single homeless people in Oxfordshire since it was formed in 2017. A further one-off contribution to the partnership of £500,000 was included in the budget, with £250,000 of this allocated for 2020/21 and the same in 2021/22. The council is proposing to continue the council's support for the partnership from 2022/23.

- During the period of the pandemic, more people have chosen to take up drugs and alcohol residential rehabilitation services and this has led to the council proposal to put £50,000 more into existing services.
- An extra £400,000 is proposed for highway maintenance focused on additional resource for vegetation and drainage clearance plus supporting the roll out of a trial currently being undertaken enabling parish councils to implement 20mph schemes in their villages.
- A £300,000 fund to support innovative community-developed projects and activities that improve people's health and wellbeing in Oxfordshire is proposed. A total of £150,000 of this will be new funding and £150,000 will come from existing public health budgets.
- An extra £330,000 will be invested into children's services on increasing early intervention services, increasing the skill base of children's social care workers and special educational needs related services.
- A total of £100,000 would be invested in issues linked to digital exclusion.
- A total of £81,000 would be invested in domestic violence services and £150,000 into apprenticeships.

#### Savings Include:

- The council proposes to carry out more checks to make sure companies who have been granted permits to carry out roadworks finish on time. This will ensure that late finishers are fined (up to £10,000 per day). This should generate £225,000 in 2021/22.
- The council is carrying out a review of its winter service. This would save £100,000. This would not change the current network of roads treated and there would be no change for the winter of 2020/21.
- For adults with care support needs, the council intends to focus on maximising the use of existing contracted capacity and looking at creative ways to meet needs at a lower cost. This would be done while also helping residents to live as independently as possible. It is anticipated that it will be possible to save £1m (around 1 per cent of the total budget) in each of the adults with care and support needs and Better Care Fund pooled budgets in 2021/22.
- A £430,000 increase was planned in the waste management budget in 2021/22 due to the forecast rise in the number of homes in the county. It was expected this would lead to more waste. However, new homes have not been built at the predicted pace and this investment can be deferred beyond 2021/22.

- A set of projects are underway to focus on outcomes for children the county council cares for to improve the ability to meet their needs through local placements, particularly children with complex needs. This includes two projects – one looking at providing the right type of foster placements for children and the other looking at the provision of small residential homes (two to three beds). The aim is to be able to provide the placements within Oxfordshire wherever possible. This would save £1.02m.
- Funding was originally allocated for growth in demand for school transport, based on new build housing. However, housing hasn't been developed as quickly as anticipated. As such the council can save £700,000 in 2021/22.
- The county council will benefit from £1.66m of savings it has been able to make through the retendering of its insurance contract. This is based on an analysis of amounts that have been required in recent years.
- Based on activity in 2020/21 and looking forward to longer-lasting changed ways of working in 2021/22, the council estimates it will be able to save £750,000 on staff travel budgets and £100,000 on printing. This would be closely monitored throughout the year.
- The county council's property team will save £1.95m in 2021/22 rising to £3.3m in 2022/23. The focus in 2021/22 will be on joint working with Cherwell District Council to blend the two property teams and jointly find more efficient ways of working

### **HOSC Chairman & Katharine House**

In my role as HOSC Chairman, I have continued to guide oversight of health service provision throughout the county. Though naturally over the past year most of the focus has been on the response to the pandemic, a highly successful locally run test and trace programme, and vaccinations. The local test and trace programme involves using local knowledge and for example, local phone numbers to trace people who have been in contact with someone who has tested positive and has delivered much higher success rates than the national programme. The pandemic has also led to fundamental changes in the way care is likely to be delivered, including for example remote out-patient appointments which have been received better than expected by patients and clinicians.

I was also briefed quite early on about the proposed changes to Katharine House Hospice. I know both how important a service this provides but also how much it is a source of pride for villagers.

I welcome the proposal to safeguard the future of this hospice, especially at a time when others have been forced to close. I think the proposal is innovative, maintain the charitable status of the hospice and the land, whilst also securing the future through the services and clinical expertise provided by Oxford University Hospitals. This is also a very welcome investment and statement of intent by OUH in this part of the county.

## **Passing of Former County Cllr**

I end on a sad note as this year saw the passing of my predecessor as your County Cllr, Keith Mitchell. Cllr Mitchell was also a friend a mentor of mine and I learned a great deal from him. For over a quarter of a century Keith was a tireless public servant at either County or Parish level and set a fine example. I know he will be deeply missed by many.

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