EAST HAGBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING DULY CONVENED AND HELD ON THURSDAY 15TH OCTOBER 2026

1. ATTENDANCE, APOLOGIES AND DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST:

Present were Chair I. Duff, Cllrs P. Dixon, R. Jaboor, D. Rickeard and C. Shaikh, and County Councillor Johnny Hope-Smith.

Apologies were received from Cllrs R. Avery and C. Gover, and District Councillor A-M Simpson.
In attendance: L. Lloyd (Clerk) and 12 members of public (MOP's).

2. PUBLIC FORUM AND QUESTIONS: I. Duff welcomed attendees and opened the floor for comments.

A summary of the detailed comments, questions, and concerns raised during the public session regarding the consultation by Nurton Developments to develop the green gap off New Road:

- Serious concerns were raised over the feasibility of a single access road off New Road serving a large development of up to 400 houses. It was also noted that local school places and GP surgeries are already operating at maximum capacity and these are not considered within the development proposal.
- Residents highlighted poor existing water pressure and sewerage infrastructure within the village, noting that adding buffer tanks is historically an ineffective solution, citing West Hagbourne as a local example.
- Concern was raised that if an initial site is approved, Nurton's documented partnerships with other developers could lead to phased expansion, having a much bigger impact than the initial proposal. An MOP noted that while Nurton is leading the current outline planning stage, a larger developer, such as Grainger, may ultimately take over the physical build. A community-led 'No to Nurton' social media group has been established to track public sentiment and share information.
- It was discussed that while South Oxfordshire District Council (SODC) is currently behind on its housing land supply (standing at an estimated 3.89 years), this matches the situation for the previous 2017 application on this land, which was successfully rejected on appeal. Additionally, the land is not allocated for development in the current SODC Local Plan or as a potential development site in East Hagbourne's Neighbourhood Plan. East Hagbourne has already had 74 new homes built at St Andrews Crescent within the last 5 years. An MOP noted that a similar nearby development proposal has been recently rejected, and the subsequent developer appeal is being monitored closely to see if the refusal grounds may also apply directly to the New Road site. I. Duff confirmed that while historical attempts to build on this site occur roughly every 10 years, the current National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) guidelines provide a stronger mechanism for rejecting such speculative applications compared to previous decades.
- Concerns were voiced that "affordable housing" quotas typically include 3+ bedroom houses rather than 2-bedroom starter homes and when sold on to subsequent buyers, these are no longer affordable as the benefit only applies to the initial sale. An MOP who works for a housing association confirmed that affordable properties are rented at 80% of local market rates.
- The status of the land ownership was queried. It is understood that the field and boundary fence along New Road sits on land owned by Grainger, while part of the wider site is owned by a local farmer.
- I. Duff confirmed the Parish Council has not received any notifications from SODC regarding pre-application discussions with Nurton; an MOP noted that while introductory contact between the developer and district planners had occurred, SODC is likely to be unable to share details at this confidential stage.
  J. Hope-Smith confirmed that he would formally represent the residents' views once an official application is submitted to the planning authority.
- Residents sought reassurance that the Parish Council would lead the community response before a formal application is made. Chairman I. Duff reassured the public that the Parish Council is actively collating historical data and engaging neighbouring councils to collaborate. He specifically referred the public to agenda item 5.a), which outlines the intention for the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group (NPSG) to lead the review and work alongside the Parish Council. It was noted that while councillors had reviewed the consultation and attended the Nurton event on 5th October, the formal approval for this NPSG-led approach would be decided during the main meeting.

3. REPORTS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS: I. Duff confirmed receipt of the County Councillor report (Attachment 1) and District Councillors' report (Attachment 2). J Hope-Smith highlighted the OxBus2040 Consultation, the Oxford Traffic Filters Trial Consultation, Didcot Substation's £530,000 Community Fund Consultation, and the new Road Traffic Casualty Data in his report.

MOP's also raised the following points:

- A query was raised as to why the A34 has not been prioritised for improvements, given that it is under-capacity for the volume of new housing built in the area.
- It was noted that the new Didcot NPR3 link road from Hadden Hill to Abingdon Road is now likely to be postponed until 2028–29, pending the sale of 75% of the housing opposite Tesco. I. Duff acknowledged that congestion is a significant issue but noted that the upcoming HIF1 road scheme should improve traffic flow.
- Concerns were raised regarding the condition of local roads, particularly potholes along Coscote Road. J. Hope-Smith encouraged residents to submit reports via FixMyStreet and stated that if defects are not repaired within a reasonable timeframe, the reports can be escalated directly to him.

4. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 10TH SEPTEMBER 2026:
The minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 10th September 2026 were approved by Council and signed by I. Duff.

5. ITEMS FOR DECISION:

a) To appoint the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group to review the development proposal from Nurton in advance of its anticipated planning application, consider its implications against relevant planning policies including the provisions of the Joint Local Plan, Neighbourhood Plan and NPPF, and prepare preliminary comments and recommendations for consideration by the Parish Council, taking into account relevant input from Parish Councillors and members of public: Councillors supported this item for decision unanimously. I. Duff confirmed that two Parish Councillors currently serve on the Steering Group, which functions as an advisory body comprising both councillors and community volunteers. Given the significant scale of the proposal, it was agreed that the NPSG would benefit from additional membership. Other members of the Parish Council and interested residents were encouraged to step forward to support the review process.

b) To consider Shield Maintenance Ltd's introduction of a 25% fuel surcharge from 1st October and agree the Parish Council's response: I. Duff confirmed that the Clerk circulated a report on the situation ahead of the meeting. Councillors reviewed the report and agreed to the following:
Although sympathetic to the rising fuel cost situation, the surcharge does constitute a breach of contract terms; with this in mind, councillors agreed that the Clerk should write to Shield questioning the surcharge. It was further agreed that if there is no compromise situation agreed with Shield, it would be prudent to resolve to accept the 25% surcharge on the basis of securing the "Best Value" option for the community, instead of leaving the October invoice unpaid and risking a service interruption. Should this be required, the Clerk will send a Notice of Acceptance letter to Shield confirming that the Parish Council accepts the fuel surcharge to ensure the additional spend is legitimate.

c) To consider planning applications received since the last meeting:
P26/S4226/FUL East & West Hagbourne Cemetery – French drainage and soakaway: As the Parish Council is the applicant, it will not be submitting a response for this application.
To note: Responses submitted between meetings:
P26/S3811/HH 7 Rymans Crescent, East Hagbourne - No Objection.
P26/S3990/HH 108 New Road, East Hagbourne - No Objection.

Planning applications received after the posting of the agenda may also be considered at the meeting

6. ITEMS FOR REPORT:

a) Recreation Ground and Pavilion: D. Rickeard reported that the new gate installation has been arranged for 24th October (see item 6.f).

b) Cemetery Committee: R. Jaboor reported that the Lawful Development application for the cemetery drainage (submitted in mid-June) is still undecided. As noted under item 5.c) a full planning application has also now been submitted and is in its consultation period, which ends on 18th November.

c) Employment Committee: Nothing to report.

d) Butts Piece Allotments: P. Dixon confirmed that there are currently 4 full plots available following the renewals on 1st October. Potential new tenants are being approached to take these on, and BGG has been asked to strim one overgrown plot. The Clerk is waiting on a date to complete the annual allotment hedge cut.

e) Community Speedwatch and Traffic Monitoring: The post installation was completed by OCC during w/c 5th October. The speed signage has a lead time of 10-12 weeks from the 13th August order date and is currently still at the build stage. There is some paperwork to complete and return following the post installation, and we are awaiting confirmation of a likely installation date based on Westcotec's schedule. R. Jaboor noted that we still need more Speedwatch volunteers to kickstart the scheme; one MOP in attendance has previously offered to assist and reconfirmed their interest.

f) Public Art Projects:
Recreation Ground Gates – Julie Grose has confirmed that the gates have been galvanised and are ready for final painting. As noted under item 6.a) an installation date of 24th October has been agreed with EHSRC.
Sculpture – The initial meeting with Alex Wenham was very productive and the steering group have refined the brief. The next step is to apply for planning permission based on indicative sketches, and Abigail Brown will be working on this with the Clerk.

g) Flood Management: The Clerk confirmed that the channel clearance and tree removal project is well underway and should be complete by the end of this week. ODS will report back early next week with before and after photos which can be included in the project report to OCC (a requirement of the grant funding).
C. Shaikh reported on the redirection of Hakka's brook on private land; Leigh Travers is going to arrange a hydrology survey once works are complete to confirm whether there is an issue or not.
An MOP noted that the scheduled gully cleaning works don't clean the clay deposits that are blocking some of the drains along New Road. The MOP was invited to email the Parish Clerk so that this could be discussed with OCC.

h) Matters raised at the Chairman's Surgery and OALC Councillor's Forum: I. Duff confirmed that he has a report to circulate from his last Chairman's meeting.

7. CORRESPONDENCE:

The following correspondence was noted:

- A number of Nurton consultation responses are being copied to the Parish Council; these will be reviewed by the NPSG as agreed in item 5.a)
- Issues with Didcot Garden Town's Wayfinding Signage being installed incorrectly or showing incorrect information – this was widely reported to the DGT team.
- Further concerns have been raised about missed bin collections and parking issues on Church Close. The Clerk has contacted the SODC waste team to review recent collections, and future collections are being monitored. No progress has been made with OCC to initiate discussion about parking and traffic issues in the village; however this remains a priority.
- St Andrews Crescent parking issues – I. Duff attended a meeting with residents, a PCSO and the School Business Manager on 5th October. It was agreed that the situation wasn't ideal with blocked driveways and inconsiderate parking. There is not much that can be done although the police can intervene if there are altercations or threats. The School Business Manager will ensure a message on considerate parking is sent to all parents at the school.
- Details received for SODC's Nature and Climate Action Fund – It was noted that heat mitigation at the Pavilion may be an eligible project.
- Didcot Garden Town event at Harwell – I. Duff attended the event which is featured in the District Councillors report, and noted in particular that HIF1 is projected to be largely completed in 2028.
- Didcot Garden Town – Draft proposals have been circulated for Green Infrastructure improvements along National Cycle Route 544 in Didcot, between Jubilee Roundabout and Millennium Wood, including a proposal to improve access to Green Close. The Clerk has responded to clarify whether the previously discussed Bishops Orchard access is also being considered for improvement under this scheme.
- Fly tipped shopping trolley in the stream along Footpath 10 - Clerk reported to SODC using their online fly tipping form.
- SSE completed some heavy cutting back alongside Millennium Wood as part of their routine maintenance to keep power lines clear.
- Resident query regarding bus stops on New Road – Clerk confirmed the most recent communications with OCC have indicated that permission has been given for a pair of bus stops in New Road at The Crescent, with others still under review.
- D. Rickeard reported and replaced a missing slat on a picnic bench at Butts Piece – thanks were extended for his swift action.
- Funding requests from TRAIN and The Abingdon Bridge – to be considered at November meeting.

8. FINANCE:

a) Expenditure and receipts since the last meeting and account balances:

1) Payments since last meeting: **NB: Payments pending are shown in yellow and are not included in the account balances shown in 4-6**

Payee	Item	Auth	Amount	VAT	Total	Date
Dark White Digital	INV002285 Web Hosting September 2026	CG / DR	£30.00	£0.00	£30.00	11/09/2026

Shield Maintenance Ltd	INV10689 Dog and General Waste Bin Collections August 2026	CG / DR	£223.17	£44.63	£267.80	11/09/2026
SCS Oxon Ltd	TP196.2 Car Park Resurfacing Works final 25% payment	CG / DR	£13,207.11	£2,641.42	£15,848.53	11/09/2026
Kingdom Signs Ltd	KS645518 Bus Shelter Panels and installation	CG / DR	£868.00	£173.60	£1,041.60	11/09/2026
Terry Taylor	Cemetery Works - Replacement access cover for time capsule at Lych Gate	CG / DR	£75.00	£0.00	£75.00	11/09/2026
Linda Benton	INV98 Bus Shelter Artwork and Digitising	CG / DR	£3,132.00	£0.00	£3,132.00	11/09/2026
Nest	Pension Contributions for August 2026	DD	£66.55	£0.00	£66.55	14/09/2026
Julie Grose	Recreation Ground Gates Inv 2	CG / CS	£2,000.00	£0.00	£2,000.00	16/09/2026
Clean Slate	S137 Grant	CG / CS	£110.00	£0.00	£110.00	16/09/2026
The Planning Portal	PP-15219190-V1 Cemetery Drainage Full Planning Application	CS / RJ	£253.50	£0.00	£253.50	18/09/2026
Grundon Waste Management	PSI-1561276 Cemetery Bin Collection August	DD	£60.34	£12.07	£72.41	21/09/2026
Castle Water Ltd	INV 10011275657 Allotment Water Bill dated 07/09/2026	DD	£28.86	£5.77	£34.63	21/09/2026
Laura Lloyd	September Salary & WFH Allowance (inc backpay to April for adjusted pay rate)	CG / DR	£1,154.69	£0.00	£1,154.69	30/09/2026
Unity Trust Bank	Bank Service Charge	Auto Payment	£7.00	£0.00	£7.00	30/09/2026
Scribe	INV-22494 Monthly fee for accounting software	DD	£35.00	£7.00	£42.00	01/10/2026
SCS Oxon Ltd	INV TP278 Additional Paving Levelling at Pavilion Car Park	DR / CG	£3,450.00	£690.00	£4,140.00	02/10/2026
Nest	Pension Contributions for September 2026	DD	£83.94	£0.00	£83.94	09/10/2026
Shield Maintenance Ltd	INV10820 Dog and General Waste Bin Collections September 2026		£223.17	£44.63	£267.80	
Dark White Digital	INV002309 Web Hosting October 2026		£30.00	£0.00	£30.00	
EHSRC	INV163-26 Community Room Hire 10th September 2026		£25.00	£0.00	£25.00	
Hagbourne Village Hall	Invoice No 1835 3rd Quarter 2025-26 (March to May)		£35.25	£0.00	£35.25	
HMRC	120PE003402942703 Q2 National Insurance Payment		£287.30	£0.00	£287.30	
Laura Lloyd	October Salary & WFH Allowance		£1,009.39	£0.00	£1,009.39	

2) Receipts since last meeting:

From	Item	Amount	Date
NatWest	Interest - 95 Day Notice Savings Account (August)	£169.15	28/08/2026
Allotment Tenant Plot 3	Allotment Rent 2026-27	£31.60	21/09/2026
Allotment Tenant Plot 4	Allotment Rent 2026-27	£31.85	21/09/2026
Allotment Tenant Plots 8A and 29A	Allotment Rent 2026-27	£30.45	22/09/2026
Allotment Tenant Plot 17	Allotment Rent 2026-27	£27.25	23/09/2026
Allotment Tenant Plot 23	Allotment Rent 2026-27	£34.60	23/09/2026
Allotment Tenant Plot 7	Allotment Rent 2026-27	£31.60	25/09/2026
Allotment Tenant Plot 11	Allotment Rent 2026-27	£28.75	28/09/2026
Allotment Tenant Plot 21	Allotment Rent 2026-27	£39.60	29/09/2026
M&J Didcock Funeral Services	Interment F174	£186.00	30/09/2026
Allotment Tenant Plot 22A	Allotment Rent 2026-27	£12.30	30/09/2026
Unity Trust Bank	Interest - Instant Access Savings Account (Q2)	£84.25	30/09/2026
Redwood Bank	Interest - 35 Day Notice Savings Account (September)	£141.65	30/09/2026
Nationwide	Interest - Instant Access Savings Account (September)	£28.08	30/09/2026
NatWest	Interest - 95 Day Notice Savings Account (September)	£199.74	30/09/2026
Allotment Tenant Plot 18	Allotment Rent 2026-27	£29.60	01/10/2026
Allotment Tenant Plot 22B	Allotment Rent 2026-27	£13.10	01/10/2026

Allotment Tenant Plot 27	Allotment Rent 2026-27	£26.05	01/10/2026
Allotment Tenant Plot 20	Allotment Rent 2026-27	£26.05	02/10/2026
Allotment Tenant Plot 25	Allotment Rent 2026-27	£31.00	02/10/2026
Gale Estates (Oxfordshire) Ltd	Hopfields Rent 2026-27	£1,465.00	02/10/2026
Allotment Tenant Plot 19	Allotment Rent 2026-27	£31.20	02/10/2026
Allotment Tenant Plot 5	Allotment Rent 2026-27	£16.10	02/10/2026
Allotment Tenant Plot 9	Allotment Rent 2026-27	£28.35	02/10/2026
Allotment Tenant Plot 2A	Allotment Rent 2026-27	£16.85	02/10/2026
Allotment Tenant Plot 14	Allotment Rent 2026-27	£30.05	05/10/2026
Allotment Tenant Plot 29B	Allotment Rent 2026-27	£17.05	05/10/2026
Allotment Tenant Plot 27	Allotment Rent 2026-27 (Top up payment as initial transfer incorrect)	£1.35	05/10/2026
Allotment Tenant Plot 24	Allotment Rent 2026-27	£32.40	05/10/2026
Allotment Tenant Plots 26 and 28A	Allotment Rent 2026-27	£46.95	05/10/2026
Allotment Tenant Plots 26 and 28A	Allotment Rent 2026-27 (Top up payment as initial transfer incorrect)	£2.70	05/10/2026
Oxfordshire Memorials	Memorial 2nd Inscription CM051	£27.50	06/10/2026
Allotment Tenant Plot 6	Allotment Rent 2026-27	£31.75	14/10/2026
	Total	£2,949.92	

3) Transfers since the last meeting:

From	To	Amount	Date
Redwood Bank	Unity Trust T1 Account (monthly automatic transfer)	£141.65	30/09/2026

4) Accumulated Account Balances (reconciled online 14/10/2026)

Unity Trust Bank - T1 current account	£54,597.36
Unity Trust Bank - Instant access account	£17,226.42
Redwood Bank - 35 Day Notice Savings Account	£70,000.00
Nationwide - Instant Access Business Savings Account	£23,588.59
Natwest - Liquidity Manager 95 Day Notice Account	£89,640.96
Total	£255,053.33

5) The Special Project Balances (as of 14/10/2026) are:

Community Infrastructure Levy Fund	Received 27/10/23 so requires spending by 26/10/28	£47,960.19
	Received 26/04/24 so requires spending by 25/04/29	£4,165.09
	Received 24/10/24 so requires spending by 25/10/29	£115,173.81
	Received 25/04/25 so requires spending by 24/04/30	£8,330.18
	Total CIL money	£175,629.27
Community Projects Reserve Fund		£5,000.00
Planned Development Support Fund		£5,303.15
Cemetery Fund		£9,354.02
Climate and Biodiversity Reserve		£2,500.00
Reactive Works and Emergency Response Reserve		£4,000.00
Asset Maintenance Reserve		£9,591.64
Election Reserve		£2,000.00
S106 Funds		£4,200.00
	Total	£217,578.08

6) General Reserve (as of 14/10/2026) £37,475.25

b) **Review and approval of pending payments:** Councillors reviewed the pending payments, and approved those without prior approval.
c) **Bank Reconciliations for July, August and September 2026:** The Clerk reported that P. Dixon had completed the Internal Controls for Q2 with no issues raised, and confirmed the Q2 bank reconciliations and bank statements have been signed accordingly.
d) **Q2 Budget Review:** I. Duff confirmed that the budget report with notes covering variations on anticipated income and expenditure was circulated to councillors in advance of the meeting. Councillors accepted the report and no additional comments were made. In addition, it was noted that as the general reserve remains healthy, in part due to underspend in some budget categories, it would be prudent to move some of the general reserve to the Planned Development Support Fund in anticipation of Nurton's planning application later this year. This will be added to the November agenda for decision.
e) **Investment Activity Report April – September 2026:** Councillors reviewed the Investment Activity Report circulated ahead of the meeting. No comments were made.
f) **Investment Strategy Review:** Councillors reviewed the Investment Strategy and agreed that no changes are required at this stage.
g) **Appointment of Internal Auditor for the 2026/27 financial year:** Councillors agreed to appoint Parish and Town Auditing Services (PATAS) as internal auditor for 2026/27 at a cost of £330.00.

9. ITEMS FOR REPORT AND INCLUSION ON THE NOVEMBER AGENDA

Items for consideration for the November agenda must be received by the Clerk no later than Wednesday 5th November 2026.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on 12th November 2026 at the Pavilion, Great Mead.

Meeting closed at 9.02pm

Signed_____ **Date**_____

APPENDIX 1: ACTION LIST (FOR INFORMATION ONLY: ITEMS WILL NOT BE DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING UNLESS FEATURED ON THE MAIN AGENDA)

Action No	What	Who	Status
2023-03-01	Deanfield Homes Car Park Land Transfer	LL	19/06/2025 Transfer complete. **05/03/2026 Clerk to follow up with OCC Legal team on Land Registry progress**
2023-06-02	Parking and Traffic Management on Main Road	NM	**14/05/2026 Looking into possible OCC led consultation**
2023-10-03	Weed management on Main Road	LL/ID	01/07/2025 Referred to Johnny Hope-Smith for assistance
VARIOUS	Footpath accessibility: 2023-12-02 FP10 MFL to West Hagbourne 2023-12-03 FP12 Church Lane to Fieldside (FP25 towards Church last remaining stretch) 2023-12-04 FP13 Parsonage Lane 2024-01-01 FP1 West Hagbourne to Didcot 2024-03-02 FP15 Grange Footpath 2024-03-03 FP8 Bakers Lane to The Croft 2025-11-01 FP9 Shoe Lane	LL/CS/PD/ ID	05/12/2024 FP15 surface (short stretch) between Fieldside and the bridge may be better finished in tarmac to withstand flooding. This is under consideration. 17/07/2025 Volunteer labour available if required for FP8 10/10/2025 Surfacing options for FP12 stretch from FP25 towards Church need consideration 12/02/2026 Agreement to move forward with FP13, FP9 and FP30 subject to permissions and quotes. NB: Shoe Lane would benefit from a more comprehensive resurfacing following the patching works completed at Easter.
2023-12-09	Community Speedwatch	RJ/ID	New coordinator and team members needed. 12/02/2026 New volunteer, needs to undertake training
2024-02-04	Flood Management in the Parish	CS/DR/PD	15/10/2026 OCC funded Channel clearance and tree removal works along FP19 should be completed this week.

2024-03-06	From APM 2024: Main Road to Coscote road surface – OCC MATTER	OCC	03/12/2025 Further request for assistance sent to OCC Highways Engagement and C. Stallwood. The road has been reviewed recently but its condition will be reviewed again during the winter in poor conditions. 15/01/2026 A number of potholes have been marked up for repairs, red ones (urgent) have been filled today, white markings should be completed within 28 days. 12/03/2026 Further pothole repairs completed – monitor for longevity
2024-04-01	CIL Projects Shortlist	ALL	09/10/2025 Progress being made with Footpaths and Village Sparkle, recreation ground needs consideration as has the potential to use a lot of CIL funds. Feedback from the 2026 APM to help inform the decision-making process.
2024-10-01	Blewbury Road Drainage	CS/LL	Ongoing monitoring. EH will receive annual gully clearance as part of the ongoing highway maintenance schedule, issues can be escalated directly to the Flood Risk Management Team.

ATTACHMENT 1:

TITLE	**COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**
AUTHOR	**CLLR JOHNNY HOPE-SMITH**
PARISHES	**ASTON TIRROLD/UPTHORPE, CHOLSEY, EAST HAGBOURNE, LITTLE WITTENHAM, LONG WITTENHAM, MOULSFORD, NORTH MORETON, SOUTH MORETON, WEST HAGBOURNE**
DATE	**OCTOBER 2026**
CONTACT DETAILS	**JOHNNY.HOPE-SMITH@OXFORDSHIRE.GOV.UK**

Dear Parish Councillors and Residents,

Here are some updates and news I have gathered for you. Please provide any feedback; or if its too much or not enough and of course any more information on a specific topic I can help with. I have put in **BOLD** the items which I think may be specifically appropriate for the Parish Councils to consider advertising or acting upon



Best wishes,

Johnny

Forthcoming OxBus2040 Consultation – Have Your Say on the Future of Bus Services

Key Details

Oxfordshire County Council is expected to launch the OxBUS2040 consultation shortly. The strategy will set out how bus services across the county could develop over the next 14 years.

The consultation was expected to begin during October and will provide an opportunity for residents, parish councils and community groups to comment on current services and future priorities

Oxon4Buses has produced a questionnaire to help communities identify local bus priorities and transport needs

What Parishes Can Do

- **Look out for the consultation when it launches and consider submitting a parish council response.**
- **Discuss local bus provision and future transport priorities at parish council meetings and with residents.**
- **Consider appointing a Parish Transport Representative (PTR) if your parish does not currently have one.**
- **Encourage residents to participate in the consultation, particularly those who rely on buses or would use services if they were improved.**

Site for further details on the PTR : https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/transport-and-travel/public-transport/parish-transport

Oxford Traffic Filters Trial – Consultation Now Underway

Key Details

Oxford's long-planned traffic filter trial began on 28 September 2026. The scheme restricts private cars from passing through six locations across the city during operating hours, with fines of up to £70 for motorists without a permit.

NOTE: If you already held a congestion charge permit, it has been automatically transferred to a traffic filter permit. You do not need to apply for a new traffic filter permit.

Day pass allocations have been automatically reset to 100 for Oxford residents and 25 for Oxfordshire residents.

Since implementation, there have been reports of significant congestion around Botley Road, Oxpens Road and access routes to the Westgate Centre, particularly at weekends and during peak periods.

Bus operators have reported that it is still too early to fully assess the impact of the filters, as ongoing roadworks and the continued closure of parts of the Botley Road corridor are also influencing traffic conditions.

The County Council says the trial is intended to tackle long-standing congestion in Oxford and forms part of a wider strategy to improve bus reliability, air quality and sustainable travel.

A six month public consultation is currently underway and the trial can continue for up to 18 months before a final decision is made.

Link: https://letstalk.oxfordshire.gov.uk/oxford_filters_etro2026

What Parishes Can Do

- **Encourage residents who regularly travel into Oxford to monitor developments and participate in the consultation process.**
- **Share feedback from residents, commuters and businesses about how the trial is affecting journeys to Oxford, particularly for work, healthcare, shopping and education.**
- **Remind residents that the scheme remains a trial and that the consultation is the formal mechanism through which views can be considered before any long-term decision is taken.**

Encourage anyone experiencing significant impacts to submit evidence and comments through the official consultation channels

Didcot Substation Community Fund Consultation – £530,000 Available for Local Projects

National Grid Electricity Transmission has launched a consultation on how a new £530,000 Community Fund linked to the Didcot Substation extension should operate.

The consultation runs from 22 September to 27 October 2026, with funding expected to open for applications in early 2027.

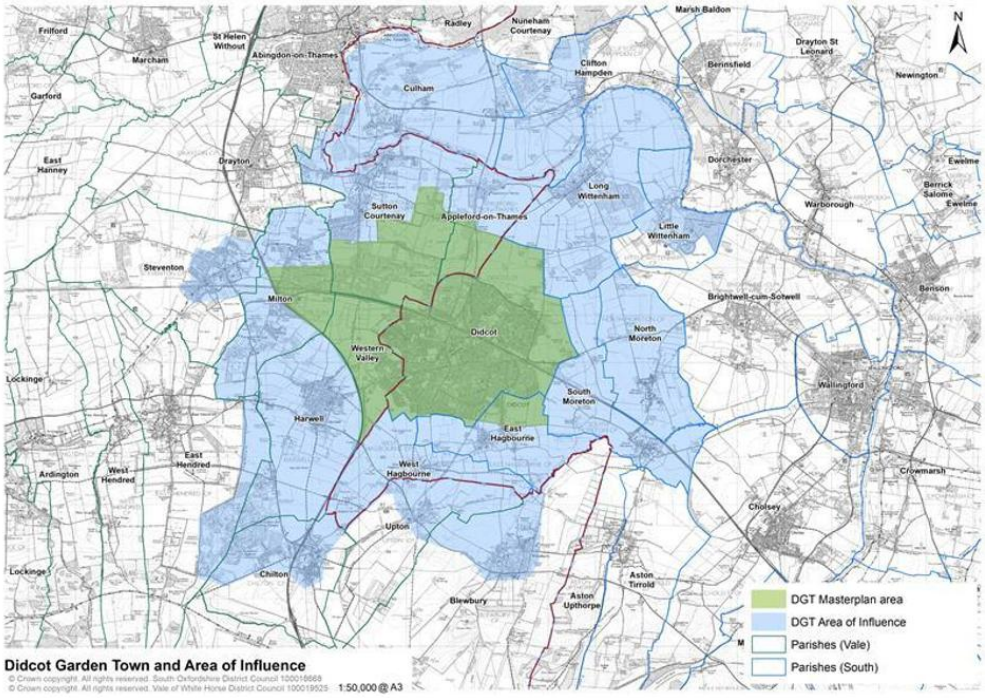
Following confirmation from National Grid, the proposed eligible area aligns with the Didcot Garden Town Area of Influence and includes communities such as Didcot, **East Hagbourne, West Hagbourne, North Moreton, South Moreton, Long Wittenham, Little Wittenham, (Map below)** Clifton Hampden, Culham, Appleford, Sutton Courtenay, Blewbury, Harwell, Chilton and surrounding areas.

Organisations do not need to be based within the eligible area, but they must demonstrate that their activities benefit communities within it.

The consultation is seeking views on local priorities to help shape how the fund is administered and what types of projects should receive support.

What Parishes Can Do

- **Consider responding to the consultation and encouraging local community groups to do the same.**
- **Discuss potential future projects that could benefit from grant funding, such as community facilities, environmental projects, youth activities, accessibility improvements or local resilience initiatives.**
- **Share the consultation with local voluntary organisations, charities and community groups that serve residents within the eligible area.**
- **Further information and the consultation survey can be found at:** https://www.nationalgrid.com/electricity-transmission/network-and-infrastructure/didcot-substation



INFO - Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) – County Council Seeks Further Evidence

Key Details

Oxfordshire County Council has issued a formal legal letter to the Government seeking disclosure of the evidence and analysis used to support the Government's July "minded to" decision on LGR in Oxfordshire and West Berkshire.

The move follows the Government's decision in September to pause and review its earlier LGR decisions. The County Council says it wishes to understand the evidence underpinning the preferred option of creating three unitary councils across the area.

The council has stated that its priority is to secure local government arrangements that are financially sustainable, protect key services and deliver the best outcomes for residents and communities.

The Government is yet to provide further detail on the scope or timetable of its review.

INFO - First EV Charging Sites Approved Across Oxfordshire

Key Details

Oxfordshire County Council has approved the first 11 on street electric vehicle (EV) charging locations as part of its countywide EV infrastructure programme. The sites are located in Berinsfield, Burford, Henley on Thames, Kidlington and Oxford. The programme is supported by more than £4 million of government funding and aims to install over 1,500 public chargers by summer 2028.

The programme is designed to support the estimated 30% of Oxfordshire households without access to a driveway or private off street parking, making EV ownership more practical for residents who rely on on street parking.

Alongside public charging infrastructure, the programme includes:

- Public chargers in council owned car parks.
- Public on street chargers.
- Subsidised EV cable channels for residents charging vehicles from their homes.
- Community EV charging microhubs delivered with town and parish councils.

More than 700 responses were received during consultation on the first phase of on street locations, with further sites still undergoing assessment and local engagement.

When complete, the programme will more than double the number of publicly available EV chargers in Oxfordshire ahead of the UK's transition away from the sale of new petrol and diesel vehicles.

INFO - Road Traffic Casualty Data 2025 – New Report Published

Key Details

Oxfordshire County Council has published its annual Road Traffic Collisions and Casualty Data Summary 2025, providing the latest picture of road safety across the county.
The headline message is that Oxfordshire continues to make progress towards its Vision Zero ambition of eliminating deaths and serious injuries on the road network.

Oxfordshire performed better than the national trend and better than many similar county areas in 2025
- Oxfordshire's KSIs (Killed or Seriously Injured) fell from 260 in 2024 to 216 in 2025, a reduction of 17%.
- Across Great Britain, KSIs fell by around 4% over the same period, meaning Oxfordshire's improvement was substantially greater.

Long term trend
- Compared with the 2010-2014 baseline used for road safety comparisons, Oxfordshire has achieved a greater reduction in casualties than the national average.
- The report notes that Oxfordshire remains amongst the better performing local highway authorities for casualty reduction

Report Location: .https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/sites/default/files/file/roads-and-transport-policies-and-plans/CasualtyReport2025.pdf

INFO - Government Approves Oxfordshire SEND Improvement Plan

Key Details

Oxfordshire's plans to improve support for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) have now received full government approval.
The plan includes recruiting more educational psychologists and therapists, creating additional inclusion support bases in mainstream schools, and delivering more support through local, area based teams.
The programme is backed by £4.9 million of government funding to support SEND transformation over the next three years.
Government approval will also allow Oxfordshire to receive a High Needs Stability Grant, helping reduce the significant SEND related deficit within the Dedicated Schools Grant budget.
The changes are intended to improve access to specialist support closer to home and strengthen inclusion within mainstream education.

REMINDER: Councillor Priority Fund – Supporting Local Projects – DEADLINE NOVEMBER 2026

The Councillor Priority Fund is still open, offering each Oxfordshire County Councillor £10,000 to support community projects within their division. This funding is designed to help deliver local priorities and strengthen community initiatives.

Parish councils, community groups, and local organisations are encouraged to apply for funding to support projects that benefit residents. Examples might include:

- Improvements to community facilities
- Local environmental initiatives
- Activities that promote wellbeing or inclusion
- Smaller-scale projects are especially encouraged, as the fund is modest and intended to support a wide range of communities across Oxfordshire

Key Details:

- Applications must be submitted by 30 November 2026
- Grants are typically paid within 28 days of approval
- Applicants must register for an account to apply and track progress
- Monitoring and reporting are required for successful projects

To ensure your project meets the funding criteria, please read the guidance document before applying.

What Parishes Can Do

- **Identify local projects that could benefit from modest funding**
- **Collaborate with community groups to develop proposals**
- **Submit applications early to allow time for review and payment**

Keep records and be prepared to report on outcomes

For more information and to then apply, visit the Councillor Priority Fund page.

https://service.oxfordshire.gov.uk/councillorpriorityfund

ATTACHMENT 2:

Title	District Councillors' Report
Councillors	Cllr Anne-Marie Simpson & Cllr Crispin Topping
Parish	East Hagbourne Parish Council
Date	15 October 2026

Booking link for planning surgeries for town and parish councils
South News a monthly resident newsletter packed with the latest news, events, and consultations happening across South Oxfordshire.

Cornerstone arts centre invites school children to design the 'Panto of the Future'
School children across South Oxfordshire are invited by Cornerstone arts centre to design a poster for the 'Panto of the future'. This is to coincide with the Didcot building's installation of the latest clean green energy sources.

Work started in August to add air source heat pumps and solar panels to South Oxfordshire District Council's landmark building in the town centre. As the building gets ready for the future, we're asking what people think the shows appearing there could look like.

The council is inviting children aged 12 and under, living in South Oxfordshire, to take part in the competition by designing a poster for a panto of the future.

Everyone taking part will get their entries displayed on the Cornerstone website and one lucky winner – judged to have the most creative ideas – will win a family ticket to see Jack and the Beanstalk – the 2026 Cornerstone panto* and a One4All gift voucher worth £100 donated by Ashe Group who are carrying out the decarbonisation works. (The competition will be open until 1 November 2026).

Simply submit a design **via email** to communications@southandvale.gov.uk with the subject line Panto of the Future.

*A family ticket for four people – to be taken between 27 – 30 December.
Full terms and conditions are on our competition page on our website.

The contractors, Ashe Group, began work in August dismantling the site's old gas boilers and have since added four air source heat pumps and 56 solar panels on the arts centre roof. It is estimated that the work could save around 55 tonnes of carbon dioxide each year. The work is expected to be completed by the end of the year.

Joint Local Plan (JLP1) Third Stage Hearings start Tuesday 17 November
The Third Stage of Hearing Sessions will commence at 09:30am on Tuesday 17 November 2026 at Bee House, 140 Eastern Avenue, Park Drive, Milton, Abingdon OX14 4SB.

Inspectors have prepared Matters, Issues and Questions for the third part of the hearings (**ID29**), accompanied by a third Inspectors' Guidance Note (**ID30**), and a draft Hearings Programme (**ID31**).

Longterm visions for Didcot on display to residents
The third Didcot Garden Town Community Update Meeting took place on Wednesday 30 September at Harwell Village Hall, with residents, community groups and local businesses invited to attend to find out more about the future plans for Didcot and surrounding areas.

Around 50 people came to the event with presentations and information on display from the Didcot Garden Town team, other South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Council services and organisations that work in partnership with the programme, these included:

- National Grid with details about their £530,000 Community Fund which aims to support community projects that promote lasting social, economic or environmental improvements for communities in Didcot and the surrounding area.
- Didcot Powerhouse were on hand to discuss how they support the community.
- Oxfordshire County Council's Didcot and surrounding areas major infrastructure (HIF1) team had the latest information about construction progress on the scheme, which will provide new transport routes to reduce congestion, improve pedestrian and cycling connectivity across the area.

More details about the Didcot Garden Town programme can be found on the South Oxfordshire District Council website. Attendees to this latest event can give their feedback via this survey link https://theconversation.southandvale.gov.uk/communities/e376ba51/, and the deadline for comments is the 14 October.

The Didcot Garden Town team is focused on improving the lives of residents in and around Didcot. Since achieving Garden Town status in 2017, the programme has supported sustainable development, green spaces, active travel and other community benefits.

Didcot Garden Town's vision is to create a well-balanced, sustainable, and thriving community in Didcot following principles set out in the Didcot Garden Town Delivery Plan 2017 .

The next Didcot Garden Town meeting is on 19 October. Anyone wishing to join the meeting as a viewing participant is asked to email didcotgardentown@southandvale.gov.uk by 12 October.

Preventing homelessness – the South and Vale story

On Saturday 10 October it was World Homelessness Day – which aims to raise awareness of the needs of people experiencing homelessness and highlight the work being done to prevent it. In South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils this includes working with partner agencies to help support people and purchasing properties for people to live in.

The councils' housing team has a remarkable record on homelessness prevention rates*. Over the past five years the team has secured accommodation for around 78 per cent of all people at risk of becoming homeless (within the two-month deadline). This is much higher than the national average of around 55 per cent of cases. By developing partnerships with other local agencies such as healthcare providers, the councils have been able to support households to avoid potential homelessness.

Since 2023 our team has moved nearly 400 homeless households from temporary to long term housing (186 South/198 Vale). During the same period more than 3,300 households (1,298 South/2,064 Vale) have been accommodated through the housing register.

The partnership approach is echoed with the team supporting rough sleepers. Nationally there has been an increasing number of people rough sleeping. However, both councils have managed to keep the numbers of rough sleepers down. At the annual rough sleeper count, which is conducted every autumn, a total of nine rough sleepers were identified in South and five in Vale in 2025. These people are offered support by our housing team.

Since 2020 the councils have also participated in a number of resettlement schemes for people who have found themselves homeless due to war and other conflict including from Ukraine and Afghanistan. The councils continue to do everything they can to help and welcome people displaced by war and persecution and provide sanctuary.

*Prevention rates – When a household is threatened with homelessness and alerts their local council to this fact, the authority has 56 days in which to prevent them from becoming homeless to meet the local authority 'prevention duty'. This could involve activities to enable an applicant to remain in their current home or find alternative accommodation to prevent them from becoming homeless. South and Vale's prevention rates are around 20 per cent higher than the national average.

Councils work towards stronger community connections

Earlier this year the Councils launched a series of community-led initiatives, under the theme of 'Be Together', ranging from yoga, 'have a go' days and community arts events to bike repairs and food skills courses.

Linked to these smaller community initiatives, the Councils' longer-term ambition is to develop a new, evidence-based Community Cohesion Strategy.

This will set out a clear set of priorities, and a practical delivery plan that coordinates work across the Councils and with key partners over a five-year period.

To support development of the strategy, the Councils are working with Belong – The Cohesion and Integration Network. Belong is experienced in supporting the development of community cohesion strategies and has worked with a number of local authorities.
Throughout September and through to November, representatives from Belong will be out and about in the districts on behalf of the Councils, talking to a range of organisations, community groups and individual residents, as they gather evidence for the strategy. People can also take part in an online survey and share their views and experiences within their own communities.

About the Community Cohesion Strategy and Be Together projects
The new community cohesion strategy will be built around three pillars:

- **Integration –** Supporting cohesive communities by helping new and existing residents connect, participate, and thrive— including those arriving through migration pathways.
- **Safety –** Promoting safe, resilient communities through strong safeguarding practices and joined-up work with police, fire and rescue, and voluntary partners.
- **Equalities –** Ensuring fair access to services, tackling poverty, and improving health and wellbeing for all communities.

One the strategy is adopted, a Community Cohesion Board made up of both statutory and voluntary agencies will oversee the strategy ensuring it is focused on all communities across southern Oxfordshire.

Be Together is an umbrella programme supporting a range of smaller, community-led initiatives within the Communities service and beyond. Its core aim is to foster integration—particularly for migrant communities—by encouraging social participation with established communities, cultural understanding, and mutual support. It also aims to build long-term independence and resilience among the communities it supports, helping to reduce reliance on council resources over time.

The Be Together programme (jointly funded by South Oxfordshire District Council and Vale of White Horse District Council) is funded through three different government resettlement schemes - Homes for Ukraine, Afghan Resettlement Programme and Dispersal Accommodation (Asylum).

The Strategy is funded from government grants, Council funding and the National Lottery.