

PARISH REPORT JUNE 2019

TACKLEY RIDE FOR HOPE



Well done to all the cyclists involved in a 200-mile 3-day cycle ride to York via Leicester and Lincoln starting from Tackley Village Hall. They were raising money for Cancer Research and Hope for Children the team consisted of 14 riders who completed the full journey with some additional riders on the first leg. All 14 riders made the journey without mishap if you want to add to the donations please follow the link: <https://t.co/WPejJLs46W>

LAST SCHEDULED HIGH-SPEED TRAIN FOR GWR



I was invited by Great Western Railway to travel on their last scheduled service of the High-Speed train from Paddington to Exeter. The crowds at every station were unbelievable I even saw people on the route watching from fields and bridges. When we arrived at Exeter at around 10:30 there was a large crowd to greet us. We have seen the new trains on the Cotswold line for many months now and with the extended platform at Hanborough there's no more rushing to get to the right carriage to get off. The new station office will soon be open

I also attended the North Cotswold Line Taskforce board which is made up of Gloucestershire Oxfordshire, Warwickshire, Worcestershire County Councils along with GWR, Network Rail and the Cotswold Line Promotion group to build a case to dual some more parts of the line that would allow more trains at Hanborough on what's known as a 'clockface timetable', which is the same time every hour.

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ALZHEIMERS ANNUAL CONFERENCE

I was invited to speak at the Alzheimer's annual conference at the Oval cricket ground. This is an area of increased pressure on council services across the country not just in Oxfordshire which has massive implications on the budget. We are waiting for the Governments Green paper which will hopefully provide an answer to the funding of Adult Social Care. At the Local Government Association, we produced our own Green Paper last summer with a report in November to keep the pressure on however there must be something more pressing on the Governments agenda now.

£3.5 MILLION HIGHWAYS INVESTMENT

More than more than 50 miles of road across Oxfordshire will be given a new lease of life thanks to the 'surface dressing' technique which waterproofs and extends the life of roads. The cost of the work is in the region of £3.5m which is seen as a good investment, potentially preventing the need for more costly resurfacing for several years.

Oxfordshire County Council takes road repairs and maintenance very seriously and has put around £25m extra into fixing highways in total this and last year as part of a £120 million investment in infrastructure. Surface dressing is an excellent way to extend the life of roads and is cost effective. It is just one of a range of techniques that we use to improve and preserve the condition of our highways across Oxfordshire."

Many people will know surface dressed roads for their appearance soon after the work is done. However after a short period of bedding in, loose chippings are swept away and the surfaces are indistinguishable from any other except for the absence of cracks and potholes. Skid resistance is also improved.

The county council has gained a reputation in recent years for innovation and, as part of the surface dressing programme this year, will be trying out a technique called 'Surface Seal' - an additional treatment added to a newly dressed road, which prevents prevent defects, cracks, and potholes. The surface seal also enhances the appearance of the new surface giving a deep and uniform black which is comparative to a new asphalt surface.

SOCIAL WORKERS IDENTIFY 'COUNTY LINES' RISKS

Social workers from Oxfordshire County Council are set to use a new "screening tool" as part of their work to help children being exploited by so-called "county lines" drugs gangs and those who may be at risk of being exploited.

The numbers of such children at any one time is comparatively small both locally and nationally. But organisations in Oxfordshire regard any child being abused as one too many and are determined to make it hard for drugs gangs to operate in this way. Councils, Thames Valley police, the NHS and other organisations in Oxfordshire have had real success with a "screening tool" that helps frontline staff to spot children at risk of child sexual exploitation.

Now the approach has been adapted to cover all forms of exploitation including child drug exploitation. The screening tools lists the factors that in combination would show if a child may be starting to become at risk of being exploited – triggering professionals to act quickly. Meanwhile social workers are joining forces with the police, NHS and district councils to provide support for specific school communities when that school has raised concerns that students might be being targeted by gangs.

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In these circumstances, professionals from each agency work closely and intensively as a support team surrounding the young people in question and their families. Local meetings for schools and other professionals are held to identify children at risk of getting drawn into the drugs gangs.

ELECTRIC VEHICLES CONTRIBUTE TO COUNTY COUNCIL'S CARBON NEUTRAL COMMITMENT

Oxfordshire County Council has taken delivery of a new fleet of electric cars and vans for its fire and rescue service and general staff pool car resource.

As the largest council in Oxfordshire, the County Council has already taken a strong lead and committed to being carbon neutral by 2030. Achieving that aim will benefit the county's thriving communities and mean radically changing the way some things are done.

Along with the commitment to being carbon neutral the county council has also signalled its dedication through high-profile sustainable energy projects like Local Energy Oxfordshire, the V2GO charging initiative as well as seeking to reduce the number of miles its staff travel by encouraging flexible working and greater use of virtual meeting technology.

The vehicles can travel up to 160 miles on a single charge and will be used by Fire Safety Officers and as pool vehicles. There are charging points at fire stations and County Hall.

OVO ENERGY WOMENS CYCLE RACE

On 12th June the OVO Energy race is coming to Oxfordshire with the finish at Blenheim Palace. Details of short 'rolling road closures' have been announced for the Oxfordshire stage of the OVO Energy Women's Tour professional cycling race on Wednesday 12 June. The County Council has been working closely with the event organisers to minimise disruption to road users. Typically, the lead motorcycle instigating the closure is 15 minutes ahead of the lead rider. The closure then remains in place until all riders and race cars have passed through usually around 30 minutes.

Starting in Henley-on-Thames at 10:30am, the race will traverse South Oxfordshire and the Vale before looping through the West Oxfordshire towns of Burford, Charlbury and finally Woodstock; the finishing line will be in the grounds of Blenheim Palace. The leading cyclists are expected to cross the finishing line just after 2:15pm. More details can be found::

[.bit.ly/30JzmAe](https://bit.ly/30JzmAe) #OVOWTOxfordshire

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