

PARISH REPORT MARCH 2020

BUDGET

I am pleased that the budget I proposed 11th February was passed unanimously, it was an “investment budget” to reduce neglect, ill-health and social isolation, following resident and business consultation. The proposals include community support for vulnerable people so they can live independently for longer, and more help for struggling families to reduce the chances of children having to go into care.

Funding for children and adult social services will increase by £30 million next year, including an extra £8.1 million from the government. This money is needed to support an increase in adult social care needs for both older and disabled people, as well as the increasing number of child protection cases, which has grown in line with national trends.

The budget proposals also include investment in infrastructure across the county, such as an extra £50 million for new and existing schools over ten years. Most of the funding comes from housing developers to meet the need for more pupil places in Oxfordshire.

The county council proposes to spend £30 million in 2020/21 from its capital budget on repairs to roads, bridges, drainage and footways across Oxfordshire’s towns and villages, with major schemes scheduled in Banbury, Abingdon and Witney.

Responding to climate change features prominently across budget proposals, including support for sustainable travel such as improving park and ride services on the A40, and the replacement of over 50,000 streetlights with energy-efficient LEDs. However all budget proposals have to consider the climate change agenda and how the county council will meet its carbon neutral target by 2030.

DEMENTIA FRIENDLY COUNCIL

Oxfordshire County Council is implementing plans to become a dementia-friendly organisation. The aim is to develop further awareness, understanding and support for vulnerable residents and staff who are impacted by the health condition.

The number of people with dementia in the UK is expected to rise to 1 million by 2021. About two in every 100 people aged between 65 to 69 have dementia, and this rises to one in five for those aged 85 to 89. Oxfordshire has an ageing population and the number of residents aged 85 and over is forecast to increase.

This means that more people in Oxfordshire are likely to be affected by dementia, either by having a diagnosis themselves or through someone they know with the condition. More people may develop dementia whilst still in employment; others will be combining work and a busy lifestyle with being a carer for a person with dementia. Therefore, awareness is key to understanding the lifestyle changes, choices and challenges that will occur with an individual’s diagnosis.

Oxfordshire County Council aims to help people who live with dementia to stay independent and live well in their communities for as long as possible. The council’s plans are part of a wider Alzheimer’s Society initiative that aims to create a network of four million Dementia Friends across the country.

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SEVEN RECYCLING CENTRES TO CLOSE FOR SPRING CLEAN

This March and April seven of Oxfordshire County Council's Household Waste Recycling Centres will be closing for two days to carry out a deep clean and essential maintenance at the sites.

The work forms part of the council's planned approach to maintenance, and is designed to keep sites safe, looking clean and fresh and helping improve the customer experience when using these important environmental facilities.

Only one site will be closed at any one time and all other sites will be open on those days. Residents are asked to plan for these closures, ideally holding on to your waste until the site reopens or if that is not possible visiting one of the neighbouring sites.

Site closure dates:

Alkerton 3rd & 4th March 2020

Redbridge 10th & 11th March 2020

Ardley 17th & 18th March 2020

Dix Pit 24th & 25th March 2020

Oakley Wood 31st March – 1st April 2020

Stanford 21st & 22nd April 2020

Drayton 28th & 29th April 2020

For those residents with permits, please note that these can be used at any of the sites.

All closures are on quieter midweek days to minimise disruption and sites will reopen at 8am following the two-day closure. For practical and safety reasons we need to close the sites for this short period and apologise for any inconvenience this may cause and thank residents for their understanding.

Cllr Ian Hudspeth

07956270 318

ian.hudspeth@oxfordshire.gov.uk