

District Councillor Report

Haseley Brook ward

05 January 2024

Cllr Georgina Heritage



Meetings and activity

14th December – Full Council meeting

Further to the referendum of 23rd November, the Lewknor Parish Neighbourhood Development Plan was recommended by the Cabinet member for Planning and seconded by myself. It was resolved to make the Lewknor Parish Neighbourhood Development Plan, so that it becomes part of the council's development plan. The same resolutions were also made for the Towersey Neighbourhood Development Plan and the Wheatley Neighbourhood Development Plan Review. Recognising the time and work undertaken to developing these plans, council members were of course delighted to see this positive outcome for all three parishes.

With the desperate humanitarian tragedy unfolding in Gaza, council also voted unanimously to carry a motion developed jointly by the Lib Dem and Green members to express sympathy and support. It was resolved that the Council

- expresses deep sympathy for all those affected by the conflict in Israel and Palestine. To those in the South Oxfordshire area who have been affected by this conflict we offer our support in this very difficult time;
- hopes for an immediate further release of all hostages and an end to the violence;
- believes Muslims, Jews and people of all faiths and none should feel safe and supported throughout the world and unreservedly condemns the increase in antisemitic and Islamophobic violence and abuse in the UK.

The Council resolved to offer appropriate support to any local resident who needs our assistance as a result of these horrific events, to support innocent people displaced and affected by these events, condemns the use of all dehumanising language, and calls on our communities to treat each other with respect and good will and refrain from inflammatory terms to describe either the Palestinian or Israeli populations, especially in a time of crisis.

Several questions were raised, including one to Councillor Rouane (Leader of Council) regarding the purchase of diesel waste collection trucks, bearing in mind the administration's commitment to investing ethically and with the Climate Emergency at the heart of what we do. The question was answered fully, and details of this response can be found on item 61A (page 5) of the minutes.

For all the minutes of this council meeting, please follow [Minutes details on public web site](#)

Oxfordshire Inclusive Economy Partnership Charter

At the Cabinet meeting of 15th December, the council's commitment to Oxfordshire Inclusive Economy Partnership's (OIEP) charter was confirmed with three initial pledges:

- As a buyer we pledge to assess and account for the social value that a supplier can offer the local community, alongside our assessment of the economic value/financial cost of the contract.
- As a buyer, where compatible with procurement law and subject to best value requirements, we pledge to buy goods and services from purposeful local organisations, including SMEs, social enterprises, and cooperatives wherever possible.
- As a supplier we pledge to support our employees to volunteer on local community projects

The decision will give formal backing to undertake projects that will support achievement of corporate objectives, including improved economic and community wellbeing. Pledges under the "Support Local and Social" will help to reinforce and focus the council's work to engage local SMEs with procurement opportunities. This should lead to positive outcomes in helping independent small businesses to thrive.

Severe Rainfall and Flooding

Parish councils should already have this information but, if residents make contact with concerns about flooding during severe rainfall, the following information may be helpful:

- [The county council's regularly updated flooding information page](#) – this contains all the links and advice residents should need.
- [The county council's Flooding Toolkit](#) (which our districts part-funded)
 - [What to do if you're flooding](#)
- The Environment Agency's flooding helpline (24 hours a day, 7 days a week)
 - Telephone: 0345 988 1188
 - Textphone: 0345 602 6340

If residents want to report flooding they can do so via the following link:

<https://www.oxfordshirefloodtoolkit.com/emergency/report-flood/>

If you receive enquiries, please direct your residents to the links outlined above. It's important for them to understand who the relevant authorities are. The key message for residents is that they should take necessary precautions to protect their properties.

If the council is notified that a Flood Warning has been put in place in your area, it will notify both district councillors and the relevant town or parish council(s).