

# COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT TO PARISH COUNCILS – AUGUST 2020 BY COUNCILLOR LORRAINE LINDSAY- GALE

## Oxfordshire update

Ansaf Azhar, Director of Public Health has reported that there have been some early signs of rising COVID-19 cases in Oxfordshire, particularly in the eastern parts of Oxford city.

With more events and gatherings set to take place over the coming weeks, we have stepped-up our **#stopthespread** Oxfordshire-wide public health communications campaign, particularly in Oxford, to urge people to **follow social distancing to avoid local control measures**.

I would be grateful if you could please continue to help us to extend the reach of the **#stopthespread** campaign by retweeting and sharing our **#stopthespread** public health information and stories via your social media accounts.

Guidance for residents and businesses is available at:  
[www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/stopthespread](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/stopthespread).

## **COVID-19 Cases in Oxfordshire**

(Source:- Covid-19 Situational Awareness Explorer)

- In the 7 days up to 24 July, there have been a total of 57 confirmed COVID-19 cases in Oxfordshire.
- This is up from 28 new cases in the previous week.
- The 7-day average number of cases was 8.1 new cases per day.
- Using the average number of cases for the last week, the daily rate for new cases is 1.2 per 100,000 residents.

Cases of coronavirus by district are summarised in the table below.

<b>Area name</b>	<b>Total cases</b>	<b>Cases in 7 days up to 24/07/20</b>
Cherwell	703	<5
Oxford	889	31
South Oxfordshire	610	<5
Vale of White Horse	478	9
West Oxfordshire	531	9
<b>Oxfordshire</b>	<b>3,211</b>	<b>57</b>

## **Data correct as at 3pm, 28 July 2020**

These cases are those included in Pillar 1 testing (swab testing in Public Health England (PHE) labs and NHS hospitals for those with a clinical need,

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and health and care workers) and Pillar 2 (swab (antigen) testing for the wider population).

For more information about the testing strategy pillars, go to

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-the-public>

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This week, the **Silver Coordination Group** held their final meeting. Over the last 22 weeks this joint OCC/CDC group, chaired by Director of Community Safety Rob MacDougall, has worked together brilliantly to ensure our management of issues arising from COVID response and recovery are managed effectively across both the County Council and Cherwell District Council. While much of the work done by this group will continue as part of our ongoing recovery effort, we have now reached the point where it is no longer necessary for the Silver group to meet.

## **Active Travel**

Part of our work to enable Oxfordshire's recovery from coronavirus has been to support a shift to walking and cycling so people are able to get around safely and sustainably as lockdown restrictions are eased. This is being partly funded by the Department for Transport through the Emergency Active Travel Fund.

### Tranche one

Good progress continues to be made with the first phase of activity. Our [Active Travel web pages](#) provide up-to-date information, including:

- detailed phase one changes (June and July) by wide geographical area
- the work schedule for cycleway changes

We are continuing to feature active travel news stories, which include:

- [Didcot racks up more active travel opportunities](#)
- [Science Vale cycle network progress boosts active travel](#)

### Tranche two

Work progresses on compiling our bid for the second tranche of Active Travel funding, which is due to be submitted on 7 August.

The [joint fast feedback survey](#) with Oxford City Council to help inform proposals to [install temporary bus gates](#) in Oxford city centre is now live. We are proposing to trial two new bus gates in Oxford city centre, using an Experimental Traffic Regulation Order (ETRO) - this is an approach encouraged by the Government to assist in the delivery of active travel modes and other coronavirus recovery schemes. As anticipated, there is high level of public interest in this exercise and it is scheduled to close on 9 August at 23.59.

## Opening of council buildings and offices

With more services restarting as lockdown eases, there will not be any immediate changes for the County Council as an organisation. We are continuing to ask everyone who can work from home to continue to do so and virtual committee meetings will continue.

## Award-winning Council

The **Armed Forces Employer Recognition Scheme** acknowledges employers who best demonstrate forces-friendly credentials as part of their recruitment, selection and support of those in the armed forces. Gold is the scheme's highest level of award, and we have received this honour in recognition of our **gold standard** employment and support of the armed forces community. You can read more about the award and our work to achieve it in this [news story](#). More detailed information on how the [council works with the military in Oxfordshire](#) is in a dedicated section of our public website.

We have also been recognised in this year's **Fostering Excellence Awards** – the UK's most prestigious foster care awards, which celebrate outstanding achievement in fostering and recognise those who make exceptional contributions to foster care every day. The Fostering Network was so impressed with our work to promote the Fostering Friendly Employer scheme that they have awarded us the **Fostering Friendly Employer of the year award**.

We are always looking for new foster carers. If you know of anyone who may be interested, please signpost them to the fostering pages on the county council website [www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/fostering](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/fostering).

## Oxfordshire Music On Line

To brighten your day – it certainly did mine – I thought I would share this fantastic performance from the **Oxfordshire Youth Music Theatre** singing [Superstar \(from Jesus Christ Superstar\)](#) on you.tu.be. After rehearsing for months, their performance was sadly cancelled by the coronavirus. But they rose to the challenge and delivered a wonderful virtual performance. Oxfordshire County Music Service really have been keeping the music alive during this pandemic, with virtual music lessons, the joint OCC/CDC choir, and much more.

## Cultural Services – August 2020

Government guidance has now confirmed that libraries are to be treated in the same manner as shops and therefore from **Friday the 24th of**

**July, face coverings are now required for customers and staff in libraries.** As per the guidance and information in the public domain for shops, customers will not be refused entry if they do not have a face covering or refuse to complete a track and trace information slip but do run the risk of receiving a fine if they do not do so.

Once we are in a position to open the Oxfordshire Museum and History centre, the same rules will apply regarding face coverings.

### Dates for library opening

Libraries opening in **Tranche 2** (w/c July 20<sup>th</sup>):

- Banbury
- Cowley
- Carterton
- Henley
- Kidlington

Libraries reopening in **Tranche 3** (commencing 27 July)

- Headington
- Blackbird Leys
- Wantage
- Summertown

**Tranche 4** (week commencing 3 August)

- Wallingford
- Berinsfield
- Eynsham
- Chipping Norton

### Community Libraries

We have had initial discussions with friends groups who help us run our 22 Community Libraries to plan for opening in the same phased way.

### Heritage

Museum Resource Centre is opening (w/c 27 July) as part of **Tranche 3**.

The Oxfordshire Museum and History Centre are in active planning in **Tranche 5** with a target date of w/c 10 August. This coincides with the University opening the Ashmolean.

### Registration

**Registration offices open:**

- County Hall (registrations/ceremonies)
- Tidmarsh Lane, Oxford (ceremonies)
- Bodicote House, Banbury (appointments and ceremonies)

- Didcot Library Registration Office
- Henley

**Opening 2<sup>nd</sup> September:**

- Abingdon
- Bicester
- Witney