

Title	County Councillor's Report
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Things at the Council – as in life generally - are beginning to return to some kind of normal; Today I attend my first Planning & Regulation committee meeting, and OxonCC Full Council meets next week in Oxford for the first time. I have submitted a question on our provision for unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (currently lower than the national average).

County libraries set to return to pre-pandemic opening hours

Return of pre-pandemic opening hours at almost all the county's libraries from Monday, 6 September.

Residents can visit the [county council's library webpage](#) to check the opening hours for their local library. The opening hours are also available on the library app (search Oxfordshire Libraries in the app store) and on Google business listings.

Saturday music sessions for children set to launch across Oxfordshire

New music sessions across the county on Saturday mornings for children aged 6-13 will offer a fun, safe supportive atmosphere to make new friends and improve by performing with others. The 90-minute Saturday music centre sessions are available through school term times from 18 September and are available in Bicester, Oxford, Didcot, Thame and Witney.

Most school choirs and bands have not been able to rehearse together for more than a year, and children learning to play an instrument have had to rely on remote instruction, so this is welcome news – culture is vitally important for all of our wellbeing.

To book, visit the [council's webpage](#), select the nearest venue and reserve a place.

Our instructors are DBS checked and risk assessments and safety precautions are being taken to reduce the risks of COVID-19 transmission.

First in planned wave of new 20mph zones approved

A 20mph speed limit will be introduced in Cuxham later this month, becoming the first of five trial sites, which could pave the way for a countywide road safety programme.

This followed a consultation process in which 82 per cent of residents responding were in favour of the speed reduction. The council is currently in the process of consulting on four more 20mph trial sites across the county, in Long Wittenham, Wallingford Central, Wallingford North and Kirtlington. It is believed there is the potential to have around 85 per cent of Oxfordshire's 30mph roads reduced to 20mph, subject to local opinion and available funding.

This 20mph approach will help to make active travel, public and shared transport the natural first choice, improving the experience of being on streets and making healthy travel safer.

As part of this process, Oxfordshire County Council is committed to working with the campaign group 20's Plenty, local communities, Thames Valley Police, bus companies and other stakeholders.

Civil Parking Enforcement

The government has approved Oxfordshire County Council's bid to take on responsibility for civil parking enforcement. The council already enforces parking in Oxford City and West Oxfordshire and will now take over from Thames Valley Police in South Oxfordshire, the Vale of White Horse and Cherwell districts, ensuring continuity across the whole county when the change comes into place, which is currently expected to be on 1 November 2021.

The aim is for the new arrangement to be self-funding, with the extra pay and display spaces helping to pay for enforcement costs, although with some funding from the three districts.

Parking offences will be enforced by a contractor on behalf of the council. Penalty charges range from £50-£70 but will be reduced by 50 per cent if paid within 14 days.

How can I feed into Civil Parking Enforcement?

With the rollout of CPE, local intelligence will be essential in ensuring enforcement is directed to the right locations and we welcome input from

councillors, local residents and businesses on parking in their areas where vehicles parking illegally maybe causing a hazard or safety issue. If you are aware of areas where parking enforcement is an issue, please contact the parking team via CPEenquiries@oxfordshire.gov.uk and Officers will pass the information across our enforcement teams who will be developing deployment plans for the new areas.

Councillor Priority Fund

The Councillor Priority Fund is a sum of £15,000 per councillor that runs over the course of two years until 31 March 2023. The fund is now open for applications and each councillor can use their fund to support community projects and organisations.

Any eligible organisation can approach me directly to apply for this fund, and would then have to complete the form available for download on the county council website.

Covid-19 Vaccinations

While we await a government decision on school-age vaccinations, with schools reopening this week, those aged 18 or over can [book a vaccination](#) on the national booking service (people do not need to wait to be invited). The timing for the second dose is eight weeks for all. The latest vaccination figures are updated daily at the [NHS England website](#).

You can book a vaccination on the [national booking service](#) if any of the following apply:

- you're aged 18 or over
- you're at high risk from COVID-19 ([clinically extremely vulnerable](#))
- you have a condition that puts you at higher risk ([clinically vulnerable](#))
- you have a learning disability
- you're a frontline health or social care worker
- you're a main carer for someone at high risk from COVID-19.

People wishing to rebook their second appointment are able to check availability first on the [national booking service](#) before cancelling and rescheduling their existing second dose appointment.

Symptom-free testing

There are a range of options to access twice-weekly lateral flow tests. These include: ordering a home test kit online; collecting home test kits from pharmacies; or collecting a home test kit from one of the county council's libraries.

With one in three people with COVID-19 not having any symptoms, twice-weekly testing will remain crucial to help us find these cases and

prevent the spread of infection. This applies even if people have been vaccinated. All the [symptom-free testing information](#) is available on our website.

Symptomatic testing

If you have symptoms of COVID-19, you must self-isolate and [book a PCR test](#) as soon as possible. More information is available on the county council's [symptom testing pages](#).

A reminder of the county's symptomatic test sites:

- Oxford Parkway (OX2 8HA)
- Osney Lane, Oxford (OX1 1NY)
- Woodford Way car park, Witney (OX28 6JS)
- Oxford Brookes University (OX3 0BP).