Oxfordshire County Council News June/July 2026

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SEND Consultation

Draft SEND Strategy 2026-2029 Consultation

The Local Area Partnership (LAP) of representatives from parents, and carers, education, health and social care has co-designed a new SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disability) strategy.

There are eight commitments currently and a Draft LAP SEND Strategy to read before taking a 20-minute survey. Open until 3rd August 2026. For more information and to take part click **here**.

Injunction at High Court Secured against Flag Raising

The High Court has awarded an injunction to the County Council to prevent the continued unauthorised placement of flags on or near the public highway.

Each named defendant of the Raise The Colours group has given an undertaking in the court not to put up flags in Oxfordshire, not to encourage others to do it or abuse people taking them down.

The hearing took place at the Royal Courts of Justice on Tuesday, 23rd June. More **here**

Grass Cutting

There have been a lot of questions from parish councils and residents about grass cutting and the County Council's criteria and management of it.

The Council's best information without reference to individual parish cases, (although the current schedule of work dates in all our areas) is **here**.

Speed Limit Review on 60 Rural Roads This Year

A review of speed limits on all of Oxfordshire's rural A and B roads is being ramped up, which could lead to dozens of routes being made safer in the next 12 months.

Since 2025, Oxfordshire County Council has been reviewing speed limits and safety on its network as part of its **Vision Zero** programme to eliminate deaths and serious injuries on the network. More information available **here**

Quiet Lanes

New quiet lanes will be introduced across Oxfordshire, where there is local support, under a pilot scheme approved at the end of May by Oxfordshire County Council's Cabinet.

The new quiet lanes will prioritise physical measures supported by reduced speed limits, typically to 20mph.

All new schemes in the pilot will include:

- physical measures to prohibit through traffic, such as gates and bollards
- quiet lane signage
- speed limit changes.

New lanes will only be introduced where there is strong local support, including from parish and county councillors and a suitable alternative route for motor traffic.

More information on the Council website **here**, or on this TRL website, **here**

Local Government Reorganisation decision

The earliest date that the Council will be notified of the government's decision around the formation of the new unitary authority for Oxfordshire is 16th July.

Tackling Speeding

Villages across the region have been experiencing problems with speeding. Here are some available options which can help make our roads safer.

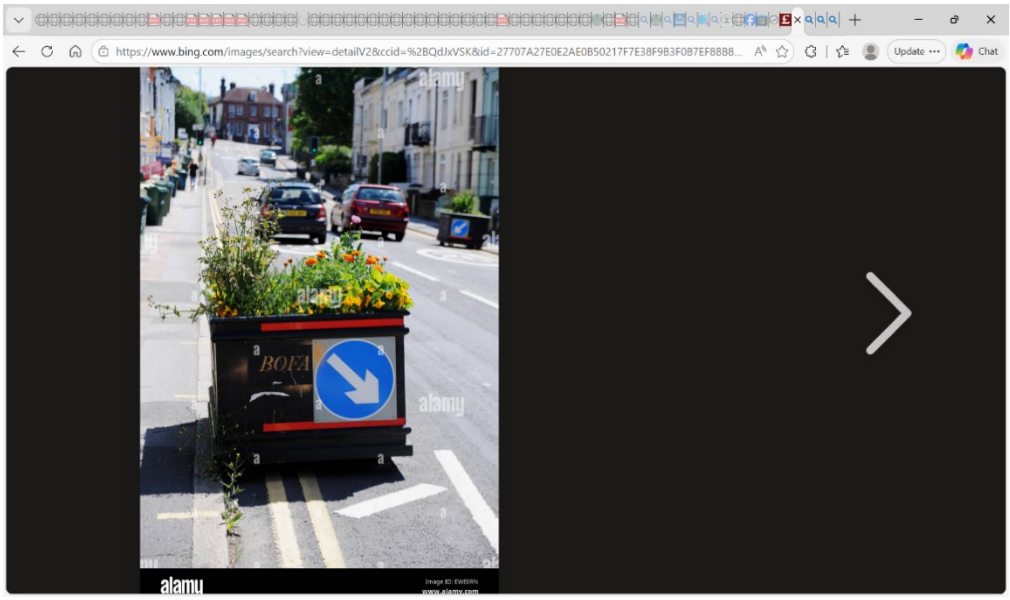
➢ Reminders not to speed

- Speed Indicator Devices
  - There is a requirement that the device is moved every 3-6 months because it's considered temporary and not official highways signage, also this is the duration of the battery on the device unless you pay extra for solar panels.
  - This means you need to pay for the instillation of two poles, which locations are approved and installed by the County Council.
  - Each pole costs just over £1k.
  - SIDs cost around £3k (a range of companies manufacture SIDs).
- Warning signs
  - Signs from Highways for hedgehogs, ducks and horses are effective at making cars slow down

➢ Enforcement

- Speedwatch
  - Thames Valley Police (TVP) provide training and equipment (including radar devices). It requires at least three volunteers to be available to run a Speedwatch session in the village, and this must only occur from sites pre-approved by TVP.
  - Details and how to sign up a team of volunteers, here: **https://www.thamesvalley-pcc.gov.uk/get-involved/community-speedwatch/**

➢ Physical infrastructure to reduce speeding

- Requires a survey (a "tube" survey costs ~£190 +VAT per location).
  - Parish is responsible for paying for the survey
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    - Provides a breakdown of speed and volume of vehicle types over the course of a week and look at the average, etc.
- Engage a consultant to design the Traffic Calming scheme
    - Parish is responsible for paying for the consultant to design traffic calming
    - Would include a public consultation and require approval from the County Council. Contract the work
    - Affordable options include creating a chicane, where traffic must give way using large planters, which could be moved if needed. This is only suitable in low-speed areas.

Crime Prevention

After recent increase in burglaries in the wider region, mostly organised criminals travelling in from London, but there are things residents can do to reduce their risk.

- Report anything suspicious, such as strange behaviour, vans which might be used for crime, vehicles parked in laybys or in unusual locations. These might be innocent, but they can be investigated and could help solve/prevent crimes. Report this to 101 or here: **https://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/ro/report/**
- You can report any hare coursing, badger bating, hunting with dogs, poaching etc here: **https://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/ro/report/rwc/wildlife/report-wildlife-crime/**

Police are patrolling undercover at night in our region, you can sign up for Thames Valley Police alerts to be notified about issues in your area **www.thamesvalleyalert.co.uk**

Smart Water

- **https://shop.smartwater.com/** this provides uniquely traceable markings for items which are stolen, reducing likelihood of theft and increasing the chance of item return. Ideal for laptops, jewellery, designer handbags etc.

CCTV

- Cameras on the front and rear of your home can help provide a deterrent and vital evidence if a crime is committed e.g.:
    - Ring doorbells **https://en-uk.ring.com/**
    - Netatmo cameras **https://www.netatmo.com/en-gb/security**

Holidays

- If you are away on holiday, use timer switches for lamps to make it appear that people are still at home. Ask a neighbour to park a spare car on your driveway, so it looks like people are around.