**REPORT TO PARISH COUNCILS**

FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR LORRAINE LINDSAY-GALE

**AUGUST 2014**

**GROWTH DEAL HERALDS NEW ERA FOR OXFORDSHIRE ECONOMY**

The Deal will see at least **£108.6 million invested in Oxfordshire** with £15.7 million confirmed in the first year. In addition, as part of the Government’s on-going commitment to the Oxfordshire LEP, it has provided an indicative award of a further £92.9million of funding from 2016/17 onwards. This Deal will help to create up to 5,700 jobs, allow over 4,000 homes to be built and generate over £100m in public and private investment.

The key features of the deal are:

* Investing in substantial measures to **reduce the risk of flooding**, so that businesses can continue to operate, roads and railway lines are kept clear and people can be confident that their homes and businesses won’t be damaged;
* Investing jointly with the University of Oxford in a new Centre for Applied Superconductivity, which will bring university professors and entrepreneurs together to **collaborate on exciting developments in fields as diverse as computing, cryogenics, x-rays and MRI scanning and electricity storage**;
* Investing with the City of Oxford College, and Abingdon and Witney College, in **state-of-the-art skills centres** that will train local people in science, engineering and technology, providing them with the skills they need to get a job;
* Significant investment in **better transport links** including roads, parking and cycling networks – joining up Oxfordshire’s world class universities with its businesses and helping people get to where they need to be faster;
* Additional investment into the Oxfordshire Growth Hub to **help local businesses** access support and make the connections they need to grow.

The Oxfordshire Growth Deal is part of a **national £12 billion long-term programme to revitalise local economies.** The deals are the latest and greatest example of the British economy being rebuilt from the bottom up, and sharing the benefits of the recovery around the country. Local businesses and council leaders have been invited to open discussions immediately on the next set of projects to be funded, building on the momentum that has been established.

**LAUNCH OF OXFORD STATION MASTERPLAN**

A masterplan for Oxford Station was launched on Thursday 24 July, setting out a long-term vision for major improvements to the station and surrounding area.

The ambition of the plan is to create an exemplary gateway to the city that meets Oxford's long-term rail needs and acts as a focus for investment.

The proposals call for **higher quality public space**, in and around the station and significant changes to accommodate the expected increase in rail passenger numbers over the next few years.

The main features include: a **new station building**, **new rail track and platforms**, a transport interchange - including **bus station and multi-story car park**, development opportunities, better **cycle facilities** and **improvements to Botley Road bridge**.

Oxford City Council, Oxfordshire County Council and Network Rail are working together to develop the masterplan, in conjunction with the Department for Transport and First Great Western

More information at: [***https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/news/2014/jul/launch-oxford-station-masterplan***](https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/news/2014/jul/launch-oxford-station-masterplan)

DRAFT LOCAL FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY CONSULTATION

This consultation is to gather views on the draft Local Flood Risk Management Strategy for Oxfordshire, which:

* Sets procedures for identifying the relative priorities of measures for reducing local flood risk (i.e. from surface water, groundwater and ordinary watercourses such as rivers.
* Establishes how to identify areas where a ‘holistic approach’ to flood risk management will achieve multiple benefits.
* Establishes how to identify affordable measures for implementation to agreed time frames Facilitates engagement and consultation with the community and all our partners
* Encourages public awareness and self-help where appropriate

It is open until 19th September with more information at: [***https://consultations.oxfordshire.gov.uk/consult.ti/floodriskmgmt/consultationHome***](https://consultations.oxfordshire.gov.uk/consult.ti/floodriskmgmt/consultationHome)

**ACADEMIC RESEARCH OPEN TO ALL COUNTY RESIDENTS**

The County Council’s library service has joined forces with the Publishers Licensing Society and Society of Chief Librarians leading to the computers at all 43 of Oxfordshire’s libraries being linked up to a system that allows online access to research of many varieties.

Called “Access to Research”, the service offers access to research literature on art, architecture, business, engineering, history, languages, politics, philosophy, mathematics and the sciences, medicine and health and social sciences.

*More information at:* [***https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/news/2014/jul/oxfordshire-libraries-bring-academic-research-all-county-residents***](https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/news/2014/jul/oxfordshire-libraries-bring-academic-research-all-county-residents)

**SUMMER READING CHALLENGE FOR ADULTS**

People across Oxfordshire are being invited to share their enthusiasm for books at a series of special events as part of the county council library service’s Summer Reading Challenge for Adults.

*More information at:* [**https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/news/2014/jul/come-dine-us-oxfordshires-libraries**](https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/news/2014/jul/come-dine-us-oxfordshires-libraries)

**COUNTY HALL COMMEMORATES THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE FIRST WORLD WAR**

Oxfordshire County Council will be turning its ‘lights out’ as part of a special service to commemorate 100 years since the outbreak of the First World War on Monday 4th August. The event is a national campaign, which invites people from all over the country to turn off all the lights in their building and leave just one on in remembrance of those who served during the war. The event is inspired by the words of the then foreign secretary Sir Edward Grey, who said: “The lamps are going out all over Europe; we shall not see them lit again in our lifetime.”

*More information at:* [***https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/news/2014/aug/county-council-turns-%E2%80%98lights-out%E2%80%99-commemorate-fallen-heroes***](https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/news/2014/aug/county-council-turns-%E2%80%98lights-out%E2%80%99-commemorate-fallen-heroes)

**OXFORDSHIRE AT THE COMMONWEALTH GAMES, GLASGOW 2014**

Congratulations to all athletes who competed at the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow. England came top of the table with Oxfordshire well represented. **Dan Rivers** of Didcot won gold in the 50m 3p Rifle and bronze in 10m Rifle Event and Oxford-born **Matt French** won silver in the double trap clay pigeon shoot. As part of the Women’s Hockey Team, **Zoe Shipperley** of Marsh Gibbon claimed silver and **Ben Watson** of Didcot won bronze in Men’s 105kg Weightlifting. In athletics, **Hannah England** of Oxford reached the final of the women’s 1500m and **Nathan Douglas**, also from Oxford, competed in the triple jump.

**SUCCESSFUL TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT FOR THE CLA GAME FAIR**

The CLA Game Fair returned to Blenheim Palace in July. Some changes were made to the traffic management programme since the previous event in 2011. The plans worked well and there was minimal disruption to local circulation. The event itself was a success, with **over 150,000 visitors** enjoying the show and bringing millions of pounds into the local economy. The hotels, B & Bs, pubs and restaurants all had a busy weekend and returning visitors will add to our economy.

**PARISHES:**

**Berinsfield:**

**New Speed Limits at roundabout on A4074**

After years of campaigning with the Parish Council for a 40mph speed limit on the A4074 approaching the roundabout from Oxford by the bus stops, I am really delighted that at last the County Council Highways Department and the Thames Valley Police have agreed to consult on establishing not only this limit, but a similar limit on all the other three approaching roads. For too long pedestrians have taken their lives in their hands when trying to cross from one side of the main road to the other. In light of the considerable housing development planned for the village, these new, safer speed limits are coming at a critical time.

**New Library Manager**

In my role as Cabinet member responsible for Libraries I am delighted that the Service had appointed Linda Town as the new Library Manager for Berinsfield. During the time that Nina Sutton was so ill Linda worked as acting Librarian and is the perfect person to take over now as Nina retires.

**Launch of Benson’s Community Library**

Although not within my Division, again in my Cabinet role, I was delighted to be invited to the launch of Benson’s Community Library with John Howell MP. From now on local volunteers will be helping to run the library as one of the 21 Community Libraries being established across the county. We are really grateful to all those coming forward to volunteer in this way, which is enabling us to keep all our 43 libraries open, something that we know is very important to many Oxfordshire residents.

**Clifton Hampden/Culham**

I have attended several meetings recently with regards to two significant issues for Clifton Hampden and Culham. First the development plans for the JET site and second the imminent deposition of an application for gravel extraction on land south of the A415, between the railway line and Clifton Hampden. Both these developments would have serious impacts upon the local environment, and on the already appalling traffic congestion at the cross roads, particularly at peak times. The County Council has outline plans for a Clifton Hampden bypass, plus a new route north/south to Dicot, over a new river crossing. But as both of these schemes would require huge amounts of capital they are unlikely to proceed without a large amount of housing development**.**

**Culham Primary School**

I was very pleased to be able to support Culham Primary School in their fight against closure three years ago. The County Council agreed to give them a second chance with stiff conditions. This Summer all those conditions were met. Every credit should be given to the Governors, the staff, the head teacher and all the village residents who campaigned over the three years to raise funds. The school is now thriving having gone from 29 pupils to 51.

**Drayton St Leonard Footbridge in Place!**

Ever since it had to be closed four years ago because it had become unsafe, the residents of Drayton St Leonard, Newington and Warborough have been hoping for a new footbridge over the river Thame. Two years ago the County Council Countryside Services drew up plans, but then the central government cuts came down, and so did the rain. Last year was therefore a wash-out. But this week a beautiful, metal-looking, arched footbridge has been installed. It’s made of state of the art materials that won’t rust or need painting. It cost over £100,000. The village is planning a special ribbon cutting ceremony very soon, and I get to cut the ribbon with Mark Sumner our Countryside Services Officer who has been instrumental in keeping the project alive under very difficult circumstances.

**Garsington**

The natural spring that bursts out from near the top of the hill at Southend has been fixed at long last. The County Council engineers have waited for fine weather, and let’s hope that their solution lasts too. I have discussed all the other issues that the Parish Council would like attended to with our Area Steward. I cannot make any promises on such items as the exposed drainage covers in Pettiwell since these would be expensive to repair. I have however put the requested speed survey on Southend at the top of my list of priorities to be paid for out of my Stewardship fund for the year. It will be conducted in September when the schools return.

I was delighted to be able to sponsor an Open Day in Garsington for The Maple Tree Childrens’ Centre last weekend with a grant for £500 from my Councillor’s Community Budget. The organisers put on lots of lovely things for the children and their parents to enjoy. Sadly, the weather wasn’t kind to them. But I understand that lots of new contacts were made which is what the event was aiming to achieve.

**Sandford on Thames**

I attended a successful meeting at the Four Pillars Hotel, hosted by Sandford Parish Council to alert residents to the implications of the recent consultation put out by South Oxfordshire District Council in reaction to the SHMA. It was well attended. I hope those present, about 70 people, managed to spread the word in time for the deadline. District Councillors John Cotton and Elizabeth Gillespie gave everyone a clear briefing which I was able to support. We cannot open the door to development on the Oxford Green Belt at Grenoble Road, Sandford and at Horspath**.**

**The Youth Playground Group at Sandford** made a very professional presentation at the last Parish Council meeting in support of their fundraising campaign to give their playground a complete makeover. As a result I have agreed to sponsor their appeal to the sum of £1,000.

**Stadhampton**

Ascott Park is a beautiful nature trail and archaeological site on the eastern edge of Stadhampton. It’s loved by many local people, and owned by the County Council. The Oxfordshire Buildings Trust helps to maintain the site along with a local farmer. Recently the tenancy for the land came up for renewal. I am really happy that as the Councillor responsible for Cultural Services, and an archaeologist I played a small part in enabling Mr Jeremy Mogford to take over the tenancy. Jeremy lives on the neighbouring farm and is very committed to looking after the site as all history and nature lovers would wish.

Now that the new Community Centre is up and running I have used some of my Community Budget to pay for some signage so that even more people will know that it is there, and can find their way.

**Stewardship Expenditure for Berinsfield and Garsington Division**

1. **Speed Survey at Southend, Garsington. £120.00**
2. **Side out Tolegate, Culham £1,000.00**
3. **Veg cut back, repairs, Watling Lane, Dorchester £2,000.00**
4. **Veg cut back islands on A4074 near Dorchester £2,000.00**
5. **Strim footpath between Meadside and Dorchester £500.00**
6. **Veg cut back Main Street to City Boundary, Sandford £500.00**
7. **Side out footpath, Wallingford Road, Shillingford £2,000.00**
8. **Strim and weedkill pedentrian ped, Clifton Hampden £500.00**
9. **Strim and weedkill internal foothpaths, Berienfield £1,000.00**
10. **Side out footpath from Benson to Warborough (share) £1,500.00**
11. **Veg cut back Coombewell, Garsington £500.00**
12. **Strim new footpath, Stadhampton £500.00**