

REPORT TO ST HELEN WITHOUT PARISH COUNCIL

SEPTEMBER 2025

FROM CLLR JAMES PLUMB

OXFORD CONGESTION CHARGE UPDATE

Over the summer a public consultation was held regarding plans to introduce a congestion charge in Oxford. More than 7,000 people responded to the consultation with over 66% of those who responded to the public consultation saying that there shouldn't be a charge, and more than 73% of respondents stating that the charge would negatively impact their lives. The scheme was approved by Cabinet on Wednesday 10th September and will come into effect by early November. More information on the scheme, including permits and exemptions is available [here](#).

FARINGDON ROAD CLOSURE

Faringdon Road will be closed between Blackhorse Lane and Sheepstead Road between the 29th -30th September to facilitate investigation works to determine the suitability of site for in-situ recycling works, including trial pitting, soil sampling, GPR and LWD testing. Limited access will be maintained for emergency service vehicles and for frontages within the closed section of road, but a diversion will be in place for other road users.

COUNCILLOR PRIORITY FUND

The Councillor Priority Fund has officially re-opened allowing Councillors to grant funding to local projects in their division. £10,000 has been allocated to each councillor between May 2025-May 2027 and applications need to be made by November 2026. There is a minimum grant value of £500, so please do let me know if there is anything within the parish you'd like me to contribute to.

ELECTRIC BLANKET TESTING THIS AUTUMN

Oxfordshire Trading Standards Team will be hosting sessions throughout the county for residents to get their electric blankets checked ahead of the winter. In 2024, 734 blankets were tested with 30% failing electrical safety checks. Safety checks are happening in the following locations nearby: Abingdon (26th September), Wantage (10th October).

SALT BINS

The County Council will soon be considering new locations for salt/grit bins in the area. If you have any suggestions, please do let me know. The bins cost £300 for installation and an initial filling and then will be re-filled once per year by the County Council.