

Are you aware of issues that affect public safety on the Highway?

For all highways works including potholes, flooding and vegetation that could cause a hazard, and damaged or missing road signs, please contact

Highways Enquiries on 0845 3101111

Email: highwayenquiries@oxfordshire.gov.uk



Biffa on 03000 610610

For mud, leaves and street cleansing

Community Payback 01869 328500

For siding out and vegetation clearance

The Probation Service seeks to provide work for probationers who are conducting community service as an alternative to a custodial sentence. They need to work where they will be visible and to have access to a hall for welfare.

If you would like to discuss non-urgent requests for improving your area, such as dropped crossing, please ask for the Local Highways Representative below:

Lex Macfarlane, Botley to Radley and Kennington to Blewbury

Mandy Bell, Abingdon Area

Tony Currell, Faringdon Area

Alan Pratley, Grove and Wantage Area

Vegetation and Ditches

Keeping water off the highway is dependent on ditches and grips being kept clear to allow the water to flow away. Ponding water can block a road, and freezing water leads to cracking and potholes. Ditches are the responsibility of the adjoining landowner and need to be kept clear to alleviate flooding issues.

Oxfordshire County Council is not able to cut back privately owned vegetation or clear ditches. Where vegetation or ditch clearance issues are noted, please seek to identify the owner of the land next to the ditch or where the roots of the vegetation originate.



If Parish Councils are able to contact landowners or householders to bring issues to their attention, this will often resolve issues. In some instances where vegetation is causing a hazard and the landowner does not cut back vegetation sufficiently, footpaths have to be closed while we take legal action.



**OXFORDSHIRE
COUNTY COUNCIL**

www.oxfordshire.gov.uk

Highway Works in the Vale of White Horse

December 2012, January 2013



Maintaining the Highway

Welcome to the latest newsletter on highway maintenance in the Vale of White Horse. We have been working hard to keep the highway functioning during adverse conditions of heavy rain, flooding and low temperatures. By the time you read this, we may have had snow. The *Area Stewardship Fund* is due to be spent by January 11 2013 and many projects are now being programmed. We have had some staff changes in the Vale team since our last newsletter and you will see the details on the back page. We would all like to wish you a Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year

Laura Hutchins

Area Steward, Vale of White Horse

Area Stewardship Fund

Two pedestrian crossings are being considered for Abingdon, in Spring Road and in Radley Road. We are also developing a crossing in Marcham on the A415. You will have noticed VASs through rural Oxfordshire which have been funded by the scheme and are helping develop speed awareness. The Fund has also been used to refresh lines where they are wearing out and to install red roundels with 30mph where appropriate.



A programme of weed spraying is planned for Abingdon and free parking signing are guiding drivers into Faringdon and Abingdon. The Fund has also been used for dropped kerbs to assist wheel chair users and buggy users, and to manage vegetation which is OCC owned and impacting on the highway. The previous maintenance budgets were severely cut in this year's budget and the Area Stewardship Fund is now supporting maintenance in a range of areas including drainage, footway refurbishment, vegetation and lining.

Adverse Weather

Oxfordshire experienced the worst flooding event since 2007 between Thursday 22nd and Friday 30th November. The event started with a very wet and windy Thursday night. Due to the likelihood of high numbers of out of hours calls a *severe weather desk* was established in Cambridge Terrace. This was staffed by Duty Officers and Works Supervisors. A total of 58 calls were received during that night and were a mixture of fallen trees and localised flooding. Further heavy rain was forecast for Saturday and indeed it came. The Severe Weather Desk was re-established and stayed in place off and on for the next 6 days dealing with flooding issues as the high river levels worked their way across the county, starting in the West and North and eventually leaving the county from the Henley area. Several areas experienced localised flooding with the most significant being the Abingdon Road, one of the main arterial routes into the centre of Oxford. This remained closed to through traffic for nearly a week.

During the recent floods we were asked to provide sand bags. This is something we can only do for highway use unless residents have been deemed to be vulnerable by Social Services. Sand and bags are available from Builders Merchants and some DIY stores and during the recent flooding incident sand and bags were provided by Oxford City Council at PC World at Botley and at Redbridge Park and Ride. During the event nearly 15,000 sandbags were distributed across the County for potential flood victims to try to hold back the flood waters. Fortunately only 18 properties had internal flooding with two residential establishments having to be evacuated albeit for a relatively short period.

Any sandbags that were delivered to 'drop-off' areas that have not been used will be collected by the County Council. Residents who have sandbags that have not been used or affected by flood waters are advised to retain them, in case they are needed again in the future. Residents that have any used sandbags that have been affected by flood waters are advised to refer to their relevant District Council website for disposal advice.

Salt bags were placed along the highway to treat water flowing onto the highway from adjoining fields and to protect the highway from the water turning to ice. In some locations the salt bags were moved from the verges by well-meaning members of the public who thought they were sand bags. In future they will be clearly labelled. Please ask people to leave them at the roadside edge.

Grit Bins

Grit Bins have now been installed and filled. They will not be refilled this winter.

Temporary Traffic Regulation Orders

Parish	Road	Description	Start Date	End Date
TEMPORARY TROs UPDATED 03.12.2012				
Parish	Road	Description	Start Date	End Date
Abingdon	East St Helen Street	Gas main replacement works	29/10/2012	23/11/2012
Abingdon	Footpath 22 (at Abingdon Lock)	Lock refurbishment works	01/11/2012	31/03/2013
Appleford	Appleford Level Crossing	Level crossing maintenance works	02/03/2013	03/03/2013
Blewbury	B4016 Bessel's Way	Telecommunication works	11/12/2012	13/12/2012
East Hendred	A417	carriageway resurfacing		
Fyfield and Tubney	Footpath 2	Land restoration works	01/01/2013	30/06/2013
Harwell	Bridleway19	Plant decommissioning works	21/05/2012	20/05/2013
Steventon	Causeway Level Crossing	Crossing maintenance works	09/12/2012	10/12/2012
Steventon	Stocks Lane Level Crossing	Crossing maintenance works	08/12/2012	09/12/2012
Steventon	Stocks Lane Level Crossing	Crossing maintenance works	27/01/2013	27/01/2013
Steventon	Stocks Lane Level Crossing	Crossing maintenance works	10/02/2013	10/02/2013

Name the Gritter Competition

On Thursday 6 December 2012 we had the launch of the 'name a gritter' competition in the Drayton depot. A fairly large group of visitors (children, teachers, members and the media) came to the depot to celebrate the event. The gritters were named: *Salt Shaker, Cruncher, True Grit, Salt it Out, Gritter Bug, Gregory, Flicker, Ice Warrior, Stiggy, Snowball, Snow Warrior, Imelt De-ice, Gertie, Frosty, Darth Gritter, Gracie, Stoney, Arnie, Boris, Griterminator, Ice Block, Grippy, Mr Meltdown, The Dissolver, Crazy Daisy, Gilbert, Eddi, Salty, The Ice King, Buster, Hercules*