

Eynsham Annual Parish Meeting 24 April 2018

COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT – 2017/18

I have worked during last year with your District Councillors, Parish Councillors, the Neighbourhood Plan members and local residents to ensure a satisfactory result in communications with Oxfordshire County Council.

There have been a number of important issues which have rightly concerned the residents of the Eynsham Division- in particular The proposed Garden Village and the thousand houses, west of the village (including those through Thornbury Road).and lastly the A40 'improvements'.

My position on all three of these topics depends on infrastructure and I cannot profess to think the current situation is satisfactory. Some 15,950 houses are planned for the Carterton / Witney / Eynsham corridor by 2030 now the Local Plan is close to being agreed by the Inspector. Adding this travel onus onto the A40, where the current lack of flow is diabolical, will not in my view solve any problems ,however much is spent on improvements, Bus Lanes or Park and Rides for 1,000 cars (the A40 has a daily flow of between 20 and 25,000 cars).

Many of you will know that I have been advocating an immediate review of other options to solve the A40 conundrum- to use a light railway / Wuppertal overhead / tram on the old Carterton to Oxford railway line. I have now spoken to the Growth Board, who are supporting the improvement plans on the A40/ HiF bid/ Northern deal at their last two meetings but sadly I do not seem to have made any impression and my questions have been responded to in normal OCC fashion by their Leader. I have however persuaded the Leader, Ian Hudspeth, to meet a leading expert in this transportation field early in May to discuss the options.

I remain hopeful that at long last, the electronic modernisation of the Swinford Tollbridge will be pursued by Oxfordshire County Council and similarly the long overdue spur road from Duke's Cut on the A40 to the Peartree Roundabout will commence to be built soonest.

I continue to work within the County Council on the Performance Scrutiny Committee, the Audit and Governance Committee, the Minerals Cabinet Advisory Group and the current Governance review and to partake of activities to ensure a best result for the people of the division of Eynsham and of Oxfordshire.

I am happy to discuss matters of concern and look forward to helping to the best of my ability.

Please address any questions of clarification to me and I will try and answer them.

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