

PARISH COUNCIL

NEWSLETTER – Autumn 2021



Gosford & Water Eaton Parish Council

As you are a resident within **GOSFORD AND WATER EATON PARISH** we are sending you this newsletter.

We hope that you are all well during the continuing uncertainty of Covid 19.

Parish Boundary

A reminder of our parish boundary. Although we nestle alongside Kidlington we are a very separate parish and are home to Thames Valley Police HQ, Gosford Hill School, Edward Feild School, Gosford Medical Centre, Oxford Parkway and Kidlington and Gosford Sports Centre.

Many businesses form part of our parish including all of the shops by Fairfax Avenue on the Oxford Road, the car wash, Miller & Carter and Sainsbury's Superstore.



Kidlington Parish Council has proposed a change of boundary to Cherwell District Council – the proposal would mean that the majority of residents currently residing within Gosford and Water Eaton Parish would become part of Kidlington. Kidlington would then become a giant ward. As a Parish Council we have opposed this change as we do not feel it is in the interests of residents.

Reasons to remain as separate parishes:

- Residents pay lower Council Tax by being in the separate Parish of Gosford and Water Eaton. Currently Parish Council tax for Band D in Gosford

and Water Eaton is £2,063.79. It is currently £2,091.43 in Kidlington. Kidlington residents pay more in all bands.

- Currently money collected in Gosford and Water Eaton is spent directly in Gosford and Water Eaton. Becoming part of a larger parish means the incoming money will be spread over a wider area. Money spent in Gosford and Water Eaton could be reduced as funding needs will be considered across the larger area.
- The building of all the new houses in our area (Gosford and Water Eaton) will generate a significant amount of revenue for our Parish. Money for us to spend in our area. If we are a small ward of the larger Kidlington Parish Council this money will be diluted and spread over the wider Kidlington area.
- Loss of awareness. Bigger does not necessarily mean better. As a small Parish, areas are monitored closely by the team of councillors. Currently your parish has **seven** parish councillors, many of whom live in our Parish. As a ward of Kidlington Parish Council, we could have only three councillors for our area. The personal touch will be lost as well as 'our voice' amongst a larger council.
- Gosford and Water Eaton residents have to have a strong voice and influence on the development of all the new housing in our area. We need to be recognised as the leading parish in this development.
- Reduced number of councillors working for Gosford and Water Eaton. Right now, there are seven councillors for our parish, this could be reduced to three.
- We are not a political council. Kidlington is political. Political parties focus on different parts of the ward – it would mean all decisions made in the village become political footballs instead of community need first.

You will receive a questionnaire in the next few months containing consultation information on this proposal from Cherwell District Council. Please look out for this and respond to it. In the meantime, we also welcome your views – please email them to us at clerk@gosfordandwatereaton-pc.gov.uk or complete the form at the back of this newsletter and return it to the parish address provided.

We hope you agree that we should **remain independent** as a Parish.

Parish Matters

As a reminder, if you have an issue within our parish boundary, please contact us directly. We do not have an office but you can call us on our **new telephone number 01865 819863** or email us at clerk@gosfordandwatereaton-pc.gov.uk. We are very much here and are happy to help you.

You are welcome to join our monthly meetings. Details are on our website.

More Housing to be built around us by 2031

What is this about?

It's about the new housing proposed for Gosford and Water Eaton by Cherwell District Council.

What is happening?

Cherwell District Council wants to build between 1410 and 2000 new homes in Gosford and Water Eaton by 2031.

We are in discussions with developers regarding the building. The first public consultation was held at Edward Feild Primary School in October. There will be more consultations in the New Year and we will also hold a public meeting when there is more clarity. We will be seeking parish community involvement early in 2022.

Bicester Road

The Bicester Road (between the car wash and Miller & Carter) continues to be the focus of attention by the district and county councils right now. With the likelihood of a huge increase in the local population as a result of Cherwell's review of the local plan it will form an even more important thoroughfare linking Kidlington and Gosford and Water Eaton to each other as well as the A34. The conversion of several of the houses on the road to apartment complexes has also created additional on-street parking problems along with an increase in parking on the verges.

Councillors continue to urge better protection for the school by extending the zig zag lines as well as increased signage warning HGV drivers of the weight limits. Along with other councils in Cherwell, GWEPCC also supports the 'twenty is plenty' campaign which could restrict the speed limit on this and other local roads to 20MPH in the near future. Plans are still being considered to add a cycle path to the south side of the road.

Water Eaton Lane Parking Issues

The Parish Council has once again proposed single yellow lines along Water Eaton Lane. This section of the Parish is directly adjacent to a continuing working farm. Farm vehicles regularly use the lane. Cars parking along the lane often make passing difficult or impossible. Below is a recent picture of one of the smaller tractors trying to pass a parked vehicle. It is not only farm vehicles which have difficulties with parked vehicles on the narrow lane – emergency vehicles also need to be able to pass safely – fire engines in particular would have difficulties passing. There has been an increase in parking along the lane.

We ask residents to send comments on this proposal (support or objection) to us at clerk@gosfordandwatereaton-pc.gov.uk by 7th December 2021. We also invite residents to come to our meeting at West Kidlington School on 7th December, 7pm, to discuss this further.



Transport

Our councillors regularly attend Traffic Reporting meetings with Kidlington Parish Council, stakeholders from the bus company and CDC council.

There are major infrastructure proposals that will impact our parish namely changes to the Kidlington roundabout. There are also changes planned at the Loop Farm roundabout (end of Frieze Way) and Peartree as part of the A44 / A4260 work. Work is planned for all areas Summer 2022 onwards.

Plans for the Kidlington Roundabout are still in discussion but in summary are as follows:

- Scheme will provide a southbound bus lane along the Gosford Link Road (*between Miller & Carter and Kidlington roundabout*) connecting with bus lane on Kidlington Roundabout.
- Improved infrastructure for buses on the A4260 Stratfield Brake approach as left turns are separated from buses.
- Signalised crossings are proposed to provide safer access for Non-Motorised Units across the roundabout.

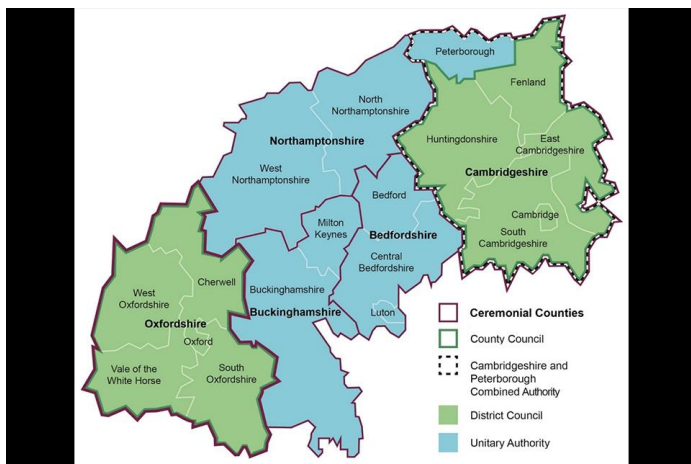
Councillors are discussing the changes with Oxfordshire County Council and the current planned start date for roundabout works here is September 2022.

Oxford Cambridge Arc

What is the Arc?

The Oxford-Cambridge Arc (the Arc) is a globally significant area between Oxford, Milton Keynes and Cambridge. It is formed of five ceremonial counties: Oxfordshire, Bedfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Northamptonshire and Cambridgeshire.

It was originally associated with the Oxford-Cambridge Expressway (which is currently scrapped).



The growth on the scale apparently envisaged for this region is undesirable as the scheme could potentially cut out the local planning process.

A proposal on this scale will generate more jobs and the associated housing across North Oxfordshire on top of the 100K houses already planned for the county.

Although the government has scrapped the Expressway there is a real possibility that this will happen by default

along the line of the Arc and the proposals will destroy further large swathes of green space.

The proposal does not fit with the need to reduce the risks posed by climate change.

It is something to watch and councillors will be keeping up to date on developments with this.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/oxford-cambridge-arc>

Play Areas & Recreational

We are currently looking at replacing the play area at Bramley Close. We plan to replace the whole park for the beginning of Summer 2022 with funds that have already been allocated to this. The area is an important facility for children in our parish and plans will be shared as soon as we have them.

Benches – we have ordered replacement benches for outside of Gosford Medical Centre and near the Miller & Carter. A replacement notice board will also be installed at Gosford Medical Centre. The council has secured grant funding to cover the majority of these costs.

If you have requests for any other areas of improvement within the parish let us know.

Health and Wellbeing

5 steps to mental wellbeing

Evidence suggests there are 5 steps you can take to improve your mental health and wellbeing. Trying these things could help you feel more positive and able to get the most out of life.

- Connect with other people
- Be physically active
- Learn new skills
- Give to others
- Pay attention to the present moment (mindfulness)

<https://www.nhs.uk/mental-health/self-help/guides-tools-and-activities/five-steps-to-mental-wellbeing/>

Helping you Connect:

Kidlington lunch club (Thursdays): All are welcome. Lunch is served at 12:00 at Exeter Hall, Kidlington, OX5 1AB. Just turn up – suggested donation £5 if you can. Feel free to arrive early for tea and a chat!

Meet up - Willow Tree Café – The Moors.

Offering a varied menu of quality homemade nutritious meals, snacks and homemade cakes along with the usual drinks you would expect in a cafe but at affordable prices.

<https://cbsfood.co.uk/willowtreekid/>

Clubs at Kidlington and Gosford Leisure Centre: Try something new, get fit and meet others – Everything including (but not limited to) Badminton, Netball, Hockey, Weightlifting, Little Kickers, triathlon club, 11 a side football, swimming and more.

<https://www.leisurecentre.com/kidlington-gosford-leisure-centre/clubs>

Walking groups: Helping local people enjoy walking and protect the places we all love to walk. Most groups organise regular walks led by local experts, a great way to get outside, make new friends and discover how walking boosts your health and happiness. Short walks of less than 5 miles every 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month. On Saturdays and Sundays longer walks, with breaks for a picnic or pub lunch.

<http://www.ramblers-oxon.org.uk/bicester-kidlington.html>

A Christmas Concert:

Traditional Christmas Concert

Thursday 16th December 2021 at 7.30pm

St Marys Church

Tickets £10 (Children £8)

Santa Claus and sweets

Tickets can be purchased from Alisons Animals, Anenome Florist and Oxford Building Supplies.

www.kaos.news

All profits to charity

Mental Health

<https://www.oxfordshiremind.org.uk/>

Oxfordshire Mind Mental Wealth Academy supports 18-25-year-olds through a programme of non-clinical mental health and wellbeing coping methods. This includes those young people with mild-moderate mental health needs who may be falling through gaps created by transition pathways from Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services to Adult Mental Health Services. Owing to the pressures of the COVID pandemic, it has been extended in the short-term to 16-and-17-year-olds too.

If you're a young person aged 16-25 experiencing mild-moderate mental health concerns or a family member who would like to support them, please get in touch with the Mental Wealth Academy at Oxfordshire Mind, & they can arrange for one of the team to call you back.

The support services available include:

- Access to education employment and training
- Dealing with anxiety/stress
- Personal identity
- Physical health/Body image
- Recognising/Managing emotions
- Relationships/Social media
- Steps to wellbeing

Contact your General Practitioner (GP) if you are experiencing mental health problems and are not known to local mental health services.

Call Oxford Safe Haven if you experience a mental health crisis at the weekend. They offer crisis support seven days a week (6pm-10pm) and can be reached on 01865 903 037.

Call Samaritans for emotional support on the phone, 24 hours a day 365 days a year by dialling 116 123.

For further information about meetings or to get in touch with your council, please contact the clerk clerk@gosfordandwatereaton-pc.gov.uk or telephone us during office hours 01865 819863.

Your Parish Councillors

Councillor Clive Stayt (Chairman)

Councillor Suzanne Wilson-Higgins (Vice Chair)

Councillor Merlin Smith

Councillor Nigel Simpson

Councillor Neil Prestidge

Councillor Carol Matheson

Councillor Ian Middleton