

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, 8.30 till 4.30pm. Outside these hours you will be advised to call Thames Valley Police on 101

Email: highwayenquiries@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Or www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/report or

<https://www.fixmystreet.com/reports/Oxfordshire>

The District Council is responsible for street cleansing.

For mud, leaves and street cleansing, contact

VoWH DC (Biffa) on 03000 610610

Where debris such as dead animals is found on the carriageway, Oxfordshire County Council may move it to the verge for the District Council to clear. Oxfordshire County Council clears debris after road traffic incidents such as oil or broken glass etc.

Regarding the A34:

For **urgent** matters, call **0300 123 5000**

For non-urgent issues, please contact info@highwaysengland.co.uk

For A34 traffic delays, visit

<http://www.trafficdelays.co.uk/a34-traffic-delays/>

For siding out and vegetation clearance, contact Unpaid Work (formerly Community Payback) 01869 328500 or email

Diane.Major@thamesvalleycrc.org.uk or

Eleanor.hopping@thamesvalleycrc.org.uk or

janet.hall@thamesvalleycrc.org.uk

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, please ask for the Highways Inspector by contacting highway enquiries as above.



**OXFORDSHIRE
COUNTY COUNCIL**

www.oxfordshire.gov.uk

Highway Works in the Vale of White Horse

September, October 2016

Maintaining the Highway



Welcome to the latest newsletter on highway maintenance in the Vale of White Horse

Laura Hutchins Payne, Area Steward Vale of White Horse

Bridge Inspections from the Thames

Laura Hutchins Payne, with Ewan Siret and Chris Softley, Bridge Inspectors

How do we know our bridges are safe?

Highway Inspectors inspect the carriageway as part of their highway inspection, and pass structural concerns on to the Bridges Team. Bridge Inspectors inspect the structure of highway bridges from below, and some of our bridges cross water. These bridges have to be inspected by boat, and there is a programme of inspections such that bridges are inspected by boat every two years.



I was lucky enough to be able to join an inspection with Ewan and Chris on 14 July, when the weather was lovely and we bobbed about amongst the ducks and swans, checking on the condition of the bridges over the Thames around Abingdon.

The inspectors look for cracking, damp patches and evidence of work on the carriageway above by H&T, BT, etc. They also look for scour (eroding under the bridge supports).

Minor Patching works planned in the Vale, (dates to be confirmed):

- Abingdon Road, Cumnor
- Catherines Close, Shrivenham
- Church Walk, Shrivenham
- Digging Lane, Fyfield
- Eynsham Road, Botley
- Faringdon Road, Marcham
- Squires Road and Maidens Close, Watchfield
- Vicarage Lane, Shrivenham

Traffic Calming

If you are concerned about traffic calming, there are several aspects to consider:



- ***Is the traffic travelling at a lawful and safe speed?***

Generally, cars seem faster to pedestrians than they actually are.

If this is a concern, a speed survey will cost £100 (plus VAT).

- ***How can we slow the traffic down?***

Traffic calming measures such as speed cushions, build outs or chicanes are possible options. These will require consultation and cost upwards of £10,000. Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS) which remind speeding drivers of the lawful speed limit are a lower cost option (but still cost upwards of £3000

to install, plus maintenance costs).

- ***How is traffic calming paid for?***

Oxfordshire County Council does not have the resources for these works, and they need to be funded by the Town or Parish Council. Where new houses are being developed, under certain circumstances we may be able to acquire S106 funding that can be used to support a project in an area which is affected by the development.

For specific considerations, contact Laura Hutchins Payne at laura.hutchinspayne@oxfordshire.gov.uk and I will progress your request.

Grass Cutting

Grass verges in Oxfordshire have generally been cut by now, and there is only one Oxfordshire County council cut this year. Some Parishes are organising a second cut themselves, receiving a contribution from Oxfordshire County Council which they are finding more than adequate. It is pleasing that more parishes are now taking on the management of grass cutting, grip maintenance and some of the other proposals offered under *Oxfordshire Together*.

Out of Hours/ Incident Response

Out of Hours and *Incident Response* are generally one and the same thing, although incidents reported by the police during the working day requiring urgent attention are booked to Incident Response.

The *Out of Hours* service is there to provide a reactive service to emergency incidents that occur outside of normal working hours. This operates from 16.30 to 08.00 Monday to Friday, then from 16.00hrs on Friday through to 08.00 on Monday am. They are contacted through the police on 101.

The prime role of the *Out of Hours* service is to remove or protect the reported hazard. The following are deemed to be standard incidents although this list is not exclusive:

- Vehicle collisions resulting in the need for clearance of debris and treatment of fuel spillages.
- Partial or full closure of parts of the highway network due to weather or road conditions.
- Partial or full closures or parts of the highway network following 'blue light requests, fatal or serious Road Traffic Collisions, fallen trees, hazardous road conditions.
- Deceased animals on the carriageway.
- Incidents requiring a highway asset to be made safe in lieu of further works.

There are three 2-man crews available to cover the whole county, which is loosely divided into 3 operational domains. During normal hours our partner contractor (Skanska) is used and mobilised from routine work. The Duty Officers are available 24/7 to be able to respond to incidents on the network day or night. Skanska have access to a number of specialist contractors to react to incidents that have specific requirements in terms of Health and Safety, require specialist equipment or provide a specialist service. This can include hazardous materials or clearance of larger fallen trees requiring an arboriculture contractor.