

Newsletter Feb 2025

Dear Residents,

As we look forward to Spring, I'd like to share some important updates affecting Kidlington and our wider community as well as our ongoing work to support our residents, strengthen our village, and ensure local voices are heard in shaping the future.

Kidlington Market Pitch Fee Waivers

Between 1 February and 29 March, Cherwell District Council has secured funding to waive pitch fees at local markets, including our very own Kidlington Market.

Our market is a cornerstone of village life, supporting small businesses and providing a vibrant space for the community. We encourage everyone to take advantage of this opportunity to explore the market on Fridays and Saturdays, discover new traders, and help keep our village centre thriving.

Open Letter to all key stakeholders for the proposed stadium development

As a Parish Council, we know this proposal divides opinion in Kidlington, but whether you are a supporter of the stadium or not, there are some key unanswered questions particularly around travel and transport, parking, flood mitigation, and the impact of proposed road closures.

To raise these issues, we have written an open letter to key stakeholders asking for clarity on these pressing matters. You can find the letters in full on our website, and we will continue to advocate for Kidlington as a whole.

New Area Oversight Groups (AOGs)

I'm pleased to confirm the establishment of an Area Oversight Group for Kidlington, Gosford and Water Eaton, Yarnton, and Begbroke. This group aims to provide a more holistic approach to planning and development, addressing issues beyond individual development sites, identifying where infrastructure or regeneration is needed. The AOG will work collaboratively with residents, councillors, community groups, and partners to facilitate delivery improvements for the entire area.

This co-ordinated approach is particularly vital as our community grows to meet Oxford's unmet housing needs. It promises to prioritise local voices and ensure development truly benefits our residents.

Flood Prevention Efforts

Recent floods have highlighted the need for robust prevention measures. Building on the successful practices of the Yarnton Flood Defence Group, the Kidlington Flood Group has been reactivated and is developing plans for our area. This work feeds into the Oxfordshire Strategic Flooding Group, which I am now a part of.

The recent floods are still the subject of an ongoing investigation, and the flood groups are working alongside this to identifying ways to mitigate future risks. With climate change presenting growing challenges, these efforts are essential to safeguarding our community.

Oxford to Cambridge Growth Corridor

The Government has recently announced the Oxford to Cambridge Growth Corridor, which includes plans for a new rail link connecting these two key regions. With Oxford Parkway identified as one of the stations, we are optimistic this will bring significant investment to Kidlington, boosting local infrastructure and opportunities for our community. But we will have to be vigilant that the resulting developments respect residents' needs and concerns.

Government White Paper on Devolution

Finally, you may have seen recent news about the Government's White Paper on devolution and the reorganisation of local government structures. While this does not currently affect Parish Councils, there is potential for changes at the County and District Council levels, including the creation of a unitary authority. We will monitor developments closely and keep you informed of any updates.

Thank you for taking the time to read this month's update. As always, I welcome your thoughts, questions, and ideas. Together, we can ensure Kidlington continues to thrive as a vibrant and resilient community.

Warm regards,
Lesley McLean
Chair, Kidlington Parish Council