

## Questions from Members of the Public

Questions are listed in the order in which they were received.

<p><b>1. PAUL BARROW</b></p> <p>I am District Councillor for the seven villages immediately west of Wantage, a very rural ward and which receives much of its water from the Downs immediately to the south.</p> <p>We have had a huge amount of rain in the last few months which has led to extensive localised flooding. Flooding on the A417 west of East Challow lasted 10 weeks and badly affected several businesses on the W&amp;G Estate and Mellor's garage with losses of several thousands of pounds and Mellor's coming close to closure as a result of financial loss. The X35 bus between Wantage and Faringdon stopped for a while which caused problems for some residents in Faringdon who I know don't have their own transport.</p> <p>The local flooding here is largely the result of neglect of maintenance of roadside drains, ditches and stream culverts. Some of this is certainly the result of landowners not fulfilling their responsibilities over several decades. However, some of it can certainly be placed at the door of county council administrations over many years from lack of maintenance of such basic infrastructure. Shrinking budgets increasingly limit what can be done but this itself is very concerning. Clearly this is not sustainable for the future.</p> <p>Several years ago, I encouraged some of our spring line villages to get road drainage grips cut by a contractor because</p>	<p><b>COUNCILLOR ANDREW GANT, CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT MANAGEMENT.</b></p> <p>In addition to engaging with Highways on these issues, it would be beneficial to contact the Flood Risk Team. There are several opportunities for working together on these issues where highway infrastructure is not the only issue and this team have recently reached out to Parish Councils for expressions of interest for small scale flood resilience work in their areas. All expressions of interest will be reviewed and allocated as funding allows. If these parish councils have not already done so they can contact the team on <a href="mailto:floodmanagement@Oxfordshire.gov.uk">floodmanagement@Oxfordshire.gov.uk</a> for further information.</p> <p>We also provide a Flood Toolkit which includes standard letters that Town and Parish Councils are able to send to landowners that are not maintaining their watercourses, and support Town and Parish Councils to involve volunteers in drain clearance work via the Oxfordshire Together scheme. More information is available via the <a href="#">Oxfordshire Together</a> and <a href="#">Volunteer for highways and your community</a> pages on the council's website. For insurance reasons there are limits to the extent of the types of work volunteers can be involved in however, we welcome all opportunities to engage with Parish Councils to best use resources.</p> <p>Additionally, we are currently running a trial volunteer flood warden pilot scheme. This involves volunteers being the eyes</p>
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<p>the county officer told me “that they are lucky if they get it done every 10 years”. Lack of maintenance of these grips continues to lead to flooding in parts of these villages and to depositing silt into the Letcombe Brook. Is there any way that parish councils could engage more effectively with Highways in future to take on board some of the minor maintenance work which Highways may regard as lower priority as budgets continue to shrink?</p>	<p>and ears on the ground and we will be deciding in the next 2 or 3 months whether this will be continued and expanded.</p>
<p><b>2. JANINE BAILEY</b></p> <p>Why has the lease deal between Oxford United Football Club and Oxfordshire County Council not been concluded, particularly given the contractual documents (the lease option agreement, the lease and the collateral agreement) have been negotiated and officers have provided advice that the Seven Strategic Priorities have been met. Can he also give an indication of when he intends to conclude these, given the pressure the club is under?</p>	<p><b>COUNCILLOR DAN LEVY, CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE</b></p> <p>The council is in ongoing dialogue with the club as regards heads of terms. As I am sure you will appreciate, projects of this kind are very complex and there is a lot of detail to work through to make sure we secure the best possible outcome for both the club and residents. However, good progress has been made and we hope to make a formal announcement shortly.</p> <p>We fully recognise the pressure the club is under and we are doing everything we can to help the club achieve a long-term home in the county.</p> <p>In addition to agreeing heads of terms, the lease of land at the Triangle comes with a number of conditions, including the club securing planning permission from Cherwell District Council, who are the local planning authority. The county council is a statutory consultee in this planning application in our role as local highways authority and our officers are scrutinising the club’s plans in detail.</p>

**3. ANNE STARES**

What is the total of the revenues for all ANPR in the Cowley area for the last 12 months?

**COUNCILLOR ANDREW GANT, CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT MANAGEMENT**

Officers have checked our records for ANPR in the Cowley area. The only ANPR PCNs issued over the past 12 months are for two bus lane cameras which could be considered to be in Cowley. These are Cornwallis Road and Bartholomew Road. From 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024 the total revenue received is £120,661.  
No other ANPR PCNs have been issued.