



Devolution in Highway Services

Working with Volunteers, District, Town and Parish Councils

Presented by
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Devolution in Highway Services

Working with Volunteers, District, Town and Parish Councils

1. The drivers and opportunities for devolving services
2. Establishing successful engagement & partnerships with the local community
3. Devolution in practise in Oxfordshire County Council

Drivers



- Supporting and growing existing community initiatives
- Building on positive Unitary concepts – Oxfordshire Growth Deal commitment
- Improved community relationships and delivery of local needs
- Local decision making and prioritisation
- Level of customer dissatisfaction
- Finance..?



Opportunities



Volunteer Drivers



Give your community a lift, help people with no access to transport.

Day Centres



Give your time to support adults with physical disabilities.

Governor Services



Use your skills to help your child's school. [Volunteer as a governor.](#)

Museum Service



Help keep Oxfordshire's history alive - [support our work.](#)

Library volunteers



Support the day-to-day running of Oxfordshire's libraries.

V.I.V.A



Make a difference to young peoples' lives - [help them](#) get their voices heard.

S.E.N.D.I.A.S.S.



SENDIASS support parents dealing with schools or local authorities.

Get outdoors



Work with the Hill End team on environmental, education and conservation projects.

Youth Justice



Help young people supported by the Oxfordshire Youth Justice Service.

Community Safety



Become a Community Safety Volunteer with Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service. [Find out what's involved.](#)

Junior Citizen



Become a Junior Citizen volunteer. [Find out what's involved.](#)

- Significant existing volunteer community
- Skills, knowledge and passion within local communities
- Community groups working on our streets already
- Parish Funding - Community Infrastructure Levy / precept increases
- District Councils - delivery of services and utilising expertise



Local Community

Facebook 22:24 17% facebook.com

Watlington Parish Council
2 April at 16:23

Can you spare an hour or two on Sunday? Watlington Volunteer Task Force meet on the first Sunday of every month to give the town a little TLC.

All welcome to help. Meet at 11am by the War Memorial on Sunday with any tools to sweep, weed and clean (we do have some we can share). Bin bags & Hi-Viz jackets will be provided. Any questions to Jenny



What did the Town and Parish Councils tell us...?

Top 5 activities currently undertaken:

- Vegetation clearing - 70%
- Clearing snow and gritting of footways - 35%
- Sign Cleaning - 32%
- Public Rights of Way maintenance & inspection - 31%
- Clearing of snow and gritting of roads - 22%

Top 5 activities that they would like to pursue further:

- Highways 'super user' - 50%
- Commissioning small improvement works direct from OCC approved Highways contractors - 24%
- Sign cleaning - 24%
- Vegetation clearing - 19%
- Public Rights of Way maintenance & inspection - 12%



- Understand what's important / frustrating
- Get to know what's happening already (and embrace!)
- Do not force new initiatives
- Except and embrace diversity / inconsistency
- Keep bureaucracy / red tape to a minimum
- Good clear and easy to read information and guidance
- Don't be precious
- Co-Production

Watlington

*What? Volunteering around Watlington
Tidying Up, e.g. weeding, tidying, cleaning.
Where? Meet 11am at the War Memorial
When? First Sunday of the Month*



Councils

- Find common ground/focus
- Be as tight or loose with any partnership agreement as required
- Have an open mind – do what make sense / is best for the customer
- Oxfordshire recently had more opportunities with formal partnering with Cherwell included shared Chief Executive.
- Use data, facts and figures to overcome any politics





Established

Oxfordshire Together

Giving communities control over local services

Parish Path Warden workshop

Oxfordshire Area held its 11th Parish Path Warden workshop on 22 March at Watlington and Dry Sandford Community Centre, in partnership with the county council's Countryside Access Service and the Oxford Fieldpaths Society.

Sixteen wardens attended, drawn from the various ramblers groups in the county. Liz Adams, Chairman of Oxford Fieldpaths Society, and I welcomed everyone to the workshop. Arthur McEwan-James, County Rights of Way Officer for South West Oxfordshire, then gave an illustrated talk outlining the role of the Rights of Way Officer and explained how the large number of path problem reports are analysed and put in priority order. County officers deal with the impact on public rights of way of many planning applications, whether minor ones, large scale residential developments, or infrastructure projects such as HS2. He also illustrated the wide variety of maintenance tasks which the county's team undertake to keep the path network in good shape. After a coffee break came the practical session to demonstrate the varied tasks that might befall a Parish Path Warden. Arthur and I led the group along some of the footpaths in the parish of Watlington, looking for opportunities to observe and comment on aspects of the quality of the path infrastructure - stiles, bridges and gates, for example. Other issues which came to light were path deviations from the definitive route. Secateurs were much to the fore as attendees cut back vegetation. Even a wallpaper scraper proved its worth in removing soil deposits from the steps of a footpath. Waymarks and finger post direction signs were also cleared. After lunch I led a discussion on the Parish Path Warden's percentage includes those parishes where path representatives of the Children Society and the Cotswold Wardens act in that capacity.

*Jim Parke
Area Chair and Parish Path Warden Network Co-ordinator*

Guidelines, followed by an online demonstration of the use of the CAMSWeb path problem reporting system. The discussion concluded with a practical exercise the wardens were presented with a list of 18 typical path problems and asked to put themselves in the place of a field officer and estimate the priority order in which they would be dealt with. Currently almost 80% of the county's 320 parishes now have a Parish Path Warden in place. This



Attendees at the workshop. Photo: Jim Parke

2016

DATE

THE OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

PARISH COUNCIL

Agreement under Section 101 of the Local Government Act 1972 relating to various highway functions

N Graham
Chief Legal Officer
Oxfordshire County Council
County Hall
New Road
Oxford OX1 1ND



- Dedicated resources within the Authority
- Devolved Services to District/City and Parishes through Agency Agreements
- Local Farmers (Hedges & Snow Clearance)
- Ramblers Association and other Society's
- Minor Works Agreements (s278 for parishes)
- Parish Path Wardens
- Snow Wardens
- Minor Civil "Parish" Gangs

Exploring



- FixMyStreet ‘SuperUsers’ - tested, now being piloted
- Direct “DIY” repair for small potholes that would not be repaired by council – trial being undertaken
- Trusted contractors
- Local opinion influencing maintenance programme – happening, sustainable process being developed
- Community transport - tested, now being Piloted
- Simplifying existing process & procedures



Thank you

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