

Community Resilience

The main story in our area over the last month has clearly been the flooding, by some estimates 3 times the average rainfall for September fell in a couple of days. Clearly, this overwhelmed many drainage systems and led to widespread flooding.

At OCC's place scrutiny committee we spoke to representatives from the County's flood response team, SODC, the Environment Agency and Thames Water. One clear message is that at times like these, all agencies get overwhelmed so community resilience is vital. There is quite a lot of support available at the County Council in terms of developing resilience plans so please do contact the team if this would be of help, or have a look at the [community resilience web pages](#).

The Oxfordshire Flood Toolkit is still the main central hub providing information to homeowners, businesses, landowners, and communities on a range of flood-related topics such as risk areas around the county, preparing for and recovering from an emergency, and roles within the local authority. The Toolkit allows for flooding reports to be made directly to the council.

<https://www.oxfordshirefloodtoolkit.com>

It is **always worth reporting flooding incidents** as it helps the council have up-to-date information on which areas are at risk of flooding and may need extra support.

We also looked at the issue of keeping gulleys and drains clear, making clear that more needs to be done on this. Please do continue to report any blocked road drains you see via FixMyStreet, as (although not perfect) this remains the best way to get them done promptly. There are also some funding sources available for longer-term flood prevention measures for communities, both via SSEN and sometimes via the councils.

Home Upgrade Grant

There's still time to get support from the Home Upgrade Grant to change your home to a more sustainable low-carbon heating system, the deadline to apply is October 31st. You may be eligible if:

- Your home has an [Energy Performance Certificate](#) (EPC) rating of D, E, F or G. If you don't have an EPC, OCC's partner can survey your property as part of the scheme.
- Your home doesn't have a mains gas supply, or you don't use gas as your main heating source. For example, you use electricity, oil, LPG or solid fuels as the main heating source for your home.
- And, you either have a total household annual income of £39,000 or less (before housing costs/bills), or you receive a means-tested benefit, subject to approval.

More information on the scheme can be found on [the county council website](#).

Local transport schemes

I am chasing up progress on various transport schemes in the area, including the A415/Tollgate Rd crossing, pinch point in Garsington, and the A4074 corridor study. In addition, a decision from the government-appointed inspector on the HIF1 scheme (which connects Milton interchange, Didcot and a new river bridge at Culham before rejoining the road between Clifton Hampden and Golden Ball roundabout) is expected some time this month.