

Happy New Year to the residents of Occold!

Occold Parish Council (OPC) is asking for your input in three very different areas -

Parish Councillor Vacancy

Firstly, we were very sad to lose Councillor Brian Hull and there are a big pair of shoes to be filled in the vacancy to be a Parish Councillor. Have you thought about it? Do you want to know more?

Further information and the criteria for qualifying to apply for the vacancy can be obtained from the Village website at <http://occold.onesuffolk.net/organisations/parish-council/> or by emailing the clerk at Occoldparishcouncil@gmail.com or speak to any Councillor

Lorry Watch Scheme

OPC are hoping to start a Lorry Watch scheme and need volunteers.

The Lorry Watch scheme aims to help parishes who feel that local HGV weight restriction traffic orders are being abused.

The scheme is run by Trading Standards in partnership with Suffolk Highways, who ensure that weight restriction orders are adhered to. These orders are in place to protect old or weak structures, as well as to prohibit heavy vehicles from areas unsuitable for their size (e.g., narrow village roads).

Occold has an Environmental weight restriction in force from the B1077 at its junction with Church Street and leading into The Street, Mill Road and Dublin Road as far as the Junction with Splash Road.

How the scheme works

- Local trained observers note details of vehicles that may be misusing a restricted route

- A report is sent to Suffolk Trading Standards
- Suffolk Trading Standards confirm the vehicle weight and registered keepers
- Investigations are made with the registered keeper and driver of the vehicle
- Action is taken in accordance with the Enforcement Policy
- Feedback is provided on a quarterly basis to Lorry Watch zones.

OPC, in partnership with Suffolk County Council are now looking for volunteers from the Village to undergo training in the New Year in order that the Parish can join the Lorry Watch scheme. It is anticipated that the commitment will be very manageable!

In the first instance, interested parties are invited to email the Clerk at Occoldparishcouncil@gmail.com or speak to any Councillor

Parish Infrastructure Investment Plan

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) is the levy that local authorities can charge on developments in their area to ensure facilities and services in the area have capacity to keep up with new homes and to enable further sustainable growth.

The CIL Charging Schedule sets out the rate per square metre which is payable on commencement of Permitted Development as well as Planning Permission development. A portion of CIL income is paid to OPC to be spent on offsetting the impacts of development in the area. OPC has a duty to spend CIL income on providing, improving, replacing, operating or maintaining infrastructure that supports the development of the parish's area or anything else concerned with addressing the demands that development places on the area.

The amount passed on depends on the income received by the District. As OPC has adopted the General Power of Competence (GPC) it will

also be able to rely on the exercise of the GPC to fund wider strategic infrastructure. For example, improving footpaths/pavements/roads/cycleways, assisting with funding of the social infrastructure e.g education, health, social care, art and culture, sports and community halls or the green infrastructure e.g parks, woodlands, play areas and public open spaces so long as such expenditure can properly be said to relate to the provision, improvement, replacement, operation or maintenance

The Parish Council would like to develop a PIIP which will help them to -

- Identify the infrastructure and investment needs within the community.
- Provide an evidence base for spending decisions on locally identified priorities.
- Identify sources of funding and opportunities for matching funding streams to make the most efficient use of income.
- Assist with external funding bids - providing evidence of local investment needs and priorities.

- Provide transparency to the local community - explain where local investment is being targeted.
- Encourage engagement by members of the community who use / will use the facilities and services being delivered.
- Provide a local perspective to help the district councils gain a better understanding of the communities' priorities.

This is where you come in!

The Parish Council is expecting CIL funds of £14,000 in the next Financial year. Not a great amount of money but could be useful in contributing to a village project.

Is there something you have spotted in the Village that is missing? What would you spend the money on to improve your village?

Suggestions can be emailed to the Clerk at Occoldparishcouncil@gmail.com or speak to any Councillor