

Bloxham Parish AGM 2018 – Cllr Kieron Mallon - Bloxham & Easington Division Oxfordshire Co. Council

May saw the County elections the outcome was Conservative 31 – Labour 14 – Lib Dem 13 – Independent 5. A hung council. The council is currently led by a Con/Ind Alliance of 31 Con and 2 Independent Cllrs.

In the summer the County announced they would keep all the waste and recycling centres open Inc. Alkerton.

Working with Bloxham Primary School and moneys donated from Bloxham Parish Council and start up funding I had secured, the Butterfly Meadows children's centre, now renamed Cherry Orchard continued as a village facility.

I was happy to help the Parish Council with the legal transition of The Slade from the County to the Parish. The Parish wished to designate it a Nature Reserve, with my influence on Cherwell I ensured that this wish was granted.

The Warriner applied to the County for a grant to provide parenting and carers support sessions I helped in the granting of £2,000 from the County's locality budget.

I lobbied for the parking improvement works at the Warriner/Bloxham Grove and these were implemented.

During the severe weather I and neighbouring County Cllrs lobbied for extra gritting and snow ploughing on main routes including the A361, this helped to keep these roads open.

Almost £1million extra funding has been granted from the Dept of transport to Oxfordshire for road repairs following the worst weather conditions for years, this will be spent this summer. Plastic pollution is a current topic and with joint working with the District Councils Oxfordshire is amongst the best in the Country for recycling currently at around 60% with new initiatives to help take even more plastic out of the residual waste being sought.

OCC agreed its budget in February, following a five-hour meeting it was agreed that the Counties portion of the Council Tax would rise by 5.99%. The rise will deliver extra monies for both Adult and Children's social care, to release more monies for road maintenance and a £½ million towards homelessness.

At Last, after many years a closed road and bridge that I inherited from my predecessor, namely Old Bridge Rd. has re-opened. This has been a major problem for the village and businesses. It has taken too long but without constant pressure from myself and the Parish we would still be way down the list.

Northamptonshire County Council has effectively gone bankrupt, leading to the proposal to scrap the District/County council system in Northamptonshire and introduce two Unitary Councils A wish from the councils in Bucks to do the same but for entirely different reasons looks sure to go ahead. This has raised the question of Oxfordshire's local government future once again.

My role as the County Cllr for Bloxham, Easington in Banbury and Milcombe has been helped tremendously by the two Parish and Town Councils. These have in turn been supported by a network of voluntary organisations that I pay tribute to, without whom everything would grind to a halt. Kieron Mallon April 2018