**REPORT TO LEAFIELD PARISH COUNCIL - OCTOBER 2025**

**FROM CLLR NICHOLAS FIELD-JOHNSON**

**APPLY FOR YOUR OXFORD CONGESTION ZONE PERMIT**

The Cabinet at Oxfordshire County Council have approved plans for the new Oxford Congestion Zone. 7000 people responded to the consultation, with 74% of those stating that the congestion zone will have a negative impact on their lives. A separate petition presented to Cabinet Members calling on the congestion zone to be scrapped was signed by 13,000 people. Commencement of the zone will be 29th October; therefore, it is vital that residents apply for their permits now if they are planning on travelling within the zone.

Oxfordshire Alliance Councillors have continued to call for the unfair, anti-motorist charge to be scrapped by the Lib Dems. We believe that by enforcing this charge, despite the clear views from the consultation, will mean that people shop elsewhere, leading to a negative effect on the economy in Oxford – especially this close to Christmas.

All Oxfordshire residents can apply for **free 25** permits per year. The relevant information on how to apply for a permit is available using the following link:

https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/transport-and-travel/oxfords-temporary-congestion-charge-cars-cars/apply-permit

**SEND MOTION REJECTED BY OXFORDSHIRE LIB-DEMS**

Due to increasing pressure on SEND services in Oxfordshire, a motion was submitted calling on the Council Leader to reinstate a dedicated Cabinet Member for SEND.

This motion was not controversial and was backed by Oxfordshire Alliance, Labour, Green and Reform Councillors. However, the Lib-Dem led Council voted against this motion, meaning that a Cabinet Member for specific SEND responsibility was rejected.

Shadow Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, Cllr James Plumb said, “The decision to remove [the role] has weakened the council’s focus at a time when greater leadership is needed, not less. We all know that there is no quick fix to the issues surrounding SEND, but reinstating a dedicated cabinet member will help restore confidence, sharpen accountability and show families that this council is serious about delivering the change that families and children with SEND desperately deserve.”

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