

# **REPORT TO MINSTER LOVELL PC - FEBRUARY 2026**

## **FROM CLLR NICHOLAS FIELD-JOHNSON**

### **BURFORD BRIDGE PAVEMENT/FOOTWAY.**

Good news is that the work to improve the Burford Bridge pavement has been approved by OCC and work is expected to start after the Easter break in April 2026. This project has been on-going for some time and it is pleasing to see that it is finally coming to fruition.

The scheme does include two bell bollards to protect the pavement from HGVs, and, in addition, the footway will be raised from the carriageway which will also prevent HGVs from mounting the pavement. This should provide a safer crossing across the bridge for pedestrians - especially those with prams, pushchairs or wheel-chairs.

### **OCC HAS AGREED AND APPROVED ITS BUDGET FOR 2026/27.**

OCC has been able to deal with its budget shortfall of £5.4m and has invested £14m in adult social care, £19m in children's services and further funding for highways, libraries and other services. The Conservative Alliance proposed an amendment for an additional £1.3m for pothole repair (which would repair a further 20,000 potholes) but the amendment was rejected by the administration.

However, the authority already knows that it will need to find further savings of at least £15.5m for 2027/28. The government will cut grant funding by £27.2m by 2028/29 and assumed the council will make up most of the difference with maximum council tax rises. The effect of this is that the county council will have to put up council tax by 4.99% each year only to see a lot of this money immediately being subtracted by the government and sent elsewhere.

### **FLYING OF FLAGS**

I am sure residents have noticed the increase in number of flags being flown on our roundabouts and street lighting. Although some residents have complained, the flags do tend to brighten up the neighbourhood.

What is inexcusable is that OCC have spent over £16,000 on employing teams to remove the flags. This money should be used to repair the ever-increasing number of potholes and repairs that our roads so desperately need. With the World Cup taking place in June, no doubt more flags will appear. I would hope that OCC will not spend even more money removing them !!

*Perhaps, a thought.....* If we put flags in the potholes, maybe that would lead to quicker repairs of the potholes and a better use of funds.

**[Cllr Nicholas Field-Johnson](#)**

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