



The countryside charity
Oxfordshire

Campaigning to protect our rural county

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Dear Town/Parish Council/Meeting

Earlier this year, you were kind enough to take the time to respond to a CPRE Oxfordshire Survey on flooding and pollution issues. We are now pleased to share with you a hard copy of the resulting report.

For an electronic copy of the report please see: tinyurl.com/yactpr5w . You can also see the results summarised on a searchable Google Map: tinyurl.com/ypyurupt

Sadly, the survey has revealed the widespread nature of flooding and pollution issues across the county.

At least 1 in 5 of Oxfordshire's towns and parishes face significant flooding and/or sewage issues.*

This situation is clearly unacceptable, for the health and wellbeing of both our rivers and residents.

Many of the issues raised are due to specific local circumstances, and will require time and investment to resolve the situation, including better co-ordination between the various bodies involved.

However, we have made a number of recommendations including:

- Thames Water's Drainage & Wastewater Management Plan – this is due out for consultation in 2022 and must demonstrate significant ambition, backed by appropriate investment.
- Oxfordshire Plan 2050 – policy should support all new developments demonstrating that their associated infrastructure will either maintain or improve water quality, not add to the risk of flooding, and be in place before the site is occupied.
- Planning applications – Local planning authorities need to invest in expertise to provide robust consideration of drainage issues when assessing planning applications and ongoing monitoring and enforcement.
- Bathing Water Designation – CPRE particularly supports calls for the River Thames and its tributaries to achieve this status, as a key driver for the health of both our rivers and our residents.

Thank you again for your time and help in compiling this report. We hope that it will help to encourage decision-makers at all levels to prioritise solutions.

Regards

Helen Marshall
Director, CPRE Oxfordshire