

Woodstock Town Council

Town Clerk: Lorraine Watling



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Ms Joanna Simons
Chief Executive
Oxfordshire County Council
County Hall
New Road
Oxford
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22 February 2010

Dear Ms Simons

OCC Response to Recent Adverse Weather Conditions

The Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) response to the recent adverse weather conditions was discussed by the Woodstock Town Council in February 2010 following complaints from local residents.

Woodstock Town Council whilst acknowledging the efforts of individual OCC staff to do their best in extremely difficult circumstances, regrets the tone of the 'Leader's Cabinet Report on Cold Snap' and is disappointed to find in it no reflection either of the distress that was caused to so many people in Oxfordshire in the days after 4th January 2010, nor any concrete proposals for how the emergency government machinery of OCC might address a similar emergency in the future.

Woodstock Town Council would like precise information relating to the estimated cost of the emergency, both in terms of lost working hours and of admissions to Accident and Emergency departments in Oxfordshire hospitals and cancelled hospital appointments.

It would also like precise information about the stocks of salt held by OCC in 2009-10 in relation to previous years, the number of gritters and snow ploughs in service, and an assurance that "group-thinking" stemming from the belief that global warming would mean an end to cold winters was not in play.

In particular, whilst Woodstock Town Council accepts that this emergency had national, regional as well as local dimensions to it, our special concern has to do with the failure to deal properly with acute local problems in Woodstock, either by direct intervention or by assisting self-help measures (e.g. through the provision to neighbourhoods of salt in bags).

Woodstock Town Council would be grateful to receive a response to these points at your earliest convenience.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lorraine Watling', written over the typed name.

Lorraine Watling

Town Clerk

CC Cllr Ian Hudspeth