

## District Councillors Report to Parish Councils

### Watchfield and Shrivenham Ward

April 2021

### Vale of White Horse District Council

The Vale is now in Purdah until after the Elections on 6 May. This means that there are restrictions on what may be communicated by both the Council and Councillors. However, the Vale will continue with its regular Covid updates and we would encourage you all to keep a watching brief on the Vale's website –

[www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk](http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk)

We are sad to report that the former Leader of the Vale Roger Cox passed away on Saturday 27 March. Roger represented the Faringdon Ward for many years and he will be sorely missed by all who knew him.

**Planning** – At the full Council meeting on 24 March it was agreed that the Vale would join with South Oxfordshire DC to develop a Joint Local Plan up to 2041. Work has already commenced and further details will be communicated.

Locally we would remind Parish Councils that if there are concerns about any individual planning application and the Council wishes to call it in to Committee it is necessary to firstly discuss with either Simon or Elaine. Any discussion must be undertaken before the 28 days from the registration date has expired. It is recognised that this may cause problems as not all PC's meet on a monthly basis. However, if the 28 day deadline has passed we would not be able to call in the application. Note: any amendments to an application do not change the original registration date therefore call-ins may not be possible.

The application for land to the North East of Swiss Cottage has had its consultation period extended due to a delay in registration.

The application for 10 new dwellings on land at Townsend Road was due to be considered by the Planning Committee on 31 March. However, the Vale withdrew it from the agenda as more detailed information is required from the developer.

**Full Council Meeting** – the full council met virtually on 24 March. Agenda items included Joint Local Plan, an update from the Oxfordshire Growth Board, allocation of s106 funds to help towards the provision of 8 affordable home in Botley and a financial offer to support GLL the Leisure contractor. Further details are on the Vale website under Latest News.

**Cabinet** - the next Cabinet meeting will be held virtually on Friday 9 April. The meeting will consider the establishment of a Growth Board Environment Advisory Group and the Oxfordshire Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Strategy.

**Swindon Borough Council – New Eastern Villages** – The road works in and around the A420/A419 at White Hart and Gablecross continue apace. OCC Officers met with SBC Officers on 18 March. They will meet again in June for a further update on the NEV and transport matters. Two matters that were discussed were the main construction of the Southern Connector Road which is due to begin in May and that SBC are also concerned about the cumulative impact of the developments in and around Highworth.

Although we don't hold surgeries we are always available to deal with any issues.

Simon Howell – 01793 784491 – [simon.howell@whitehorsedc.gov.uk](mailto:simon.howell@whitehorsedc.gov.uk)

Elaine Ware - 01793 783026 - [elaine.ware@wwhitehorsedc.gov.uk](mailto:elaine.ware@wwhitehorsedc.gov.uk)

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