

## **District Councillors Report to Parish Councils**

### **Watchfield and Shrivenham Ward**

**November 2020**

#### **Vale of White Horse District Council**

The Vale Communications Team continue to provide regular updates to all Town and Parish Councils.

Most Vale staff are working from home and this will continue for the foreseeable future. As mentioned previously working from home doesn't provide the same support as in the office and it would be appreciated if there is a need to contact officers please do so by Email rather than telephone.

**Covid-19 Updates** – Simon will continue to provide local Resilience Groups with updates as and when necessary.

**Climate Emergency Advisory Committee** – The next meeting of this Committee will be held on 14 December. The agenda will be published on the Vale website on 7 December. Part of the Committee's responsibilities is to develop a Vale Climate Emergency Vision. The first stage of the project is for the Task & Finish Group to attend a workshop.

**Civil Parking Enforcement** – A report has been prepared and will be presented to the Vale Cabinet on Friday 4 December. If approved it is anticipated that the new arrangements will be in place and brought into effect in November 2021. The report may be found under the Cabinet agenda on the Vale's website.

**Free Christmas Parking in the Vale** – As in previous years the Vale is offering free parking in the lead up to Christmas. The dates – all Saturdays are 5, 12, 19 and are in Abingdon, Wantage and Faringdon.

**Planning** – The three controversial planning applications mentioned in last month's report are ongoing. There have been a significant number of new applications which are currently passing through the formal planning process.

**Vale Website** – The Vale's new website is now operational. However, there are still a few inconsistencies which are currently being ironed out. Hopefully these will be resolved in the very near future.

**Covid-19 Compliance Marshals** – Two new officers have been employed to promote and encourage businesses and residents to comply with the public health measures in order to reduce the impact of the pandemic. These salaries for officers are financed from a national government grant.

**Spending Review 2020** – The Leader of the Vale has commented on the Spending Review that was delivered to Parliament by the Chancellor on 25 November. She stated “The additional funding for local government should help towards some of the gaps associated with the pandemic” for full details please go to the Vale website – [www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk](http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk)

**Swindon Borough Council – New Eastern Villages** – Work is expected to commence in the new year on the Southern Connector road linking South Marston and the Commonhead Roundabout.

A number of village planning applications have been submitted to SBC – Rowborough, expansion of South Marston, Great Stall East, Lotmead, Lower Lotmead, Redlands and Foxbridge with more to come.

Work on distribution centres at Symmetry Park continues along with highway work at the White Hart Roundabout.

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

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