

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

### **Watchfield and Shrivenham Ward**

**September 2022**

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

**Homes for Ukraine** For general Ukraine queries please go to  
[www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/ukraine](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/ukraine)

Telephone helpline 01865 966444 Open 0845am-5pm Monday to Friday closed weekends and bank holidays

Email: [ukraineresponse@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:ukraineresponse@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

For general queries, housing and community support in the Vale go to  
[www.whitehorsedcc.gov.uk/ukraine](http://www.whitehorsedcc.gov.uk/ukraine)

Telephone helpline 01235 422600 Option 1 Open 0830am-5pm Monday to Thursday 0830am – 4.30pm Friday closed weekends and bank holidays

Email: [communitysupport@southandvale.gov.uk](mailto:communitysupport@southandvale.gov.uk)

**Covid** – Awaiting confirmation of the autumn vaccination programme. Although domestic restrictions have been removed there are steps that can be taken in order to reduce the risk of catching and spreading Covid. Get vaccinated, let fresh air if meeting indoors or meet outside, wear a face mask in crowded or enclosed areas. For more guidance visit [www.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.gov.uk/coronavirus)

**Cost of Living** – There is a range of information on the Vale website which is aimed to help those residents who are struggling to pay their bills and cope with the increased cost of living. Go to: [www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/cost\\_of](http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/cost_of) living help

### **Planning**

The number of planning applications for Ward villages continues to rise. Details for each Parish may be found on the Vale website [www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/planning](http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/planning)

There are three Reserved Matters applications in Shrivenham that are still awaiting determination. These relate to Phase 2 of the Cross Trees Park development on Highworth Road. The Vale is awaiting amendments from the developer and once received these will be considered as part of the determination process.

It was encouraging to receive notification that the new primary school planning application had been granted. Unfortunately, the expected delivery date of the new school has been delayed from the scheduled September 2023 to February 2024. This is very disappointing and it is hoped that there will not be any further delays to the operational opening date.

## **Planning Appeals**

- 1) An appeal has been submitted to the Planning Inspectorate for the application of 26 dwellings on Townsend Road in Shrivenham on the grounds of non-determination within the specified timescale. The Appellant has requested that the appeal be held in public at a formal hearing. Date, time and venue to be advised.
- 2) An appeal has been submitted to the Planning Inspectorate for the application of five self-build dwellings on land at the rear of Swiss Cottage Faringdon Road Shrivenham. The grounds for the appeal are based on the reasons for refusal by the Vale. The Appellant has requested that the appeal be held in public at a formal hearing. Date, time and venue to be advised.
- 3) An appeal has been submitted to the Planning Inspectorate for a two storey side extension to Acorn Cottage The Green Longcot. The appeal is the refusal of planning permission by the Vale. The appellant has requested that the appeal be dealt with by written representations.

**Council Meeting** – The next full Council meeting will be held face to face at The Beacon Wantage on Wednesday 12 October. The agenda will be published on 5 October.

**Climate Emergency Advisory Committee** – The Committee last met on Monday 11 July. The minutes of the meeting are available on the Vale website. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday 10 October.

**Swindon CCG/Integrated Care Alliance** – As previously reported we met with the CCG on 29 June. We met again on 13 September for a brief update. A further meeting is to be arranged in November..

**On the Move again** – The Vale and South Oxfordshire District Councils will be moving from Milton Park to Abbey House Abingdon at the end of September. This will be a temporary move for around two years until the new offices are built at the Gateway in Didcot. Following the Pandemic the majority of council staff now have hybrid working arrangements. This means that they can work from home or other remote locations or in the office. As a result less office space is required. The doors to Abbey House will open to Vale and South offices from Monday 3 October.

**Oxfordshire 2050** – Local authorities in Oxfordshire have been working together on a joint plan for the whole of Oxfordshire up to 2050. Unfortunately the five authorities of Cherwell DC, West Oxon DC, Oxford City, South Oxon DC and Vale of White Horse DC were unable to agree on an approach to a plan for housing needs within the Oxfordshire Plan framework. Housing Needs will now be dealt with by each local authority's Local Plan. Councils will cooperate with each other and other key bodies as Local Plans are prepared.

**Diversity and Inclusion Strategy - Have your Say** – South and Vale have launched a survey to create a new Diversity and Inclusion Strategy. The Councils want everyone to say what would help most when they interact with them. The survey closes at 1159hrs on Monday 3 October. Access the survey online at [www.southandvale.gov.uk/DI](http://www.southandvale.gov.uk/DI)

## **Swindon Borough Council – New Eastern Villages**

As reported previously the former Madison Hotel site is to become a Garden Centre with a Drive-Thru coffee shop with alterations to existing accesses. We await the outcome of this application. Significant overspend on the new Southern Connector Road has been identified. This is the road that is due to serve the new Eastern Villages to the south of the A420.

Amazon has submitted an application to Swindon BC to increase the HGV parking area from 36 to 76 bays at Symmetry Park.

**Local Traffic Issues – Nothing Changes** -The increase in traffic through Shrivenham village via Bourton Wharf/Townsend Road access from the A420 continues. We believe this is due to traffic avoiding the traffic lights and single lane access on the Bypass where the new roundabout is being constructed. We hope that this increase will only be temporary. Additionally Earthline HGV's are continuing to use Shrivenham High Street, the B4000 and other unsuitable country roads to access their Wroughton facility. We have written to the company and hope that they will consider the damage that their vehicles are causing to local roads and to use the main roads that are available to them. Earthline did respond but their vehicles are **still** coming through the villages!

As you know Elaine is a member of the Faringdon Area Traffic Advisory Committee and will again raise the ongoing rat running around Shrivenham at the next meeting which is scheduled for Monday 12 September. Please contact Elaine if there are any other transport issues that are causing concern. Due to the passing of the Queen this meeting was cancelled.

**Anti-Social Behaviour** – In recent times Shrivenham has experienced a number of Anti-Social Behaviour issues. These have been reported to Thames Valley Police and advice given should the issues continue. If you see or hear any anti-social behaviour please report it to Thames Valley Police via the 101 telephone service or online [www.thamesvalley.police.uk/reportacrime](http://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/reportacrime)

Although we don't normally 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@whitehorsedc.gov.uk](mailto:elaine.ware@whitehorsedc.gov.uk)