

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

### **Watchfield & Shrivenham Ward – March 2019**

#### **Planning**

**Local Plan Part 2** - The public consultation is now live and responses are due by 1 April 2019.

**Legal & General Shrivenham (Total 515 dwellings)** - Development of up to 240 dwellings (Phase 1) and a site for a primary school along with associated public open space and highways works. The development has commenced. The temporary access road from the A420 has been agreed with OCC through a s184 agreement and L&G are awaiting confirmation of when construction and usage may begin. There are still issues regarding the school which are being progressed with the County. A meeting with L & G has been arranged for Tuesday 12 March to discuss progress and meet the new Project Manager.

#### **Bovis Development Shrivenham (116 dwellings) – Townsend Road**

An application for a change of house type has been refused.

**For information - Lorry Park – Chowle Farm** – amended plans were submitted on 28 November and 16 January. The target date is now 31 March. The Planning Officer has agreed to keep Simon and I informed of any further amendments and changes to the target date.

**Community Grants** – Festival Grants are still available. Grants of up to £1000 are available to cover up to 75% of the cost for local community events with at least 100 people expected. The Grants Team are available to assist and can be contacted on 01235 422405 or grants@southandvale.gov.uk

#### **Exploring options for on-street parking enforcement**

As previously reported formal agreement from the county is required in order to apply to the Department of Transport to delegate civil parking enforcement powers. If county agree and the council decides to take over responsibility it would then need to carry out a full review of the existing car parking orders and yellow lines. Arrangements have been made with other District Council's and the County to undertake a feasibility study. The County are leading on the procurement of consultants to carry out this work.

**Oxfordshire 2050** – The public consultation for Oxfordshire 2050 is open until 25 March. There are a number of elements associated with the Plan and Town and Parish Councils are encouraged to respond.

**Housing Delivery Test 2018** – The test is an annual measurement of house building in areas throughout England. The Vale was required to build 1305 and delivered 4357 – 334% and were listed as 6<sup>th</sup> in the country.

**2019/20 Budget** – On 13 February the Vale agreed the budget for the financial year 2019/20 and a medium term plan for the following four years. It has been necessary to increase Council Tax by £5 for the forthcoming financial year. The Vale like all local authorities is awaiting the outcome of the Governments Spending Review. It is anticipated that the review will address the proposed changes to New Home Bonus.

One area that has remained unchanged in the budget is car parking charges. The two hour free parking also continues.

**Environmental Enforcement** – The Vale Environmental Enforcement Officers have dealt with a number of fly tipping/littering cases in recent months and prosecutions have followed. Last month a man from Oxford refused to pick up a cigarette butt in The Square in Abingdon. He failed to pay the fixed penalty notice and as a result was prosecuted and found himself with a bill for £607 issued by the court. Fly tipping/littering really does not pay.

**Waste** – The Waste Team have arranged for a number of Crisp Packet Collection Boxes to be installed in various Council buildings (Milton Park, Cornerstone Art Centre Didcot and The Beacon Wantage). This is a national campaign organised by Walkers. All makes of empty crisp packets can be placed in the boxes and they will be sent to a special recycling facility where they will be transformed into plastic such as garden furniture.

**Recycling Wheels** – Recycling wheels are being promoted by the Vale to encourage residents to recycle as much as possible and know what can and cannot be placed in the recycling bin. Supplies are available from the Vale but Elaine has a couple of boxes and Parish Councils are encouraged to inform residents of this initiative.

**NAG – Neighbourhood Action Group** – The next meeting of the NAG will take place on Monday 18 March. Obviously the current spate of burglaries is of concern and these will be raised with the new Neighbourhood Police Inspector. If you are not represented please let Elaine know if you wish any issues to be raised.

**PURDAH – District and Town & Parish Elections** – Elections are due to take place on 2 May 2019. The period of Purdah commences on 26 March. It will be necessary to ensure that formal guidance is followed throughout the process.

As you know we don't hold surgeries but are always available to deal with issues.

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