

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

### **Watchfield and Shrivenham Ward**

**February 2021**

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

The Vale Communications Team continued to provide Town and Parish Councils with regular updates regarding Covid. These will continue for the foreseeable future.

As previously reported Vale staff continue to work from home. Although this is not ideal they would appreciate it if any communications are by Email rather than telephone.

**Local Covid Updates** – Throughout the pandemic Simon has provided local Resilience Groups with updates these will continue as long as is necessary.

**Climate Emergency Advisory Committee** – the meeting scheduled for 8 March has been cancelled. The next meeting is likely to take place in May.

**Garden Waste** – The garden waste service has been suspended until further notice. The service is reviewed by Vale and Biffa on a weekly basis. The suspension of this service has caused a great deal of concern for the users of this paid service.

**Civil Parking Enforcement** – Following the agreement of all Councils involved the County Council has requested delegation powers from central Government which will enable the new arrangements to commence later this year.

**Planning** – There have been a number of applications submitted in the Watchfield & Shrivenham Ward and these are currently going through the planning process. Decisions are still awaited on the three (2 in Shrivenham and one in Buscot) applications of concern that have been ongoing for a number of months. The delays have included the need for reconfiguration of layout and type of dwelling, viability assessment and flooding issues. If any of the applications are recommended for approval they will be called in for the Vale Planning Committee to consider.

**CIL Consultations** – There are currently two CIL consultations. These relate to the Charging Schedule and Developer Contributions. Parish Councils are asked to consider responding to both of the consultations as they relate to how the Council raises funding for infrastructure and for planned growth throughout the Vale. The deadline for comments is 8 February.

**Compliance Marshals** – The Compliance Marshals continue to carry out regular inspections in all Vale towns and villages. Their role is to ensure that all public health advice is followed by residents and businesses.

**Full Council meeting** – the next full Council virtual meeting will be held on Wednesday 10 February at 1900hrs. This is the annual meeting that will set the budget and Council Tax for 2021/22. The agenda will be published on Wednesday 3 February.

**Swindon Borough Council – New Eastern Villages** – Work has started on the Southern Connector Road and other road improvements as part of the infrastructure to support the 8000 NEV dwellings, new schools, commercial construction etc. The distribution centres at Symmetry Park are well on the way to being completed. OCC Officers have met with Swindon BC Officers to discuss the impact that the road works will have on the A420 as well as the long-term disruption which will be created as the NEV construction begins. Currently the expected build out time for the NEV is 14 years.

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@whitehorsedc.gov.uk](mailto:elaine.ware@whitehorsedc.gov.uk)

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