

## District Councillors Report to Parish Councils

### Watchfield and Shrivenham Ward

July 2021

#### Vale of White Horse District Council

**Covid** - At the time of writing the situation locally with Covid is that Oxfordshire has the highest infection rate in the South of England. The majority of new infections are in Oxford City but the Vale also has increased rates. As and when anything changes The Vale will inform Town and Parish Councils. In the meantime we would encourage keeping a watching brief on the Vale's website –

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

**Planning** – The good news is that the Vale has maintained its five-year land supply. Details may be found on the Vale website – Housing Land Supply Statement for the Vale of White Horse June 2021.

Concern has been raised by a number of residents regarding a community consultation survey for a small affordable housing development in Shrivenham. The online survey received by only a few selected residents indicates that the proposal is for a “Entry Level” housing scheme of up to 26 dwellings. This type of housing is suitable for first time buyers or renters. The site will be managed by South Oxfordshire Housing Association.

Over the past few weeks there has been a significant number of planning applications submitted to the Vale from Ward villages most of which are for extensions or listed building consent. Currently three applications (2 in Shrivenham and 1 in Longcot) are subject to call-in to Committee should they be recommended for approval. The number of planning applications submitted to the Vale for the period April-June is some 40% over that of the same period in 2020.

A Planning Pilot Scheme to improve engagement with Town and Parish Councils was launched in June. Shrivenham Parish Council was chosen as one of five councils to participate in the scheme. If the scheme is a success it is intended for it to be rolled out to all councils at the end of September.

**Oxfordshire Plan 2050** – The consultation on the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 Reg 18 will begin on 30 July for 10 weeks. The consultation will be online and further details will be revealed nearer the time. The Plan will set out the framework for future planning decisions on housing and infrastructure needs. More information may be found at [Oxfordshireplan.org](http://Oxfordshireplan.org)

**Joint Local Plan 2041**-In March the Vale agreed to preparing a joint local plan with South Oxfordshire District Council. Work is underway and information is available on the Vale website: [joint local plan 2041](http://jointlocalplan2041)

**Boundary Review** – As mentioned last month details of the Boundary Commissions proposals for Oxfordshire may be found at

<https://www.bcereviews.org.uk/node/6488?postcode=SN68EL>

The Vale will be included in three constituencies namely. Didcot and Wantage, Oxford West and Abingdon and Witney. The Watchfield and Shrivenham Ward will be included in the Witney constituency. Parish Councils are encouraged to review the proposals and make any representations to the Commission by 2 August 2021.

**Climate Emergency Advisory Committee** – The next meeting of this committee was due to take place on 9 August but has been postponed. A new quarterly meeting calendar will be available in due course.

**Electric Vehicle Charging Points** – Phase 1 of the County Council's roll-out of the Oxfordshire-wide Park and Charge Scheme has been completed. The next stage is to appoint an electricity supplier and agree layout and design of bays. The County Council will arrange promotional events in Abingdon during August. The aim is to complete the installation by next March.

**Civil Parking Enforcement** – The Department for Transport has approved the County Council's application to progress this initiative. The County are to identify locations for on-street parking bay charges. It is still anticipated for the scheme to be implemented by the end of this year.

**Private Sector Housing** – The Vale is in the process of developing a new Private Sector Housing Enforcement Policy (PSH). This policy will help to improve conditions for those residents living in private rented properties. Landlords who do not comply with defined rules could be fined up to £30,000.

**White Horse Community Lottery** – The lottery was launched on Monday 14 June. The Lottery now has its own website: [whitehorselottery.co.uk](http://whitehorselottery.co.uk) which provides all the information required to participate.

**Ashbury Bus Service** – delighted that the County Council has earmarked funds for the bus service to continue on the Lambourn to Swindon route No,47 via Ashbury until April 2022.

**Swindon Borough Council – New Eastern Villages** – The works around Gablecross and Sainsbury's continue to progress. However, there is a problem with the road base structure around the White Hart/Oxford Road area. This is significantly worse than originally anticipated and therefore additional works are required. The Borough Council is hopeful that the works will be completed later this year.

Although we don't normally hold surgeries we are always available to deal with any issues. However, on **Saturday 24 July from 1030-midday** we have arranged a **Meet your Councillors** event. We shall be in the new Claridge Room at Shrivenham Memorial Hall and look forward to residents joining us for a chat about any concerns they may have or just have a moan about things that irritate them.

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