

District Councillors Report to Parish Councils

Watchfield and Shrivenham Ward

June 2022

Vale of White Horse District Council

Homes for Ukraine – The countywide partnership is continuing to carry out relevant Safeguarding and accommodation checks, respond to any concerns, and are successfully processing school place applications and finance support payments to guests. Work to develop a rematching process where sponsorship arrangements break down is also taking shape. The partnership is moving into a confident system-wide longer term approach for delivering support.

For general Ukraine queries go to 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

For general queries, housing and community support in the Vale go to 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

Planning – The number of planning applications for Ward villages continues to rise. Details by each Parish may be found on the Vale website www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/planning

The application for 90 dwellings at the rear of the Bovis development on Townsend Road in Shrivenham has been refused by the Vale. At this time it is not known if the developer will appeal the decision.

The application for 26 dwellings also on Townsend Road in Shrivenham has been submitted to the Planning Inspector on the grounds of non-determination. However, the developer has failed to provide the additional information that has been requested and it remains to be seen if the Planning Inspectorate will accept the appeal. The Vale planning officer advised in April that the Planning Inspectorate has a backlog and that it is taking many months to register appeals.

A formal application has been submitted for a 64 bed care home in the garden/paddock of Wayside Townsend Road in Shrivenham. This application has caused a great deal of concern and a considerable number of objections. Objections include - Clinical Commissioning Group, Elm Tree Surgery, Thames Valley Police, Thames Water, Forestry Officer, Oxfordshire County Council and numerous residents. A decision on this application is expected early July.

The Vale has placed Tree Preservation Orders (TPO's) on the majority of trees on Shrivenham Park Golf Club.

Joint Local Plan consultation – There is still time to comment on the proposals. The consultation runs until 23 June. Consultations are also taking place these are: Sustainability Appraisal Screening and Scoping Report Habitats Regulations Assessment Scoping Report, Draft Settlement Assessment Methodology and Duty to Cooperate Scoping Document. There will be more opportunities to comment on the Joint Local Plan proposals later in the year.

Council Meeting – At the full Council meeting held on 18 May at Milton Park it was agreed for the Vale to have a Food and Farming Champion. The Champion, who will be a sitting Councillor, will help to promote food production, distribution, healthy eating and the environment. Further details will be available once the appointment has been made.

Climate Emergency Advisory Committee – The next meeting of the Committee will take place on Monday 11 July. The draft minutes of the previous meeting held on Tuesday 5 April are available on the Vale website.

Swindon CCG/Integrated Care Alliance – We met with the CCG on 6 May. We received an update on the transformation from CCG to the new ICA which is due to take place later this year. We are awaiting a Newsletter which will enable us to keep Parish Councils updated with health and wellbeing information. Our next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 29 June.

Electric Vehicles Charging Points– EV Charging points have now been installed in Car Parks in Wantage, Abingdon and locally in Faringdon and are fully operational. The charging points are primarily to assist those who do not have access to home charging.

Faringdon Area Traffic Advisory Committee – Elaine attended the meeting held on Monday 13 June. Items discussed included the 20mph project, projects for CIL funding, Shrivenham Bypass roundabout, pedestrian crossings and pavements. Although Parishes tend to contact their County Councillor directly with any traffic issues Elaine can also raise matters and report back to Parish Councils. The next FATAC meeting will be held on 12 September.

Abingdon Outdoor Pool – for those who use the outdoor pool in Abingdon's Abbey Meadow please note that the pool will only be open for a six week period this summer and will open on 25 July. The reason for this is primarily financial bearing mind the high costs involved in running the pool. Details may be found on the Vale website www.whitehorselottery.co.uk

White Horse Community Lottery – The lottery continues to attract new voluntary and charitable groups – remember its free to join!

Swindon Borough Council – New Eastern Villages

At last we can relax because the roadworks at the White Hart Roundabout have been completed. Alas that cannot be said for Gablecross and Oxford Road.

However, we are assured that all will be completed in the next few weeks. The knock on effect is still being experienced as the rat runs that were sought in order to avoid the roadworks continue to be used. There has been a noticeable increase in the amount of traffic using the Bourton Wharf/Townsend Road access from the A420. This we believe 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.

We have been very busy over the past few weeks attending Annual Parish Assemblies and AGM's with our 12 Parishes. It is so interesting to see how diverse our Ward is. Yes, it is primarily a rural community but it is also a tourist area and there is a need to cater not just for our residents but for visitors too.

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

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