

District Councillors Report to Parish Councils

Watchfield and Shrivenham Ward

May 2021

Vale of White Horse District Council

Following Government guidance the Vale held its first face to face full Council meeting on Tuesday 18 May 2021. This was the Annual General Meeting and included appointments to committees and confirmation of the Cabinet recommendations for three Neighbourhood Development Plans which went to Referendum on 6 May 2021. The NDP for Shrivenham was confirmed.

Town and Parish Councils will continue to be informed with regular Covid updates and we would encourage you all to keep a watching brief on the Vale's website for updated information – www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk

Planning – As reported in our April report the full Council meeting on 24 March agreed that the Vale would join with South Oxfordshire DC to develop a Joint Local Plan up to 2041. The initial stages of the work have begun and part of the work includes a Call for Sites in the Vale. This information is now on the Vale website and gives a complete breakdown of land that has been submitted for consideration as suitable for development. **Please note that the land submitted does not give planning permission or confirmation that the sites are suitable for development.** The register may be found as part of the Joint Local Plan 2041 webpage. South Oxfordshire District Council's Local Plan is 4 years behind the Vale's which expires in 2031 as a result there has not been a call for sites as yet.

Further to the reminder last month regarding the Planning call - in process. If there are concerns about any planning application and the Parish Council wishes to call it in to Committee it is necessary to firstly discuss with either Simon or Elaine. Any discussion must be undertaken before the 28 days from the registration date has expired. The request to the Vale for call-in is not necessarily granted.

A number of planning applications from the Ward have been submitted during the past few weeks. These include amendments to existing applications for land to the North East of Swiss Cottage, land at Townsend Road and Reserved Matters for Phase 2 of the Cala (former L&G) development on Highworth Road in Shrivenham. The Land at Townsend Road is on the agenda for the Planning Committee to consider at the next meeting on 2 June.

Climate Emergency Advisory Committee – The next meeting of the CEAC will be held on 14 June 2021. The agenda will be published on the Vale website one week before the meeting. There is a new webpage on the Vale's website outlining Action on climate and nature. It gives details of what is being done to tackle the climate emergency and the role of CEAC.

Oxfordshire Friends of the Earth has published a report entitled "In case of Emergency" which includes what have Councils done since declaring a Climate Emergency. The report calls for action including training. The Vale continues to

make strides to ensure they tackle the challenge which is a priority in the Corporate Plan 2020-2024

Biffa – Biffa are currently experiencing staffing difficulties particularly with qualified HGV drivers. Please be patient if bins aren't emptied at the usual times or indeed the usual day. As always please leave your bins out and they will be emptied as soon as practicable.

Garden Waste service – the garden waste (Brown bin) service has been closed to new applications for a number of months. It is anticipated that this will re-open in the next few weeks.

Civil Parking Enforcement – The County Council is still awaiting confirmation from central government regarding the delegation of powers. It is anticipated that the new arrangements will be in place by the end of this year.

New Initiatives

The Vale has launched an **Air Quality superhero** competition for primary school children to design a superhero to tackle air pollution. The council will award a new Micro scooter to the winner. Details are on the Vale website and the deadline for entries is 5 June.

Litter Bug Detectives Activity – From Saturday 29 May to Saturday 5 June the Council is running a new Litter Bugs Detectives Trail in four parks across South and Vale. More information on the Vale website.

White Horse Community Lottery – The Vale will launch its new Community Lottery on Monday 14 June. The Lottery will have a weekly jackpot of £25,000 and will be available for residents to play online. The Lottery is being run by Gatherwell on behalf of the Vale. Any community groups and charities operating in the Vale wishing to register interest and find out more should Email:
communityenablement@southandvale.gov.uk

Swindon Borough Council – New Eastern Villages – The road works in and around the A420/A419 at White Hart and Gablecross continue. OCC Officers are due to meet with Swindon BC officers in June for a further update on the NEV and transport matters. The Southern Connector Road is under construction from South Marston to Commonhead. The Government has provided £11.6m towards the £30.5m project. The remainder of the funding is being provided by Homes England.

In addition Amazon has announced that the new Symmetry Park distribution centre will create 1300 jobs.

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

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