

District Councillors Report to Parish Councils

Watchfield and Shrivenham Ward

November 2021

Vale of White Horse District Council

Covid – As infection rates still remain high in both the Vale and Swindon we request that residents continue to follow the guidance and take care. Should the current arrangements change we would encourage people to keep a watching brief on the Vale's website for new information. www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk

Waste Service – We are pleased that the garden waste service has returned to normal. There are still occasions when bins are missed and residents are reminded to contact Biffa if any bins are missed. 03000 610610 or online www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/missedbin

Afghan Refugees – The Vale continue to work closely with the County Council and other Oxfordshire partners to assist with finding suitable accommodation, health, education and other services. The Vale are committed to accommodate three families. The first of the three families have settled in well and we are expecting the next two families to arrive in the next few weeks.

Planning – The latest planning applications for all villages in our Ward may be found on the Vale website.

Last month we mentioned that there were two controversial applications one in Shrivenham and one in Ashbury. Both have attracted a great number of objections including a petition from residents in Ashbury and Oxfordshire County Council Highways where it is proposed to erect a 15mtr communications mast. The Shrivenham application is from the same developer who won the appeal to build the Townsend Place development. The decision target date for this development is 5 January 2022. If the application is recommended for approval it will be considered by the Vale Planning Committee.

One other planning application that has been outstanding for some months was for the development of 5 dwellings on land North East of Swiss Cottage off Faringdon Road Shrivenham. This application was refused on the grounds of land outside the built area, in open countryside and within the defined settlement gap between Shrivenham and Watchfield.

Between 16 September and 16 November there have been 37 planning applications registered at the Vale from villages in our Ward.

Council Meeting – The next full Council meeting will be held on 8 December. The agenda will be published on the Vale website on Wednesday 1 December.

Climate Emergency Advisory Committee – The next meeting will take place on Monday 10 January 2022 and the agenda will be published on 3 January 2022.

Swindon CCG - Following questions raised at full Council meetings regarding communications between the Vale and Swindon Clinical Commissioning Group we are pleased to report that a meeting took place at the beginning of November between senior representatives of the CCG and the Vale Leader Cllr Emily Smith and Deputy Chief Executive Suzanne Malcolm. A further meeting is due to take place early next month which will enable Elaine and Simon to raise issues that directly affect residents of our Ward.

Meet your Councillors - At the Meet your Councillors event held on 6 November concerns were raised about the speeding traffic in the High Street. Of particular concern is the speed of the S6 bus in the early hours of the morning and after rush hour in the evening. We have raised the issue with Stagecoach and they have agreed to remind their drivers of the 20mph speed limit and to respect the speed humps. In addition Stagecoach Inspectors will be monitoring the buses during the hours that have been highlighted.

Electric Vehicles – Awaiting confirmation of exact locations and then relevant legal licenses will be obtained. It is still anticipated that all installations will be completed by next March.

Civil Parking Enforcement – The scheme is now live. Officers will be able to enforce the majority of restrictions where traffic orders and regulatory signs and lines are in place. It is stressed that problems such as pavement parking are not automatically enforceable unless there are formal restrictions in place. In order for the scheme to settle PCN's (Penalty Charge Notices) will not be issued until January 2022.

White Horse Community Lottery –As previously reported the Lottery now has its own website: www.whitehorselottery.co.uk which provides all the information required to participate. Voluntary and charitable groups are invited to join. It is free for you to get involved.

Thames Valley Police - Vale Councillors received presentations from the Chief Constable and Police and Crime Commissioner on 11 November. If Parishes are interested in the content of the presentations please let Elaine know.

Christmas shopping free parking - Faringdon 27/11, 4 and 11/12 and

Wantage 4,11,18/12

Swindon Borough Council – New Eastern Villages

Although the White Hart roundabout has been reopened there is still traffic management in place. So much so that the tailbacks are again backing up to Acorn Bridge. It is anticipated that the works will carry on around the area at least until next February. The works continue to have an impact on local villages which have seen a significant increase in traffic, often speeding in an attempt to avoid any possible queuing on the A420. The increase in HGV traffic has been most noticeable and has caused a great deal of damage to roads that are totally unsuitable for such heavy traffic. What is of concern and has been mentioned previously is that once the White

Hart Roundabout and the other roadworks in and around the A420 have been completed that the diverted traffic will continue to use the villages as Rat Runs.

At a recent meeting of the Scrutiny Committee at Swindon BC the Cabinet Member for Strategic Infrastructure, Transport & Planning reported on a number of areas including the New Eastern Villages. In the last year Outline planning permission has been granted for 6430 homes, 5 local centres, 4 new primary schools, a 10 form-entry secondary schools, 3 sports hubs and a park & ride site. In addition there are 70 homes currently being constructed on the former South Marston Hotel site. Many of these permissions will have a direct affect on the A420. Indeed the report also refers to *quote - a connectivity study on transport improvements through the whole Swindon to Oxford corridor, looking at all modes of transport including the A420 as a key element. This study is critical to future infrastructure investment along the corridor between Swindon (Didcot) and Oxford and will consider multi-modal travel, including potential dualling of the A420.*

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

However, following the success of recent events held in Shrivenham and Watchfield we will be arranging more in the New Year.

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