

## **SODC Newsletter – August 2021**

### **Planning**

We continue to work with residents who have concerns regarding Planning Applications, and we are working on responses to a number of appeals. Whilst not denigrating the importance of any case, the most significant Appeal at the moment is by Taylor Wimpey, who are appealing against a Planning Committee decision in respect of the 'acoustic fence' along the side of Kiln Avenue at Old Kiln Lakes. We shall be working with the Railway Society and the Parish Council to prepare a submission to the Planning Inspectorate.

Details of the Appeal can be found at the link below and we urge any residents who may be affected by this to submit their views to the Planning Inspectorate. Details of the Appeal link:-

<https://data.southoxon.gov.uk/ccm/support/Main.jsp?MODULE=AppealList&PAGE=2&TYPE=Lodged&APPTYPE=ALL>

### **5 Year Land Supply**

The Council has issued its Annual Statement declaring a Land Supply of 5.33 Years. This as at Friday 25<sup>th</sup> June 2021. You can view the statement here: <https://www.southoxon.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2021/06/South-5YHLS-June-2021.pdf>

As informed last month we received a decision to Allow an Appeal at Sonning Common in which the Inspector has allowed an argument that the Council's Land Supply is in fact 4.21 Years; something that we hotly dispute. The review continues and a decision as to whether a Judicial Review is appropriate is expected any day.

As previously stated, Ian has requested that a Report be brought to Scrutiny once the review is complete so that Councillors can fully understand the situation and make recommendations to Cabinet and Full Council as necessary. Since last month's newsletter, the Council has decided, on the basis of legal advice, to take the decision to Judicial Review, and as a result, the Report to Scrutiny will be delayed until the outcome is known, as to publish before that would be premature and possibly compromise the Council's arguments.

## **Neighbourhood Plans government pilot scheme**

Information with being shared with parishes in our ward.

The Government's Office for Place launched a pilot scheme aimed at supporting the preparation of design codes. They are seeking expressions of interest from designated neighbourhood planning groups that are interested in setting standards for design in their local area. The preparation of a design code provides neighbourhood planning groups with an opportunity to ensure that new development meets their expectations for greener, more beautiful homes, streets, public spaces and neighbourhoods. The pilot scheme is also keen to explore the potential and role of design codes to address other priorities, including regeneration, the path to net zero and climate change adaptation and mitigation as well as bio-diversity net gain.

Successful bidding teams will receive funding and support from expertise drawn from the Office for Place and its advisory board. The Office for Place will work with the successful bidding teams to develop a detailed proposal and process for developing and producing a design code that is aspirational. The Office for Place will provide additional support in the form of expert advice and input via a programme of events and workshops likely to include topic-based workshops, roundtables and 1:1 support.

The deadline for expressions of interest is **5pm on the 13 September**.

The expression of interest form can be found [here](#), with more information on the scheme available from the [Government website](#).

### **Fly Tipping**

Since April 2019, we have had 14 successful prosecutions under Environmental Protection Act 1990 Section 33 (Fly tipping). The total fines issued is £4712 (average £336.57 per case). The magistrates also awarded £8430.42 in costs (£602.17 per case).

In addition, the following sentences were given, mostly where the offender stated they were unable to pay any fines etc.

- 6 months imprisonment suspended for 12 months, 200 hours community service, 10 days rehabilitation.
- 80 hours community service.
- 12-month community order, 120 hours community service.
- 12-month conditional discharge.
- 120 hours community service

Over this time, we have also had successful prosecutions for offences committed under Environmental Protection Act 1990 Section 34 (duty of care) and other environmental legislation.

Please make sure that they have a valid licence if you are getting someone to take away rubble, rubbish or junk or that sort of thing. We would take a photograph of their licence just to be on the safe side!

### **Waste Collection**

Currently there are two issues with the waste collection service.

1. The national shortage of HGV drivers continues to impact the Council's waste collection service. We continue to press the Administration on plans to resolve this matter, but it doesn't look as if a quick fix is likely to present itself. We are also raising the question of partial refunds of the fee charged for the Garden Waste service and will keep you informed of progress.
2. Last month we informed you of the steps that were being taken regarding the issue in Church Lane, Chinnor, in respect of the non-collection of waste. This being due to parking in the lane making it impossible for the waste collection vehicles to safely drive up the road. Lynn has now convened a site meeting with our county Councillor colleagues and officers from the waste management and Highways teams to fully understand the issues and options are now being identified. Again, there is no easy and quick fix to this issue. It has to be acknowledged that since planning permission was given for the 'new houses' the size of modern cars, especially SUVs, has increased significantly; this also has an impact further up the lane albeit that the width of the carriageway there has not been set by planning reviews.

### **Afghanistan.**

Our officers are working closely with the other councils across Oxfordshire to ensure a timely and supportive approach to addressing the needs of the individuals and families arriving in the UK from Afghanistan, whether on the resettlement scheme or part of the wider UK response to the refugee crisis.

Oxfordshire County Council is collectively leading co-ordination of the wrap round services for the county that will be required to support any families or individuals, including co-ordination with any

voluntary sector agencies in Oxfordshire. At this time, there are no specific large-scale requests from Government that impact on South Oxfordshire.

We remain in frequent contact with the South East Migration partnership and colleagues across Oxfordshire so that we can respond quickly if needed.

### **Councillor Capital Grants**

We will take this opportunity to remind you that the Councillor Community Grant Scheme is now open, and between us, we have a total of £10,000 that we can award with grants of between £250 and £5,000 being available. As previously stated, there are restrictions as to the purpose, for example, we cannot provide a grant where the purpose comes under the remit of a different agency, for example, County Council Highways or Education.

Examples of Grants that we have previously given have been support for an Electric Vehicle Charging Point at the Chinnor Community Pavilion, low energy lighting in some of the community halls in the villages, equipment for several of the sporting groups in the villages and outdoor Gym equipment.

Full details of the scheme can be found here: <https://www.southoxon.gov.uk/south-oxfordshire-district-council/community-support/grants/councillor-community-grants/>.

Please do share this with our communities and encourage them to get in touch if they think that we may be able to help. This is now urgent as the Application Window closes at noon on the 1<sup>st</sup> of October 2021.

Lynn Lloyd and Ian White – South Oxfordshire District Council