

SODC Newsletter – November 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.

5 Year Land Supply

The Council issued its Annual Statement declaring a Land Supply of 5.33 Years and this remains the Council's stated position. This as of Friday 25th 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 previously 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. We have now received the result of an Appeal in Didcot in which a different Inspector argues that our Land Supply is 4.81 years. Ian has asked that this Appeal is considered in the Review he asked for Scrutiny as well, but the result of this will be 'delayed' until the results of the Judicial Review of the Sonning Common case are known as to publish before that would be premature and possibly compromise the Council's arguments.

Neighbourhood Plan Reviews

As Chinnor has recently reviewed its Neighbourhood Development Plan, it benefits from the 3 Year Land for two years from the date of adoption. However, where a community has this protection, it needs to review the Plan every two years, which, as Chinnor has experienced, is an onerous task. We are looking at ways in which this could be made less intensive and will give you the findings of our inquiries once we have them.

Garden Waste Service

Councillors and residents should now have been informed that that the Garden Waste Collection Service, that was suspended earlier this year, has now been returned to its normal service level.

The Council has written to all residents affected by this issue to inform them that the normal service has now been resumed.

We will continue to monitor the on-going service through both Scrutiny and Full Council to try to ensure that this issue is better controlled in future.

To date, as reported last month, there does not appear to have been a significant increase in fly-tipping because of the Garden Waste issue, with the issue seemingly involving a small number of rogue builders and house clearance operatives.

We do continue to monitor this situation and keep pressure on our contractor to maintain clearance time scales where instances have been reported.

Household waste recycling centres set for refresh in November

People planning to use Oxfordshire's household waste recycling centres (HWRCs) next month are being warned about a series of short closures to enable essential work to be carried out.

For safety reasons, Oxfordshire County Council will be shutting each of its centres for two days – although never at the same time – to allow for deep cleaning and essential maintenance to take place.

The closing dates of centres in/near South and Vale are:

- Drayton, near Abingdon: Tuesday 9 and Wednesday 10 November
- Oakley Wood, near Wallingford: Tuesday 16 and Wednesday 17 November
- Redbridge, Oxford: Thursday 18 and Friday 19 November
- Stanford, near Farringdon: Thursday 11 and Friday 12 November.

More information can be found on the [Oxfordshire County Council website](#), including details of the nearest alternative site during the closures.

Waste Collection in Church Lane

Last month we up-dated you about the steps that were being taken in Church Lane, Chinnor, in respect of the non-collection of waste. This is still being actively pursued by Lynn and the SODC Waste Team.

Afghan refugee update

Many of you will be aware that the subject of resettling Afghan families has been in the news with reports that some families could be in hotels for up to a year. We were contacted by the BBC to find out the latest in our districts and issued the following response:

With the support of partner agencies and private landlords, South Oxfordshire District Council and Vale of White Horse District Council have agreed to each resettle four Afghan families in their respective districts. The families that have been resettled so far, are receiving specialist support to help them successfully adjust to their new environment.

Councillor Capital Grants

The first window for the Councillor Community Grant Scheme closed on the 1st October and we have approved the Applications that were submitted. These are the Awards that we have made:

1. Chinnor Village Centre - £5,000 towards the refurbishment of the Centre's Conservatory
2. Community Church - £2,000 towards refurbishment of the Garden of Remembrance and the front wall
3. Sydenham Parish - £800 towards Artwork and setting up the new Village Newsletter.

As we still have £2,200 available, a second window will be opened at the beginning of November for applications for these remaining funds,

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

Grants (different from the Councillor Grant Scheme, mentioned above.)

Please spread the word about the following grants available this Autumn for the district's voluntary and community sector:

- Revenue grant scheme is now open for applications to apply for core funding and support to help diversify income streams. Funding is available for two years and is open to local constituted voluntary sector organisations. Closes noon 26 November 2021.
- Capital grant scheme opens 1 November and closes at noon 17 December 2021 for grants of up to £75,000 (max 50% of their total project cost). Voluntary and community sector organisations and town & parish councils are eligible to apply.
- Second round of Councillor Community grants opens 22 November for wards with budget remaining. Round two closes noon on 4 February (2022)

Further information on all these grants can be found on [the South website](#) or contact the Community Enablement Team who are happy to answer any questions and guide applicants through the submission process.

Parking Enforcement

As Councillors will be aware, the County Council has now taken over enforcement from the Police, effective from the 1st November 2021. Oxfordshire County Council have produced a Glove Box Guide on how to avoid fines which we attach for your information. You may wish to publish this on your web sites for residents' information.

Sewage overflow and flooding

As we mentioned last month, we have been becoming more and more concerned about the issue of sewage and issues with it's safe disposal by Thames Water, and as Chair of Scrutiny, Ian has formally started the process to set up an All-Parties Task and Finish Group to review of the issue. Detailed files concerning issues in Chinnor have already been provided by Cllrs Williams and Ashdown, and we will keep you informed as matters progress, although, given all of the parties involved and the complexity of the issue, it is to be expected that this will be a protracted review.

Leader of the Council

As previously advised, Sue Cooper, who was Leader of the Council, has stepped down. At the Full Council, on the 7th October, as we expected, David Ruane was elected as the new Leader.

You will have received information about other Council matters through the releases from our Communications Team and as ever, if you have questions about this, please do let us know.

All the best.

Lynn Lloyd and Ian White – South Oxfordshire District Council