

SODC Newsletter – September 2022

Planning

We continue to work with residents who have concerns regarding Planning Applications, and the impact on their properties. We have been in dialogue with our Planning Officers in respect of a number of applications where acceptability might be considered marginal in our Parishes, and we continue to work with both Chinnor PC and residents in preparing our case for refusal of the Planning Application for 32 new homes in Oakley Lane. Aside from the additional pressure on the village resources, it will provide even more pressure on the Ward's infrastructure.

When Planning Permission was granted for the Old Kiln Lakes Development, Taylor Wimpey was required to provide fencing along the line to mitigate the nuisance of sound, which to date they have not done, in spite of action by our Enforcement Team and their failure at planning Appeal to reduce the standard of the requirement. We continue to work with our Planning and Enforcement officers to resolve this issue, and we have been told that Taylor Wimpey intend to commence work to rectify this situation in the next month or so. We will continue to monitor and chase this action.

5 Year Land Supply

Last month we informed you that the District Council has a Land Supply of 5.58 years and that the approach to the calculation had been significantly strengthened. A number of councillors have asked about aspects and how they can answer questions on the subject.

Simply put, neither you as Parish Councillors nor we as District Councillors should not answer any technical questions on this highly complicated matter. The Planning situation can and often does change on a daily basis, and aside from perhaps not having the technical training, (for example, when an assumption is an assumption that can be challenged and when it is an Assumption that is effectively set in stone,) we do not have to daily knowledge to safely answer this question. There can also be issues around the context of the question.

So, our advice is that if you are asked questions beyond requiring stating the published figure, refer the person to our web site and Building Control.

You can read the Statement here and download the Full Report (warning the document is 200 pages long.)

[the new five year housing land supply statement on our website](#)

Reminder

Requests for new litter or dog bins

Requests for new litter and dog waste bins have been a hot topic recently, so here's a quick update on how it works.

Dog waste can now be mixed with general litter and so it makes sense to install litter bins rather than ones for dog waste only. When parishes ask us to install new bins, we must consider what need there is for a new bin alongside the ongoing costs of emptying it as well as the initial installation costs.

We will assess the site for evidence of a litter or dog fouling problem and consider if:

- there are existing bins nearby
- there's a high footfall
- it's on an adopted highway or council owned land, or a risk to users or residents living nearby
- it's close to the public highway to allow crews to empty it safely

If you'd like more information on new litter bins, please contact the Waste team via waste.team@southandvale.gov.uk

Household Support Fund update

Please continue to help spread the message that residents who haven't previously received vouchers or support from the Household Support Fund can still apply.

The scheme is designed to support households who are struggling to afford energy, food and other related household bills and we are keen to reach as many residents as we can.

Details on the voucher scheme and how to apply are on [our website](#).

Councillor Community Grant

The first window for applications is now closed and we understand that we have had approximately £6,000 of applications which leaves us with £4,000 for the second window later this year. Please do think about possible uses for this money; would your parish benefit from outdoor gym equipment? Might it benefit from a new bench in the children's recreation Park? The next window will soon be upon us!

Keeping everyone active Grant

Applications for the Everyone Active grant are still open. Organisations and individuals working for projects which help residents to get active or maintain activity could get up to £1000 funding.

The deadline for applications is 30 September and there's more information on our [Grants webpage](#).

Household Support Fund update

The Household Support Fund is still open in South Oxfordshire and could help those struggling with food or energy bills. Initially it's open to people who have not previously received these vouchers or support from this fund. You can find more details on our [Cost of Living webpage](#).

Environment Agency responds to sewage concerns

The Environment agency has responded to a letter from Council Leader David Rouane regarding sewage treatment capacity and discharge concerns. You can [download a copy of the Agency's response](#).

Issues around sewage and drainage of rainwater have concerned us for some time and continue to do so and we will continue to raise this matter. Of particular concern is the wide spread use of SuDS, or Sustainable Drainage Systems, which in effect are 'temporary ponds. More details about them can be found here:

<https://www.susdrain.org/delivering-suds/using-suds/background/sustainable-drainage.html>

Ian recalls that in the 60s and 70s the ponds in Chinnor were all filled in to mitigate the risk that small children could drown in them, even though they were not particularly deep. One assumes that the risk is relatively small, but it is acknowledged, given the provision of lift belts at the sites of SuDS in the village. His concern is that though the risk is small, would a small child be able to use a life belt if required, and how small is it?

As ever, there is much more that we could cover, but we will close here as much of what we have been doing is internal planning for matters running through until the election in 2023.

Lynn Lloyd and Ian White – South Oxfordshire District Council