

SODC Newsletter – July 2022

Planning

We continue to work with residents who have concerns regarding Planning Applications, and the impact on their properties. We have now received the Inspector's decision in respect of the appeal regarding land at Crowell Road and it is very disappointing that the Planning Inspector has allowed the Council's decision to be overturned. It seems to us that the Inspector has ignored a number of our points, in particular those highlighted in our presentation, and we note that the Inspector has chosen to ignore the loss of high-quality agricultural land at a time when pressures on our food supply is significant.

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 are very concerned that a new application for a further 30+ houses has been received for Chinnor. Aside from the additional pressure on the village resources, it will provide even more pressure on the Ward's infrastructure.

Joint Local Plan

We have now finished our consultation for a new Joint Local Plan, which focuses on the issues facing both districts and how we might tackle them. We are now working through the responses, and these will be looked at to see how they can be used in the draft of the Plan as it now stands.

Enforcement

Members will recall that at the end of 2021 (November) the Administration introduced a new process for enforcement and that at Scrutiny, Ian as Chair, asked for an interim review to be carried out after 6 months, which the Administration and Enforcement Team were happy to carry out. This will be brought to our Scrutiny Meeting on the 26th of July and we will let you have a copy of the report once it has been signed off.

Ukraine situation

Like everyone, the councils are concerned about the continuing situation in Ukraine and want to support in any way that they can. We continue to do everything possible within our gift and available resources to respond quickly when asked for support and families are now being placed with hosts. This is a complex and at times difficult programme of work, but things are proceeding as well as can be expected.

Council tax energy rebate update

More than 90 per cent of households (around 35,000 in the district) who are eligible for the Council tax energy rebate have now either received their £150 payment or exceptionally will receive it very shortly so long as they have passed the eligibility criteria.

Getting families active

We've just launched YouMove – a new initiative providing low-cost or free activities for children and families who receive benefits-related free school meals in Oxfordshire.

Activities available so far include cricket, swimming, and badminton. More on our websites at southoxon.gov.uk/youmove

Platinum Jubilee

The long weekend celebration may now be over but it has been a massive success and we thoroughly enjoyed ourselves. For us, it was particularly pleasing to see the Jubilee Bench near the church in Chinnor in place, and both Ian and Lynn have tested it for comfort! It is a shame that someone chose to vandalise it within a few hours of it being installed, but in a way, the fact that a resident cleaned the graffiti off so quickly tells us a great deal about the normal Chinnor resident. Thank you to that person!

Which leads to . . .

Councillor Community Grant

The Jubilee Bench was paid for by our Councillor Grant Scheme. As highlighted last month, Round one of the 2022/23 councillor community grant scheme is now open until midday on 2 September. Grants of up to £5,000 per councillor can be awarded to town and parish councils and 'not for profit' groups. Decisions may be made collectively in wards with multiple councillors.

. . . But so far we haven't had one application. Please, if you can use a Grant, apply, as if we don't use it the money will be passed to a (possibly less deserving) Ward!

[See southoxon.gov.uk/grants for more information.](https://southoxon.gov.uk/grants)

Any questions, please contact the community enablement team via grants@southandvale.gov.uk.

Reminder

Changes proposed for parking enforcement

We are considering some changes to how we enforce our car park policies to ensure they reflect best practice and to match those used by the county council's on street enforcement team. For more information head to the websites [South](#)

Litter pickers urged to join litter mapping project

We've just launched a litter mapping project to help pinpoint where and what type of litter is being left across South Oxfordshire and the Vale of White Horse. Throughout the summer, we are asking litter pickers to record the location and types of litter they find, either online or by post.

We will use this information to target those areas which need the most improvement.

To find out more and to take part visit southoxon.gov.uk/littermapping.

The Queen's Green Canopy

As part of our Platinum Jubilee celebrations, we want to create a record of all the trees planted for The Queen's Green Canopy across South Oxfordshire.

If you or an organisation in your community planted some trees earlier this year or are planning to do so later in the year as part of the celebrations, please send us pictures of the trees and details of where they're planted to communications@southandvale.gov.uk.

Please download [this poster](#) and put it up around your community so that others can share their images with us too.

For more information visit southoxon.gov.uk/greencanopy.

New EV chargers now available across South Oxfordshire

Almost 50 new electric vehicle charging points are now available across four of our public car parks.

The easy-to-use EV chargers are located at Cattlemarket and Goldsmith's Lane car parks in Wallingford, Greys Road car parks in Henley and Southern Road car park in Thame. Chargers will also be available in Kings Road in Henley from next week. The EV chargers are part of a county-wide project to increase EV charging availability across Oxfordshire, managed by [Park and Charge Oxfordshire](#).

Don't forget though that here in Chinnor Ward, Chinnor Parish Council had already installed two chargers at the Chinnor Community Pavilion, helped with grants from your District and County Councillors!

As ever, there is much more that we could cover, but we will close here.

Lynn Lloyd and Ian White – South Oxfordshire District Council