

District Councillors Report

Chinnor Ward - July 2023

CLlr Ali Gordon-Creed

CLlr Ed Sadler

We are delighted to announce that the community grants process is now open, details below.

Both of us have been extremely busy with planning applications, site visits, responding to residents and familiarising ourselves with our roles and responsibilities. You will have noticed that we generally arrive as a pair to Parish meetings, but this isn't always the best use of our time, so going forward we plan to rotate our attendance as we also meet several times a week to update each other anyway. Meanwhile, we are actively involved in the community and enjoying our work responding to residents who have concerns relating to planning or other matters in their locality. As District Councillors and Planning Committee members - we also take a keen interest on matters across the district in relation to planning; we have been trying to grapple with the politics behind decisions made which have an impact on South Oxfordshire, most notably the recent proposals around Bayswater Brook, Watlington Edge Road and the very contentious HIF1 Project. If you have any specific concerns or questions about these or any other plans, then please do reach out to us.

HIF1 Update: (Housing and Infrastructure Fund)

The County Councillors recently rejected the HIF1 Planning application on material grounds which were against the councils' own policies in relation to sustainability and active travel. The case has now been called in for review by Michael Gove. The current decision puts the council at risk of being exposed to outlying planning applications such as Harrington. Chinnor Ward, however, is unlikely to be impacted by this as the ward is already oversupplied in accordance with the five-year land supply. We will of course keep you abreast of any developments.

Councillor Community Grants Funding 2023/2024 now open

A new round of funding from the Councillor Community Grant scheme has launched in South Oxfordshire, to help local charities and organisations across the district. As part of the scheme, every ward in South Oxfordshire has funding to support local projects that directly benefit local residents. Organisations can now apply for grants from £250 up to a maximum of £5,000 from each ward councillor where the project is located.

Before applying, applicants are encouraged to get in touch with their local councillor to discuss their project and visit our website for further information and details on eligibility. Applications are made online and are open until midday on Friday 20th October 2023. The last round of funding, which closed earlier this year, awarded £179,824 to help 99 projects across the district. Recipients ranged from biodiversity and wildlife projects to those improving mental and physical health and wellbeing, improvements to community buildings and recreation areas, and more.

You can find out more about the Councillor Community Grant scheme on our website [Councillor Community Grant Scheme 2023/24 - South Oxfordshire District Council \(southoxon.gov.uk\)](https://www.southoxon.gov.uk) or by contacting the Community Enablement team at grants@southandvale.gov.uk

Waste Compliance

Four bags were dumped at two locations in Sprigs Alley, two more bags at Chinnor Hill and a further two bags on the A40 at Lewknor. The Envirocrime Team were tipped off and subsequently investigated the four fly tips of garden waste in Chinnor and Lewknor. This culminated in a successful prosecution. The court imposed a fine of £768 and a victim surcharge of £77 and ordered him to pay council costs of £1094.12 totalling £1,939.12. Check out the full story here: [Surrey man pleaded guilty to four fly tips in South Oxfordshire - South Oxfordshire District Council \(southoxon.gov.uk\)](https://www.southoxon.gov.uk)

It would be advisable to remind our residents of their responsibilities in the parish magazine, with the added advice that if you see fly-tipping or suspect that someone is involved in fly-tipping to please report it via the [How to report fly-tipping, littering and dumped waste - South Oxfordshire District Council \(southoxon.gov.uk\)](https://www.southoxon.gov.uk) or call 03000 610610.

It's important that residents are also aware that if they have problems with waste not being collected, or if they notice situations whereby Biffa operatives are putting electrical recycling into general waste trucks (for example), please report directly to Biffa, either by phone on 03000 610610, or at admin.southoxford@biffa.co.uk. They can then investigate and resolve the issues. If you have already done this and the issue continues, please escalate to the Council's waste team at waste.team@southandvale.gov.uk or call 01235 422146.

Climate

A new website offering practical advice for Oxfordshire people wanting to reduce their carbon footprint and save energy has gone live, [Climate Action Oxfordshire](https://www.climateactionoxfordshire.org) lists measures people can take and rates them according to effort, impact, and cost. It also gives people an idea of what financial savings they can make and includes tips and links on how to get started.

From small changes such as washing your clothes on a cold cycle, creating a wildflower area or using rechargeable batteries, to recycling more, eating less meat and, for those with a bigger budget, getting solar panels or an electric vehicle, the website is full of practical things you can do with the time and money you have to spare.

It is a joint venture set up by Oxfordshire County Council, Oxford City Council, Cherwell, South Oxfordshire, West Oxfordshire, and Vale of White Horse district councils, and OxLEP – the Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership.

The one stop shop has sections aimed at individuals, communities, and organisations, including businesses, and advice on transport, lifestyle, shopping, home and biodiversity matters.

Rural England Prosperity Fund

More than £1.2m is being made available to help improve the rural economy across our districts. We've secured funding from the government's Rural England Prosperity Fund, which can be used to provide a boost to projects such as creating rural business hubs, setting up community energy schemes and diversifying farm businesses beyond agriculture.

Any organisation with legal status will be able to apply for the funding when it opens in the Autumn of this year. These will include; Public sector organisations, Higher and further education institutions, Private sector companies, Voluntary organisations and Registered charities.

Before the application process begins, the Economic Development team wants to understand which organisations might apply and for what type of project, and so is asking anyone interested to send an Expression of Interest in the run up to the funding scheme opening later this year.

There are more details on the scheme on the SODC Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF) page.

Kindest Regards

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