

# **District Councillors Report**

## **Chinnor Ward – 1<sup>st</sup> OCT 2023**

### **CLlr Ali Gordon-Creed**

### **CLlr Ed Sadler**

#### **150 Houses Chinnor Appeal**

The top item is the impending appeal for 150 houses just off the Thame Road, Chinnor, which is due to be held at the Chinnor Community Pavilion from 10:00 on the 10<sup>th</sup> OCT 2023. The appeal is due to run for up to six days. Chinnor and Sydenham Parish Councils are asking for as many residents as possible to attend to show their support to the Parish and the Council in their bid to stop this egregious development over farmland.

#### **Oxfordshire System NHS and Local Authorities Stakeholder Briefing - September 2023**

You can view the [Oxfordshire System Stakeholder Briefing September 2023 here](#). This edition includes updates on the upcoming British Medical Association consultants and junior doctors strike, Botley and Kennington primary care update, patient transport services and more.

#### **Waste Compliance**

South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils have launched a new campaign asking people to check before they chuck items in their recycling bins. An estimated 3,340 tonnes\* – the equivalent of just over 200 double decker buses – of items that residents put in their recycling bins during 2022/23 were not actually recyclable – that’s 11 per cent of all the contents of our green bins for the whole year! South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils will be placing stickers on all green household recycling bins to encourage people to ‘Check it before you chuck it’. The sticker features a QR code for people to scan to help them check, along with a reminder that all items in the green bin should be clean, dry and loose. Even if the label says that something can be recycled, you should still check to make sure – recycling labels on packaging are often incorrect and we may not be able to recycle that item locally. By ensuring you only put the correct items in your recycling bin, you will play your part in helping to keep us among the top recyclers in the country! [Recycling - helping you to get it right - South Oxfordshire District Council and Vale of White Horse District Council \(southandvale.gov.uk\)](#)

#### **New free carbon emissions calculator & online energy efficiency webinar from the district council:**

South and Vale Councils are hosting a **free online forum** to help us support residents to reduce their energy use and costs. This will be held online **Tuesday 14 NOV 2023 at 1800-1915**. The speakers will talk about the support that is available and some inspiring examples of local projects to help residents. There will also be an opportunity to ask questions.

#### **World Rivers Day**

Sunday 24 September was World Rivers Day. The council’s corporate plan includes the aim to protect and enhance the area’s natural assets with special emphasis on the River Thames. To support that aim the council has had a designated councillor role of Thames Champion since 2020, whose focus is to work with partners to enhance both access and water quality. In addition, the council works with the South Chilterns and River Thame catchment partnerships to help guide enhancements to our rivers. This year the council is supporting two applications to the government

for bathing water status on the River Thames, which if successful would help to drive improvements to water quality. **Cllr Freddie Van Mierlo**, South Oxfordshire District Council Cabinet member for climate change and nature recovery, said: "Rivers and streams are incredibly important wildlife corridors, providing links between different habitats and a refuge for many rare species. We must continue with our commitment to protect this precious resource from pollution." **Cllr Jo Robb**, South Oxfordshire District Council Thames Champion said: "We know that many hundreds of people enjoy the river in our district. During the recent hot weather almost 400 people on one day were counted swimming at the Wallingford Beach which shows how popular the river is. "We owe it to ourselves and the wildlife that depends upon them, to ensure our rivers are clean and healthy now and for generations to come."

[Rivers and Waterways page](#)

[Privacy Policy | River Thame Trust](#)

[The Big River Watch | The Rivers Trust](#)

### **New Oxfordshire wide air quality website launched**

The [Air Quality Information for Oxfordshire \(oxonair.uk\)](https://oxonair.uk) which has been created in partnership between Oxford City, Cherwell, West Oxfordshire, South Oxfordshire, Vale of White Horse, and Oxfordshire County Council - aims to integrate all relevant air quality-related information from all district councils in Oxfordshire under one single platform. The launch of the joint website demonstrates each Council's commitment to tackling air pollution across the county. In March 2021, Oxford City Council was awarded £162,500 to develop an [air quality community website](#) to help raise awareness of air pollution across Oxfordshire. The platform replaces <https://oxfordshire.air-quality.info/>, and includes several new features, including: Air pollution forecasts up to five days in advance, Air pollution alerts for Oxfordshire, Air quality footprint calculator, Air quality pledges for individuals and Information on individual council air quality projects across the county.

The website also continues to feature a map and real-time readings of monitoring stations across Oxfordshire including NO<sub>2</sub>, PM<sub>2.5</sub> and PM<sub>10</sub>, as well as general advice on air quality, why it is important, and how it is monitored across the county. The new website was created by all Oxfordshire Councils in partnership with global strategic environmental and engineering consulting company Ricardo, and [Oxfordshire residents were encouraged to share their views on what features they would like to include on the website](#). It has been funded through a [£162,000 grant from Government's Air Quality Grant](#) after a successful bid by Oxford City Council.

**Dangers of air pollution:** Air pollution is chemicals or particles in the air that can harm the health of humans, animals, plants, and can damage buildings. The main pollutants of concern to scientists and health experts are particulate matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub> and PM<sub>10</sub>) ozone, nitrogen dioxide. Air pollution has been found to particularly impact the most vulnerable members of society, such as those from minority backgrounds, the young, old and those experiencing health issues. Across Oxfordshire in 2021, it was estimated that air pollution's effect on mortality was equivalent to 320 early deaths. **Cllr Sue Cooper, South Oxfordshire District Council Cabinet Member for the Environment, said:** "The new website is a useful and welcome resource that everyone in Oxfordshire can use to see clearly where the highest risk of air pollution is. The next step will be to look at ways to tackle it."

Kindest Regards

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