**SODC A Conservative District Councillor's View**

**(Or What The Council Is Doing)**

***Febuary 2018.***

**Ward Specific**

We continue to deal with a significant number of resident enquiries and issues regarding building matters, the regulations and requirements and the on-going issues around developer applications and appeals. For Chinnor we have two Public Enquiries; for Perssimon and Cala Homes, together with three written Appeals.

Ian is attending three Planning Committee Meetings per month at the moment with an above average site visits. We both continue to work with our Parishes in respect of the work on Neighbourhood Plans.

Lynn as a member of the Cabinet continues working on the preparation of next year’s budget along with the normal day-to-day portfolio work. Ian, as Chairman of the Local Governance and Elections Issues Committee is developing the next year’s Programme Of Work whilst at the same time dealing with Scrutiny Committee meetings and Thames Valley Police Panel meetings looking at the next year’s budget..

We have other on-going work, but this covers some of the main areas for this month.

**Housing Matters.**

Councils adopt strategy to help meet the challenge of delivering new homes

Released on January 11, 2018

South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils have adopted a new strategy which sets out how they will meet the significant challenge of delivering thousands of new homes over the next 14-16 years.

The number of new homes proposed in each district is set out in the councils’ respective adopted and emerging local plans. The councils’ new Joint Housing Delivery Strategy will work alongside the respective local plans to guide how these new homes will be delivered, in line with infrastructure, and ensure that the types of homes provided meet the various needs of our communities.

In adopting the new strategy, the councils are taking on an 'enabler’ role to ensure that the required number of new homes can be delivered, which are also of the right type to meet local need.

To view the new strategy click on Joint Housing Delivery Strategy or visit southoxon.gov.uk/housingstrategy.

Cllr Lynn Lloyd, Cabinet Member for Housing at South Oxfordshire District Council, said: “Our new housing delivery strategy details how we will work with others to meet the major challenge of delivering the homes required in South Oxfordshire. This will help to ensure the right type of homes are built at the right time in the most appropriate locations allocated in the local plan.”

The councils adopted the Joint Housing Delivery Strategy following a public consultation on a draft version of the strategy in 2017.

**Planning update**

**Brownfield land register**

We have published details of all brownfield development sites in our districts that have full or outline planning permission. The register also includes sites that may be considered as appropriate for residential development.

You can view the brownfield land registers on our South website:

http://ebtk.co.uk/resources/stats/click.php?c=2636&e=7&o=9492&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.southoxon.gov.uk%2Fservices-and-advice%2Fplanning-and-building%2Fplanning-policy%2Fbrownfield-land-register

**Submitting a planning application?**

If you're submitting a planning application, or if an application is being submitted on land you own, you need to make sure they are submitted by the same process we expect of all applicants. This means you should email the application to the planning team: planning@southoxon.gov.uk

Following this procedure we will make sure your application is correctly recorded and processed and will avoid any unnecessary delays.

**Engagement matters**

Planning's customer engagement officers had a busy year raising the profile of the service and encouraging residents to get involved in the development of our Local Plans. For example, during their work they spoke to 2,100 people at events right across both districts. If you'd like to know more about the work they did, take a look at their annual update here.

http://ebtk.co.uk/resources/stats/click.php?c=2636&e=7&o=9492&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.dropbox.com%2Fs%2F7xma6wo8577sgb9%2FEngagement%2520Matters%2520Dec%252017.pdf%3Fdl%3D0

**How much of your area is built on?**

The BBC has created an interesting map that shows how much land in every council area of the country has been built on, and how it compares with the national averages.

You can access the map on the BBC website at;

https://southandvale.us8.list-manage.com/track/click?u=33bec1cf8b5523ad47c7183a0&id=7da03130c1&e=eda6ce4f57

**Broadband update**

Little Wittenham, and Waterperry are among the latest villages getting improved broadband services as part of the Better Broadband for Oxfordshire project, which we're helping to fund in both districts. If you'd like to know more, see the update for South.

http://ebtk.co.uk/resources/stats/click.php?c=2636&e=7&o=9492&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.dropbox.com%2Fs%2F2pd66sgw1uyi3od%2F171208-OXF-REP-South%2520Oxfordshire%2520Phase%25202%2520update.docx%3Fdl%3D0

**New project to help people with diabetes**

We are supporting a new countywide project to help people with diabetes to be more active and we'd like your help to spread the word.

Go Active Get Healthy aims to help the 28,000 people in Oxfordshire who are registered as having diabetes.

Adults with diabetes can sign up to receive coaching sessions, subsidised activities and advice on managing their condition.

You can find out more information and people can sign up on the Get Healthy Oxfordshire website.

http://ebtk.co.uk/resources/stats/click.php?c=2636&e=7&o=9492&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.getoxfordshireactive.org%2F

**Support for athletes**

Budding athletes in your area could benefit from up to £1,250 of funding thanks to our leisure partner GLL.

The GLL Sport Foundation could also provide support for athletes with training membership access to more than 300 venues across the UK and give them access to physio and injury rehabilitation.

Athletes can apply via the GLL Sport Foundation website until 20 February.

http://ebtk.co.uk/resources/stats/click.php?c=2636&e=7&o=9492&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.gllsportfoundation.org%2F

**Work experience 2017 Reminder**

Since January 2017 we have provided work experience for 39 students and young people to learn about how we work and gain some new valuable skills. Every single one of them said in their feedback that they enjoyed their placement and that they would recommend it.

The students and young people worked with teams right across the council as well as at Cornerstone and The Beacon.

We currently have opportunities for work experience for year ten students during term time for 2018 and, during February half term, other art workshop projects at Cornerstone, so if you know of any schools or young people who might benefit, or if you want more information on our work experience programme, contact Karen Tolley.

**Rail vision and consultation - Reminder**

Strategic vision for our railways

The government is setting out a vision for the country's railways, which is likely to have an effect on our districts - you can read more about it here.

https://southandvale.us8.list-manage.com/track/click?u=33bec1cf8b5523ad47c7183a0&id=bd2cbe2854&e=eda6ce4f57

**Great Western Railway consultation**

The Department for Transport is also setting out its proposals for improving train services on the Great Western rail network after the current franchise with GWR ends. They are running a consultation to help identify passengers most pressing priorities for improvements from 2020 onwards.

You can download the proposals here.

https://www.dropbox.com/s/n6ho0yozhaqyv8i/great-western-rail-franchise-consultation-web.pdf?dl=0

You can respond to the consultation here.

https://southandvale.us8.list-manage.com/track/click?u=33bec1cf8b5523ad47c7183a0&id=6b0a5a983b&e=eda6ce4f57

You will need to submit your comments by 21 February next year.

**SO Business action plan launch**

We've officially launched the SO Business and Innovation Strategy Plan 2017 to 2020 to support and boost the wide variety of businesses in our area.

The plan has four main actions:

introducing superfast broadband

helping businesses to find sufficient space to allow their organisations to grow and succeed

supporting businesses with skills and employment issues

improving business support and communication

Full details on the action plan can be found here on the SO Business website.

http://ebtk.co.uk/resources/stats/click.php?c=2636&e=7&o=9492&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.so-business.co.uk%2Fbis-strategy-action-plan-2017-2020%2F

**Our food waste trucks need a name – vote now!**

Southern Oxfordshire residents are being invited to vote for their favourite names put forward by local schoolchildren for a new fleet of food waste recycling trucks.

Whether it’s Chomper Charlie, Green Gretil or Banana-Munch Bob, names suggested by primary pupils in South Oxfordshire and Vale of White are out for public vote.

Residents are being asked by South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils to choose their top three out of ten names whittled down from dozens thought up by local children.

The most popular will be printed onto the two districts’ new food waste trucks and residents will see them out and about on the roads carrying out weekly food waste collections.

The children whose suggested name gets the most votes in South Oxfordshire and Vale will scoop £150 book tokens for their school and a swimming pass for their family.

**It’s quick and simple to vote at:**

* **South Oxfordshire:**[**southandvale.gov.uk/namethattruck**](http://survey.southandvale.gov.uk/s/SouthTruckNaming/)

Cllr Tony Harbour, South Oxfordshire District Council’s Cabinet Member for waste and recycling, said: “The food waste trucks are brand new and we wanted to do something to celebrate this while having a bit of fun too. Getting school children involved in the names has been a great way to help spread the recycling message. We’re really impressed with all the suggestions and hope residents will support them by voting.”

Residents can also look out for how to vote on the councils’ social media channels:

Twitter: @SouthOxon

Facebook: www.facebook.com/southoxfordshire

Voting will close on Friday 16 February.

**Residents asked to talk rubbish**

We've joined forces with all the councils across Oxfordshire to ask residents how they think we can recycle more and create less waste.

The consultation is open until 18 February - the results will help us review the joint countywide waste strategy, which sets out the county's shared priorities for waste and recycling until 2030.

The county council will publish the results in July and any actions arising from the consultation will be approved by all councils over the summer. We will adopt any changes relevant to us later this year.

You can complete the online survey via www.recycleforoxfordshire.org.uk.

**Hotels still failing to challenge potential Child Sexual Exploitation**

Hoteliers in South Oxfordshire are still failing to spot the dangers of child sexual exploitation (CSE), a recent test operation has revealed.

Last month, South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils worked with Thames Valley Police to carry out a series of tests to check whether hotel staff recognise the signs of CSE and understand what action they need to take if they suspect there’s a problem.

The operation ran over two nights covering 12 hotels in southern Oxfordshire.  The test involved a police officer in plain clothes attempting to book a double room while accompanied by a 14-year-old girl with no identification.

To pass the test, the hotels should have refused the booking and called the police. Six hotels accepted the booking, potentially allowing a serious crime to take place and putting a child at risk of being sexually exploited. While the other six refused the booking, they did not call the police.

The results of the CSE test are a slight improvement from a previous operation that took place in June when nine out of 12 hotels accepted the booking.

Following the June operation, ‘Hotel Watch’ – a scheme which sees police, councils and hotels sharing information, arranged for hotels and B&Bs to take part in awareness training delivered by the Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children Board’s ‘Kingfisher’ team.  Following the latest results more training sessions are planned in 2018 to help raise awareness of what staff need to be aware of.

In the most recent operation the hotels that accepted the booking were also tested to see if they would allow the girl to buy alcohol.  Two premises failed to ask her for ID and subsequently served her an alcoholic drink.  As a result, those two premises have since attended a meeting with the district councils’ licensing team and improvements have been implemented.

Cllr Elizabeth Gillespie, Cabinet Member for Community Safety at South Oxfordshire District Council said: “While there was some improvement from the previous operation it is extremely concerning to see that several hotels are still not challenging someone who could be putting a young person in serious danger.”

Sgt Steve Bobbett from Thames Valley Police, said: “As the TVP lead during this operation I was disappointed at the level of failure, especially since we had run the operation earlier. There were some repeat failures which was particularly disappointing. On the positive side, a number of establishments had attended training and implemented safeguarding procedures.

“This is potentially exposing young and vulnerable victims to very serious abuse and we must do all we can to safeguard these potential victims.  These hotels may be the last point for safety for these victims and the industries co-operation and awareness is key in helping us all to deal with this.”

“We will be running further operations during the course of the year and will be looking to highlight both good work as well as challenging repeat failures.”

If you are in the hospitality industry and see something suspicious, always say something, to your manager, or the police by calling 101.  In an emergency always dial 999.

If you are a hotel interested in future training please email [communitysafety@southandvale.gov.uk](mailto:communitysafety@southandvale.gov.uk)

For more information on the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults visit<http://www.barnardos.org.uk/what_we_do/our_work/sexual_exploitation/about-cse/>

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