

SODC Newsletter – August 2021

Planning

Planning Committee Trigger

As we informed Parishes previously, having brought a report to Full Council recommending that the temporary suspension of the Trigger allowing Parish Council Planning Objections to automatically be referred to Planning be made permanent, the Administration also proposed an Amendment returning to the original mechanism, effectively reinstating the Trigger.

In conjunction with Lynn's and Ian's Right of Call-In, we presently have a number of cases in the Ward that fall within this category and as usual, when needed we will work with our Parish Councils to bring these to a satisfactory conclusion.

Airband Poles.

We have received a number of queries from residents about the appearance of the Airband telegraph poles in a number of locations in Chinnor.

We have been informed that they are being installed under a licence granted by OFCOM and in connection with a project sponsored by the County Council aiming to provide greater access to high-speed broadband. This has apparently been agreed as a solution following research, and judging from our emails, residents seem to be split about 50/50 on whether it is a good thing or not. We guess it depends on whether they need and can get high speed broadband or not. You should be aware that under this licence, unless high restrictions are breached, we have no planning remit and so no authority to intervene.

5 Year Land Supply

The Council has issued its Annual Statement declaring a Land Supply of 5.33 Years. This as at Friday 25th June 2021. You can view the statement here: <https://www.southoxon.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2021/06/South-5YHLS-June-2021.pdf>

As informed last month we received a decision to Allow an Appeal at Sonning Common in which the Inspector has allowed an argument that the Council's Land Supply is in fact 4.21 Years; something that we hotly dispute. The review continues and a decision as to whether a Judicial Review is appropriate is expected any day.

As previously stated, Ian has requested that a Report be brought to Scrutiny once the review is complete so that Councillors can fully understand the situation and make recommendations to Cabinet and Full Council as necessary. Lynn, as a member of the Chiltern Conservation Board has requested that the Board liaise with SODC Planning and now hopes that the two groups will work together on this.

We have now confirmed that on the plus side, as Chinnor and Sydenham had their Neighbourhood Plans formally adopted in May, the relative paragraphs in the NPPF, mean that as they are less than two years old, for our plans to remain in effect, we only need a three year land supply.

Waste Collection

Currently there are two issues with the waste collection service.

1. Lynn put out a special Newsletter update a short time ago informing Parish Councils that collections over the last few weeks have been delayed for many of our residents due mainly to the combined impact of 'pings' from the CoVID app requiring members off the crews to

have to self-isolate, and also the national shortage of HGV drivers. This included a note of what residents should do, if their bins are not emptied on the normal day.

2. We have been made aware of the issue in Church Lane, Chinnor, regarding non-collection of waste. This being due to parking in the lane making it impossible for the waste collection vehicles to safely drive up the road. This has been going on for some time now, and cars blocking the road have been leafleted in the past, but are still parking next to bins, which have no parking here stickers attached. We have received a number of suggestions, including double yellow lines and other parking restrictions, and reporting people who park obstructing the highway to the Police for prosecution.

The situation has not improved and Lynn is working with our Waste Management Team, Biffa and our County Council representative and Highways to look for a resolution.

CoVID-19 Restart Grants

The Councillor Community Grant Scheme is now open, and between us, we have a total of £10,000 that we can award with grants of between £250 and £5,000 being available. There are restrictions as to the purpose, for example, we cannot provide a grant where the purpose comes under the remit of a different agency, for example, County Council Highways or Education.

Examples of Grants that we have previously given have been support for an Electric Vehicle Charging Point at the Chinnor Community Pavilion, low energy lighting in some of the community halls in the villages, equipment for several of the sporting groups in the villages and outdoor Gym equipment.

Full details of the scheme can be found here:

There is more information about the Councillor Community Grant at

<https://www.southoxon.gov.uk/south-oxfordshire-district-council/community-support/grants/councillor-community-grants/>

or by emailing grants@southandvale.gov.uk

Please do share this with our communities and encourage them to get in touch if they think that we may be able to help.

Lynn Lloyd and Ian White – South Oxfordshire District Council