

The Unitary Bid

We will soon know what the result of the General Election is and whether there has been a change in government. Until that is sorted out there will not be any announcement about the Unitary Bid, but we will let you know just as soon as we have any information that we can share with you.

Planning Matters.

Neighbourhood Planning Up-date.

At the time of writing we have a number of advanced Neighbourhood Plans that have completed their pre-submission consultation, as follows:

- Benson
- Dorchester on Thames
- Chalgrove
- Pyrton
- Watlington
- Wheatley

Neighbourhood Plans are also well advanced and close to pre-submission consultation stage for:

- Warborough & Shillingford
- Cholsey
- East Hagbourne
- Goring on Thames
- The Baldons

Brightwell-cum-Sotwell, Chinnor and Long Wittenham Neighbourhood Plans are currently at examination stage. If successful, they will then proceed to a local referendum.

Once a Neighbourhood Plan is approved by local referendum (with a simple majority) it becomes part of the Development Plan for the district and forms the starting point for making decisions on planning applications.

Local Plan update

Our Local Plan: Second Preferred Options consultation closed on 17 May and over 1,000 respondents took the time to submit comments.

Planning Policy is currently reviewing and processing the comments. These will be available for public viewing in July 2017.

5 Year Housing Land Supply (5YHLS) update

Our latest position states that we have 4.1 years housing land supply (target 5YHLS).

- We have updated the district-wide completions data, which is being verified before we recalculate our 5YHLS
- In addition to all the major applications in and around our larger villages we are starting to receive housing proposals in our smaller villages such as Brightwell cum Sotwell (3) and Warborough (2).

Monitoring Progress

- Majors: 67% decided within 13 weeks against local target of 70% (national target 60%).
- Minors: 89% decided within 8 weeks against local target 75% (national target 65%).
- Others: 97% decided within 8 weeks against a local target of 90% (national target 80%).
- 69% appeals dismissed (19% performance increase on this time last year) local target
- 74% (average national position 60%)

Appeals Public Inquiries

- Tetsworth - traveller site of 12 pitches scheduled for the 6/7 June – we have just received notification from the Inspectorate this is to be postponed mainly because it is likely to run for more than 2 days and venues are hard to source and staff with the election on 8 June.
- Thames Farm, Shiplake – now one appeal opening on 13 June (in respect of a scheme for 90 units refused in August 2016) Venue – Nettlebed Village Hall
- CABI, Crowmarsh – appeal against refusal of new offices and residential development. Inquiry will open in the first week of July. Venue – Howbery Park, Crowmarsh Gifford.
- Long Wittenham – appeal against non-determination of 35 unit scheme strongly opposed by Parish Council and local residents. Will be an inquiry but date & venue yet TBC.

Judicial Reviews/Challenges

We received confirmation on 4 May that the dismissed East Hagbourne appeal in respect of 170 houses will be the subject of a Judicial Review.

Enforcement

- 41 new cases opened
- 23 cases closed
- Five cases closed were more than six months old

Our six week performance was 100 per cent this month (target 80 per cent). This included a site visit for all new cases within our priority targets and to assess the issues

within this period. There was another increase in new cases this month and so with the recent level of officers has meant the case numbers overall hasn't reduced.

Oxfordshire Infrastructure Strategy (OxIS) - phase one

OxIS is an Oxfordshire Growth Board commissioned project involving all six Oxfordshire Local Authorities whose purpose is to identify, map and prioritise the county's infrastructure requirements for up to 2040 and beyond. The project is being developed in two phases. Phase one is complete and the report can be viewed at <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/oxfordshire-growth-board>. This data will now be used as the baseline for phase two.

Biffa bin cleaning service

- Biffa has launched a new bin washing service in South and Vale – residents can pay a monthly fee to have their bins washed on a regular basis.
- We are not involved in this service and it is not part of their contract with us, so please direct any queries, feedback or complaints about the service directly to Biffa on 0808 164 1000. There's more information at www.biffawheelieclean.co.uk.
- They are currently putting bin hangers on bins in the districts to advertise the service – they are doing this with our permission.

Communications

Roadwork alerts straight to your inbox

You can now access the latest information on roadworks in your area at <https://oxfordshire.roadworks.org/>. You can also set up email alerts by clicking on the envelope icon on the top left hand side of the webpage. It will only take a few minutes to complete your contact information and personalise the roads and areas that you'd like to receive alerts from - this will reduce the amount of emails you receive on this subject.

To receive South News visit www.southoxon.gov.uk/southnews

South and Vale Community Safety Partnership

You may have recently seen the hard hitting BBC production of Three Girls - a true life story based on the lives of three young girls in the Rochdale child sexual abuse case. The series can be viewed on BBC iPlayer.

The South and Vale Community Safety Partnership have funded several projects that are designed to help prevent child exploitation in our area. One of which is 'Chelsea's choice' - an innovative and powerful theatre production highlighting the serious and emotional issues of child sexual exploitation that shows how young people are groomed by adults.

Recently the production company Alter Ego delivered the performance to nine secondary schools in our districts including one to parents and staff in the evening at King Alfred's

Academy, Wantage. The Community Safety Team aim to repeat the performances in other secondary schools later this year.

Homelessness prevention work is making a real difference

Following the introduction of the housing team's on-line housing advice tool and providing customers with a dedicated case officer, we have prevented over 1,100 families from becoming homeless during 2016/17. This is despite an increase in the number of people approaching Housing Needs for help.

We have bucked the national trend (30 per cent increase in demand nationally) and reduced the number of households requiring temporary accommodation and saved ourselves £166,755 (68 per cent) compared to the same period 2013/14.

These results are a real credit to the Housing Needs and Development Teams, as well as both councils, and shows how we are making a real difference to the lives of our residents.

Leisure

South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse win 2017 Better Club Games

A team from South and Vale beat more than 120 55-year-olds to win the 2017 Better Club Games; an Olympic-style event for older people held at the White Horse Leisure and Tennis Centre.

Participants took part in six sports including walking football, badminton, short tennis, table tennis, timed swim and pickleball. Our local team claimed the title on home soil beating the four other teams from Chiltern & South Bucks, Reading, West Oxfordshire and Swindon.

Wallingford Riverside outdoor pool now open

The heated outdoor swimming pool by Wallingford Bridge opened its doors just in time for last weekend's bank holiday. The site features a 23 metre pool, changing rooms, refreshments and a campsite. Jubilee Splash Park has been open for a while for younger children to enjoy.

A swim costs just £4.45 for adults, £2.85 for junior/seniors or £13.40 for a family swim (two adults and two children). Regular swimmers are also able to take advantage of a season pass for £69 for adults and just £34 for juniors and seniors.

Riverside Outdoor Pool is now open until 3 September* at the following times:

Monday - Friday 7am-6pm

Saturday-Sunday 9am-6pm

*subject to adverse weather conditions

For more information about Riverside Park and Pools please

visit <http://www.better.org.uk/leisure-centre/south-oxfordshire/riverside-park-and-pools> or call 01491 835232.

South Chairman and charity fundraising

The new Chairman for this year and her chosen charity is:

Chairman - Jeanette Matelot

Her charity is [Oxford Homeless Pathways](#)

Vice-chairman - Imran Lokhon

Last year our Chairman Paul Harrison attended 78 events and raised £4,277.71 for Ministry Aviation Fellowship, British Heart Foundation and British Liver Trust.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you need any further information on any of these items, or indeed any issues not addressed here.

Kind regards



Steve Harrod

District Councillor

Haseley Brook Ward

M: 07944 077 209

T: 01844 278 068

E: Stephen.Harrod@southoxon.gov.uk