

Sue Lawson**November 2018 District Councillor's Report****Local Plan**

We remain on target to meet the deadlines within the Growth Deal around submission of the local plan although they remain challenging. There will be a further round table session for all councillors on progress with the local plan in November, prior to the publication version going to Scrutiny, Cabinet and Council in December of this year. Public consultation on the publication version will be undertaken early next year, before we submit our local plan by the end of March 2019.

Planning – Renewable energy workshop for neighbourhood plans

District councillors and neighbourhood planning groups are invited to attend our Renewable Energy Workshop on Wednesday 21 November. The event, run in association with the Centre for Sustainable Energy (CSE), will be a fantastic opportunity to discover how neighbourhood plans could take advantage of renewable energy and address the issues of climate change. It will focus on:

- identifying potential renewable energy resources in the neighbourhood
- expressing support for specific forms of renewable energy
- identifying suitable sites
- promoting a more sustainable future

The workshop is being held in our offices at 135 Eastern Avenue between 1pm and 4.30pm. We expect this event to be popular, so are working on a first come, first served basis. Anyone wishing to attend should register online before 5pm on Wednesday 14 November.

Expressway update

Following the government's Expressway corridor announcement in September, the Growth Board met to consider its implications for Oxfordshire. After the meeting, the chair of the Growth Board, Cllr Jane Murphy, wrote to Highways England and the Secretary of State for Transport outlining our concerns about the lack of clarity on the preferred route around Oxford. You can read the full letter on the Growth Board's website.

Neighbourhood Plan updates

We now have 12 made plans in the district, most recently The Baldons, Warborough & Shillingford, Benson and Watlington. Referendums will be held for Chalgrove and Little Milton on Thursday 22 November. The examinations of the Goring, Cholsey and Pyrton plans are on-going, with the final report for Pyrton expected in early November.

Motions Before Council

At a recent council meeting a number of motions were discussed and agreed and they included:

1. Council agreed the principle that all new housing planning permissions of more than 75 Homes should be provided with an on-site publicly available defibrillator and asks officers to explore whether it is feasible to bring forward the necessary planning policies to achieve this.
2. Council agreed to ask officers to investigate opportunities to better promote the River Thames for tourism and leisure activities for all residents especially young people in the district. Councillors highlighted the many activities and options available for tourism and leisure activities on the River Thames. A number raised concern regarding access from rural areas, slipways access, overgrown vegetation on the banks of the river and the need for more and improved moorings.
3. Council agreed to ask officers to investigate opportunities for adopting new digital communication channels to provide residents with regular updates as part of the council's long-term technology strategy. Officers are asked to consider the scope for joint working with a range of partners, such as parish councils and Oxfordshire County Council, to develop an integrated approach to provision of community information across the district.
4. Council agreed the principle that all major planning applications should consider options to facilitate cycle hire schemes where appropriate and asks officers to consider whether it is feasible to bring forward the formal planning policies that would be necessary to achieve this. Councillors highlighted the need to encourage more cycling as part of a sustainable transport policy with associated health benefits.
5. Council asks the leader to write to the Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to urge the Government to

intensify pressure on manufacturers to reduce the production of non-recyclable plastic”

Business Awards launch

Our Economic Development Team launched the first-ever South and Vale Business Awards on 31 October at Cornerstone. The launch and networking event explained how you can nominate successful businesses in our region for one or more of the seven award categories. You can register to find out more information on the awards on the SO Business website <http://www.so-business.co.uk/svba/awards-events-promotion/>

For more information on the work the team do to help businesses in our district email Economic Development at: economic.development@southandvale.gov.uk or call 01235 422213.

New online services from Thames Valley Police

If you need to get in touch with Thames Valley Police to find out about, or assist with, on-going cases, or to contact an officer or department directly, you can now do so online by using their new contact form. If you want to speak to someone by phone then please call 101.

Proposed changes to Housing Allocations Policy

We have opened a consultation on South and Vale's Housing Allocations Policy, which sets out how we will assess applications to join the housing register and how to allocate social housing within the districts. You can read a summary of the proposed changes on the SODC website.

You can submit your comments online until 5pm on 26 November or if you have any further queries on the consultation, please contact the Community Engagement Team on 01235 422600.

Gigabit scheme

Let your local businesses and residents know that they can apply for the government's gigabit scheme that supports communities to achieve a better broadband connection. The scheme is designed for small and medium businesses to access up to £3,000 worth of vouchers to upgrade their internet connection. Groups of residents can also apply for a voucher of up to £500 for each domestic connection - as long as a local business is involved in the scheme and is the main beneficiary.

Businesses and residents can check their eligibility via gigabitvoucher.culture.gov.uk/

Modern slavery awareness

As part of Anti-Slavery Day on 18 October, the Community Safety Team have been distributing more of our modern slavery stickers in our public toilets to help raise awareness of the issue. The stickers provide a free helpline number for anyone who may be trapped in modern slavery. For more information please see our Modern Slavery guidance, this will help you recognise possible signs of modern slavery that you may come across in your day to day work. It also sets out what you should do if you suspect that someone is being exploited.

Purple Tuesday – accessible shopping day

Please help spread the word to local retailers that Purple Tuesday is taking place on Tuesday 13 November. This special day aims to encourage shops across the country to make shopping more inclusive and accessible for disabled customers. You can find out more information about Purple Tuesday and let your local independent shops know, they can get some guidance on how to make their property more accessible by going to purpletuesday.org.uk.

Waste and Recycling

Reporting missed bin collections

Some councillors have asked for a reminder on how people should report missed bins. If a resident needs to report a missed bin they should contact Biffa:

- online by visiting southoxon.gov.uk/missedbins before midnight on the next working day after the collection was due
- by calling 03000 610610 before 5pm on the next working day.

Crews will only return to collect a missed bin if it was originally put out before 7am on the scheduled collection day. There are some occasions when crews can't collect a bin – for example, if the bin was not put out in time. If a resident has put the wrong items in their recycling, or the bin was too heavy or overflowing, then the crew will place a tag on the bin to explain why it wasn't collected and will attempt to collect it on the next scheduled collection. If there are repeat problems at a property or a specific area, Biffa will investigate. If a collection is missed at the same property on a number of occasions, and the issue is not resolved by Biffa, residents should email waste.team@southandvale.gov.uk and we will investigate.