

District Councillor Report – Sam Casey-Rerhaye, October 2020

Covid Grants and support

Community Grants from councillors were linked to Covid-19 help this year. Families in need of help with food vouchers over school holidays would be a perfectly valid use of this grant. It would be best to contact the local school head for help in distributing vouchers to those who are normally in receipt of free school meals. I still have a small amount left if any group would like to apply, contact me.

Council Meeting on 9th September

Motions were passed on campaigning for better water quality in the River Thames (and the problem of sewage discharges by Thames Water), support for the Black Lives Matter movement and a commitment to produce a diversity and inclusion strategy, continued support for Neighbourhood Plans (particularly in the light of proposed changes to the Planning system) and SODC commitment to Cornerstone in Didcot. The new Corporate Plan was approved and will come into official effect on 1st November.

Local Plan

Consultation on the Inspector's Main Modifications proposals is still ongoing and will close on 2nd Nov. We then expect a final report from the Inspector which will go to Scrutiny, then Cabinet and finally a special full Council meeting for a vote on adoption into the full SODC Development Plan. I am watching the proposed judicial review of the Cherwell Local Plan partial review which a community group has submitted for approval as to whether there are sufficient grounds for it to go ahead or not.

Planning Applications

Please remember - for minor applications, an objection from the Parish Council will **NOT** automatically trigger a call-in to Planning Committee, so it is vital that the Parish Council requests a call-in by their Ward Member. All call-ins must be made in writing and with valid planning objections, and within 28 days of the application being listed on the SODC website. This measure will be reviewed in July 2021.

Proposed changes to off-street parking in South Oxfordshire

To find out more about the proposals and to take part in the consultation please visit southoxon.gov.uk/parking. The consultation is open until Thursday 19 November.

Bins and recycling news

We have been carrying out a sustained communications campaign using social media, leaflets, adverts, [Recycling Week Videos](#) and even [The Great Green Recycling Bin quiz](#) which has been completed by 2,020 people so far.

Since June this year there hasn't been a single truckload of recycling from South and Vale residents that has been rejected for contamination.

Brown bin customers in South or Vale can put twice as much garden waste out for collection during extra garden waste weeks this month.

During these weeks' customers can put out an extra brown bins' worth of garden waste on their normal garden waste collection day in the week commencing 2 November in South Oxfordshire– that's three bin bags' worth of extra garden waste.

We cannot however accept rubble or trade waste bags.

Residents can put **their Halloween pumpkins** out for food waste recycling in the week beginning 2 November. They can be put inside or next to the food waste caddy – (with the candles removed!)

Of course, eating pumpkins beats recycling them!

Remembrance Sunday events

The government has prepared some useful guidance for anybody planning to hold Remembrance Sunday events this year, to help them do so in a way that reduces risks associated with Covid-19. [Here's the information](#) - please do share it with anybody planning an event in your wards this year.

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