

District Councillor Report – Cllr Sam Casey-Rerhaye, March/April 2024

Household Support Fund for people struggling with cost-of-living expenses

There are now less than four weeks left for local people who are struggling with cost-of-living pressures and the rising cost of food and energy bills **to receive vouchers through the current Household Support Fund.**

The current round of Household Support Fund closes on 31st March 2024 (or sooner if all funds are spent). Following the announcement of the temporary extension of the Household Support Fund for a further six months, the councils will shortly be considering the next round of funding. More details to follow in due course.

For more information contact our Community Hub team by calling 01235 422600 or email communityconnectors@southandvale.gov.uk

Bin Collection Schedule

2024-25 waste collection calendar is now available for residents to download, including the option to sync the calendar to your smartphone via Google Calendar & iCal. Just visit our [South waste calendar page](#)

More investment for Didcot Wave Leisure Centre and Park Sports Centre in Wheatley

We have been successful in a bid for nearly £1.5m to invest in cleaner, greener technologies at these two leisure centres.

This will be put towards installing energy efficiency measures including solar panels and air source heat pumps to replace end of life gas-fired boilers at the council-owned leisure centres at Didcot and Wheatley.

Oxfordshire County Council – which has a joint use agreement at Parks Sports Centre – will put in the additional £1.5m to complete the required works by spring 2026.

When all the new renewable energy measures are added it will save over 200 tonnes in carbon emissions each year. This will reduce South Oxfordshire District Council's overall emissions by 6.9%

Empty Homes

Our new Empty Homes Policy, approved by both Cabinets earlier this month, will help us to bring more empty homes back into use. You can view the policy on both the [South Oxfordshire website](#).

Our housing team, working proactively with owners of empty homes, will use the support on offer through the policy to help homes become reoccupied. The focus will be on making homes available for those that are in most need of housing.

We'll be promoting the policy and the help available to empty homeowners and residents soon. We'll also be offering residents advice on reporting any empty homes causing issues in their neighbourhoods.

Elections Staff needed

We're still looking for people to work as poll clerks and presiding officers on Thursday 2nd May for the Police and Crime Commissioner Election.

Please register your interest – you could earn from £182 to £233 for the full day. All the details people need can be found on our [South Oxfordshire elections jobs page](#)

I will be sending out my annual report in the next couple of weeks.

Contact me here for any District Council issue:

sam.casey-rerhaye@southoxon.gov.uk.

Or call me & leave a message:

01235 635566