

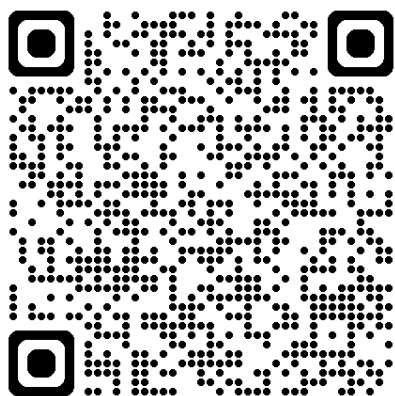
District Councillor Report – Cllr Sam Casey-Rerhaye, September 2025

Councillor Community Grants

The Councillor Community Grant scheme is now open for applications. If there's a community project near you that could do with a boost, please tell them about this. I have £7,500 to give out to groups across the ward.

The deadline for applications is midday 5 December and more information can be found on the **grants pages on our website**. The grants team are also very happy to speak to people who want more information or to find out if a project is likely suitable.

We've also created a poster which can be downloaded and put up around your wards to help spread the news! Scan here:



New phone number for waste inquiries

From 8th September, residents should use a new number for district council waste and recycling enquiries: 01235 422123.

The previous number (0300 061 0610) is being phased out and will be switched off soon.

01235 422123 is the new number is for all household waste, recycling, food, garden waste (collections only*), bulky waste collections, clinical waste collections and street cleaning services.

It is also the number to call to report fly-tipping and abandoned vehicles.

*For queries about garden waste permits, residents should continue to call 01235 422422.

For enquiries relating to Household Waste and Recycling Centres, please continue to **contact the county council** on 0345 310 1111.

Planning service update

Earlier this year, the council carried out a major piece of planned essential maintenance work on the council's IT system. The work affected the availability of many of the council's online services.

The majority of our online services returned to normal in July, however, the planning team has been impacted for a longer period and unfortunately, they still have a backlog of planning applications.

The team is currently unable to offer a full level of service to residents and customers but are phasing the reintroduction of services.

At present they are working approximately two weeks behind the standard time for processing planning applications.

I am pleased to confirm they have resumed offering a pre-application advice service in connection with major planning application work; for non-major pre application work, this will be reviewed again by 15th September.

I would like to thank you all for your patience during what has been a challenging time during a complex change to the IT systems.

Give your views the new Licensing Act Policy

There are changes planned to the Council's policy which determines how licensing decisions are taken and how licensed premises can operate in our district.

The proposed updated Licensing Act Policy includes new references to: Martyn's Law, the Ask for Angela scheme and promoting initiatives for women and girls' safety; and updated guidance on staff training about safeguarding and evacuation and emergency procedures.

You can find out more and have your say via [our consultation page](#). Comments are open until 16th October.

Annual Elector Canvass

The electoral register annual canvass is the requirement to contact residents each year to ensure they check that their details on the register are up to date.

Residents will receive either a yellow letter or an email - this will ask them to visit householdresponse.com/southandvale to either confirm 'no change' to our records, or to make changes online, if required.

Anyone who doesn't respond by 3rd October, or who hasn't registered an email address with the council, will receive a green letter in October.

Please encourage people to respond by email as it avoids having to send a letter to them, saving printing, admin and postage costs.

The email will go out from Monday 8th September from elections@southandvale.gov.uk with the subject line "South & Vale District Councils – Annual Electoral Register Check" and will contain both council logos.

Residents can find more information at southoxon.gov.uk/ElectionsCanvass.

For any district council issues, please email me: sam.casey-rerhaye@southoxon.gov.uk.