

SODC ward councillors' report

Shiplake – 12th February 2024

South Oxfordshire residents are top recyclers

Residents in South Oxfordshire are officially the best recyclers in the country, according to the latest government league table.

The Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) officially published the [recycling performance league table](#) on 31 January. South Oxfordshire was ranked the highest for household waste recycling rates in 2022/23 at 61.6% and has been in the top 5 for the last five years.

Cllr Sue Cooper, South Oxfordshire District Council's Cabinet Member for Environment, said: "I'm proud of the fact we have been announced as the top recycling area in England. This rating is most of all down to the marvellous effort our residents make to recycle. It is also testament to our sustained commitment to a 'reduce, reuse, recycle' ethos – and our continued successful partnership with our waste contractor, alongside the hard work of our council officers.

"We also won't rest on our laurels – we have work ahead of us to create our new waste strategy – which will aim to further this good work and move towards becoming as environmentally sustainable as possible."

Still time to offer views on Joint Local Plan

The consultation on SODC's [Joint Local Plan](#) preferred options is still open for feedback.

This consultation asks for community and stakeholder views on our preferred options and draft policies to help address local challenges and unlock future opportunities across SODC.

This is being hosted on '[Join the Conversation](#)' - SODC's new consultation and engagement system. If you have any comments on the new community engagement system, please email Jointheconversation@southandvale.gov.uk

Raising the alarm on anti-social driving

Both Mike and Leigh have raised concerns about the levels of anti-social driving, notably in Henley, and near to Shiplake and Playhatch. It is to be hoped that this behaviour will not spread.

Mike raised these matters directly on a call with the Conservative Thames Valley Police & Crime Commissioner Matthew Barber back in November. However, the anti-social driving has got worse in recent weeks. Leigh and Mike are backing Cllr Freddie van Mierlo's efforts to tackle the scourge of anti-social driving in Henley, calling on Thames Valley Police to address it.

Get ready for The Great British Spring Clean

South Oxfordshire District Council (SODC) is once again supporting the [Keep Britain Tidy 'Great British Spring Clean'](#)

Litter pickers, hi-viz jackets, and bags are available for loan from SODC to community litter picking groups and individuals to Sunday 31 March.

Equipment is limited and it's first-come-first-served, so bookings should be made as soon as possible by completing and returning the booking form and declaration document available on [South's litter picking webpage](#) to waste.team@southandvale.gov.uk. They must receive completed forms at least two weeks before a litter pick takes place.

February half-term activities in South Oxfordshire

Multi-sports, yoga, boxercise, theatre shows, and a massive magic show are just some of the many free and low-cost activities and events available for children and their families to enjoy this February half-term at venues across South Oxfordshire.

The activities are expected to be very popular so please book now to avoid disappointment. Visit the SODC website to see [what's on and how to book](#).

'National Landscape'/AONB extension

Work on the AONB extension continues with consultants progressing the next stage of the work towards submission for the parish group. Note that due to a national change AONB is now re-termed "National Landscape"!

Councillors are requested to endorse the submission in tonight's council.

Covid-19

The UK Gov now only reports on a national basis. At 31st January 2024, **reported** national cases were at a weekly rate per 100k of population of **9** (it peaked at 1,504 on 6th January 2022) – a very low level - albeit that reporting may be somewhat incomplete. (Many don't report it, though hospitals are reporting an elevated level of infection levels through their general testing and we hear of many socially reporting an infection). There has also been some interest in a flu variant being called "China or Chinese flu".

Mike Giles & Leigh Rawlins

District Councillors