

SODC ward councillors' report

Shiplake – 14th October 2024

Community grants - Funding available for community projects in South Oxfordshire

(Repeated as a reminder! The Shiplake pro-rata share would be c£2,400, albeit that last year incl late changes more came within the parish.)

Community groups in South Oxfordshire are invited to apply for funding in the new round of Community Grants.

The grant opened for applications on Wednesday 14 August and each SODC councillor has a budget of £5,000 which they can award to projects in their ward.

Those eligible to apply include town councils, parish councils, parish meetings, not for profit preschools and PTAs and local not for profit organisations.

In the last round of funding £165,546 was awarded to 90 projects supporting a range of charities and not for profit organisations.

The minimum grant that can be applied for is £250 and the maximum is £5,000 for each councillor. Applicants can apply to a maximum of five wards.

Applicants are asked to consider the Council's key priorities and how their projects would support them for example; protect and restore our natural world and improve economic and community wellbeing.

The deadline for applications is **midday Friday 29 November** 2024.

There are more details about who is eligible to apply, what kind of projects can be funded and the decision process on the grants pages of the South Oxfordshire District Council website or organisations can contact the Community Enablement team grants@southandvale.gov.uk.

The next steps for Councils' Joint Local Plan

On 19th September, SODC's special EGM council approved the JLP to be submitted for examination and its final 6 weeks of publication for residents and interested parties to provide responses for the attention of the Inspector. Approval was unanimous.

The Joint Local Plan (SODC and VoWH) has thus reached the next milestone with the draft document now published.

It has involved a huge amount of work from officers and members, along with external partners, to get to this crucial point in its development and we'd like to give a big thanks to everyone involved.

After receiving unanimous support from both full Councils, the draft plan has now been published ahead of being submitted to the government for examination later in the year.

The plan will remain published for a six-week period, during which all relevant stakeholders can submit comments, which will be reviewed by a government appointed Planning Inspector. This plan has enjoyed a great deal of engagement and positive response during its evolution. You are encouraged to comment, as this plan is an extremely important document.

Work continues to prepare the presentation of the plan components and particularly its supporting evidence base ready for submission in December, after the period for comment closes.

You will be updated on progress!

Please visit www.southandvale.gov.uk/jlp to find out more and to get access to the draft copy and supporting material to read and review.

Included are :-

- Numbers of homes – taking account of past obligations and the currently ruling UK Gov Standard Method
- Mix of homes – a higher social/affordable mix (with a better share for “social” rent) and within market housing a much lower 4+ bedroom mix – taking due account of extensions and related past excess.
- Design policy with much better nuance and interpretation across policies DE1-5 including of density within the 5 interlocking policies
- Much more considered and nuanced policy in all areas
- Significant improvements on Net Zero (Climate change) and biodiversity standards
- Removal of unsustainable or undeliverable strategic sites. A masterplan approach for large sites.
- Focus on place-making and joined-up neighbourhoods
- Clear intent that development for jobs and homes must be located to minimise commuting
- New transport approaches including Active Travel
- Strong evidence to back up the JLP and its viability

We think that you will find it to be a dramatic improvement on what went before!

Flooding

Exceptional storms have caused flooding in the District. Wheatley was particularly badly hit – even in the very centre. Many other areas have faced localised problems.

Communities are urged to develop emergency and resilience plans.

As we come into the season when more of such events may occur, more information can be obtained from :

<https://www.southoxon.gov.uk/south-oxfordshire-district-council/community-support/emergency-situations/flood-advice/>

BOB ICB stakeholder newsletter

[The October issue of the BOB ICB stakeholder newsletter](#) has just been published, with the latest on health and social care across **B**uckinghamshire, **O**xfordshire and **B**erkshire West. (Berkshire West includes Reading and West Berkshire.)

Joint Waste Resources and Street Cleansing Strategy

In preparation for the end of the (extended) waste contracts in June 2026, SODC and Vale of White Horse have agreed a new strategy in preparation. This includes acquiring a transfer station and waste depot together with acquiring new refuse trucks under council ownership as they fall due for renewal; in future the aim is to move to a rolling renew programme for these.

Extra garden waste weeks

Residents who are subscribed to our brown bin garden waste service can have extra garden waste collected on their normal collection day **between 28 October and 8 November**.

Householders will be able to put out a maximum of up to four additional sacks of garden waste, per brown bin subscription, next to their brown bin.

To be eligible for collection, the extra waste must go in standard sized (60L) black refuse style sacks and should only contain natural garden waste such as cut grass, plants or branches. It can also be placed in small boxes/containers - totalling no more than a standard bin full. (Residents are not to leave out rubble or builders' waste bags alongside their brown bins as these won't be collected.)

Net zero targets

SODC has set a target for its internal operations to be net zero by 2030 and the overall district by 2045; there is recognition that these cannot be achieved faster – particularly given past national decisions that shape the scope.

Natural England and update on Chilterns National Landscape review

Natural England now anticipates that the statutory and public consultation will take place in winter 2024/25. If fully resourced, they aim to seek a variation order from the Secretary of State in winter 2025. An update can be found here:

<https://www.chilterns.org.uk/what-we-do/future-proofing-the-chilterns/chilterns-aonb-boundary-review/>

Mike Giles & Leigh Rawlins

District Councillors