**District Councillors Report to Parish Councils**

**Watchfield and Shrivenham Ward**

**October 2020**

**Vale of White Horse District Council**

The Vale Communications Team continue to provide regular updates to all Town and Parish Councils.

The majority of Vale staff are working from home and this is likely to continue for the foreseeable future. As previously mentioned working from home doesn’t provide the same support as in the office and it would be appreciated if there is a need to contact officers please do so by Email rather than telephone.

**Climate Emergency Advisory Committee –** The Committee last met on 7 September and the minutes for this Committee are available on the Vale’s website. The items discussed included Power Purchase Agreement and England’s Economic Heartland – Transport Consultation. In addition, a specialist planning team have created a 7 page guide to planting trees for local community groups. This too can be found on the Vale’s website.

**Civil Parking Enforcement** – This project is at an advanced stage. OCC’s Cabinet has agreed to apply to Government to take over the responsibility for civil parking enforcement across the whole of the county. OCC already enforces parking in Oxford City and West Oxfordshire and this arrangement would be extended to Cherwell, South Oxfordshire and the Vale. If the plans are approved the new measures could come into force by November 2021. The Vale Scrutiny Committee will consider a report in November and make any recommendations. A final report will be presented to the Vale Cabinet in December.

**Proposed changes to off-street parking in the Vale -** The Vale is giving people the opportunity to have their say before a new parking policy is finalised early next year. The proposed changes: additional parking for electric vehicles, fines for parking non-electric vehicles in charging bays or leaving an electric vehicle when not charging. Details of the consultation are on the Vale’s website and it closes on 19 November.

**Corporate Plan –** The Plan was presented to full Council on 7 October but a decision was deferred due to an administrative error. The Plan was considered by a special full Council meeting held on 22 October and approved. There are six themes and they are: Providing the homes people need, Tackling the Climate Emergency, Building Healthy Communities, Building Stable Finances, Working in Partnership and Working in an Open and Inclusive Way.

**Planning –** The Government consultation – **Planning for the Future -** This consultation has caused controversy throughout the country. A copy of the Vale’s response will be forwarded to Parish Council Clerks under separate cover.

A number of Parish Councils in our Ward have responded and we should like to thank them as the consultation document was lengthy and required a great deal of time and effort to complete.

The three controversial planning applications mentioned in last month’s report are ongoing. There have been a significant number of new applications which are currently passing through the formal planning process.

**Vale Website** – The Vale’s new website is now operational. However, there are still a few inconsistences which are currently being ironed out. Hopefully these will be resolved in the very near future.

**New Council Offices –** South and Vale Councils have agreed that the replacement headquarters for both Councils should be located at Didcot Gateway. A new building will be constructed on the site which is opposite Didcot Parkway Station. It is anticipated that the move could take place in spring 2023 but it is too early for a firm date.

**Extra Garden Waste –** during w/c 9 November residents who have signed up for the brown bin garden waste service can put out the equivalent of two bins worth of garden waste. They can put out up to three black bin bags but please no rubble or trade waste.

**Swindon Borough Council- New Eastern Villages –** Residents may be aware that Swindon Borough Council has lost an appeal regarding access through Symmetry Park. This decision will have an enormous impact on the New Eastern Villages as it was key to the new developments. SBC are considering whether to appeal to a higher court. In the meantime a well-known distribution company is expected to move into Symmetry Park in the near future and will have an impact on the traffic using the A420.

Although we don’t hold surgeries we are always available to deal with any issues.

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