**District Councillors Report to Parish Councils**

**Watchfield and Shrivenham Ward**

**August 2020**

**Vale of White Horse District Council**

All Parish Councils have received regular updates from the Vale and these will continue for the foreseeable future.

You will be aware that the majority of Vale staff are still working from home and may not respond to requests straight away. Wherever possible please communicate with the Vale by Email rather than telephone.

**Climate Emergency Advisory Committee –** The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Monday 7 September. The agenda includes Power Purchase Agreement and England’s Economic Heartland – Transport Strategy Consultation. Details of this agenda and minutes of previous meetings may be found on the Vale website – [www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/committees](http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/committees).

**Civil Parking Enforcement** – As reported previously the County Council are leading on this project. A report is to be presented to the Vale Scrutiny Committee in November.

**Car Parking** – The Vale Cabinet has reviewed the current car parking charges and have agreed to retain the 2 hours free parking in order to assist local shops and businesses. However, the Cabinet wish to increase the hourly charges and a report will be considered by the Scrutiny Committee in October.

**Corporate Plan –** The public consultation has ended and the final draft will be considered by the Scrutiny Committee in September. At the same meeting an Emergency Budget will also be considered. Like all local authorities Covid19 has had a significant impact on the Vale’s finances.

**Yellow Letter** – The annual yellow letter will be dropping through letterboxes – please remind residents to complete and return if any changes have been made.

**Consultation –** The Vale would welcome comments from the public on the Keeping Active survey. Details are on the Vale website and will close on 8 September.

**Cabinet Changes –** The Leader of the Vale has made changes to her Cabinet. The changes will take effect from 1 September and are as follows:

Cllr Emily Smith – Leader, Cllr Debby Hallett Deputy Leader and Corporate Services and Transformation, Cllr Andy Crawford Finance and Corporate Assets, Cllr Neil Fawcett Strategic Partnerships and Place, Cllr Helen Pighills Healthy Communities, Cllr Judy Roberts Development and Infrastructure, Cllr Bethia Thomas Community Engagement and Cllr Catherine Webber Climate Emergency and Environment.

**Planning –** A number of planning applications have recently been submitted from many of our Parishes. The large developments in Shrivenham are ongoing and will take many years to complete. The speculative application in Shrivenham mentioned previously has caused a great deal of concern and both Shrivenham and Bourton Parish Councils have objected.

The Government is consulting on the review of the Planning System. The consultation is in three parts and covers Changes to the Current Planning System, Transparency and Competition and Planning for the Future. All three documents are integral to the way in which future planning will be determined throughout the country. It will affect us all and residents, Town and Parish Councils and organisations are encouraged to respond. Details are on both the [www.Gov.uk](http://www.Gov.uk) and Vale websites

**Swindon Borough Council** **– New Eastern Villages** – SBC unanimously agreed the application for Great Stall East on Tuesday 25 August. This application is outline and a detailed plan will be submitted in due course. The plan is for 1550 dwellings, 2 schools including a 3000 pupil secondary school, shops and a park & ride. There will be a new access junction onto the A420. It is anticipated that the development will take around 14 years to complete.

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

Simon Howell – 01793 784491 – simon.howell@whitehorsedc.gov.uk

Elaine Ware – 01793 783026 – elaine.ware@whitehorsedc.gov.uk

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