

**Monday 8th July, 2024****Monthly Parish Update****Vale of White Horse District Councillors****Cllr Hayleigh Gascoigne and****Cllr Debra Dewhurst**

Hello from Hayleigh and Debra

On 4th July, a general election was held. We are delighted to say that our constituency of Didcot & Wantage elected Olly Glover, Liberal Democrat to be our new MP. The full results can be found on the Vale website, [here](#). Whilst the council does not directly report to the local MP, having a strong local representative is important. We can work with them to raise issues to parliament that the council doesn't have power over or lobby the government to make changes to the way things work to make lives for our residents better. The government sets what kind of powers and funding we get to deliver services for our residents. As we have an entirely new government, it will be interesting to see what changes occur and the impacts this will have on us all.

We've been continuing to help our residents with queries about planning applications in the area. If you're concerned about a planning application near you then do get in touch for advice.

It was great to see Harwell Campus open to the public with a very successful Harwell Open Day on the 29th June. The sun was shining, and it was lovely to see so many people attending to look at all the interesting exhibits and to visit the different buildings and experiments. A reminder of what a fantastic science campus we have right on our doorsteps.

As always, if you have any questions or suggestions for us as councillors, please do email us. As a reminder, council meetings are held in public and if you wish to address council or committee, you can contact Democratic Services ahead of time. If you need more guidance on this, please let us know!

We use these monthly updates to keep you updated on our activities and general council news. We also post on our councillor Facebook Pages:

www.facebook.com/CllrHayleigh & www.facebook.com/Debra4BlewburyAndHarwell

Please get in touch with any issues or concerns via email

hayleigh.gascoigne@whitehorsedc.gov.uk and debra.dewhurst@whitehorsedc.gov.uk

Community Support

Community Hub

The Hub can offer support and direct people to help on a range of things including Cost of Living, food support, etc. If you are struggling financially or just finding life difficult, the community hub can help. Whether it's practical support or just advice, please get in touch:

- **Call:** 01235 422600
- **Email:** communitysupport@southandvale.gov.uk

The office hours are 8.30am - 5pm Mon to Thurs, 8.30am-4.30pm on Fri (and closed on bank holidays).

[Find out more about the community lottery on our website](#)

Local News

Valley Park Update

This section of our report provides an overview of the current live planning applications for Valley Park. There are often several live applications relating to the development due the nature of its size and complexity.

The current live planning applications for Valley Park are listed below along with an update on the status of each provided by the Vale planning officers.

Applications Decided and Approved

P23/V0659/DIS – details reserved by condition 33 (Travel Plan) of the outline planning permission - approved

P24/V1103/NM – non-material amendment to application P22/V2744/RM to allow wider garage doors permitted as part of Taylor Wimpey's first housing phase - approved.

P24/V1098/DIS – materials to be used in Taylor Wimpey's first housing phase approved.

P24/V1112/DIS – approval of contamination investigations and any mitigation needed.

Application Decided and Refused

P24/V0237/DIS – Partial discharge of condition 10 (Framework Plan) of application P14/V2873/O. The application related solely to Framework Parcel 2 of the overall development and it is considered the proposal included inappropriate design elements including too many parking courts and it is unclear how development will face open spaces.

New Applications Received

P24/V1099/RM – seeks approval for the road leading south from the Science Bridge roundabout and connecting to that part of the road associated with application P24/V0549/RM which is mentioned below, and for green corridors including Cow Lane.

In the consultation stage.

Applications Under Consideration

P24/V0470/RM – 284 dwellings – Taylor Wimpey's second housing phase (Dahlia)

Officer feedback on the application has been provided to Taylor Wimpey and an opportunity given to revise the scheme.

P24/V0549/RM – a second infrastructure application with the infrastructure comprising a road and Locally Equipped Area of Play (LEAP)

The applicants have been asked to provide clarification on the proposals and additional information to address OCC comments. For example, a road safety audit has been requested. The applicant response is still awaited.

P24/V0733/RM – Persimmon's second phase of housing development which is immediately south of their first phase

Feedback provided to the applicant with revisions required.

P24/V0873/DIS - Discharge of conditions 3 - Tree Barriers, 4 - Landscape and Ecology Management Plan, 9 - Street Lighting and 10 - Traffic Calming Measures on application P22/V0604/RM (Persimmon's first housing phase).

Officers are satisfied with the tree barriers, landscape and ecology management plan and street lighting. Additional information has been requested to address OCC comments on traffic calming (they require speed cushions every 70m), and a response is awaited.

P24/V1111/DIS – seeks approval of a development brief for the first proposed primary school.

Waiting for OCC comments as education authority. Their comments are essential given OCC will be responsible for the school once completed.

Planning Appeal Consultation

P23/V2247/DIS - discharge of condition 28 (watercourse crossings) on the outline permission (ref P14/V2873/O)

The appellants statement of case and the appendices can be found on the councils website [here](#). If you would like to make any comments on the appeal, you must do so by **31 July 2024**. You can submit these online at <https://acp.planninginspectorate.gov.uk>.

Climate & Environment News

Climate Action Fund

Please note that applications for the Climate Action Fund are now closed. The fund has been popular and is currently oversubscribed. The council officers will now spend some time to verify the applications and determine which of the organisations that applied will receive funds for the fantastic climate projects across the Vale.

Collaboration with Earth Trust to manage council green space expands

Earth Trust has been awarded an expanded contract by South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils to manage additional nature reserves and community green spaces across Oxfordshire.

Climate Emergency Advisory Committee – 16th July

The next meeting of this committee is at 6pm, online – you can watch the meeting live or watch it back on our [YouTube channel](#). Cllr Hayleigh Gascoigne is the chair of committee and the topics covered this time will include: review of the progress towards our net zero target, Local Area Energy Planning, the challenge of reaching net zero for small and medium enterprises and items on Nature Recovery. You can view the full agenda pack [here](#), and also register to speak at the meeting by emailing Democratic Services.

Councils encourage everyone to rethink waste

We all need to rethink how we deal with our waste. That's the strong message from South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils whose residents have consistently been among the very best recyclers in England for well over a decade.

The councils are not currently proposing any major changes in how household waste is collected, other than encouraging people to maximise the value and lifespan they get from their goods.

A report is going to the Joint Scrutiny meeting on 15 July, where the scrutiny committee will consider the draft joint Waste Resources and Street Cleansing strategy and make any comments before a final strategy is presented to Cabinets for decision in September.

View the [Joint Scrutiny Report here](#).

Council News

Full Council meeting – 17th July

Vale of White Horse District Council has at least five full meetings a year. At these meetings, councillors can propose motions and ask questions. To see the agenda of the upcoming meeting – click [here](#), which will take you to the Vale website. This meeting is held in public at the Beacon and there is a section at the start of the meeting where members of the public can speak and ask questions to the council. To register your interest to do this, please email democratic.services@southandvale.gov.uk. It is helpful if you can send your question/speech/topic in advance as it gives the council a chance to get the right info and prepare an answer.

At the upcoming meeting, Cllr Debra Dewhurst has submitted a question on the topic of the GP surgery intended for Great Western Park – something we know is important across the area we represent.

Have your say on a new political map for Vale of White Horse District Council

New boundaries are being proposed for council wards in Vale of White Horse.

The Local Government Boundary Commission wants to hear what residents and local organisations think about the proposals, which if approved, will take effect at the next set of District Council elections in 2027.

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England is an independent body accountable to Parliament. It recommends fair electoral and boundary arrangements for local authorities in England.

The Commission has a dedicated section on its website where people can see the detail of the proposals and comment on the names of wards and their boundaries: <https://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/vale-white-horse>. People can also give their views by e-mail at reviews@lgbce.org.uk. The 10-week consultation on the proposals will run until 16 September 2024.

Fun all summer long with free and low-cost activities for kids

South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils are hosting activities and events at locations across the area from 19 July to 31 August.

Girls' football, fun activity days, skateboarding and pickleball are just some of the free and low-cost activities available for children and their families to enjoy during the summer holidays.

The annual **Didcot Garden Party** will see lots of events for the whole family taking place from 27 July to 31

August, including musical workshops and performances during **Fusion Fest, Communities Come Together Day** and **Junior Bootcamp** sessions.

The popular **Litterbug Detective Trails** returns to six locations across the Vale and South Oxfordshire from 19 July to 11 August. Follow the trails and answer the questions about waste and recycling – you could be in with the chance of winning a great prize!

The activities are expected to be very popular so, where required, book now to avoid disappointment.

For a full run down of what's on and details on how to book, visit southandvale.gov.uk/holidayactivities

Healthy Didcot Survey

The Didcot Garden Town team at the councils have been working on a project called Healthy Didcot to help identify the reasons behind several health issues for some residents in Didcot. They have already gathered some data and feedback from local organisations that run services in Didcot and now want to hear from you and other local community groups.

They'd like to know

- what you like about living in Didcot,
- what you think will help you and others to become more active,
- where the gaps are that could help people live healthier lifestyles.

Click on the [link](#) to find out more about the survey and to share your views. The survey is open until 11:59pm on Monday 19 August 2024.