

**Monday 7th October, 2024**

Monthly Parish Update

Vale of White Horse District Councillors

Cllr Hayleigh Gascoigne and**Cllr Debra Dewhurst**

Hello from Hayleigh and Debra

As we get into the autumn months, the changing of the season has brought with it some devastating weather events that have affected local residents. [The Vale of White Horse District Council website](#) has some useful advice on this topic. In particular, the numbers to call to report flooding.

To report flooding from a main river, contact the Environment Agency through the Floodline.

Environment Agency – 0345 988 1188 or 0800 80 70 60

To report flooding from a Thames Water burst water main or sewer.

Thames Water Utilities – 0800 316 9800

Of course, if anybody is in an emergency situation where people are at risk, they should dial 999 immediately.

On 1st October, the “Regulation 19” consultation for Vale and South’s local plan went live. The councils have been working on this document for a number of months, and it has already been to public consultation to get views of our residents. This is the final stage of the process, as after this – the plan will be ready for inspection by a Planning Inspector. This local plan (if adopted) will provide the basis for all planning decisions in our two districts, and, in our view, this makes it one of the most important documents we produce as a council.

You can respond to the consultation here until 12th November.

www.southandvale.gov.uk/jlp

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

Planning applications for Valley Park continue to be received and worked on by the planning officers at the Vale. We encourage residents and parish councils to review these and respond with their comments. The officers use these to negotiate with the applicant and make amendments.

Applications Decided and Approved

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

The application was approved on 19 September.

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).

The decision was issued on 22 July. Condition 9 was approved, conditions 3 and 10 were refused, and condition 4 was partially approved.

P24/V1111/DIS – seeks approval of a development brief for the first proposed primary school (condition 8).

The decision was issued on 9 July and condition 8 approved.

Applications Under Consideration

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

Amended plans were received earlier this month and are currently out for consultation.

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

Amendments were submitted in August and are currently under consideration.

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.

This application includes watercourse crossings, and we need to know how the watercourses are proposed to be bridged. The position and characteristics (angle, road alignment, etc.) of this crossing are likely to be influenced by the design of the crossing. The submitted plans appear to indicate that culverts are proposed. The details of the number, location and design of watercourse crossings are required to be approved under Condition 28 of the outline permission. An application to discharge condition 28 (P23/V2247/DIS) was refused and this is subject to an appeal, with the hearing scheduled for 22 October 2024. As such, it will not be possible to determine the application until outcome of the appeal is known, to ensure that the assessment of one does not prejudice the other. There are also a number of technical objections that will need to be addressed through the submission of amended plans/additional information.

P24/V1369/SOB – request for DoV

Proposed changes to public art and proposed changes to sports provision, and also looking to add in that any future S73 application does not require a DoV.

Great Western Park GP surgery

Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire, Berkshire Integrated Care Board (BOB ICB) are responsible for delivering healthcare services across the area. In the past few weeks, they [issued an update](#) on the much anticipated Great Western Park GP surgery - please see link below.

You may have noticed that the land has recently been cleared by Taylor Wimpey and this is anticipation of the land being transferred. As those that we have spoken to on doors will know, and as we have shared in previous updates, the next step in the process is for Assura (the developer appointed by Woodlands Medical Centre) to submit a planning application. BOB ICB anticipate this to be in the next couple of months.

Whilst there is nothing new here, we are glad to see that BOB ICB are engaging in communications and have given an indicative timescale.

Climate & Environment News

[Enjoy all the fun of the \(eco\) fair this November](#)

Everyone is invited to the Didcot Eco Fair on Saturday 2 November for a free family-friendly event showcasing fantastic local sustainable businesses with arts and crafts activities and advice on how we can reduce both our environmental impact and our heating bills.

[Community groups get more than £140,000 for climate-friendly projects](#)

Communities across the Vale will soon be benefitting from new insulation and low energy lighting at shared buildings, as well as electric vehicle chargers, a new electric bike scheme and a new repair café thanks to help from the Vale of White Horse District Council's Climate Action Fund.

The awards made in our ward were:

Location	Organisation/group	Type of Project	Description
Harwell	Little Pippins Pre-school	Energy saving and carbon reduction	Changing the pre-school's existing lighting to LEDs.
Harwell	St Matthews Church Harwell	Energy saving and carbon reduction	Energy audit of the Church Hall and changing existing lighting to LEDs.
Blewbury	Sustainable Blewbury	Nature recovery and access to nature	Restoration of Quaker Wood through site preparation and tree planting, providing an amenity for the community.
Blewbury	Blewbury Parish Council	Sustainable Transport	Second phase of funding to support the installation of two EV charging points at the village hall.

Council News

Full Council – 23rd Oct

For the council papers for this meeting, once published, head [to the Vale Website](#).

If you wish to speak in the public participation section of this meeting, please email democratic services at least one day before the meeting - democratic.services@southandvale.gov.uk

Collaborative efforts key to combatting Anti-Social Behaviour

Early intervention, innovative projects and strong partnerships are playing a key role in helping to tackle anti-social behaviour and support vulnerable residents in South Oxfordshire and the Vale of White Horse. The latest Performance Report from the South and Vale Community Safety Partnership (CSP), which brings together public services including councils, the police, health services and housing providers, highlights examples of the work which had a positive impact across the community during 2023-24.

Help us to ensure voting is accessible for everyone

Residents are being asked what they think of proposed changes to polling stations in South Oxfordshire and the Vale of White Horse. As part of a statutory review, South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils are looking at changing the locations of a number of the polling stations they use, to ensure they are accessible for everyone in future elections. The councils are particularly interested to hear from anyone who faced challenges in accessing a polling station during the 2024 General Election or Police and Crime Commissioner Election. To find out more and to have your say go to whitehorsedc.gov.uk/valepolling – comments are open until 21 October 2024.

Councils' plan moves a step forward

New plans that raise standards for housing and other types of development are a step closer following council meetings this week. Council members at Vale of White Horse District and South Oxfordshire District councils gave the go ahead for the districts' draft Joint Local Plan to be published for comment for a six-week period and then submitted for independent examination by a Planning Inspector.

The draft plan has been developed between the two councils to help meet local community future need for housing, jobs and infrastructure, and will replace the districts' current adopted plans.

The Joint Local Plan is available for review and comment on its soundness and legal compliance and whether it meets the duty to cooperate until 12 November at www.southandvale.gov.uk/jlp

National Planning Policy Framework consultation

The government has been consulting on proposed reforms to the [National Planning Policy Framework \(NPPF\)](#) and other changes to the planning system. The framework sets out the Government's planning policies for England. The consultation closed on Tuesday 24 September.

As well as the much-publicised changes to housing targets, the consultation included a range of proposals, including increasing planning fees, the criteria for the government intervening in local plan development, and appropriate thresholds for certain Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects.

You can view the councils' formal response [here](#):

Our consultation submissions are particularly important and timely given the work we are currently undertaking to progress the [Joint Local Plan](#). Proposed changes to the NPPF, when published by government, could have a long-lasting impact on the future of our districts.