

**Monday 9th December 2024**

Monthly Parish Update

Cllr Hayleigh Gascoigne and**Cllr Debra Dewhurst***Vale of White Horse District Councillors*

Hello from Hayleigh and Debra

It's almost Christmas time, which often gives us all an opportunity for rest, time away from work or time with loved ones. Recent weather patterns have made life difficult for residents – if you are having issues with this, then do reach out to us. What we have learnt over time is that response to flooding is complicated as it involves multiple agencies, but we want to help where we can.

In Council news, South and Vale councils have submitted their Joint Local Plan to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local

Government for examination by an independent Planning Inspector. You can read more about this on [our Joint Local Plan Examination webpage](#). You can read the plan along with all the supporting documents in [our Examination Library](#).

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

Support over the Christmas and New Year period

A guide to council services over the Christmas and New Year period when the council offices are closed to the public.

Abbey House – Reception will close at Abbey House from 4pm on Tuesday 24 December 2024 and will reopen on Thursday 2 January 2025 at 8.30am.

Waste collections – all you need to know about waste collections over the Christmas and New Year period – including the changes to the collection dates and what to do if collections are disrupted – is on our [Christmas waste page](#).

Housing – If you know anyone who is at immediate risk of being made homeless while our offices are closed, contact our out-of-hours service, which is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The number to call 01235 422410. If you see someone sleeping rough and in an emergency situation you can call Streetlink on 0300 500 0914.

Cost of living help – The Community Hub will be closed from 4.30pm on Tuesday 24 December 2024 and will reopen on Thursday 2 January 2025 at 8.30am. If you need support or advice over the festive period please go to our [cost of living help pages for more information](#) or please contact our emergency out of hours phone number – 01235 422420.

Planning – Any planning applications or post submitted after we close for Christmas, including electronic submissions, will be treated as having been received on our next working day, Thursday 2 January 2025.

Council tax and benefits services – If anyone needs urgent help with council tax or benefits during the holidays, Capita's phone lines will be open as usual on 27 and 30 December.

Emergency situations – There are details of what to do and who to contact during an emergency on our website – [emergency situations](#).

Leisure Centres and Warm Spaces – over the Christmas period there will be changes to the opening times of our Better Leisure Centres, please check via the [Better UK website](#) or with staff at your local centre for details. Our Leisure Centres are also open as [Warm Spaces](#) this winter from 9am to 2pm weekdays. Pop in and charge your phone, have a hot drink and chat with others.

Festive events – Discover what's happening across Vale of White Horse this Christmas at [SouthernOxfordshire.com](#), a helpful guide to seasonal events and activities.

The Beacon in Wantage is celebrating the festive season with events and activities for all ages to enjoy. Find out more on [The Beacon's website](#).

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](#)

Age UK – Homeshare

Homeshare is a service of Age UK Oxfordshire which brings together older people who would benefit from companionship and practical help, and other people (usually professionals, keyworkers or mature students) who need affordable accommodation and are happy to lend a hand. You can find out more on their webpage www.homeshareoxfordshire.org.uk and on [Facebook](#).

Defib Grants

There is a match funding Community Defibrillator grant scheme. This is being run by the Department of Health & Social Care and their chosen suppliers for the Mindray Defibrillator is London Hearts.

This is an extension to a previous scheme and provides you with the opportunity of being able to obtain a Defibrillator and External Heated Cabinet with keypad lock for your local community for the cost to yourselves of just £750 exc VAT. All information and the online application form can be found at: www.defibgrant.co.uk

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/V2324/DIS - Discharge of condition 10(Traffic Calming) on application P22/V0604/RM.

This application relates to Infrastructure application RM1a. OCC highways authority raised no objections to the submitted details, and the condition was discharged on 19 November 2024.

New applications received

P24/V2355/DIS - Discharge of condition 12 (Construction Environmental Management Plan) for Phase 1Pa only on application P14/V2873/O

This application relates to Persimmons second residential Parcel (Phase 1Pa) approved under application P24/V0733/RM. This application is currently out for consultation.

P24/V2363/DIS - Discharge of condition 12(Construction Environmental Management Plan) on application P14/V2873/O

This application relates to the proposed development within infrastructure phase RM1b Phase 1 (approved under application ref P24/V0549/RM) and RM1b Phase 2 (application currently under consideration ref P24/V1099/RM). This application is currently out for consultation.

P24/V2448/DIS - Discharge of condition 4 (Update ECMP) and 7 (Bus stop locations to be agreed) on application P24/V0549/RM

This application relates to the proposed development within infrastructure application RM1b – Phase 1. This application is currently out for consultation.

Applications Under Consideration

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

No changes since last update - Amended plans were received in September, however officers still have concerns regarding the design and layout of the scheme and further amendments are required to address this. These are expected to be submitted first week of December, and an extension of time has been agreed until 31st January.

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.

Following the appeal decision, the developers have advised that they are now currently working up other options and they will likely seek pre-application advice before proceeding further with this application.

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. This is ongoing with legal.

P24/V2073/RM – Primary School

The application is currently out for consultation. The target decision date for this application is currently 1 January 2025. The parish council have not objected to the scheme, and therefore this is likely to be determined under delegated authority.

Climate & Environment News

[Sustainable living gets the green light at the Didcot Eco Fair](#)

Repair and reuse were themes at this year’s Didcot Eco Fair, with clothing repair services, upcycled homewares and reusable items just some of what was on offer at the event at Cornerstone Arts Centre in November.

[Councils begin to decarbonise Fleet with delivery of new Electric Vans](#)

Vale of White Horse and South Oxfordshire district councils have taken delivery of two new electric vans as they start to decarbonise their fleet of maintenance vehicles.

[Food businesses urged to ‘♥ your area’ and join the fight against litter](#)

Food businesses in South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse are being asked to play a key role in reducing litter by supporting the district councils’ ‘♥ your area’ campaign. South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils are looking to local traders as well as national names to display anti-litter stickers on takeaway food packaging and posters at their premises.

Council News

Full Council – 18th Dec

For the council papers for this meeting, head [to the Vale Website](#). There are items on the Wantage Leisure Centre Decarbonisation project Gambling policy and Council Tax Reduction scheme along with the usual Questions and Motions.

Major £340,000 investment in new gym equipment at Vale Leisure Centres in Wantage, Faringdon and Abingdon

Several leisure centres across Vale of White Horse District will get an early Christmas present this year, with a major investment in new, state-of-the-art gym equipment.

Abingdon's past uncovered during council car park improvement work

A piece of Abingdon's rich history has been discovered during preliminary work to improve Cattlemarket car park.

A team of archaeologists from Thames Valley Archaeological Services led by ADAS, an agricultural and environmental consultancy firm, in consultation with Oxfordshire County Council Archaeological Service, were called by Vale of White Horse District Council to do an archaeological survey ahead of improvement works to the car park.

The site lies in an area of considerable archaeological significance and potential in association with the nearby Abbey Church, and previous archaeological work has found medieval burials and occupation dating from the Iron Age.

The six trenches revealed layers of archaeological deposits dating to the Medieval and Roman periods from pottery recovered in these layers.

Revamp to White Horse Leisure and Tennis Centre reception complete

A £160,000 full refurbishment of the reception at the White Horse Leisure and Tennis Centre in Abingdon completed this month.

Vision for the future of sports pitches and leisure facilities approved

A vision for the future of sports and leisure facilities across South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse Districts has been approved. Both South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils are committed to creating healthy and inclusive communities.

Consultation on Sustainability Appraisal Technical Addendum

The councils have prepared a Sustainability Report as part of the combined Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) process for the Joint Local Plan 2041.

The first stage in the SA process was the production of a SA Screening and Scoping Report, which was published in 2022. This report included a review of other plans, policies and programmes already in place which could influence the Joint Local Plan. The report went on to establish the baseline environmental, social and economic conditions in the districts to help define key opportunities and challenges facing the area which might be addressed by the Joint Local Plan.

We now have published a [Technical Addendum](#) to the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report for consultation, in accordance with Schedule 2 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004. It provides supplementary detail on how the 'future baseline' in the two districts is likely to evolve without implementation of the Joint Local Plan.

The period for responding is from **Friday 6 December 2024 until Friday 17 January 2025 at 11.59pm.**

You can [comment on the Technical Addendum here](#).