

**Monday 10th February 2025**

Monthly Parish Update

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

Hello from Hayleigh and Debra

We hope you've had an excellent start to the year!

All the parishes will be happy to note that finally a new planning application has been submitted for the GP surgery on Great Western Park. Head to the [planning portal](#) on the Vale of White Horse District Council website to take a look at the plans and comment – which you can do until 27th February. Assuming planning permission is given, Woodlands (who are taking on this surgery) will be working with their chosen developer to build this.

Why has it taken so long to get to this point? - The land and a lump sum of money was put aside for the GP surgery at the time of the planning permission of Great Western Park - many, many years ago. The local NHS body (then Oxfordshire CCG, and now BOB Integrated Care Board) is responsible for the project of building and running a surgery. A business case for this surgery was only approved by them a year ago.

Since then, the legal teams of Taylor Wimpey (who own the land now), the District Council (who will take ownership of the land), Woodlands (who will run the surgery) and their chosen developer (who will build it) have been working together behind the scenes to move the project forward. This planning application represents a significant step in the project since the business case was approved.

But wasn't there already an application in 2018? - The eagle eyed among you will have noticed that this "new application" is in fact an updated version of a planning application made in 2018. This was submitted before our time on the District Council. This update to the application addresses some of the issues with the original as well as being created by Woodlands chosen developer and off the back of the business case.

During the first week of February, the government announced which councils will have postponed elections and therefore be on a fast track to their new devolution deal. Oxfordshire was not one of them and so county council elections will be going ahead this year. It is not clear what form a new unitary authority would take here. An Oxfordshire wide one would be larger than the government has recommended. There have been suggestions of two authorities in Oxfordshire – with a larger Oxford and a doughnut around the outside. It will not be the current councils or the public who decide but it is important we make our views known. At the end of January, ahead of the announcement Cllr Bethia Thomas, leader of the Vale wrote to Cllr Liz Leffman, leader of Oxfordshire County Council with her views – [which you can see here](#). When the government decides what new structure we will take, there will likely be more elections – expected in 2027.

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. They kindly provide the below summary so that we understand what is currently in the system. 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/V0470/RM – 281 dwellings – Taylor Wimpey's second housing phase (Dahlia)

This application relates to Taylor Wimpey's second residential parcel (Phase 2Tb). Amendments were submitted in December 2024, and reduced the number of units from 284 to 281. The application was approved under delegated authority, by the planning officers, on 31 January 2025.

P24/V2073/RM – Primary School

The application was approved under delegated authority on 23 December 2024.

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 was approved on 20 December 2024.

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 was approved on 14 January 2025.

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 was approved on 24 January 2025.

P24/V2507/NM - Non material amendment on application P24/V0733/RM to change to material schedule (switch concrete red brick to clay red brick), omission of balcony to unit CC85, and change from internal balcony to external balcony on unit CC22.

This relates to Phase 1Pa. The proposed changes were considered to be non-material, and the application was approved on 20 December 2024.

P24/V2616/DIS - Discharge of conditions 23(Foul water drainage strategy) and 24(Surface water drainage strategy) on application P14/V2873/O.

This application relates to Phase 1T only. The application was approved on 28 January 2025

New applications received

P25/V0059/DIS - Discharge of condition 7 (street lighting) of planning permission P24/V0733/RM.

This application is under consideration. The target decision date is 7 March 2025.

P25/V0112/DIS – Discharge of conditions 23 (Foul Water Drainage Strategy) & 24 (Surface Water Drainage Strategy) on planning application P14/V2873/O

This application is under consideration. The target decision date is 17 March 2025.

P25/V0160/DIS – Discharge of condition 2 (Access) on application P24/V2073/RM

This application is under consideration. The target decision date is 20 March 2025.

P24/V2506/RM – Substation within Phase 3P

This application is seeking reserved matters approval for a substation that is to be located within Phase 3P. The application is currently under consideration. Additional information has been submitted to address highway concerns and we are awaiting the response to these. Officers have seen plans showing how the substation will fit in the surrounding parcel and are satisfied with this.

P24/V2560/RM - Infrastructure phase Bund 1, comprising the installation of Noise Bund 1 and associated infrastructure and landscaping

This application is under consideration and awaiting comments from specialist officers. Amendments are likely to be required to address the concerns raised to date. The application is due to be determined by 3 March 2025.

P24/V2615/DIS - Discharge of conditions 3(Tree 229 Protection) & 4(LEMP update) on application P22/V0604/RM.

This relates to Parcel RM1a (P22/V0604/RM). This application is currently under consideration.

Applications 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.**

The key issue with this application is that it includes watercourse crossings, and how the watercourses are proposed to be bridged is a key consideration, including the position and characteristics (angle, road alignment, etc.) of this crossing are likely to be influenced by the design of the crossing.

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 has since been dismissed at appeal. 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. The developers are still working through various options in relation to the watercourse crossings and how to progress with this RM application. Should amendments be submitted, these will be subject to further consultation.

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. Discussions are still ongoing between the LPA, OCC, developers and legal.

Climate & Environment News

Changes coming this spring to garden waste service in South and Vale

Green fingered residents who use the garden waste service in South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse districts will have a change to their service subscriptions this year.

A change to how the popular service is paid for is coming this spring to improve the efficiency of the subscription process for residents.

South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils are introducing a permit scheme from April 2025 that will involve customers receiving a sticker permit for their bins to identify them as fully paid-up garden waste customers. This kind of scheme is offered successfully by many other local authorities, including in neighbouring West Oxfordshire.

Cleaner greener modern heating for council leisure centre

White Horse Leisure and Tennis Centre in Abingdon will see even more activity than usual from this week as work begins on a multi-million-pound replacement of the centre's heating system to one with a massive reduction in both energy costs and carbon emissions.

Environment Agency and government need to do more to prevent flooding in the Vale

The decision to drop a scheme to improve flood defences in the Thames Valley has been branded 'disappointing', and the government should do more to protect communities, according to the Leader of Vale of White Horse District Council.

Council News

Full Council – 12th Feb & 19th Feb

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

12th February is the Vale of White Horse District Council's annual budget meeting. The council is required to set a budget for day-to-day expenditure needed to provide the services for the financial year starting on 1 April. Some of the money comes from central government, in the form of revenue grants, whilst the rest is raised from the council tax and charges the council makes for some of its services.

Additionally, the council will set its rate of Council Tax (just the part that goes to the District Council), set its fees and charges as well as its Capital Programme. This is an agreed list of projects that are usually of a "one-off" nature and the expenditure typically happens over more than one financial year. It is paid for using money the council has saved in previous years.

19th February is an extraordinary meeting and the agenda will appear [here, on the Vale website](#) when it is published.

Simplified ten-day planning to power greener growth at Milton Park

Milton Park, the UK's largest single ownership innovation community for science and technology, is poised to support thousands of new jobs sustainably.

Vale pledges to represent local communities following reservoir announcement

Following the recent announcement from the Chancellor, which includes support for Thames Water's proposed new reservoir near Abingdon, the Leader of the Vale of White Horse District Council has pledged to do everything she can to represent the views of residents and businesses across the district.

Enjoy a fun-filled February with free and low-cost activities for all ages

Fun games, badminton, football and pickleball are just some of the free and low-cost activities available for children and their families to enjoy this February half-term, hosted by South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils.