

**Monday 12th May 2025**

Monthly Parish Update

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

Hello from Hayleigh and Debra

What a warm and sunny start we've had to May. Hayleigh ran in the Hagbourne fun run, which goes through both Blewbury and Upton on one of the few cold days in the start of May – which was probably a blessing in disguise!

On 1st May, Oxfordshire went to the polls to elect councillors to Oxfordshire County Council. The Liberal Democrats now have a majority on that council, with 36 councillors out of a total of 69. The party with the second highest number of councillors, which usually forms the official opposition, was Labour with 12 councillors. You can see the full results on the [website](#).

Cllr Rebekah Fletcher was elected as County Councillor with 46% of the vote share. She covers (mostly) the same area that we cover, with the exception of the Chilton Fields development and Harwell Campus, which now sits with Cllr Jane Hanna. Issues relating to County Council matters can be directed to them – this is things such as adult social care, SEND support, roads, education and libraries.

As mentioned in previous reports, local councils are currently working on proposals to submit to government on their plans for Local Government Reorganisation. We must submit our final proposals by November, though we are aiming to complete this sooner. What this means in practice is, if the government sticks to its timeline, both Vale of White Horse and Oxfordshire County Council will not exist in two years time, and there will be a new unitary authority – with associated elections.

Thursday 8th May was the 80th anniversary of Victory in Europe, or VE day. There were many celebrations going on across the country and the local area. Hayleigh attended a service at St Michael's Church in Blewbury, alongside Cllr Rebekah Fletcher, and witnessed some 1940's style Charleston dancing and sampled some tea and cake. VE day is a celebration of victory against fascism, but also serves as a reminder of the past, of those who lost their lives and to not make the same mistakes in the future.

We hope you enjoyed any VE day celebrations you may have taken part in.

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).

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.

Occupations

Taylor Wimpey – 1x occupancy at Primrose Gardens (Phase 1T) and 41x sales

Persimmon – Approximately 40-50 occupancies at Phase 1P

Applications Decided and Approved

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

This application relates to the Primary School. The application was approved on 20 March 2025.

P25/V0475/DIS – Discharge of condition 12(Construction Environmental Management Plan) on application P14/V2873/O.

This relates to parcel 2Tb (Dahlia View). The application was approved on 8 April 2025.

P25/V0511/DIS – Discharge of condition 3 (Coach Parking) on application P24/V0549/RM.

This relates to parcel RM1b Phase 1 (road infrastructure). The application was approved on 8 April 2025.

P25/V0587/DIS – Discharge of condition 27 (Ecological Construction management Plan) on application P14/V2873/O.

This application relates to Parcel RM1a (infrastructure). The application was approved on 15 April 2025.

New applications received

P25/V0563/RM – seeks approval of 397 dwellings on Phase 3P

The consultation period ended on 25 April and is now under consideration. The target determination date is 20 June 2025.

P25/V0588/DIS – Discharge of condition 14 (Tree Protection) on application P14/V2873/O.

This relates to Phase 1Pa. This is currently under consideration. The target decision date is 26 May 2025.

P25/V0727/DIS – Discharge of condition 14 (Tree protection) on application P14/V2873/O.

This relates to phase T2b (Dahlia View). This is currently under consideration. The target decision date is 12 May 2025.

P25/V0728/DIS – Discharge of condition 23 (foul water drainage strategy) and 24 (surface water drainage strategy) on application P14/V2873/O

This relates to phase RM1b Phase 1 (Infrastructure). This is currently out for consultation. The target decision date is 26 May 2025.

P25/V0873/RM – seeks approval of 105 dwellings on Phase 2Tc (Lavender Walk)

The application is currently out for consultation, which ends on 22 May 2025. The target determination date is 16 July 2025.

P25/V0874/RM – seeks approval of 102 dwellings on Phase 2Ta (Jasmine Fields)

The application is currently out for consultation, which ends on 29 May 2025. The target determination date is 28 July 2025.

P25/V0875/RM – seeks approval of the infrastructure surrounding Phase 6T (Clover Meadow) including spine road; noise bund with associated fence; landscaping; open space, including paths, LEAP and SuDS attenuation basin; infrastructure and works.

The application is currently out for consultation, which ends on 5 June 2025. This application will be assessed alongside application P25/V0879/RM for the housing. The target determination date is 24 July 2025.

P25/V0879/RM – seeks approval for 225 dwellings on Phase 6T

The application is currently out for consultation, which ends on 5 June 2025. This application will be assessed alongside application P25/V0875/RM for the infrastructure surrounding the parcel. The target determination date is 25 July 2025.

P25/V0876/DIS – Discharge of condition 23 (Foul water drainage strategy) and 24 (Surface water drainage strategy) on application P14/V2873/O

This relates to phase T2b (Dahlia View). This is currently out for consultation. The target decision date is 11 June 2025.

P25/V0877/DIS – Discharge of condition 13 (Landscape Management Plan)

This relates to phase T2b (Dahlia View). This is currently out for consultation. The target decision date is 11 June 2025.

P25/V0955/DIS – Discharge of condition 6 (noise compliance report) on application P22/V2744/RM

This relates to Phase 1T (Primrose Garden) and is currently under consideration. The target decision date is 23 June 2025.

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 amendments pack for this application has now been received, and will be going out for further consultation imminently (21 days). The application has been amended to also include the discharge of some outline conditions, including condition 28 (water course crossings). Please note that this only relates to 3 water course crossings that are within this parcel. One of the crossings is a box culvert that was approved under HIF1 (ref R3.0138/21) and is to be constructed by OCC, with the other two crossings proposed being clear spanning structures. The water course crossings will be reviewed by the Ecology Officer, Environment Agency, and also OCC highways.

P24/V1369/SOB – request for Deed of Variation

Proposed changes to public art delivery, sports provision in line with what Boundary Park Trust would like delivered, how the Extra Care is delivered and to the trigger by which the western access is delivered. Discussions are still ongoing between the LPA, OCC, developers and legal.

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

Still awaiting amendments to be submitted, and then further consultation will be carried out.

GP Surgery

As mentioned in the last report, the GP surgery has received planning permission from Vale of White Horse District Council. Whilst this is a positive step, there are still a number of workstreams that need to be delivered prior to construction commencing.

This includes transfer of the site from Taylor Wimpey to the council, the ICB agreeing funding arrangements between a number of parties and completion of separate legal agreements between the council, third party developer and medical centre. The officers are hopeful that progress will shortly be made on the transfer as a next step to unlock delivery.

We frequently get asked – *What is to stop the same issues happening at Valley Park, as has happened on Great Western Park?* The process for delivery is different. For Valley Park, the health centre land is due to be transferred to the Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West Integrated Care Board (BOB ICB) or their nominee. This is a more standard approach as BOB ICB are responsible for primary care.

As set out in the S106 legal agreement, prior to 200 occupations on site, the developers have to offer 0.25ha land within the Northern Local Centre to the ICB. They have 12 weeks to consider this offer.

If ICB / council accept the offer, the land has to be transferred prior to 500 occupations and the council will receive a sum of £2,841,000 index linked towards the construction of a health centre on the land, split over four instalments at 250, 500, 750 and 1000 occupations. If ICB / council do not accept the offer, the council will receive a sum of £3,261,000 index linked towards the new primary care infrastructure to serve the development in the locality, split over 4 instalments at 250, 500, 750 and 1000 occupations.

The council are encouraging early dialogue between the developer and the ICB to ensure that the process for securing delivery of health provision is commenced as soon as possible. The detail on the design / requirements of the provision and its exact location will be established through this process.

More generally, the council have a positive relationship with the ICB and have regular meetings to discuss health provision across the district, which is helping to address and resolve any issues earlier in the process.

Climate & Environment News

[£100,000 available for climate and nature recovery projects](#)

Great news for local community groups looking to tackle climate change and help nature recovery as the Vale of White Horse District Council's Climate Action Fund opened for applications today on Tuesday 6 May) and closes on 30 June.

In 2023, the council awarded a grant to Little Pippins Pre-School in Harwell (pictured above) which part-funded their plans to install renewable energy. They said: "We installed 20 solar panels into the roof of the pre-school. Staff involved the children in the plans and educated them about solar energy. Within days of installation, we were fully connected and able to sell any excess energy back to the national grid. It will save the pre-school around £1,400 a year in energy bills and around 3,000kg in carbon emissions."

The Climate Action Fund is now open for applications from town and parish councils and local community groups who have climate and biodiversity project proposals. There is a total of £100,000 available, with a minimum grant of £250 and a maximum of £10,000 per project.

Full details of the Climate Action Fund and how to apply are available on the [Climate Action Fund page](#) on the council's website.

[Solar power for treatment works near Wantage](#)

A refurbished sewage treatment works near Wantage will be powered by renewable energy thanks to Vale of White Horse District Council. The treatment plant – owned and managed by the council – serves around 31 properties at the village of Sparsholt. The equipment at the site was nearing end-of-life and needed an upgrade.

Council News

[Full Council – 14th May](#)

It is Vale of White Horse District Council's Annual Meeting on 14th May and you can find the papers on the [website](#). This is the meeting where we elect a chair of the council and also allocate other council positions.

[Next steps for Joint Local Plan](#)

The Councils are pleased to announce that the dates for the start of the public hearings for the South and Vale Joint Local Plan have been published this week. This stage of the examination involves our appointed Planning Inspectors (Inspectors R A Bust and C Mulloy) holding hearing sessions to hear from the Councils and other participants about whether the local plan is sound and has been prepared in accordance with legal and procedural requirements.

The first week of hearing dates and the topics covered are as follows:

- **Tuesday 3 June 2025:** Matter 1 – Procedural and Legal Requirements followed by Matter 2 – The Duty to Co-operate
- **Wednesday 4 June 2025:** Matter 3 – The Housing Target/Requirement
- **Thursday 5 June 2025:** Matter 4 – The Employment Land Requirement

The hearing sessions will be held in public and anyone can attend in person to watch (subject to capacity at the venue). All the hearing sessions will be held at Bee House on Milton Park, OX14 4SB. The sessions will also be available to watch online via a livestream.

[Major council IT system maintenance from 24 May for around one week](#)

Towards the end of May, the councils are carrying out a major piece of planned essential maintenance work on the council's IT systems. This work is unavoidable and has to take place in order to secure the future of our IT system and the services it enables. As a result, a number of the online services will be down. Where relevant planning consultations will be **extended by 14 days** to accommodate the down time.

If you have any issues that need resolving, please contact either of us and we can contact the relevant department directly.