

Unitary local government

Much progress has been made since my last report, with South and Vale Council leaders now agreeing to a joint proposal together with County for a single Unitary Council. Much work and discussion is still needed but we are at last moving together in the right direction.

Didcot Garden Town

Didcot Garden Town is a major part of our plan for development in the District, offering a significant number of jobs and home. Work on seven work streams including - master planning, housing delivery, EZ implementation, infrastructure, branding and communications/ engagement is now well under way. Further information can be found at <https://didcotgardentown.org>

Appeals Public Inquiries

East Hagbourne, land east of New Road, - held over 6 days in January 2017. We are waiting to hear whether the Inspector's decision will be recovered in due course.

Tetsworth - traveller site of 12 pitches outside of the Green Belt and is scheduled for the second week of June.

Thames Farm, Shiplake – Planning Inspectorate is seeking our views on having a co joined inquiry for the quashed appeal decision (110 units) and second appeal against a scheme for 90 units refused in August 2016.

CABI, Crowmarsh – appeal recently lodged - scheme for new offices and residential development refused in June 2016 will be the subject of an inquiry in the summer.

South Local Plan 2033

The Second Preferred Options consultation is scheduled to commence at the end of March 2017. The slight delay from the last update is to ensure we have the most robust evidence available to support the consultation – particularly for infrastructure. It will take the form of a full Draft Local Plan to include development management.

Great British Spring Clean

We are backing a new nationwide campaign to get half a million people out and about cleaning up their local communities in March 2017. The Great British Spring Clean aims to help bring people together to clear up the litter that blights their local streets and parks. To take part in the campaign and for information on how to set up your clean-up event visit www.greatbritishspringclean.org.uk.

We will be encouraging and supporting groups and individuals who want to help by offering equipment free of charge. If you require litter pickers, sacks, gloves and high visibility jackets please contact Eleanor Bunn by email (eleanor.bunn@southandvale.gov.uk) or call 01235 422146. Please book in your equipment requests as soon as possible as there is limited availability.

Voluntary and Community Sector Forum

The annual South and Vale Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) Forum, supported by the councils, will be held on 15 March 2017 (9am-4.30pm). The Forum aims to bring local community and voluntary groups together so they can share ideas and advice. The event, at Cornerstone Arts Centre, is free to attend and includes two workshops, lunch and a funding information fair, plus time for networking. Please invite community and voluntary groups in your area to come along.

For more details about the day's programme and to book a place at the Forum please see the OCVA Forum page at

<http://southandvale.us8.list-manage.com/track/click?u=33bec1cf8b5523ad47c7183a0&id=08ffb5b5f3&e=eda6ce4f57>

If you have any questions about the event email OCVA at admin@ocva.org.uk or call 01865 251946.

From local start-up to world leader - Register now for the South and Vale Business Breakfast

Businesses are invited to join the South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils' annual Business Breakfast on Tuesday 21 February 2017 at De Vere Oxford Thames Hotel, Henley Road, Sandford on Thames, OX4 4GX, starting at 7.30am. The free event, this year hosted by South Oxfordshire District Council, includes a light breakfast followed by a series of presentations about issues affecting businesses locally plus a question and answer session.

Key note speaker will be Mathew Hornsby, Sales Director and co-founder of yacht and powerboat specialists Williams Jet Tenders, based in Berinsfield and following the Brexit vote of 2016, Garry Young, Senior Adviser at the Bank of England will be sharing his thoughts on business and economic prospects and what it means for local businesses. More information and registration at

<http://southandvale.us8.list-manage.com/track/click?u=33bec1cf8b5523ad47c7183a0&id=27a3bd9dd3&e=eda6ce4f57>

Waste contamination update

To reduce contamination in the recycling we collect we've been running a campaign to get residents to recycle loose or use clear sacks so that waste crews can see what is in each bin before emptying it. Crews do not empty green bins which contain black or coloured sacks. The campaign has been very successful. The quality of the recycling has improved, the contamination rate is falling and across the South and Vale districts we only have to have to leave a couple of dozen bins un-emptied each day.

New waste vehicles to improve collections

We are planning to introduce a new fleet of waste collection vehicles in June which will further improve our collection service. Residents will only see a minor change to their collections, recycling or waste will be collected by one vehicle and food collected by a separate vehicle rather than the current vehicles collecting both. Collections will continue to take place on the same day but not necessarily at the same time. Changing to a two-pass system will give more operational flexibility when Biffa experience breakdowns or delays and will also provide more resilience when it comes to managing the increase in property numbers because of new developments. Also by changing to a two-pass system each vehicle will have increased capacity, this will reduce the number of visits in a day to the disposal points. Our Communication Team is working to inform residents of the change.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you need any further information on any of these items, or indeed any issues not addressed here.

Kind regards



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