

Vale of White Horse

District Councillors' Report

Watchfield and Shrivenham Ward

Cllr Katherine Foxhall katherine.foxhall@whitehorsedc.gov.uk

Cllr Viral Patel viral.patel@whitehorsedc.gov.uk

September 2025

Ward Overview

Direct Support for Residents

Our delivery of a paper newsletter to households over the summer prompted several residents to get in touch to ask for personal support over the last couple of months. Our work has included:

- Helping vulnerable residents access multi-agency support related to housing, homelessness, antisocial behaviour and mental health;
- Supporting residents with council tax issues including new build banding allocations and missed payments;
- Sharing potential sources of funding for local projects;
- Raising concerns about noise and disturbance from licensed events;
- Liaising with our County Councillor about matters including road closures, education and support for Afghan residents.

Old Hayes Solar Farm Application, Coleshill

A long-expected application for a solar farm and battery storage facility off Snowswick Lane between Buscot and Coleshill has now been lodged. Full details can be found on the [Vale Planning Portal, Ref: P25/V1646/FUL](#) Deadline for responses to the consultation is 4 October 2025.

Natural Flood Management Planning Application, Buscot

The National Trust has submitted its planning application for the creation of ponds and scrapes to enhance natural flood management and promote biodiversity at Buscot. Full details can be found on the Vale Planning Portal, Ref: P25/V1584/FUL. Deadline for responses to the consultation is 2 October 2025.

Wicklesham Quarry

The planning committee meeting scheduled for 1 September was again cancelled, with the next advertised date being 13 October.

Sustainable Shrivenham receives White Horse Community Lottery Funds

We were delighted to learn in July that Sustainable Shrivenham has received £864 in the latest payout from White Horse Community Lottery fund: <https://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/grants-and-community-funding/white-horse-community-lottery-gives-good-causes-a-boost-in-the-vale/>

Find out more about the Community Lottery and how residents can support local good causes here:

<https://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/vale-of-white-horse-district-council/community-support/white-horse-community-lottery/>

Council News

July Full Council

Our Green Group made several important contributions to July's Full Council. We tabled two motions, both of which were passed unanimously. The first asked Council to oppose measures in the Planning and Infrastructure Bill which

threaten to water down environmental responsibilities of developers. The second motion asked the Council to push for greater community benefits from renewable energy projects, and was covered by [This is Oxfordshire](#).

In response to a report from a committee of Oxfordshire's council leaders, Kat asked why that committee has failed entirely to discuss Local Government Reform, and questioned what value the committee is to our residents.

Kat's question to Cabinet asking why the Council had backtracked on a commitment to ensure contract staff are paid the Real Living Wage was [picked up by the BBC](#).

Full minutes of the Council meeting are here: [Agenda for Council on Wednesday, 16 July 2025, 7.00 pm](#)

Local Government Reorganisation

Council officers are continuing to develop the detailed proposals for local government reorganisation, with the deadline for submission of 28 November 2025. The proposals, which are being developed jointly with Cherwell and West Oxfordshire District Councils are expected to be discussed at Full Council and Joint Scrutiny meetings before Cabinet approves a final proposal.

Rethinking Waste Campaign – Please take recyclables home!

South and Vale residents are some of the best recyclers in the country, but we can do more. As part of the Councils' new [Rethinking Waste Strategy](#) this summer's "Take it Home" campaign features messages on bins asking residents to take empty cans and bottles, plastic food containers, newspapers and magazines home to put in recycling bins, rather than public bins where they cannot be recycled. Residents are also reminded that public bins can also be used for bagged dog waste. Find out more here: <https://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/waste-and-recycling/on-the-go-please-take-your-recyclables-home/>

Funds & External Opportunities

Police and Crime Commissioner's Community Fund open for applications

The Thames Valley Police and Crime Commissioner has opened the latest round of funding for crime prevention. Local organisations are invited to apply for up to £10,000 for projects that help protect communities, people and property. The closing date for applications is Monday 22 September. Full information is here: [Community Fund - Thames Valley PCC](#).

Support for new Social Enterprises

The [Oxfordshire Social Enterprise Partnership](#) (OSEP) has received funding from the South & Vale District council via the UK government Shared Prosperity fund to **support people who are running, or setting up, a social enterprise in your area.**

- **[1:1 social business development support](#):** Meet a business advisor to support you with whatever stage or development needs you have.
- **[Free Training workshops](#):** A series of training sessions to help you get your social enterprise up and running.
- **Peer support groups (Food / Community hubs & assets / Creative):** A series of facilitated peer support groups for social entrepreneurs. By sharing real experience and challenges with others who understand the journey you are on you will broaden your knowledge, extend your thinking and be resourced in a supportive and confidential group

Please email makena@osep.org.uk or visit the OSEP website for more information: <https://www.osep.org.uk/>

Rural Services Network Funding Digest

We recommend signing up for this monthly digest of funding opportunities for rural areas. See the latest update here: [Rural Funding Digest - August 2025 - Rural Services Network](#)