

District Councillors Report to Parish Councils

Watchfield and Shrivenham Ward

October/early November 2022

Vale of White Horse District Council

Cost of Living – There is a range of information on the Vale website which is aimed to help those residents who are struggling to pay their bills and cope with the increased cost of living. Information includes Financial and Housing support and how to reduce your energy and costs. Go to: www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/costoflivinghelp

Homes for Ukraine For general Ukraine queries please go to www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/ukraine

Telephone helpline 01865 966444 Open 0845am-5pm Monday to Friday closed weekends and bank holidays

Email: ukrainerresponse@oxfordshire.gov.uk

For general queries, housing and community support in the Vale go to www.whitehorsedcc.gov.uk/ukraine

Telephone helpline 01235 422600 Option 1 Open 0830am-5pm Monday to Thursday 0830am – 4.30pm Friday closed weekends and bank holidays

Email: communitysupport@southandvale.gov.uk

Planning

The number of planning applications for our Ward villages continues to rise. Details for each Parish may be found on the Vale website www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/planning

Amongst the many applications that have been submitted is one for the change of use of land at Windmill View in Watchfield for the siting of 27 mobile homes, 26 touring caravans, 9 utility rooms and 15 dayrooms.

There are three Reserved Matters applications in Shrivenham that are still awaiting determination. These relate to Phase 2 of the Cross Trees Park development on Highworth Road. The Vale has received amendments from the developer and these are subject to further consultation. Once comments have been received these will be considered as part of the determination process.

It was encouraging to receive notification that the new primary school planning application had been granted. Unfortunately, the expected delivery date of the new school has been delayed from the scheduled September 2023 to February 2024. This is extremely disappointing and it is hoped that there will not be any further delays to the operational opening date.

The Vale has published an interactive webpage for the Call for Land and Buildings available for change as part of the Joint Local Plan 2041. Details may be found on the Vale website for the Joint Local Plan 2041. There are a number of sites that have been submitted for the Watchfield & Shrivenham Ward.

Planning Appeals

- 1) A date has been set for the public appeal hearing that has been submitted to the Planning Inspectorate for 26 dwellings on Townsend Road in Shrivenham on the grounds of non-determination within the specified timescale. The hearing will be heard on 24 January 2023 (with 25 reserved if needed) the time and venue to be advised.
- 2) An appeal has been submitted to the Planning Inspectorate for the application of five self-build dwellings on land at the rear of Swiss Cottage Faringdon Road Shrivenham. The grounds for the appeal are based on the reasons for refusal by the Vale. The appellant has requested that the appeal be held in public at a formal hearing. Date, time and venue to be advised.
- 3) The appeal submitted to the Planning Inspectorate for a two storey side extension to Acorn Cottage The Green Longcot has been dismissed.
- 4) An appeal has been submitted to the Planning Inspectorate regarding the refusal to erect a porch canopy at Silver Trees Fernham. The appellant has requested that the appeal be dealt with by written representations.

Council Meeting – The next full Council meeting will be held at The Beacon Wantage on Wednesday 7 December. The agenda will be published on 30 November.

Climate Emergency Advisory Committee – The Committee met on Monday 10 October. The agenda included an update on the new Environment Act, Climate Action Plan Quarter 1 and decarbonisation of leisure centres. The draft minutes of this meeting are on the Vale website. The next meeting will be held on 5 December 2022.

£50,000 Climate Action Fund – Another round for applications is open until 25 November. If you there is a particular climate project or a scheme that could benefit from some additional funding why not apply. Details are on the Vale website www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/grants

Swindon CCG/Integrated Care Alliance – As previously reported we met with the CCG in June and September for brief updates. A more in-depth meeting is scheduled for 1 December.

Elm Tree Surgery Newsletter – The surgery has launched a Newsletter which gives details about the staff and new and existing services. Details may be found on the surgery's website www.elmtreesurgery.co.uk

Moved again – A reminder - The Vale and South Oxfordshire District Councils have moved back to Abbey House Abingdon. This is a temporary move for around two years until the new offices are built at the Gateway in Didcot. Following the Covid

pandemic the majority of council staff now have hybrid working arrangements. This means that they can work from home or other remote locations or in the office.

Swindon Borough Council – New Eastern Villages

South Marston - The first phase of the 2380 dwellings for the area north of the A420 in South Marston has been submitted to Swindon Borough Council. 134 dwellings are proposed for Skylark, The Woodlands, South Marston. Skylark is located just north of the railway bridge on Old Vicarage Lane and the development will be on both sides of the road.

As you know Elaine is a member of the **Faringdon Area Traffic Advisory Committee**. The Committee met on Monday 31 October and again Elaine raised the ongoing rat running around Shrivenham and the surrounding villages. The increase in traffic and the number of serious accidents on the A420 were also discussed. The amendment to the new A420 roundabout signage was welcomed. Please contact Elaine if there are any other transport issues that are causing concern.

Although we don't normally hold surgeries we are always available to deal with any issues.

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