

# Vale of White Horse District Councillors' Report

## Watchfield and Shrivenham Ward

Cllr Katherine Foxhall [katherine.foxhall@whitehorsedc.gov.uk](mailto:katherine.foxhall@whitehorsedc.gov.uk) 07916 285305  
Cllr Viral Patel [viral.patel@whitehorsedc.gov.uk](mailto:viral.patel@whitehorsedc.gov.uk) 07448 191658

**June 2026**

## Ward Overview

### Community Safety Feedback Request

The Community Safety Team at South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils along with the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) are asking for councillors to report back on local needs relating to crime and safety in our wards.

We have recently heard from residents and PCs about the spate of burglaries to homes and outbuildings across our ward, and we are concerned about ongoing tensions, particularly involving young people, as support for Afghan relocation programmes is withdrawn by government.

Please let us know if there are other specific issues locally related to community safety so that we can respond by **23 June 2026**.

### Local flytipping prosecution

Vale has secured a prosecution for an incident of flytipping which occurred between Buscot and Coleshill in May 2025, with a barber from Swindon being fined £2200. As ever, residents and local businesses are reminded to always:

- Check that anyone removing waste on their behalf is a registered waste carrier
- Keep full details and paperwork of the person making the removal
- Record the license plate of the vehicle used to remove waste if possible.

Flytipping can be reported directly to the Council and will be actively investigated: [How to report fly-tipping, littering and dumped waste - Vale of White Horse District Council](#)

### Nature Recovery on Council Land

It is now easier for local organisations to create nature recovery projects such as wildflower meadows on district council-owned land. The policy about Licences for tree-planting has been expanded to include planting of shrubs, sowing of wildflower meadows to encourage pollinators and installing man-made habitats such as insect “hotels” and bird and bat boxes to help increase the local wildlife. Find out more about the new policy here, and please do get in touch if you are not sure whether a plot of land is eligible: [Councils invite community groups to help nature recovery on their land - Vale of White Horse District Council](#)



## Shrivenham Golf Course Planning Application

Bloor have pre-emptively submitted an appeal to the planning inspectorate on the grounds of “non-determination”. Our understanding from officers is that Vale was waiting for final documentation as agreed with Bloor’s representative and a decision could not be made until Bloor had completed that step, in submitting an appeal in this way Bloor are attempting to side-step the local planning authority. As this is now with the national planning inspectorate, council is unable to decide the application.

Vale officers informed us that they had intended to refuse the application on several major grounds. So, the current position is that the appeal process has started and all existing submissions have been passed to the inspectorate.

Anyone wishing to alter or withdraw previous representations or submit representations on this application can do so directly to the inspectorate at <https://appeal-planning-decision.service.gov.uk/comment-planning-appeal/appeals/6007811> or by writing to them at:

The Planning Inspectorate  
c/o QUADIENT  
69 Buckingham Avenue  
Slough  
SL1 4PN

Representations must be made by **7<sup>th</sup> July**, and must quote the appeal reference **6007811**.

## Buscot Manor open evening

Viral recently attended a fantastic open evening hosted by one of our local rural businesses at a National Trust property. The event served as a showcase for a diverse range of local rural enterprises, highlighting the talent and entrepreneurial spirit we have on our doorstep.

It was a wonderful opportunity to connect directly with several residents and business owners. Speaking to them firsthand, it was incredible to see the sheer dedication and hard work it takes to build and sustain these businesses.

We continue to be committed to supporting the rural economy, and events like these are a great reminder of the vibrant business community driving our district.

## Council News

### Planning System Website

We have heard from residents and Parish councils with difficulties using the new online planning portal. Specific issues (e.g. display on mobile phones) have been forwarded to officers. Parish councils can directly access officer support through the information, introductory sessions and video guides that should have been sent to Town and Parish Councils.

## Local Government Reorganisation

We continue to wait for government to make their decision about Oxfordshire Unitary authorities and what borders will be they will have; there is no change here and we still expect this confirmed during the summer.

We are also disappointed that the Vale Leader chose the occasion of the annual address to reiterate a rejection of Swindon's potential involvement in the larger strategic mayoral authorities on apparently political, rather than strategic or evidential grounds. We will continue to push for a civil, constructive and professional relationship and ongoing dialogue with Swindon to ensure that our residents are not disadvantaged by political leadership and boundary changes.

## Garden Waste Bin Permits for 2026/7

Garden Waste Bin permit online renewals can be accessed at:

<https://www.southandvale.gov.uk/garden-waste-permit/>