

SODC Monthly Briefing - Caroline Newton

(Or What The Council Is Doing)

November 2018.

Planning

Renewable energy workshop for neighbourhood plans

District councillors and neighbourhood planning groups are invited to attend our Renewable Energy Workshop on Wednesday 21 November.

The event, run in association with the Centre for Sustainable Energy (CSE), will be an opportunity to discover how neighbourhood plans could take advantage of renewable energy and address the issues of climate change. It is being held in our offices at 135 Eastern Avenue between 1pm and 4.30pm.

We expect this event to be popular, so are working on a first come, first served basis. Anyone wishing to attend should register online before 5pm on Wednesday 14 November at:

<https://ebtk.co.uk/resources/stats/click.php?c=2636&e=74&o=9492&url=https%3A%2F%2Fsurvey.southandvale.gov.uk%2Fs%2Frenewable%2F&a=0>

Expressway update

Following the government's Expressway corridor announcement in September, the Growth Board met to consider its implications for Oxfordshire.

After the meeting, the chair of the Growth Board, Cllr Jane Murphy, wrote to Highways England and the Secretary of State for Transport outlining our concerns about the lack of clarity on the preferred route around Oxford. You can read the full letter on the Growth Board's website.

Neighbourhood Plan updates

We now have 12 made plans in the district, most recently The Baldons, Warborough & Shillingford, Benson and Watlington.

Referendums will be held for Chalgrove and Little Milton on Thursday 22 November.

The examinations of the Goring, Cholsey and Pyrton plans are ongoing, with the final report for Pyrton expected in early November.

Motions Before Council

October's Council meeting saw an unusually high number motions being debated and agreed by Councillors. A selection is included below to illustrate the range of issues discussed.

- A. "That Council agrees the principle that all new housing planning permissions of more than 75 Homes should be provided with an on-site publicly available defibrillator and asks officers to explore whether it is feasible to bring forward the necessary planning policies to achieve this".

- B. "That Council asks officers to investigate opportunities to better promote the River Thames for tourism and leisure activities for all residents especially young people in the district".
- C. "That Council asks officers to investigate opportunities for adopting new digital communication channels to provide residents with regular updates as part of the council's long term technology strategy. Officers are asked to consider the scope for joint working with a range of partners, such as parish councils and Oxfordshire County Council, to develop an integrated approach to provision of community information across the district".
- D. "That Council agrees the principle that all major planning applications should consider options to facilitate cycle hire schemes where appropriate and asks officers to consider whether it is feasible to bring forward the formal planning policies that would be necessary to achieve this".
- E. "That Council asks the leader to write to the Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to urge the Government to intensify pressure on manufacturers to reduce the production of non-recyclable plastic"

Business Awards launch

Our Economic Development Team launched the first-ever South and Vale Business Awards on 31 October at Cornerstone. The launch and networking event explained how you can nominate successful businesses in our region for one or more of the seven award categories.

You can register to find out more information on the awards on the SO Business website <http://www.so-business.co.uk/svba/awards-events-promotion/>

Proposed changes to Housing Allocations Policy

We have opened a consultation on South and Vale's Housing Allocations Policy, which sets out how we will assess applications to join the housing register and how to allocate social housing within the districts.

You can read a summary of the proposed changes here

https://ebtk.co.uk/resources/stats/click.php?c=2636&e=69&o=9492&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.dropbox.com%2Fs%2Fyeh7m2ffj846523%2Fsummary_of_proposed_changes.final2.pdf%3Fdl%3D0&a=0

and the full policy is available here:

https://ebtk.co.uk/resources/stats/click.php?c=2636&e=69&o=9492&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.dropbox.com%2Fs%2Fz3q8ddbzkkrarkum%2FHAP_DRAFT_final.pdf%3Fdl%3D0&a=0

You can submit your comments online until 5pm on 26 November at: <https://ebtk.co.uk/resources/stats/click.php?c=2636&e=69&o=9492&url=https%3A%2F%2Fsurvey.southandvale.gov.uk%2Fs%2FHAP2018%2F&a=0>

Gigabit scheme

Let your local businesses and residents know that they can apply for the government's gigabit scheme that supports communities to achieve a better broadband connection.

The scheme is designed for small and medium businesses to access up to £3,000 worth of vouchers to upgrade their internet connection. Groups of residents can also apply for a voucher of up to £500

for each domestic connection - as long as a local business is involved in the scheme and is the main beneficiary.

Businesses and residents can check their eligibility via gigabitvoucher.culture.gov.uk/

Modern slavery awareness

As part of Anti-Slavery Day on 18 October, the Community Safety Team have been distributing more of our modern slavery stickers in our public toilets to help raise awareness of the issue. The stickers provide a free helpline number for anyone who may be trapped in modern slavery.

For more information please see our Modern Slavery guidance, this will help you recognise possible signs of modern slavery that you may come across in your day to day work.

It also sets out what you should do if you suspect that someone is being exploited.

Purple Tuesday - accessible shopping day

Please help spread the word to local retailers that Purple Tuesday is taking place on Tuesday 13 November. This special day aims to encourage shops across the country to make shopping more inclusive and accessible for disabled customers.

You can find out more information about Purple Tuesday and let your local independent shops know, they can get some guidance on how to make their property more accessible by going to purpletuesday.org.uk.

Waste and Recycling

Reporting missed bin collections

Here's a reminder on how people should report missed bins.

If a resident needs to report a missed bin they should contact Biffa:

- online by visiting southoxon.gov.uk/missedbins before midnight on the next working day after the collection was due
- by calling 03000 610610 before 5pm on the next working day.

Crews will only return to collect a missed bin if it was originally put out before 7am on the scheduled collection day.

There are some occasions when crews can't collect a bin – for example, if the bin was not put out in time. If a resident has put the wrong items in their recycling, or the bin was too heavy or overflowing, then the crew will place a tag on the bin to explain why it wasn't collected and will attempt to collect it on the next scheduled collection.

If there are repeat problems at a property or a specific area, Biffa will investigate. If a collection is missed at the same property on a number of occasions, and the issue is not resolved by Biffa, residents should email waste.team@southandvale.gov.uk and SODC officers will investigate.