

## **SODC Councillor's Monthly Report November 2017**

### **Oxford to Cambridge expressway**

You can view and comment on four early concept designs for the Oxford to Cambridge expressway. The National Infrastructure Commission will ultimately make a recommendation to government for the final decision on the route. You can see all four design concepts and submit your comments

<https://competitions.malcolmreading.co.uk/cambridgeoxfordconnection/shortlist>

### **New parliamentary constituency boundary proposals**

The Boundary Commission for England has published proposals for new parliamentary constituency boundaries, which affect our districts. You can view the proposed plans by visiting <https://www.bce2018.org.uk> The deadline to submit any comments is 11th December.

### **Don't bin your batteries' call following waste and recycling truck fires**

Residents in South Oxfordshire and the Vale of White Horse have been urged not to put batteries or other items which could cause a fire in their waste or recycling wheelie bin. Last week two small fires started in rubbish while it was being transported in waste and recycling trucks. Both were potentially very dangerous incidents to the crews, other road users and pedestrians. They also caused delays to collections and could have resulted in significant damage. The fires were caused by items residents had put in their bins, most likely to have been standard lithium-ion batteries – like the ones found in most mobile phones. Batteries should be put in a clear plastic bag and left on top of the green recycling bin, while small electrical items (that may also contain batteries), can be put out in a carrier bag alongside the grey refuse bin for separate collection.

### **Hate crime - new guidance**

Please make yourself familiar with new guidance on dealing with hate crime. We all have a duty to take hate crime seriously and advise people of the reporting options available to them. Hate crimes are any crimes that are targeted at a person because of hostility towards a person's perceived:

- disability
- race or ethnicity
- religion or belief
- sexual orientation
- transgender identity

You can find out more about how to protect yourself and others on the Thames Valley Police website <https://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/advice/protecting-yourself-and-others/hate-crime/>

## **Local Plan**

The Local Plan 2011-2033 consultation has been extended. You can view this on the SODC website. The extension is to provide people the opportunity to comment on an update to the Strategic Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment, which was originally published in March. You can view the updated assessment.

[http://www.southoxon.gov.uk/ccm/support/dynamic\\_serve.jsp?ID=782809296&CODE=61ECE2C4EDA0265ECF255BC9F93F9B07](http://www.southoxon.gov.uk/ccm/support/dynamic_serve.jsp?ID=782809296&CODE=61ECE2C4EDA0265ECF255BC9F93F9B07)

The remaining public meetings are as follows:

- Tues 7 November, 3pm to 7pm –**Berinsfield** Church Hall
- Thurs 9 November, 3pm to 7pm -**Wheatley**, The Merry Bells Village Hall
- Mon 13 November, 3pm to 7pm –**Thame** Town Hall
- Fri 17 November, 3pm to 7pm –**Chalgrove** Village Hall

All responses to the Local Plan must be received by 5pm on 30th November 2017.

## **Councillor Community Grants**

I would be grateful if you would publicise in your parish the new SODC Community Grant budget of £5000 which each SODC Councillor has to administrate.

Every South Oxfordshire District Councillor has a total grant budget of £5,000 to award for projects or services that will offer community benefits in their own ward area. Applications should focus on projects that deliver a clear and demonstrable benefit to the people of South Oxfordshire, specifically in the ward area of the district councillor considering the request. Please note that I have only £5000 in total and will need to prioritise on the basis of what funding can do in the four communities which I represent. This means some applications may be disappointed. I am required to respond within eight weeks to applications so please get applications in as soon as possible. **The closing date for applications, budget still permitting, is 19<sup>th</sup> December 2017**

## **Basic rules of the scheme**

- Projects must benefit the community in the councillor's ward area
- The minimum grant is £500 and the maximum £5,000 for each councillor (budget permitting)
- A councillor can fund up to 100 per cent of the total cost of a project (budget permitting)
- The project must be completed within 12 months of the grant award decision

### **Who is eligible?**

- Town and parish councils and parish meetings (unless they run their own grant scheme with a set budget and application process)
- Local constituted 'not for profit' organisations whose primary purpose is to benefit the residents of South Oxfordshire.

### **Who is not eligible?**

- Other local authorities/public sector bodies (for example Oxfordshire County Council, NHS trusts)
- Individuals (this includes making any payments to individuals on behalf of community groups)
- Profit-based businesses (private businesses)
- Political and lobbying groups
- Organisations who give grants or fund other not-for-profit organisations
- Nationwide organisations

Please note you will need to provide the following documents to support your application

- Signed constitution (not town or parish councils)
- Detailed financial records
- Signed authorisation from organisation to apply on their behalf

To see more details and apply go to the SODC website by following the link:

<https://southandvale.flexigrant.com/areadetail.aspx?farea=483>

David Turner  
31<sup>st</sup> October 2017