

SODC Councillor's Monthly Report January 2018

Local Plan 2033. SODC are now processing comments from the recent publicity period, to submit alongside the Local Plan to the Planning Inspectorate this month. We will also submit a report detailing all the consultation we carried out during the plan-making process. We expect that the examination will require public hearing sessions, which are likely to take place in the spring or summer this year.

Changing Places toilet coming to the Orchard Centre, Didcot. We have funded a new Changing Places toilet, which is being installed in the new Orchard Centre expansion. The toilets are specially designed for people with learning and physical disabilities and they'll be ready in the new shopping centre for the grand opening in spring next year. The room will include a height adjustable changing bench, a hoist and plenty of space for up to two carers.

Bin collection in adverse weather. When heavy snow or ice prevents the waste collection crews from reaching anybody on their collection day, we are advising residents to leave their bins out for three days. Biffa will attempt to return and empty these missed bins. Residents should bring their bins back in if they haven't been emptied after three days. They will be emptied the next time they're due. In these circumstances we will allow residents to leave extra rubbish out beside their bins, as they can with recycling all year round. We will keep everyone up to date with disruptions on our websites, Facebook and Twitter, and we will notify all our customers who have downloaded the Binzone app. Our Adverse Weather Plan sets out how the councils and Biffa will address the operational issues caused by snow and ice and flooding.

Binzone app available to download. We have launched our new smartphone app - it's called Binzone and it is available on iPhone and Android devices. Binzone lets you know what day your bins will be emptied and which bin it will be, all at the tap of your phone screen. You will also receive notifications when your collection date changes due to bank holidays, or if bad weather disrupts collections. You can also find out what can and can't be recycled! You can download the app on your mobile or tablet by searching for "Binzone" on the Appstore or Google Play Store now. Please help us spread the word!

Protect yourself online. The police estimate that one in ten adults in the UK fall victim to crime on the internet, that's why we are backing Thames Valley Police's campaign to encourage all residents to take action to protect themselves online - there is a lot of information that you could use to help keep yourself safe too! Cyber-crime is always evolving and can take many forms, but essentially it is where a computer is targeted or used to commit a crime. Identity fraud, cyberstalking, grooming, confidence scams, hacking are all examples of cyber or cyber-related crimes. There are simple ways to reduce the risk of becoming a victim. For some useful information and advice visit the Thames Valley Police online safety page. If you fall victim to a cyber-crime or experience an attempted scam, you can report it to Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040 or visit www.actionfraud.police.uk.

Put your real tree to good use after Christmas – recycle it! When the festivities are all done, residents in Southern Oxfordshire are being encouraged to make sure their real Christmas trees are put to good use by recycling them. Garden waste customers simply need to leave their real tree next to their brown bins on their usual collection day during the week commencing Monday 15 January. However, residents do not have to be signed up to garden waste collections to recycle their real trees. They simply need to take them along to one of the

drop-off points being set up by South Oxfordshire District Council. The closest one is at Notcutts at Nuneham Courtenay and trees must be taken there by Sunday January 14th at the latest.

David Turner
2nd January 2018