

SODC Councillor's Monthly Report November 2018

Renewable Energy Workshop – Wednesday 21 November 2018

You are invited to attend our Renewable Energy Workshop, which is being run in association with the Centre for Sustainable Energy (CSE). The workshop is a fantastic opportunity to discover how neighbourhood plans can address mitigation and adaptation for climate change. It will focus on:

- Identifying potential renewable energy resources in the neighbourhood
- Expressing support for specific forms of renewable energy
- Identifying suitable sites
- Promoting a more sustainable future

The workshop is being held on **Wednesday 21 November 2018 between 1pm and 4.30pm** in the council offices at 135 Eastern Avenue, Milton Park OX14 4SB. We expect the workshop to be popular, so are working on a first come, first served basis. Each group can send up to two participants. If you are interested in registering for the event, please complete our online registration form before 5pm on Wednesday 14th November:

<https://survey.southandvale.gov.uk/s/MWAD2/?m=33436793suoxe>

We look forward to hearing from you.

Mr Sam Townley
Neighbourhood Planning Enquiries Officer
South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils
135 Eastern Avenue, Milton Park, Oxfordshire OX14 4SB

Applications open for Capital Grants. The SODC Capital Grants scheme is open again for applications. We have £145,000 available to help fund a variety of facilities and improvements, such as upgrading a community hall or improving a play area. Details are on the SODC website.

Applications for the District Councillor's Personal £5000 Grants budget. As I type this report I have only received one application which was for a new table tennis table in Chalgrove for the over 60's Active Gold Club.

As per my September report I repeat the basic rules of the scheme as follows:

- Projects must benefit the community in the councillor's ward area
- The minimum grant is £250 and the maximum £5,000 for each councillor (budget permitting)
- We can fund up to 100 per cent of the total cost of a project (budget permitting)
- The total project cost for applications for capital projects is £10,000 or less (one-off revenue projects have no such maximum)

- If successful, you must complete the project within 12 months of our grant award decision

Who is eligible?

- Town and parish councils and parish meetings (unless they operate a grant scheme of their own or budget for giving grants/donations in their annual budget)
- 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)
- Groups who raise funds on behalf of or will improve/create facilities that will predominately benefit an ineligible organisation (like PTAs delivering projects to benefit their school)
- 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

For further details please see the SODC website.

7. SODC Crowmarsh offices. The old council buildings which were destroyed in a fire have now been demolished. SODC will therefore shortly enter the design and build phase of the programme and an update including forecast timescales will be provided at a future meeting of the full council.

8. Affordable Housing. The leader of SODC wrote to the Secretary of State in line with the motion previously passed by full Council. Whilst we have received a reply, which is on the SODC website, the leader will write again and provide a further explanation that emphasises that South Oxfordshire has delivered large numbers of affordable homes, nearly 1000 homes in the past five years, but even with this, local house prices do not reflect local incomes and hence affordability. The theory that building more homes will reduce prices is yet to be fulfilled.

9. Local Plan. Officers advise that whilst it is challenging SODC remains on target to meet the deadlines within the Oxfordshire Growth Deal around submission of the SODC Local Plan, which has to be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate by April 1st 2019. There will be a further private round table session for all SODC councillors on progress with the local plan on December 5th, prior to the publication version going to Scrutiny (December 13th), Cabinet (December 18th) and Full Council (December 20th December). As the round table session

with councillors is only 2 days before the publication of papers for the Scrutiny Committee, I have queried the timetable for the round table councillors meeting as not being early enough to influence papers going to the Scrutiny Committee and subsequently Cabinet and Full Council.

There have been interesting recent statements by the Planning Inspectors for the Cherwell Local Plan and the Vale of White Horse Local Plan. It is interesting that the Planning Inspector for the Cherwell Local Plan has said “It is clear to me that meeting Oxford’s unmet need could, as a general principle, constitute an exceptional circumstance that would justify an alteration to Green Belt. It is interesting to note that both Inspectors have endorsed the apportionment of the figure for Oxford’s unmet housing need as agreed through the Oxfordshire Growth Board and they both confirm that the needs should be met close to Oxford City in the Green Belt. Given that this could be significant to Chalgrove Airfield site I have asked SODC officers to advise how this might affect their deliberations on the new Local Plan.

Major transport improvement bid for Didcot area - find out more at local events this week

Oxfordshire County Council is consulting on initiatives that will be put forward as part of a Government bid for funding under the Housing Infrastructure Fund and local people are being given the chance to give their views.

Significant growth and employment ahead

There is significant housing and employment growth for Didcot and the area through the Vale of White Horse and South Oxfordshire District Council's local plans. However, the road network in the area already suffers from congestion and without action there will be unacceptable levels of traffic seeking to use this already constrained transport system.

In order to increase capacity the county council has drawn up options that could include:

- A4130 Capacity Improvement – dualling of the A4130 between the A34 and new Science Bridge, new and improved pedestrian and cycling measures
- Science Bridge – A new road link from the new dualled section of the A4130 back to the A4130 at Purchas Road, including pedestrian and cycling infrastructure
- Culham River Crossing – a new road between Culham near the science centre to Didcot's A4130 perimeter road.
- Clifton Hampden Bypass- a new road between the A415 Abingdon Road at the science centre and B4105 Oxford Road north of the village

Have your say

There will be two public exhibitions where you can find out more and give feedback on the proposals:

- Wednesday 7 November, 12pm-8pm – Ladygrove Room, Didcot Civic Hal, OX11 7JN (Sorry only got this information today 6th November !!)
- Saturday 17 November, 10am-4pm - Willow Room, Cornerstone, Didcot, OX11 7NE

You can also view the plans and have your say via www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/didcot - the consultation ends on 25 November.

David Turner
30th October 2018 (Updated 6th November 2018)