

## SODC Councillor's Monthly Report December 2018

**Oxford to Cambridge Expressway update.** On 16 November councillors and an officer attended an engagement event hosted by Highways England about the work they did to inform the decision on their preferred corridor. Currently they are planning to consult on specific routes within the identified corridors in Autumn 2019. The corridors are shown on [the route option study area](#), including corridor B1, corridor B3, and the 'common corridor' area around the existing A34 between the Abingdon and Didcot area. Further information on their work can be found on [the Expressway website](#).

**Local Plan.** The SODC Local Plan 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 Wednesday 5th December of this week prior to the publication version going to Scrutiny (December 13th) at The Fountains Conference Centre in Crowmarsh Gifford, Cabinet (December 18th) at Didcot Civic Hall and Full Council (December 20th December) at The Fountains Conference Centre in Crowmarsh Gifford. The public report will be published at least five working days before the Scrutiny Committee.

**Business Awards nominations open.** Nominations are now open for the South and Vale Business Awards, which will celebrate and recognise our diverse local businesses and their inspirational leaders for the excellent work they do in our area. Anyone can nominate a business, employer or business leader for the following categories:

- Large business of the year
- Employer of the year
- Early stage innovation award
- Established innovation award
- Social responsibility award
- Business leader of the year
- Business space of the year
- SME of the year

Nominations will be accepted until midnight on 18 January 2019 via [so-business.co.uk/svba](http://so-business.co.uk/svba)

**National Policy Statement for Water Resources Infrastructure.** In the next few weeks we are expecting that Defra will be launching an eight-week public consultation on the draft National Policy Statement (NPS) for Water Resources Infrastructure. The NPS will set out the need for nationally significant water resources infrastructure and provide the detailed planning policy guidance for development consent for large projects. The Planning Act 2008 will also be amended to ensure the NPS applies to types of infrastructure, including reservoirs, water transfer and desalination projects. We'll let you know as soon as the consultation is open for comments.

**Fly-tipping prosecutions.** We have successfully prosecuted two fly-tipping cases this month. An Oxford man was [given a three-month curfew and ordered to pay £385](#) for illegally dumping rubbish on land near Wittenham Clumps in February, while a woman from Henley pleaded guilty to not ensuring her waste was disposed of in the correct way after her details were found in rubbish bags dumped on land at Dorchester-on-Thames. As a result, she was [ordered to pay £740](#).

**Applications for the District Councillor's Personal £5000 Grants budget.** As I type this report, I have only received or know of three applications which are for a new table tennis table in Chalgrove for the over 60's Active Gold Club, a new cornet for Chalgrove Brass Band & a new PA system for the Chalgrove May Day Festival. In total these applications only take up approximately £1800 of my £5000 budget. As per my September & November reports 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.

### **Reminder Milton Park offices - Christmas closure**

Our Milton Park offices will shut at the end of the day on Friday 21 December and will not open again until Wednesday 2 January.

### **Reminder Free parking in the run up to Christmas**

We're providing FREE parking in our council-owned car parks on the following days up to 24 December:

- Didcot – Mondays from 3 December
- Goring – Saturdays from 1 December
- Henley – Tuesdays from 4 December
- Thame – Saturdays from 1 December
- Wallingford – Thursdays from 6 December

**Renewable Energy Workshop – Wednesday 21 November 2018. Question.** Did any Parish Councillors attend? Were there ideas we could adopt?

David Turner  
3<sup>rd</sup> December 2018