

## **SODC Councillor's Monthly Report October 2019**

**Local Plan 2011/34 latest.** On Wednesday 23 October, our senior officers met officials from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) to discuss the temporary direction placed on our emerging Local Plan 2034, issued by the Secretary of State on 9 October. During the period of the temporary direction, members and officers cannot progress the decision-making in relation to the emerging plan. This includes the extent to which the emerging plan can be taken into account when making decisions on planning applications. Following the meeting, the temporary direction remains in place and has since been re-confirmed.

**Reminder Councillor grant scheme is open.** The SODC Councillor Grant scheme is now open for applications. I have a budget of £5,000 in total to award to projects or services that will benefit communities. Full details are to be found on the SODC website [www.southoxon.gov.uk/grants](http://www.southoxon.gov.uk/grants). The closing date for applications is January 10<sup>th</sup>. However, to ensure the budget is not all gone and to enable me to prioritise my finite budget please submit your bids by 1<sup>st</sup> December 2019 if you can. This does not mean that there will not be money available after December 1<sup>st</sup>. However, I am required to make decisions within 4 to 6 weeks of receipt of an application being approved by officers as being fit for my consideration. The Grants team has sent your clerk some guidance notes, but if you have any questions or queries in the meantime, please email the Community Enablement team via the SODC website or phone 01235 422405.

**Capital Grant Scheme - £320,000 available.** These grants are now open for applications until 2 December and are available to voluntary and community organisations for projects starting after May next year.

**Other SODC Grant Schemes.** Please see the website for the rest of the grants available and the procedures to follow.

**Extra garden waste.** Please help us to spread the word that residents who have signed up for brown bin collections will be able to take advantage of putting out extra garden waste on the week commencing November 18<sup>th</sup>. Waste crews will be collecting the equivalent of one extra bin's worth (or around three large bin bags) during the resident's usual collection day. You can find out more information on what can be collected as part of the garden waste from our South and Vale websites. The Christmas waste collection information which will be sent to all homes will include the "Green Wheel" as a handy reference guide which gives information about what goes in which collection bin. This has only been available on a restricted basis so far, but it has been such a success that every home will now get one.

**Cabinet recommends looking into new and affordable housing.** Cabinet members met on Friday 25 October and agreed that a report should be prepared on finding suitable options that could pave the way for more high-quality, environmentally sustainable and genuinely affordable housing in our district. The report will look at options that exist for a new approach to delivering housing in our district and Berinsfield will be considered as a pilot location. Members also agreed to identify if both South and Vale districts could benefit from a joint approach.

**Capital Grant Scheme - £320,000 available.** These grants are now open for applications until 2 December and are available to voluntary and community organisations for projects starting after May next year. See the SODC website for further details.

David Turner, SODC Councillor (Chalgrove Ward)

4th November 2019

### **Reminder SODC Councillor's Monthly Report Update of 17<sup>th</sup> October**

**Homelessness consultation.** We are asking people for their views on a new strategy to address homelessness and rough sleeping. By law, we are required to publish a homelessness and rough sleeping strategy every five years - our current strategy ends in 2020 and we've now launched a six-week consultation on a new strategy which would last until 2025. Anyone who would like to view the draft strategy and submit their comments should visit <https://survey.southandvale.gov.uk/s/Homelessness2019/> before 5pm on Monday 25 November 2019. Last year, thanks to our strong focus on prevention, early intervention and access to sustainable accommodation, we helped more than 1,000 households avoid homelessness.

**Election jobs.** We are looking for additional people to sign up to our list of temporary staff to help run any forthcoming elections. If you know anyone (18+) who might be suitable to work in a polling station or help out at an election count then please encourage them to visit our South or Vale election jobs pages on the SODC website to find out more and how to apply.

**Brexit pages updated.** We have updated our South and Vale advice pages on Brexit. They now include more information for EU nationals who wish to continue to live and work in Oxfordshire after Brexit by claiming EU Settled Status.

David Turner, SODC Councillor (Chalgrove Ward)

17<sup>th</sup> October 2019