

## SODC Councillor's Monthly Report October 2021

**Cllr. Community Grant Scheme.** The 2021/22 Councillor's Community Grant Scheme will re-open for bids on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> November. I have £5000 to allocate. The scheme is open to community groups and Parish Councils. Details are on the SODC website. Please get your bids in as soon as possible before the funds are allocated.

**Garden waste.** As you will be aware the garden waste service will resume in the district from Monday 4<sup>th</sup> October. The Council is writing to all garden waste customers to inform them and explain that as a temporary measure the collections will be made four-weekly instead of fortnightly and to make up for the disruption they will get three extra months' service at the end of their current subscription period which customers have paid for. More details are available on our garden waste pages on the SODC website.

**Mill Lane Ditch.** The ditch on the west side of Mill Lane is now under construction and it is hoped that it will help alleviate flooding in this area of Chalgrove. The £149,000 scheme is funded by SODC, OCC & the Environment Agency.

**Brook Vegetation Clearance 39-53 High Street Chalgrove.** You will have seen that the clearing of the brook in this area has now been done by SOHA. I have emailed the officer at SOHA thanking him for this work which he does every year in the Spring and early Autumn.

**Local Covid-19 rates.** Whilst infection rates remain around 303 cases per 100,000 of the population for the County, this is skewed slightly by higher figures in Cherwell at the moment. Rates in South and Vale have fallen over the last two weeks from around 300 to 205 per 100,000 residents in South and 234 in Vale. The government's latest messages emphasise the importance of ventilation in helping stop the spread of Covid-19, as well as continuing the basics of regular hand washing, wearing a mask in crowded spaces and keeping your distance. These measures will help prevent the spread of other viruses too which are circulating this time of year.

**Move Together.** Our new Move Together team has been busy since the project launched in July. They have been on walks with residents who haven't left their homes during the pandemic and speaking to others about the support available to help them get active again. Resident feedback has been positive about the beneficial impact of this support. On a related topic, a webinar will be taking place on Tuesday 12 October at 10am for healthcare professionals, social prescribers, partner organisations and anyone working with people whose physical or mental health and wellbeing has been negatively affected by Covid-19. Please share these details with organisations you feel would be interested.

More info about the webinar here. <https://www.activeoxfordshire.org/move-together>  
Book onto the webinar here. <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/move-together-webinar-tickets-171220353687>

**Amazon wish list now live for specific donations to help Afghan guests.** As part of the co-ordinated response to help Afghan refugees settle into a new life in Oxfordshire, the County Council and charity Asylum Welcome have published an Amazon wish list for very specific items that they need.

That list is being hosted by Asylum Welcome and has now been published and can be found at Amazon.co.uk. Items that are being requested by refugees include various items of clothing and shoes, sanitary products and headphones. Residents across South and Vale have already been incredibly generous with donations and offers of help for the individuals and families. As the support they need will be ongoing for some time this is a good way to ensure that donations go to those who really need them and quickly

**A quick reminder of a couple of external consultations that are closing soon.**

- First, the latest public consultation on the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 closes on Friday 8 October, to find out more and to have your say visit the Oxfordshire Open Thought website. <https://www.oxfordshireopenthought.org/>
- And the government's 12-week public consultation on the future of the Ox-Cam Arc closes on Tuesday 12 October – you can read more and comment here. <https://placebuilder.io/futureofthearc>

**Consultation opens on how we engage with communities about planning.** Your views are needed on how we engage with you about the councils' planning processes. South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils are preparing a Joint Statement of Community Involvement (SCI). The joint SCI sets out who, how and when the councils will engage with local communities as part of the planning process. It covers both consultations on planning applications and also on the development of local plans which guide where development will be supported in the future. Cllr Emily Smith, Leader of the Vale of White Horse District Council, said: "We want to make it as easy as possible for people to get involved with the planning process. This document sets out how we plan to work positively and proactively with our communities, and I'd encourage everyone to get involved to ensure their voices are heard." Cllr Anne-Marie Simpson, South Oxfordshire District Council Cabinet Member for Planning, said: "We're committed to ensuring you know what we're doing – we strive to be clear and transparent in our processes – and the SCI reflects this too. "Your views and local knowledge are vital in planning, and we want to make sure we give you access to the right information as easily and early as possible using methods that work for you." We will take on board your comments on the draft SCI before bringing a final version before our councils to be adopted. Once adopted the joint SCI will replace the existing South Oxfordshire SCI and the Vale of White Horse SCI. You can give your comments on the draft Statement of Community Involvement until midnight on Wednesday 20 October 2021. You can find the draft document on our South or Vale websites. The quickest and easiest way to comment is to use our online comment form. If you are unable to comment online, you can also:

Email: [planning.policy@southandvale.gov.uk](mailto:planning.policy@southandvale.gov.uk)

Write to Planning Policy, South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils and post to 'Freepost SOUTH AND VALE CONSULTATIONS' (no other address information or stamp is needed).

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