

**Monday 10th April 2023****Monthly Parish Update****Vale of White Horse District Councillors****Cllr Hayleigh Gascoigne and Cllr Sarah Medley**

Hello from Hayleigh and Sarah

Hello! It has been a real privilege to be your district councillors for almost four years now. Local elections take place on Thursday 4th May, where you will have the opportunity to vote for the district councillors representing Blewbury and Harwell ward for the next four years. If you normally vote in person (as opposed to a postal vote) you will need photo ID to vote. Please see the [Vale website](#) for more information on the elections.

We would like to thank residents for choosing us to represent you on the Vale of White Horse District Council since 2019. We have particularly enjoyed getting to know the numerous organisations and individuals who give so much of their time to support the community. We send our best wishes to the incoming district councillors for the parishes of Blewbury, Harwell, Chilton, Upton and Western Valley.

We use these monthly updates to keep you updated on our activities and general council news. We also post regularly on our councillor Facebook Page: [Cllrs Hayleigh & Sarah - Blewbury & Harwell](#). Please get in touch with any issues or concerns, either via Facebook message or email:

hayleigh.gascoigne@whitehorsedc.gov.uk and sarah.medley@whitehorsedc.gov.uk.

Community Support

Support for Ukraine

It is now over a year since the devastating war in Ukraine started. Thank you to all of the residents who have been hosting families in the Homes for Ukraine scheme. The council's [support for Ukraine](#) webpage continues to provide information and guidance for Ukrainian nationals and their hosts.

Local News

Didcot & Villages Healthcare

The Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West Integrated Care Board, with the support of officers from Vale of White Horse District Council and South Oxfordshire District Council, has been considering options to provide more GP consulting space in Didcot while longer term plans are made for delivery of new GP premises at Great Western Park.

Options reviewed included the conversion of some rooms in the Great Western Park District (community) Centre to be used temporarily for primary care or creating temporary space or a permanent extension on the existing Woodlands Medical Centre site to provide more space for patient care.

All options present some challenges. However, a decision has been made by the ICB to seek to increase the space in the short term on the current Woodlands Medical Centre site. Work is underway to assess the viability of this. For more information please see this [dedicated microsite](#).

Valley Park Update

This section of our report provides an overview of the current live planning applications for Valley Park.

There are often several live applications relating to the development, however those labelled 'RM' i.e.

'Reserved Matters' are typically the most noteworthy as they request planning permission for specific parcels of housing on the development. Residents can provide comments on these applications.

Applications labelled as 'DIS' i.e. 'Discharge' relate to specific conditions from the outline planning permission and are not usually open for public consultation. The current live planning applications for Valley Park are listed below along with an update on the status of each provided by the Vale planning officers:

P22/V0907/RM – 161 dwellings

This application has been withdrawn.

Applications Under Consideration**P22/V2624/DIS – Surface and foul water drainage**

This application has not progressed since the last update i.e. “We have requested cross sections for the proposed swales and attenuation basins and asked the applicant to address the Vale drainage engineer comments together with demonstrating that the drainage scheme can be accommodated with other proposed infrastructure e.g. footways and cycle ways and meet the Strategic Design Code expectations”.

P22/V2798/DIS – Framework Plan

This application has not progressed since the last update. This application does not address all matters required by the Framework Plan condition of the outline permission. For example there are no details of materials proposed, visitor parking or strategic drainage details. The Framework plan basically shows layouts for the first phases of Persimmon’s and Taylor Wimpey’s developments which officers are not wholly satisfied with. The applicants have been asked to address officer comments and revised details are awaited.

P22/V2744/RM – 246 dwellings

This application hasn’t progressed further since the last update. Following officer’s review of the application, Taylor Wimpey has been given an opportunity to provide more information, clarify issues, address consultee comments and revise the scheme. Amended plans are expected and reconsultation is likely on receipt. Unless the Parish Council withdraws its objections on review of an amended scheme, this application is likely to be taken to planning committee for a decision.

P22/V0604/RM – infrastructure for Persimmon and Taylor Wimpey first phases

This application remains in abeyance awaiting the submission of amended plans following which reconsultation will occur.

P23/V0432/FUL – temporary construction access from the A4130

This application remains under consideration and OCC comments as highway authority have been received today (3 April) and will appear on the web site shortly.

OCC object as physical restrictions will be needed to prevent right hand turn movements into and out of the access, they query how visibility splays from the access along the A4130 will be maintained unobstructed, and the need for a pedestrian/cyclist refuge within the access.

Harwell Parish Council objects and their comments had been put to the applicants prior to my going on leave 2-weeks ago. A response is awaited

New Applications**P23/V0659/DIS – approval of details reserved by of condition 33 - Travel Plan**

This application is at consultation stage; the consultee being OCC. Comments are due by 13 April.

P23/V0667/RM – 179 dwellings – Persimmon Phase 1

This application is at consultation stage

Climate & Environment News

[Councils launch new nature recovery project](#)

The councils have launched a new nature recovery project called Let It Bee which aims to increase biodiversity on council land by allowing wildflowers and plants to grow on specific sites.

[Green energy powering leisure centre in the Vale](#)

Work to install new eco-friendly technology at Faringdon Leisure Centre is near completion. This makes it the first Vale of White Horse District Council operated facility to have this technology to help cut carbon emissions and make it more cost effective to run.

[Tree planting and grants for community climate projects highlighted in latest Climate Action report](#)

Tree planting and grants to help community climate projects have been highlighted in a new report from Vale of White Horse District Council. As part of its commitment towards tackling climate change, the Vale publishes a quarterly report showing the progress of its Climate Action Plan. The Plan sets out the steps it will take to become a carbon neutral council and how it will support local efforts to reduce carbon emissions across the district.

[Funding to give nature reserve a new 'leaf of life'](#)

Tuckmill Nature Reserve is set for a refresh with a £76,600 funding boost to support local volunteers and help maintain and enhance the reserve's biodiversity. Vale of White Horse District Council secured the funding from a housing development in Shrivenham, through what's known as Section 106 Contributions.

[South and Vale still amongst top recycling districts](#)

Defra has just published the confirmed national and local recycling rates for 2021-2022.

South Oxfordshire remains second place nationally, with 62.7% of all household waste reused, recycled or composted, while the Vale is ranked 4th on 61.9%. The national average in England is 44.1%.

Council News

[Nine local charity groups given helping hand with lottery win](#)

Nine charity organisations across the Vale have each received £1,000 of unrestricted funding to support their work with local communities thanks to the White Horse Community Lottery. Now in its second year, the White Horse Community Lottery has raised just under £28,000 and helped 49 local organisations, voluntary and charitable groups who are committed to supporting our communities and natural environment.

[New simplified planning at Milton Park to pave way for further life science and technology investment](#)

One of Europe's largest science and technology communities is in line for more jobs, business investment opportunities, and improved sustainability thanks to an updated planning document. Vale of White Horse District Council has voted to adopt an updated Local Development Order (LDO) for Milton Park subject to a legal agreement being finalised.

[Councils challenge Oxford City's plan for high housing numbers](#)

South Oxfordshire and the Vale of White Horse district councils have both responded firmly to Oxford City Council's consultation that appears to be attempting to exceed the city's remit and force more development across Oxfordshire's rural countryside.

[Council's decision to reject Grove development backed by government](#)

The national Planning Inspectorate has found Vale of White Horse District Council was correct to refuse a planning application for 300 new houses near Grove and has dismissed an appeal to overturn its decision.

Activities over Easter will have children hopping for joy

This Easter the holidays are going to be jam-packed full of activities for children in South Oxfordshire and the Vale of White Horse. There's something for everyone whether your child loves being outdoors, is interested in theatre or likes to get stuck into a bit of craft.

Job opportunities at elections

Would you like to earn money, meet lots of people and play a key role in our local democracy? If you are 18 or over, (at the time of writing) the following roles are available for the May 2023 local elections:

Presiding Officers – Thursday 4 May (6.30am to 10.30pm). Paying £233 (plus £20 training fee)

The polling station locations across South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse that still have vacancies are: Sparholt, Milton, Cholsey, Wheatley, Stoke Row, Christmas Common, Pyrton, Kidmore End, Henley (x2 vacancies) and Ewelme.

Waste calendars and leaflets for 2023/24

Our 2023/24 waste and recycling collection calendars are now available for residents to download online. To access the correct calendar for their area, people should visit the **waste calendar page on our Vale website** and follow the instructions.

Anyone who is not able to access the internet can request a printed copy of the calendar by calling Biffa on 03000 610 610 or emailing **admin.vale@biffa.co.uk**

People will also receive a copy of our latest **Vale waste and recycling leaflet** with their council tax bill. This includes lots of useful information and advice about waste and recycling, including the holiday collection changes for 2023/24.

Consultation on increasing planning fees and performance

The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities is asking people for their views on proposals for increasing planning fees and to improve the performance of local planning authorities.

To find out more about the proposals, visit **the Increasing planning fees and performance: technical consultation page on the government's website**.

A sizzling summer for The Beacon

The Beacon's summer season has launched with some great shows lined up. There's science, comedy and bubbles for the kids and plenty for the grownups too, including wine tasting, cinema nights and West End musicals!

After last years' success, The Beacon is also having another open day, this year it takes place on Sunday 25 June.

For more information and to book your tickets **visit The Beacon website**.