

**Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2023****Monthly Parish Update****Vale of White Horse District Councillors****Cllr Hayleigh Gascoigne and Cllr Debra Dewhurst**

## **Hello from Hayleigh and Debra**

It's June already, and we were elected about a month ago now on 5th May! Thank you to everyone that voted in the local election – your voices were heard. We would like to thank Sarah Medley for her service in the ward these past four years, attending countless parish meetings, responding to many residents emails and maybe her proudest achievement, putting together the most comprehensive report our planning committee has ever seen from a ward councillor (which was for the Valley Park application).

As Hayleigh and Debra, we are excited to get to work for the residents of Harwell, Blewbury, Chilton, Upton and the new parish of Western Valley.

We are pleased to announce that Debra has also been made cabinet member for Leisure Centres and Community Buildings and Hayleigh was kept as Chair of the Climate Emergency Advisory Committee and sits on the scrutiny committee.

As before, if you have any concerns, questions or suggestions for us as councillors, please do email us. As a reminder, council meetings are held in public and if you wish to address council or committee, you can contact Democratic Services ahead of time. If you need more guidance on this, please let us know!

*We use these monthly updates to keep you updated on our activities and general council news. We also post on our councillor Facebook Pages:*

[www.facebook.com/CllrHayleigh](https://www.facebook.com/CllrHayleigh) & [www.facebook.com/Debra4BlewburyAndHarwell](https://www.facebook.com/Debra4BlewburyAndHarwell)

*Please get in touch with any issues or concerns, either via email:*

[hayleigh.gascoigne@whitehorsedc.gov.uk](mailto:hayleigh.gascoigne@whitehorsedc.gov.uk) and [debra.dewhurst@whitehorsedc.gov.uk](mailto:debra.dewhurst@whitehorsedc.gov.uk).

## **Community Support**

### **Support for Ukraine**

The council's [support for Ukraine](#) webpage continues to provide information and guidance for Ukrainian nationals and their hosts.

### **Community Hub**

The Hub can offer support and direct people to help on a range of things including Cost of Living, food support, becoming a host for Homes for Ukraine scheme or offering support to guests on the Homes for Ukraine scheme.

If you are struggling financially or just finding life difficult, the community hub can help. Whether it's practical support or just advice, please get in touch:

- **Call:** 01235 422600
- **Email:** [communitysupport@southandvale.gov.uk](mailto:communitysupport@southandvale.gov.uk)

The office hours are 8.30am - 5pm Monday to Thursday, 8.30am-4.30pm on Fridays (and closed on bank holidays)

## Local News

### Healthcare

**Buckingham, Oxfordshire and Berkshire Integrated Care Board** (or ICB BOB) is responsible for delivery of healthcare at the local level. If you wish to know more about this body, please visit their website - <https://bobicb.nhs.uk>

### Healthwatch Oxfordshire

Whether it is improving services today, or helping to shape them for tomorrow, Healthwatch Oxfordshire is here to help you influence health and social care in our county.

Healthwatch Oxfordshire hears what children, young people and adults have to say about health and social care services, whether it is praise, criticism or ideas for improvement. They amplify the collective voice of patients and the public, so that service providers and commissioners take notice. They then hold these providers and commissioners to account. They produce a fortnightly online news briefing, which brings together news and events as well as other relevant health and care news from partner organisations and stakeholders. Sign up to receive your copy [here](#). They also provide regular news and information updates via [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

### 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:

Many of you will have noticed that the A4130 has had a temporary 30mph speed limit in place. Persimmon and Taylor Wimpey advise that they propose commencing work in the week commencing 5<sup>th</sup> June. This will see the commencement of works to the Western Access, located off the existing A4130. The planned approved works involve the construction of a new signalised junction which would provide the entrance to the proposed first phase at Valley Park. The programme will also see the installation of traffic signals, street lighting and a new left only / right only turn.

### 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.

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

Revised plans have been submitted and consultation on them arranged. The consultation period runs until 15 May 2023.

### **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 and their response is still awaited

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

OCC as highway authority has responded to our consultation and are seeking amendments to the travel plan which have been put to the applicants for consideration.

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

This application is being considered by officers following completion of the consultation stage.

## **Climate & Environment News**

### **[#NoMowMay: Councils support biodiversity during No Mow May and beyond](#)**

Councils across Oxfordshire supported No Mow May by allowing grass verges to grow long in May and beyond – in order to prioritise and promote biodiversity across the county.

### **[£100,000 now available for community climate projects in Vale](#)**

What do sculpture making sessions in Abingdon, a car sharing club in Harwell and a community garden in Stanford in the Vale all have in common? The answer is they have all benefited from the Vale of White Horse's Climate Action Fund which provides grants of up to £5,000 for climate-related community projects in the district.

The good news is the Climate Action Fund has opened again this week for applications from town and parish councils and local groups who have proposals which aim to tackle climate change.

This time there is £100,000 up for grabs – double the amount previously available for those applying for grants. The fund will be open for applications until 14 July.

## **Council News**

### **[Local Elections 2023 – the results](#)**

Thank you to everyone who voted in the 2023 local elections. For all the results, please head to the Vale of White Horse Local Election page.

The 2023 local elections on Thursday 4 May marked the first time that voters in the UK were required to show photo ID in order to cast their ballot at a polling station. The following data for the Vale of White Horse shows the number of people who brought the required photo ID with them on polling day:

- 90,885 people were eligible to vote in person at a polling station in the Vale of White Horse (out of a total electorate of 105,722 people).

- 31.5 per cent of those eligible to do so (28,597 people) voted at a polling station on 4 May.
- 99.9 per cent of those who attended a polling station on 4 May had the correct ID with them and were therefore able to vote.
- 96 people, or 0.3 per cent of those eligible to vote at a polling station, were not initially issued with a ballot paper because they did not have the correct photo ID. Of those people, 69 returned with accepted photo ID and were then able to vote.
- By the close of poll, 27 people were not able to vote because they did not have the accepted photo ID. This was 0.1 per cent of the total number of people who could vote at a polling station in this election.

This is also published on [the Vale website](#).

### **Leader and Cabinet Members confirmed at annual Vale of White Horse District Council meeting**

Cllr Bethia Thomas – who became leader last December after previous leader Cllr Emily Smith stepped down – was officially confirmed as leader again at Wednesday's (May 17) full council meeting following the results of the local elections in May.

### **Cabinet Members and the areas they represent**

[Councillor Bethia Thomas](#) – Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member Climate Action and the Environment

[Councillor Neil Fawcett](#) – Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Strategic Partnerships and Place

[Councillor Andrew Crawford](#) – Cabinet Member for Finance and Property

[Councillor Andy Foulsham](#) – Cabinet Member for Planning and Development Management

[Councillor Debby Hallett](#) – Cabinet Member for Corporate Services, Governance, Policy and Transformation

[Councillor Debra Dewhurst](#) – Cabinet Member for Leisure Centres and Community Buildings

[Councillor Helen Pighills](#) – Cabinet Member for Community Health and Wellbeing

[Councillor Mark Coleman](#) – Cabinet Member for Environmental Services and Waste

[Councillor Sue Caul](#) – Cabinet Member for Affordable Housing, Development and Infrastructure

Also confirmed was Cllr Sally Povolotsky as Chair of the Council for the year, taking over from Cllr Margaret Crick, with Cllr Kiera Bentley becoming Vice Chair. Cllr Povolotsky will create a chair's charitable fund that will raise cash for local causes.

### **Council grants now available for food banks and community larders**

Councils offer financial support for community organisations as food prices continue to rise and increasing numbers of people turn to food banks for essentials.

The voluntary food network – voluntary and community organisations such as food banks, food larders and community fridges for residents – plays a vital role supporting people but demand for their help has surged as fuel and food costs escalate, particularly for everyday staples.

### **Have a splashing good time across the Vale this summer**

Preparations are ramping up as the splash pads in the Vale are being prepared to be switched on for the summer. The splash pads in Memorial Park in Wantage and Abbey Meadow in Abingdon are both managed by Vale of White Horse District Council.

### **Free fun for all at The Beacon's Open Day**

The Beacon Open Day is returning this year for an afternoon full of free family fun on Sunday 25 June. Get a taste of different events and activities that take place at The Beacon in Wantage, which is managed by Vale of White Horse District Council, and activities in the wider local community.