



Monday 10th July 2023

Monthly Parish Update

Vale of White Horse District

Councillors

Cllr Hayleigh Gascoigne and

Cllr Debra Dewhurst

Hello from Hayleigh and Debra

It's definitely feeling like summer now; warm sunny days and light evenings, plus lots of events happening locally. Hayleigh had a great time watching the live music at Bands on the Boundary in Boundary Park, Didcot - what a great atmosphere! Debra enjoyed attending the Beacon Open Day in Wantage, showcasing all the Beacon has to offer, and an evening of Ladies Wine and Tapas in Upton Village Hall. This month we've had briefings on the new Oxford railway station, the Valley Park housing development, Harwell Campus development, Foul water and surface water drainage (ask us anything!) and as part of her cabinet role, Debra has had a tour of the leisure centres of the Vale.

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 & www.facebook.com/Debra4BlewburyAndHarwell

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

hayleigh.gascoigne@whitehorsedc.gov.uk and 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. South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils, as part of the Oxfordshire system which includes local authority, health and voluntary sector partners working closely together, are supporting people seeking refuge across several schemes. These are Homes for Ukraine, Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy scheme, Afghan Citizens Resettlement scheme, UK Resettlement Schemes, the Hong Kong British National (Overseas) visa scheme and unaccompanied asylum-seeking children.

Private landlords needed to host guests in Oxfordshire

Are you a private landlord in Oxfordshire with a vacant property? As guests start to rebuild their future and look for more independence, we are looking for landlords who can support their next step. If you would like to informally discuss what is involved, please email the central housing team:

Oxfordshirehousingcapacity@southandvale.gov.uk

Community Hub

The Hub can offer support and direct people to help on a range of things including Cost of Living, food support, etc. 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

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

Health and care services are working to become more integrated in the care they provide for patients. This means care from health professionals and across different services will be more 'joined up' around people's needs. Healthwatch Oxfordshire would like to hear from you about your experience of 'joined up' care. Please share your thoughts by completing this short, anonymous [survey](#).

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:

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 still awaited.

P22/V2744/RM – 246 dwellings

Revised plans were received recently. The new plans are uploaded to the council's web pages and consultation is open. Comments can be added until 27th July. Use the reference number to locate the application on the Vale Website to comment.

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

Revised plans were received in late April 2023. The details have now been reviewed and feedback given to the applicants. Further amendments will be required to make the scheme acceptable.

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

This application remains under consideration. 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. Their and OCC comments have 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**Blewbury Conservation Area**

The Blewbury Conservation Area is under review, and we need your help to best understand, protect and enhance it! Tell us what you love about Blewbury and provide feedback on the proposed boundary changes to include important open spaces and confirm the boundary with property lines. Find out more and have your say **before 2 August**, hard copies of the consultation documents are also available at Blewbury Post Office and Didcot Library.

HarCars – an EV car sharing scheme in Harwell

Imagine this: a central location in Harwell where you can find a shared electric car that you can book for the time you need.

Using a shared EV could:

- save up to 50% compared to the cost of owning and running a car
- save 60-80% carbon emissions compared to driving a petrol car
- give you independence if you don't own a car
- provide access to an additional car

Sustainable Harwell is researching how a car club may work in the village and needs your help. Please complete a short survey at [HarCars.uk](https://harcars.uk)

Climate & Environment News**Have your say on air quality**

Vale of White Horse and South Oxfordshire district councils have put together a new plan of action for the next four years to improve air quality in the districts and now they are asking residents to have their say on the proposals. The survey is [available here](https://survey.southandvale.gov.uk/s/AirQualityActionPlan/) and runs until 27 July, or type into your browser survey.southandvale.gov.uk/s/AirQualityActionPlan/

Council News**Didcot Garden Party has something for everyone to enjoy this summer**

Didcot Garden Party is back this summer, bigger and better than before with a great selection of free activities for everyone to enjoy. From creative and arts activities, to sport, yoga and live music there is something to suit all ages and interests. The party starts on Saturday 22 July (with a launch event 11am-3pm) and will run through to the end of August.

The free activities will take place across the garden town area, day and night, weekends, and weekdays,

with key events happening at Cornerstone Arts Centre and in the town and surrounding village's parks and community halls. The focus for this year's party will be health, wellbeing and the environment.

Summer season set to start at Abbey Meadow

Families in the Vale are getting ready for a summer holiday of splashing, swimming and fun at Abbey Meadow outdoor pool in Abingdon, which is currently being prepared to open for its summer season. The pool will open ahead of the school summer holidays on Saturday 22 July and will be open every day alongside the splash pad in the park until the start of September.

Abingdon and Wantage get high-definition CCTV upgrade

Twenty-six new high-definition CCTV cameras have been installed in the Vale, with 20 rolled out across Abingdon and six in Wantage town centre. The digital cameras directly replace the outdated analogue CCTV system to provide CCTV operators with much better picture clarity to help support public safety and assist emergency services.

Latest images unveiled for new council HQ

A new building that will kickstart the revitalisation of Didcot Gateway is now one step closer, with updated images of the proposed council headquarters released today and a formal planning application expected soon. The building will be the first step to bring new life into this historically neglected site, providing more confidence for future business investment and making Didcot an even more attractive place to live, work and learn. South Oxfordshire District Council proposes to submit a planning application for the site shortly and will be encouraging the public, local businesses and community groups to have their say on the proposals through the formal Planning Application consultation process.