

## SODC Councillor's Monthly Report July 2018

**FatFace opens in Orchard Centre Didcot.** Fashion retailer FatFace is the latest brand to open its doors in the Orchard Centre in Didcot. Situated next to the M & S Food hall the new shop is a great addition to the existing stores in the Centre which has gone from strength to strength since its opening in March of this year.

**Wallingford Cycling Festival.** SODC is supporting the Wallingford Festival of Cycling for the fourth year running. The popular event is happening throughout the weekend from 6-8 July. It is set to be bigger and better than ever with organised rides for all ages and abilities as well as a great variety of activities for everyone to enjoy. You can find out more on their website <http://www.wallingfordfestivalofcycling.co.uk/>

**Staff pledge to help local communities.** SODC has held a second volunteering open event to encourage staff to give something back to community organisations by pledging to use their two days annual volunteering leave. Volunteering pledges were up by over 30 per cent compared to last year, with 100 pledges made. Nearly 50 members of staff attended the event to pledge individually, or as a team, to help a community or charity organisation based in our districts. If you know of a community organisation that needs more volunteers, please email [volunteer.support@southandvale.gov.uk](mailto:volunteer.support@southandvale.gov.uk) with the details and they will add this onto the list of volunteering opportunities for staff.

**Learn how to keep your child safe online.** Parents in South Oxfordshire and the Vale of White Horse who have a child at primary school signed up for a free session about how to keep their child safe online. On Tuesday 3 July, e-safety experts Computing Champions visited Cornerstone Arts Centre in Didcot to advise parents on the dangers of a variety of technologies in the home and talk to them about how to make their child 'share aware', preventing access to inappropriate content, appropriate use of social media and safe online gaming.

**New community lottery raises nearly £5,000 so far.** The new SODC community lottery has raised almost £5,000 for good causes and the voluntary sector in South Oxfordshire in the first three months since tickets went on sale. South Oxfordshire District Council has thanked residents for supporting its SO Charitable Lottery by buying tickets. The lottery started on March 27 and so far, £3,064 has been paid out from proceeds to local charities and voluntary groups that have registered as beneficiaries. A further £1,919 has been raised for SO Charitable Community Fund, which will be used to support the district's voluntary sector. Draws take place weekly and there have been 158 winners so far. No-one has yet scooped the £25,000 jackpot, but the biggest prize of £250 was won in the draw on 23 June. A further 13 people have won £25 and other winners have received three free prize draw entries. For every £1 lottery ticket sold, 60p goes to good causes and the local community. Players can decide which causes they want to support when they buy their tickets or can choose for their money to go into the general Community Fund. The remaining 40p from ticket sales goes to the prize fund and running costs. SODC does not receive any of the proceeds.

**South Oxfordshire Local Plan update.** Following the Full Council's decision to review the Local Plan we have started to review and filter the 15 possible strategic allocation sites,

including the current strategic sites; previously considered but not progressed sites; and some more recently submitted sites. The sites include:

- Current proposed sites: Culham, Wheatley, Berinsfield and Chalgrove Airfield.
- Previously considered (but not progressed) sites: Thornhill, Wick Farm, Lower Elsfield, Grenoble Road, Northfields, Harrington and land at Great Western Park.
- Additional sites submitted by developers: land at Emmer Green, Reading, Reading Golf Club, Playhatch at Reading, land off Thame Road, North Weston.

Councillors pre-assessed strategic sites at a round table meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> June and have been asked to review in confidence at this stage the officer's assessments. The timetable is to submit the SODC Plan to the Planning Inspectorate by April 1<sup>st</sup> 2019 for the Examination in Public. There will be a public consultation in January following a full SODC Council meeting in on 20<sup>th</sup> December. This will be preceded by a Scrutiny Committee and a Cabinet meeting in December. Discussions continue with the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government. We await their comments that this will not affect the Growth Board's bid for infrastructure funding for the whole of Oxfordshire.

It is still not clear if Homes England will try to Compulsory Purchase the land which is a course of action that Martin Baker will rigorously oppose. As you know there are doubts about the deliverability of Chalgrove Airfield as Martin Baker have said that they need the whole airfield to maintain its operations there.

David Turner  
3rd July 2018