

SODC Councillor's Monthly Report July 2019

Local Plan 2011/2034. There are many discussions going along at SODC led by the new administration to see if we can change the Local plan which was submitted by the last administration in March of this year. Recent comments by the planning inspectorate on the Oxford City plan which was also submitted in March of this year have the potential to have a big effect on the SODC Local Plan. The Planning inspector has questioned the level of housing need in Oxford City asking them to justify their high figures. This of course could affect the number of homes neighbouring District Councils have to provide in their duty to cooperate. The actions being discussed in SODC have potential knock on affects on items such as government agreed infrastructure money so they have to be very carefully considered. The options are:

- Option one – make no changes to the plan and allow it to continue to be examined by the government's independent inspectors.
- Option two – allow the plan to continue to be examined by the government's inspectors but recommend a series of main modifications that will be considered by the inspectors.
- Option three – withdraw the plan, revise it, and then resubmit the revised plan following an additional public consultation.
- Option four - withdraw the plan and start the whole plan-making process from the beginning.

However, at its meeting on 10 July, Cabinet agreed the following recommendation to full Council on Thursday 18 July 2019:

“That Cabinet recommends Council to:

- (1) express its determination to maintain its housing land supply and avoid speculative housing development;
- (2) express its continued support for the Housing and Infrastructure Fund (HIF) funding and the proposed infrastructure projects that will be delivered by it;
- (3) ask officers to explore with Oxfordshire County Council, the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government and Homes England options for protecting the HIF funding whilst enabling the council to address concerns about the current emerging Local Plan 2034 including (but not limited to) climate change issues and Oxford City's unmet housing need, and to report back to Cabinet and Council;
- (4) recognising that the Climate Change Emergency is all too real and is recognised to be of key and statutory importance under the Climate Change Act 2008 and the associated objective of “zero carbon by 2050”, express its wish to do all that it can to respond through the Local Plan process;

(5) agree that as soon as practicable, alongside satisfactory progress being made on resolving issues in the emerging Local Plan, work on a subsequent Local Plan shall commence, strengthening climate change considerations.”

Anti-idling campaign launched. SODC & the Vale have launched a new anti-idling campaign, called **Turn it off**, to help improve air quality in our districts. The campaign aims to educate residents about unnecessary air pollution caused by leaving car engines idling - our message is that if you've stopped for a minute or more, then turn off your engine for cleaner air - especially in built up areas. The Environmental Services team took the campaign to Henley and Abingdon on Clean Air Day - 20 June. Over the coming months, the team will be doing some further promotion around in our districts. We will keep you up to date when these are planned. If you'd like to discuss promoting it at a particular venue or you'd like some campaign posters and stickers, please contact SODC's Environmental Services.

Transport South East consultation. The government is looking at creating a statutory local transport body called Transport South East. The new body would be able to directly influence the government's decisions on transport issues and help deliver their strategy. As part of its proposals, the government is consulting on two documents:

- Background context - quick guide on becoming a statutory body
- Draft proposal for consultation

If you would like to feed into our responses to the consultation, please contact the South or Vale Planning Policy team by 8 July. Details are on the website.

How to report a missed bin collection. If a resident in your parish contacts you about their bin not being emptied, please ask the resident to contact our waste contractor, Biffa direct: online - southoxon.gov.uk/missedbins or whitehorsedc.gov.uk/missedbins
phone - 03000 610610

If there are repeat problems at a property or a specific area, Biffa will investigate. If a collection is missed at the same property on a number of occasions, and the issue is not resolved by Biffa, residents should email waste.team@southandvale.gov.uk and we will investigate. You can find out more information on our missed bins policy on our missed bin pages (above) on our websites.

Garden Village status awarded to two locations in Southern Oxfordshire. The government has announced that both Berinsfield and Dalton Barracks are set to become garden villages. As garden villages, both sites will have access to extra funding to help plan for new open spaces, high-quality housing, new employment opportunities, transport links and community facilities for its residents and wider community. It will help to unlock the full potential of these communities to speed up delivery. South Oxfordshire District Council has been working with the Berinsfield community for some time to work on what improvements villagers would like to see. This new status will help provide well-designed

new homes, whilst protecting and enhancing existing local green spaces. The village expansion is included in South's emerging Local Plan, with councillors set to consider the options available to them in the next few weeks.

Dalton Barracks would be a new development included in the Vale of White Horse District Council's emerging Local Plan Part Two. Should it come forward as a housing site with Garden Village status it could allow more affordable homes, community facilities and healthy spaces for residents living in the area.

Fly-tipper ordered to carry out 80 hours unpaid work. A man has been ordered to serve 80 hours unpaid work after admitting carrying out two fly-tips in rural locations in South Oxfordshire, near Dunsden Green, just north of Reading. Martin Chamberlain (aka Martin Strong), 36, of Knights Way, Reading, appeared at Oxford Magistrates Court on Monday 1 July, where he pleaded guilty to two charges relating to the unauthorised depositing of waste.

Time is running out to apply for the council's new volunteering grants. Local community groups have benefitted from an extra 5,000 hours of voluntary work thanks to South Oxfordshire District Council's new volunteering grants. To date, more than £14,000 has been distributed to local charities and organisations by the council as part of its pilot volunteering grant scheme, which has already helped create five new football teams, provide extra athletics coaching and a new archery judge. One of the most recent recipients are Wallingford Street Pastors, who were given £600 to extend their service in Wallingford from one to two nights every weekend with extra cash to recruit and train volunteers. Sports clubs and community groups in the district have already benefited from the extra help, but they don't have to be the only ones – there is still time for other local groups to apply. The deadline for applications is noon on Friday 9 August 2019.

David Turner
1st July 2019 Updated 11th July 2019.