<div align="center">**SODC Councillor's Monthly Report June 2020**</div>

SODC Councillor's emergency £2000 budget for volunteers. I emailed your clerk and chair details of my budget for your comments and thoughts on 30th March 2020. This contained details of eligibility criteria. To date I have only received one request which was from a group providing food parcels to the most vulnerable and applied for by Chalgrove Parish Council. I awarded this group £500. I do of course realise that many people are helping each other privately which is great. Please respond to me as appropriate to your communities' needs if you think my fund would be suitable and qualify.

SODC Local Plan. I have already emailed the timetable for the Examination in Public which commences on 14th July.

Government Discretionary Business Grant now open for applications (Released 2 June 2020.)

South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils will accept applications from noon Wednesday 3 June 2020 from small businesses for a share of around £1.9 million of government support following the coronavirus outbreak. The councils are urging all eligible businesses that were ineligible for the Small Business Grant scheme and Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Grant Schemes to apply but stressing that the government fund available will only provide enough meaningful support for a very small percentage of eligible businesses. The government has provided the mandatory national criteria for the funds, but to assess the applications fairly and transparently, the councils have created a detailed discretionary grants scheme to try and identify the businesses most in need. To apply businesses must have been trading on 11 March 2020 and must meet certain criteria. The full details of the scheme and eligibility criteria are on the councils' business support website at svbs.co.uk. Business owners have until midday on Wednesday 17 June to apply for the Discretionary Business Fund at **svbs.co.uk/top-up-scheme**

To be able to assess the applications fairly, the councils will need to wait until the application process has closed before applications can be ranked, and so no decisions will be made on applications until after the deadline. It is likely to take a week or two after the deadline to carry out the ranking process and the necessary final checks. Once that process has been carried out, the councils will notify all applicants whether they're successful or not. Successful businesses will be provided with an acceptance letter that they'll need to sign and return before the payments can be made. While waiting for the decisions, the councils are urging applicants to look at and consider the alternative support for funding in case they're not successful – this information is all available at **svbs.co.uk/ineligible-for-grants**

Business owners that have any further questions on the grant schemes can email the councils' Business Support team - **business.support@southandvale.gov.uk.**

Volunteers make all the difference in South and Vale (Released on 1 June 2020).

At the start of national volunteers' week, the leaders of South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse district councils have offered their heartfelt and sincerest thanks to the thousands of volunteers that are helping in their communities. Within days of lockdown starting, charities and voluntary groups in our districts were helping those in need. As it became clear more support was required hundreds of residents set up informal help groups in their local communities to make sure their most vulnerable and isolated neighbours were able to get help. They used the powers of social media to recruit other volunteers and to get the message out to those who needed it. They also used more traditional methods to reach people, such as telephone calls, door-knocking and posting home-made leaflets through their neighbours' doors. There's no doubt these local heroes have saved lives in their communities – they have been the backbone of the country's response to the crisis. To help coordinate the community response, the district councils set up a community hub, which has helped bring the hundreds of independent groups and individuals into a huge linked network of volunteers responding to requests for help. Working together with the district councils and others, local volunteer groups have made an enormous difference to people who are having to self-isolate. They're carrying out tasks that in normal circumstances would normally seem simple such as doing the food shopping or picking up people's prescriptions. More than 30 members of staff at the council have been redeployed to work on a community support helpline to support the coordinated effort across the county. So far, the helpline has referred 910 people onto community groups for ongoing support. The district councils have also created a food hub, which has supplied meals for 783 adults and children. Cllr Emily Smith, Leader of Vale of White Horse District Council said, "I'm extremely proud of the hundreds of local volunteers that have been helping their neighbours and some of our most vulnerable residents. I hope the work that we have been able to do as a council creates a long-lasting legacy of active community groups that support vulnerable and isolated residents far beyond this pandemic to support ever more cohesive and connected communities" Cllr Sue Cooper, Leader of South Oxfordshire District Council said, "We are so grateful to our local community groups, volunteers and own staff that have stepped up and helped to provide all the extra support. Without them, vulnerable people would have undoubtedly suffered so much more during the pandemic."

Online Committee meetings. Planning meetings are now being held on line (see SODC website).

Parking charges to be re-introduced in South and Vale car parks (Released on May 31, 2020)

Parking charges will be re-introduced in district council car parks across South Oxfordshire and the Vale of White Horse from Monday 8 June. South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils have allowed people to park for free since 26 March to support key workers and those who need to shop for essential food or medical supplies during the Coronavirus pandemic after travel restrictions were put in place. However with many restrictions now lifted, and following the government's announcement that outdoor markets and car showrooms can re-open on 1 June and non-essential retail on 15 June, the councils will now re-introduce parking fees in order to improve the availability of parking spaces as people start to visit local shops again. This will also help to encourage people to consider using more sustainable travel methods when visiting our town centres. Car parks will operate as normal, meaning that motorists must display a ticket or have a valid online or text

<u>payment</u> confirmation, including during any free hours offered in the charging period. Normal rates will apply. New permits will be issued or re-issued to anyone whose permit would've normally expired since lockdown began. To find out how you can pay by smart phone and text visit **connectcashlessparking.com**   NHS staff and care workers who display a national COVID-19 pass can continue to park for free. To claim a pass, staff should email **carparks.southandvale.uk@sabagroup.com,** including proof of their employment.

Cllr Jenny Hannaby, Cabinet Member for Housing and Environment at Vale of White Horse District Council, said: "I'm sure many people will have appreciated being able to park for free during the recent weeks. However, with restrictions being reduced and shops soon be able to open again, we must now ensure that we have sufficient spaces available for people who wish to visit our local shops."

Cllr David Rouane, Cabinet Member for Housing and Environment at South Oxfordshire District Council, said: "To support NHS staff and care workers we will continue to offer them free parking when displaying a COVID-19 pass. This is just a small gesture of thanks for the vital work they have carried out, and continue to carry out, during the pandemic."

For more information about district council car parks please visit **southoxon.gov.uk/parking** or **whitehorsedc.gov.uk/parking.**

David Turner
SODC Councillor (Chalgrove Ward)
3rd June 2020