

## District Councillors Report to Parish Councils

### Stanford Ward

December 2019/January 2020

#### Vale of White Horse District Council

December was a relatively quiet month due to the General Election. As this report is prepared at the beginning of January there will be a further update on January issues included in the February report.

**Full Council Meeting held on 18 December 2019** – Five Motions were considered by the Council and all agreed.

- 1) **In context of Climate Emergency** – Council commits to exploring planning policies which positively encourage all renewable sources of energy including onshore wind farms as part of the next Vale Local Plan and Oxfordshire Plan 2050.
- 2) **Council notes the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition of antisemitism** – Council to adopt the IHRA definition. Adopt the All-Party Parliamentary Group on British Muslims (APPG) and officers to update the Council's equality policies
- 3) **Votes for 16 and 17 year olds** – The Leader to write to relevant Ministers and local MP's expressing the Vale's support for the Votes at 16 campaign and for the Vale to consider participating in any pilot scheme
- 4) **Proportional Representation** – The Leader to write to the relevant Government minister and two local MP's requesting that all elections be run using a form of Proportional Representation
- 5) **Unitary Authority/Merger** – Three requests were agreed
  - officers to contact MHCLG to explore the approach the Secretary of State will take on any proposals for unitary based reorganisation
  - The Chief Executive and Leader to report to full Council by summer 2020 outlining their understanding of the Governments intentions
  - Officers bring forward proposals to consider a formal merger with South Oxfordshire District Council with the same number of District Councillors, creating a single district council based on their combined geography and increased financial resilience.

**Climate Emergency Advisory Committee** – The next meeting of this committee will take place on Tuesday 28 January at Milton Park. This is a public meeting and will commence at 6.30pm.

**Local Plan Part 2** – As previously reported the decision to adopt the Plan was agreed by full Council on Wednesday 9 October 2019.

However, the issue with South Oxfordshire's Local Plan still remains. A decision on the way forward is awaited from the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government Robert Kenrick.

**Festival Grants** – The Vale scheme is open for grant applications of up to £1,000.

**Civic Parking Enforcement** – There has been a slight delay in preparing the final report which is now expected in the next couple of months This delay is to enable OCC as the lead authority to do more sampling of signs and lines in order to determine the potential capital outlay.

**Planning** - I am currently working with officers on several planning applications across the ward. Can I ask that if you have any enforcement issues that have not been taken up to please let me have the details. As ever, if you have any planning queries please do get in touch.

Although I don't hold currently surgeries I am always available to deal with any issues

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