

District Councillors Report to Parish Councils

Stanford Ward

July 2020

We are conscious that we haven't provided you with a formal report since March, but you have been kept informed on a regular basis by CoVID updates when I have been able to and the Vale's Communications Team. I am so proud of the way in which all the villages in the Ward have responded to the Covid19 emergency and have come together to ensure residents have been and continue to be kept as safe and healthy as possible and we thank everyone for their support.

Vale of White Horse District Council

For the foreseeable future all Vale Council meeting will be held virtually. Members of the public may view or take part in meetings and full details are on the Vale's website

Full Council is due to meet on Wednesday 15th July. This will be the first meeting since February and the first virtual Council meeting. The agenda will be published on the Vale website.

Throughout this unprecedented situation many of the staff at the Vale have volunteered to have their roles re-purposed so that they could deal with residents needs whether they be large or small The Community Hub has provided the support that many have come to rely on. In order to deal with a possibility of having to go into Lockdown the Vale has formalised the structure of the Community Hub. OCC has launched a communications campaign which contains all the information residents and businesses require to help prevent a local outbreak or what to do if there is one. All details are on OCC's website – www.oxfordshire.gov.uk local outbreak control plan for coronavirus.

Climate Emergency Advisory Committee – The Committee has been meeting on a regular basis since January, Formal virtual meetings were held in June and July and there are additional task and finish group meetings which report to the main committee. This is a high-profile committee which is dealing with many issues including Air Quality, a green recovery plan from Covid19, working in partnership with other Oxfordshire Councils and reviewing the Corporate Plan 2020-24.

Civil Parking Enforcement – Due to Covid19 this project has been paused. It is anticipated that a report will be presented to Cabinet in October. The County are leading on this project and are due to present a paper to their Cabinet in the next few weeks.

Planning Applications and current developments – There have been a number of planning applications for the Ward submitted in recent weeks. I am monitoring them as they are brought to my attention and also keeping a close eye on several developments that may require enforcement in the coming months.

South Oxfordshire's Local Plan – The Secretary of State wrote to SODC in March and directed the Council to progress the plan through examination and to be adopted by December 2020. The work is ongoing. From the Vale's point of view this direction assists to protect its five-year land supply and Local Plans part 1 & 2.

Play areas – Although the Vale will begin to open play areas, they are responsible for it is not so straightforward for villages. As a reminder all Vale Leisure Centres remain closed.

Support for Council Tax – Support for those residents who are struggling to pay their Council Tax is available. Visit www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/ctrs for more details.

Recycling – During Lockdown some residents haven't been as vigilant as in the past and contamination has become a real issue. Putting the wrong things in the wrong bin only leads to not just the bin being contaminated but the whole vehicles contents has to go to land fill. Residents are reminded to think about what can go in the Green Recycling bin. If in doubt refer to the Vale's website or the information leaflet that all households received earlier this year.

Oxfordshire Plan 2050 – Oxfordshire Open Thought has been launched and is asking residents if the changes they have made during lockdown life could create a better future. More details are available at oxfordshireopenthought.org Submissions made before 31 July 2020 will be used to inform the next stage of the Oxfordshire 2050 plan.

Finally...

Apologies to some, I have had a list of calls to make in the last few weeks regarding specific developments, footpaths, waste and some enforcement issues. I am getting through the list and will endeavour to catch up with everyone I should have by the end of this weekend (26/07/20)