District Councillor Update
4 July 2023

Cllr Jo Robb, Cllr James Norman

Waste Survey
The Council has launched a survey to find out what residents think about our waste and street cleaning services and this feedback will be used to identify where we need to make improvements.
Residents have until 10 July to respond: please do have your say and help spread the word through your parish networks.
https://survey.southandvale.gov.uk/s/WasteQuestionnaire2023/
Feel free to contact the waste team if you have any questions or require the survey in a different format: waste.team@southandvale.gov.uk

Missed Bins
A reminder to residents to please report your missed bin collections! If you put your bin out before 6am on collection day and it has not been collected by 6pm, please report the missed collection online or by emailing admin.southoxford@biffa.co.uk or calling 03000 610610.

Grants
A range of grant funding is available for community groups. Please take a look at our Grants page on the SODC website and do share this with your community groups.
https://www.southoxon.gov.uk/south-oxfordshire-district-council/community-support/grants/

A new round of funding for the Councillor Community Grant scheme has launched. Jo and James, your ward councillors, each have £5000 to support local projects that directly benefit local residents. Please get in touch to find out more and do encourage your local community groups to attend our information and advice session, Monday 17 July 1-5pm. Please RSVP to grants@southandvale.gov.uk
Applications for Community Grants can be made online and close at midday on Friday 20 October so do get in touch!
The last round of funding which closed earlier this year, awarded £170,800 to help 100 projects across the district.

Rural Prosperity Fund
South and Vale District Councils have secured more than £1.2m from the government's Rural England Prosperity Fund to help support the rural economy across our districts. The funds can be used for a huge range of projects including, for example, to set up community energy schemes, diversify farm businesses or establish rural business hubs. Any organisation with legal status can apply for funding when it opens in the Autumn. These can include: public sector, higher education, private sector, voluntary organisations and registered charities.
Before applications open, our Economic Development team wants to understand which organisations might apply and for what type of project. Please send your Expressions of

Interest in the run up to the opening of the scheme. Contact business.support@southandvale.gov.uk for more information or check the website: https://www.southoxon.gov.uk/south-oxfordshire-district-council/business-and-economy/advice-for-businesses/rural-england-prosperity-fund/

Homes for Ukraine – Call for Landlords

Across Oxfordshire, many arrangements between hosts and Ukrainian nationals are coming to an end. Working with our neighbouring councils and the County Council, we are launching a campaign aimed at encouraging landlords to come forward and find out more information about housing Ukrainians who are looking for a home of their own.

Many Ukrainians in Oxfordshire will have settled in local communities and found work, so identifying a range of affordable properties across the county is very important to allow them to start rebuilding their future with more independence.

Please help to spread the word by sharing with your local networks. Landlords can contact the central housing team by emailing oxfordshirehousingcapacity@southandvale.gov.uk or calling 07858687569 or 07849574859. For more information, visit our South Oxfordshire Homes for Ukraine webpage.

Insulate Britain

Now is the time to think about insulation and retrofitting ahead of what some are warning will be another difficult winter in terms of fuel and energy bills.
The Council has put together a briefing on retrofitting homes and community buildings. You could save a fortune on heating the parish hall! https://www.southandvale.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/Retrofitting-%E2%80%93-support-for-residents-in-South-Oxfordshire-and-the-Vale-of-White-Horse-2.pdf
Local community groups are invited to an online forum on improving energy efficiency in community buildings. Please do pop in virtually on **Tuesday 11 July, 6-7pm**. There will be speakers and practical information for groups and please do encourage your local groups to attend. Email climateaction@southandvale.gov.uk for more detail.

Didcot: A new home for SODC

You may be aware that the plans for the new SODC offices at Didcot Gateway have been released. The offices will be situated on the derelict site at Didcot Gateway, a site owned by SODC, directly opposite the mainline train station. Up to half the building space will be for SODC's offices while the remainder will be flexible office space let to external organisations and a café open to the public. Outside will see the creation of new green public space linking the station to the town. This project is a key part of the regeneration of the centre of Didcot, a town that is due to take some 16,500 new houses in the coming years and which has been badly let down by the neglected area directly opposite the station.
Having our own office space will not only generate income for the council but also save the two councils around £1m a year in rent and utilities.
https://www.oxfordmail.co.uk/news/23613749.didcot-plan-councils-new-hq-submitted-shortly/