



**August 2018**

## **New grants to help voluntary groups**

The council has launched a pilot grants scheme to give voluntary groups the chance to apply for grants to support them to recruit volunteers.

Community groups have told us that one of the biggest obstacles they face when trying to attract volunteers is finding money to meet training, transport and insurances costs, so we've set aside £25,000 to provide financial support.

Small voluntary groups can apply for a grant of between £250 and £750 to help cover costs.

The grant scheme is being trialled and could be extended in the future, depending on its success in helping to improve the district's voluntary sector.

To find out more and apply, see our [website](#).

## **Councillor grants up for grabs**

Each of our 36 district councillors has £5,000 to award to good causes that benefit their local communities. A total of £180,000 is available from our councillor grants scheme.

Last year, councillors gave just over £154,000 to 105 different community organisations to projects throughout the district for building improvements, updating playground equipment, wildlife and environmental projects, sports equipment and special events and celebrations.

This year's grants scheme is open until 17 December. To find out how to apply, see our [website](#).

## Continuing work on our Local Plan

We're continuing to review the available sites for major housing development in South Oxfordshire as part of ongoing work to finalise our Local Plan.

We've recently agreed a timetable setting out how the Plan will move forward and are expecting councillors to make a decision on sites, following completion of assessment work, in December.

We'll then publish the plan and you'll have a chance to comment on its technical 'soundness' in early 2019. All of your comments will be passed on, along with all the thousands of other comments already received, to the independent inspector appointed to examine it.

At this time, we're expecting to submit the plan for examination in March. This means that we will meet a deadline agreed with the government and the Oxfordshire's other councils to bring extra money to support housing growth and infrastructure, such as roads, in the county.

Find out more about the review and see our [website](#) for further details about the Local Plan. See the [Oxfordshire Growth Board website](#) for information about the Housing and Growth Deal.

## On-street parking enforcement

We are exploring whether the council should take over on-street parking enforcement in the Vale's towns and villages.

Oxfordshire County Council (the highways authority) is responsible for formally applying for powers and then delegating civil parking enforcement responsibilities, and we're talking to them to find out whether this could be possible.

We are also carrying out work to look at the business case involved in taking over enforcement, including costs and projected income.

If it is possible for this to happen and the council agrees that it should go ahead, we would need to carry out a full review of the existing car parking orders and yellow lines.

## Live in or around Didcot? Help us improve community buildings

Please take a few minutes to help us by taking part in this quick and easy [survey](#) about our community buildings and the activities that happen in them in. We're working with Oxford University to gather your views on existing and future use.

Your feedback will help us to better understand the demand for activities and events now and in the future.

## Planning for Berinsfield's future

Work's been happening in Berinsfield to identify and gather evidence on what community services will be needed in the future as part an on-going Community Investment Scheme in the village.

Beth and Nicky from our community investment team attended Berinsfield's 60th celebrations to chat with residents to update them on the work already undertaken and their next steps. Land promoters Ptarmigan and their architects JTP also were also there and introduced themselves as potential partners to help deliver the scheme.

The team will continue to work with the community to progress this.

## Demolition of former council offices

Demolition began earlier this month at our former council offices in Crowmash Gifford, which were severely damaged in an arson attack in 2015.

Contractors are expecting it to take around three months to completely clear the site, which will be re-developed with new headquarters for our council and Vale of White Horse District Council.

## Is your electric blanket safe?

Get your electric blanket checked by Oxfordshire County Council Trading Standards and Fire and Rescue:

- 3 October - Thame Town Hall
- 17 October - Didcot Fire Station

Testing is free, all you need to do is book in advance by contacting the county council on 01865 898642 or by [email](#).



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