



August 2019

The first step to tackle climate emergency

We have set up a new Climate Emergency Advisory Committee to make recommendations to the council's cabinet and ensure we meet our environmental responsibilities.

The committee will be politically balanced and will meet in public. It will also work together with partner organisations and local businesses and community groups to help reach carbon reduction targets and minimise damage to our environment.

Councillors oppose Oxford/Cambridge Expressway

At a full council meeting in July the council agreed to oppose the building of the proposed Oxford to Cambridge Expressway and to support rail and other public transport connections instead.

Councillors felt the expressway would have significant adverse impacts on Oxfordshire, by bringing more traffic, creating air and noise pollution, destroying farmland and habitats and increasing CO2 emissions.

All of these are incompatible with the Climate Emergency declared in April. [You can read a letter that the Council sent to the Secretary of State for Transport here.](#)



South Oxfordshire councillors consider Local Plan options

Councillors in South Oxfordshire have agreed to take a little more time to consider options for the district's Local Plan following a vote at a Council meeting.

They want to find effective and suitable ways to ensure the plan takes into consideration the substantial feedback from local residents, who have raised concerns about the approach to providing land for housing in the district. Councillors also expressed their wish to use the Local Plan process to help address the climate emergency issue.

Councillors agreed to:

- (1) express determination to maintain its housing land supply and avoid speculative development;
- (2) express continued support for the Housing and Infrastructure Fund (HIF) funding and infrastructure projects that could be delivered by it;
- (3) ask officers to explore with Oxfordshire County Council, Homes England and the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government options for protecting the HIF funding whilst enabling the council to address concerns about the current emerging Local Plan 2034 including (but not limited to) climate change issues, Oxford City's unmet housing need, and to report back to Cabinet and Council;
- (4) recognise that the Climate Change Emergency is all too real and is recognised to be of key and statutory importance under the Climate Change Act 2008 and the associated objective of "zero carbon by 2050", express its wish to do all that it can to respond through the Local Plan process;
- (5) as soon as practicable, alongside satisfactory progress being made on resolving issues in the emerging Local Plan, start work on a subsequent Local Plan, strengthening climate change considerations.



Berinsfield to become 'Garden Village'

Berinsfield is set to become a 'Garden Village', which means it will be able access extra funding to help plan for new open spaces, high-quality housing, new employment opportunities, transport links and community facilities.

We have been working with the Berinsfield community for some time to discuss what improvements villagers would like to see. This new status will help provide well-designed new homes, whilst protecting and enhancing existing local green spaces.

Turn it Off



Did you know that just one minute of sitting with your car engine running and the vehicle not moving produces the equivalent of 150 balloons of harmful pollutants into the air? Please make sure you switch off when you stop for more than a minute.

Bank Holiday Bins

Monday 26 August is a Bank Holiday. So as well as an extra day off, this means that we will be emptying your bins a day later than usual.

For details please see our [Bank Holiday collections page](#).



Have your say on Polling Stations



We are carrying out a review of the polling district and places and would like to hear about your experience of using them in the recent elections. We'd like to know whether changes need to be made to the buildings or locations and about possible new venues. We would particularly like to hear from disabled residents and carers about their experience in accessing the polling stations.

Joint business support now available

We've launched a new service to support businesses in the district. Our Economic Development Team has merged the South's SO Business group and the Vale's Vale4Business group to create South and Vale Business Support.



The new name, logo, website and social media accounts have now launched to help the team to continue to provide free and impartial advice to businesses based in our districts.

[You can take a look at their new website here.](#)

OVO Energy Women's Tour

We were so glad that the rain held off for 12 June, when the OVO Energy Women's Tour pedalled through our district. South Oxfordshire towns and villages played perfect hosts to the riders with hundreds of school children going out to line the route and plenty of organised events to make the most of the day. Watch the video below for a flavour of the day.



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