

STADHAMPTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting *held on* Tuesday January 16th 2018 at the Village Hall, St John's.

Attendees	Cllr. Ann Stead (Chair) (AES), Cllr. Sarah Madry (Vice-Chair) (SM), Cllr. Doug Struthers (DS), and 17 members of the public.
Apologies	None

Ref	Item	Notes	Action
001/18	Welcome / Vacancies	<p>AES (Chair) welcomed the attended audience.</p> <p>a. Resignations It was reported that there had been two further resignations; Councillor Mike Stevenson-Smith, for personal reasons and Councillor Nick Clarry who had moved away from the area. They were both thanked for their input to the parish council. A casual vacancy notice will be advertised for the co-option of councillors for the two new vacancies on the 1st February on the two village notice boards, in the Village Voice and in the Stadhampton News - weekly e-mail.</p> <p>b. Parish Clerk Regrettably it was also noted, that a Parish Clerk had still not been appointed and that SM and AES were continuing to share most of these duties. At the suggestion of SODC, this position has been re-advertised on the Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils (OALC) website to try to attract someone with experience. The number of hours has been increased from 8 to 12.</p> <p>c. The Parish Council As there are now three vacancies (note - this number changed to two during the course of the meeting, see minute 004/18b below) and Councillors AES and SM will be stepping down at the Annual Parish Meeting in May, it is important that more people consider joining the council. Contact had been made with Democratic Services at SODC to alert them to the current fragility of the council. SODC reported that there is a dearth of Parish Clerks and that this is a countywide problem, they also recommended that every effort should be made to encourage more volunteers within the community to consider taking on the role of Parish Councillor.</p>	For info
002/18	Declarations of Interest	None	For info
003/18	Minutes of the last meeting, 07.11.17	The minutes of the SPC meeting held on Tuesday November 7 th 2017 were confirmed, approved and signed by the Chair.	For info
004/18	Matters Arising	<p>a) Allotments Following a request for the purchase of an Allotment (no.13) by Mr. & Mrs. Sarah Davis (new owners of Church Farm House) at the last meeting, SPC had given the matter serious consideration. It had concluded that there were no grounds in which SPC could consider the sale of any parish land at the present time particularly as the village is due to expand by over 25% with the building of up to 86 new houses on the Newington Road very soon and the demand for allotments is likely to increase. There was a discussion about having a five-year rental period for allotments as well as the annual option, however, it was felt that as many parishioners had had one-year contracts that rolled over for many years, there was no need to change the policy. It was also noted that another parishioner has recently shown interest in renting plot 13. They are aware that the new owners of Church Farm House have already expressed interest in this plot and are therefore currently on the waiting list.</p>	

		<p>The meeting was informed that there appeared to have been an anomaly with the registration of this allotment in Copson Lane which was in the process of being rectified. It was reported that SPC had arranged for allotment 13 to be cleared with the help of Community Payback Services (properly supervised) in the coming month.</p> <p>A meeting had also taken place with the Allotments Officer, SM reported on this and following discussion in the parish council meeting, it was agreed that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mrs. Davis should contact the Allotments Officer (Julian Humm) to arrange the details of the rental of allotment 13. • The hedges on all allotments in Copson Lane and the three allotments near the church on The Green should be cut on at least an annual basis. • The unrented allotments in Copson Lane should be cleared on a regular basis, to improve the appearance and to help encourage new tenants. • The gates and posts to the entrances of some of the allotments off Copson Lane should be replaced. (This job to be carried out in the Spring when the weather improves.) • Allotment vacancies should be advertised in the Village Voice. <p>Mrs. Davis was thanked for her interest and she confirmed that she now wished to rent allotment 13.</p> <p>b) Co-option of councillor Following the vacancy advertised in November 2017, it was reported that the Chair had received an expression of interest from one resident, Sarah Davis (SJD), Church Farm House, Stadhampton. As the potential for a conflict of interest (see above paragraph) no longer existed, SJD was invited to introduce herself to the audience and answered various questions from the floor. Proposed by DS. Seconded by SM. Unanimously approved. At this point SJD joined the committee to participate in the meeting.</p> <p>c) Post Office (PO) – The Network Operations Manager of the PO South-East Team, Carlos Pereira, has written to advise that they want to introduce a new mobile van outreach service early this year. It will operate for two hours per week and it will be run from the Post Office in Warborough. Following discussion at the meeting it was agreed the van should be parked on the small village green at the end of the church drive. AES to contact the PO to advise about proposed location. The top of School Lane was mentioned as another possibility.</p> <p>d) Pavement in front of Anvils – The council's solicitors have now ascertained that the land outside of the front of the property known as Anvils is registered to the owners of Anvils and has been for some time. The registration was undertaken by the previous owners, Mr. & Mrs Holt, and transferred to the current owners, Mr & Mrs Fairbairn, when they purchased the property. Therefore, the offer that was made by SPC to pay for the relocation of the railings on what was believed to be parish land has had to be withdrawn. However, SPC now proposes to contribute this figure of £2,550 towards the cost of any work needed, as making a safe footpath in front of Anvils remains a priority.</p> <p>County Councillor, Lorraine Lindsay-Gale (LL-G) had arranged for a Mark J Francis, Technical Officer (Traffic Schemes) from OCC's Highways Dept. to determine whether or not there was enough space to put in a pavement on the roadside in front of the railings. His view is that there is not enough room. It was agreed SPC should arrange a meeting with the owners of</p>	<p>Allotments Officer/ SPC</p> <p>AES</p> <p>SPC/LL-G</p>
--	--	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

		<p>Anvils and LL-G has agreed to be there for OCC Highways Dept.</p> <p>e) Hedge opposite D'Oyles Farm – There was some discussion about the hedge opposite D'Oyles pond, that used to be cut by a local farmer (the late Chick White) and now was in need of urgent attention. Its position near the roundabout on the busy A329 makes it very dangerous to cut manually and professional help is needed. The owners of Vine Cottage who are most affected when exiting their drive have registered the issue on the Fix My Street, OCC website three times with no response/action. Councillor Lindsay-Gale agreed to speak to the Highways Dept. to see if they could help.</p>	LL-G
005/18	Open Forum	No issues that were not covered elsewhere in the agenda	
006/18	Annual Budget Setting 2018/19 & Policy Review	<p>It was noted that the parish councillors held a budget meeting on 18/12/17 recommended that there be a NIL INCREASE in the parish precept and allotment rents for the coming year. The following were therefore proposed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Adoption of Budget for 2018/19</i> • <i>Recommendation for annual precept for 2018/19</i> • <i>Nil increase for allotment rents, 2018/19</i> • <i>Adoption of Internal Auditor for 2018/19</i> • <i>Adoption of External Auditor for 2018/19</i> <p>The following were also unchanged:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial Regulations • Risk Assessment • Fixed Asset Assessment Register • Code of Conduct <p>Proposed by SM seconded by DS. Approved unanimously</p> <p>The cheques for payment at the 16th January 2018 meeting were approved and authorized.</p>	For info
007/18	Oxfordshire County Council	<p>County Cllr Lorraine Lindsay-Gale gave a brief summary of news from OCC highlighting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The County Council's decision to request a public enquiry into the consultation process, or lack on one, for the proposed Oxford to Cambridge Expressway. • The Council Tax is being increased by 6% this year. • The Council had met that day to plan for any fallout from the company Carillion going into administration. <p>Full report is attached at appendix 1.</p>	For info
008/18	South Oxfordshire District Council	<p>Cllr. Caroline Newton gave a brief summary (Full report at appendix 2) from SODC highlighting some recent news about the Local Plan: Martin Baker the company which is located on the land at Chalgrove earmarked for development has a lease which runs until 2063. They have informed SODC that they will not be amending it to including housing as they want to expand their own operations. It is not yet known how this decision will affect the Local Plan. The HCA have been informed. Cllr. Newton stated it has been mentioned the land at Grenoble Lane could replace Chalgrove in the Local Plan.</p> <p>Village Deep Clean – waste support services are planning to “deep clean” public areas e.g. the bus shelters in the village in January.</p>	For info
009/18	Planning Matters	<p><u>Applications Granted:</u></p> <p>P17/S3437/FUL - Rofford Piggery Stadhampton Conversion of existing agricultural barn to single dwelling house with associated parking and amenity space.</p> <p>P17/S3246/LB - Chiselhampton Bridge B480 Chiselhampton The proposal to create a fish pass to allow fish to migrate over the existing weir on the Chalgrove Brook. The Fish pass will consist of baffles bolted or screwed in place to create 3 small weirs with</p>	For info

notches for fish to go through. The weirs will be in the "new" section of the bridge.

P17/S3883/HH - 1 Chapmans Close Chiselhampton
The application is for: Side extension 2 and 1 storey. Extension to lounge. First floor, existing bathroom new ensuite, provides new bathroom and new dressing room to bedroom 3.

P17/S3634/HH & P17/S3635/LB - Manor Farm, The Green, Stadhampton. OX44 7UL
Internal and external alterations to ground, first and second floors and east elevation.

Appeal reference number: APP/Q3115/W/17/3171766
Application reference: P16/S3988/O
Newington Nurseries A329 Newington Road near Stadhampton OX10 7AW
Outline permission for the demolition of existing structures and erection of up to 21 dwellings and associated infrastructure including means of access, with all other matters reserved.

Planning Applications in progress:

P17/S3713/FUL – The Crown.
Development of a surplus secondary carpark area to the side of The Crown pub to provide a single detached four-bedroom dwelling. Deadline – **14th January 2018.**

P17/S4273/LDP – The Willows, School Lane
New box dormer to rear elevation & single storey extension to side. **Target decision date - 29th January 2018**

P17/S4263/FUL – The Potting Shed, Ascott
Change of use of agricultural potting shed to holiday letting and associated outside amenity space. End Consultation Period - 1st January 2018, **Target Decision Date - 30th January 2018**

P17/S4240/HH - The Gables, Cat Lane
Lifting of existing roof to provide additional living space, insertion of dormers to roof. two storey side extension. End Consultation Period - 5th January 2018, **Target Decision Date - 6th February 2018**

P17/S4342/FUL – Oxfordshire Animal Sanctuary
Demolition of existing kennel and ancillary buildings and construction of two new kennel buildings, Training Hall and Reception building together with exercise runs and fencing. End Consultation Period - 11th January 2018, **Target Decision Date - 12th February 2018**

P17/S4031/DIS – Barn No. 2 Camoys Court Farm, Chiselhampton
Discharge of conditions 3- materials on application
P16/S2118/FUL Operational development and demolition associated with the prior notification permission granted (Class P) P15/S3706/PSH. Deadline – **22nd December 2017**

P17/S1726/RM - Land to the east of Newington Road, Stadhampton
The council has received a planning application amendment (no. 2), on application P17/S1726/RM, for development work at the following location (65 houses). End Consultation Period - 14th January 2018, **Target Decision Date - 10th January 2018**

Planning Appeals in progress:

Appeal reference: APP/Q3115/W/17/3176196
Appeal start date: 9th October 2017
Watlings Paddock Watlington Road Stadhampton OX44 7UQ
Proposed development: The use of land for the stationing of caravans for residential purposes, together with the formation of hard-standing, and utility/dayrooms and keeping of horses (as amended by plans received 3 November 2016 altering access). This appeal will take the form of a hearing on **6 February 2018**. The hearing will be held at Little Milton Village Hall (Pine Lodge), Thame Road, Little Milton, OX44 7PZ at 10.00 am.

Appeal Ref No: APP/Q3115/W/17/3185510.

		<p>P17/S1993/FUL – STD Copper Beeches Watlington Road Stadhampton OX44 7UQ Appeal lodged on 9 January 2018 Demolition of outbuildings and other structures and erection of a new family dwelling and associated infrastructure (as amended by new block plan received 27th June 2017). Deadline 12.02.218</p> <p>Easements: The Easement for Manor Barn’s new entrance – awaiting formal agreement.</p>	
010/18	Local Plan 2033/Local Developments	See SODC report above	
011/18	Oxford to Cambridge Expressway	See OCC report above	
011/18	Play Area Village Green	DS reported that it had been arranged that the Community Payback Service had agreed to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear the allotments • Refresh the bark on the play area • Clear the D'Oyles pond when the weather is better. 	
012/18	Footpaths and Transport	See matters arising above.	
013/18	Community Buildings	<p>a) Village Hall @ St. Johns The new “A Boards” have been purchased and are now available for use. The village hall committee has been advised that the underfloor heating system needs to be flushed out; this has been arranged for 5th February. The new Outside Lights have been installed and working.</p> <p>b) Pavilion Sue White is away on holiday – nothing to report.</p>	For info
014/18	Consultations	<p>a) London Oxford Airport Consultation – SJD agreed to review this to see if there was any impact on the village.</p> <p>c) RAF Brize Norton Consultation for Airspace Change Proposal - SJD agreed to review this to see if there was any impact on the village.</p> <p>d) Little Milton Neighbourhood Development Plan - is open for consultation and it runs from 13 Jan to 23 Feb 2018. See Little Milton website for more information.</p>	<p>SJD</p> <p>SJD</p> <p>For info</p>
015/18	Financial Update	Balance £21,152.01 in bank 30 th November 2017 – last statement	For info
016/18	Correspondence	AES reported that a number of requests had been received from Charities asking for money as their grants had been axed by the County Council. It was agreed that the SPC policy should be to support village organisations only.	For info
017/18	Any other business	Regrettably, the Toddler Group is closing as of the 6 th February due to low numbers. A member of the public reported how much they had valued it.	For info
018/18	Next Meetings	<p>The next meeting will be on Tuesday March 6th, 2018</p> <p>Ordinary Meeting and Annual Parish Meeting will be on Tuesday May 1st, 2018</p> <p>All meetings on Tuesdays 8.00pm at the Village Hall, St John’s.</p>	For info
019/18	Meeting Closed	9.32pm	

REPORT TO PARISH COUNCILS DECEMBER 2017

FROM CLLR LORRAINE LINDSAY-GALE

GROWTH BOARD ANNOUNCEMENT ON HOUSING AND GROWTH AGREEMENT

The Oxfordshire Growth Board comprises the six councils: Cherwell District Council, Oxford City Council, Oxfordshire County Council, South Oxfordshire District Council, Vale of White Horse District Council and West Oxfordshire District Council, together with the county's Local Enterprise Partnership (OxLEP). On Budget Day it was announced the Board had reached an outline Housing and Growth Agreement with Government. This will see an additional £215 million of investment over the next five years to build infrastructure, support the delivery of new homes and boost economic productivity across the county. This breaks down as: £30m pa for five years for infrastructure; £60m for affordable homes across the county; and £5m to develop a Joint Statutory Spatial Plan. The Board wants the five-year deal to be the first stage in a sustained partnership with Government to secure the ongoing investment needed to deliver properly planned growth and economic development over the coming years. This will support councils to achieve the ambition of 100,000 new homes across the county over the period 2011-2031, as identified through the 2014 countywide Strategic Housing Market Assessment and Local Plans. The bids to the Government's Housing Infrastructure Fund (HIF), to support the development of the Didcot Garden Town, and West Oxfordshire and North of Oxford Garden Villages, are still being considered by Government with decisions expected in the New Year.

OXFORD-CAMBRIDGE EXPRESSWAY

The National Infrastructure Commission (NIC) has published its report to Government on the Oxford-Cambridge arc. It advised on the need for long-term investment funding for new transport infrastructure to harness the region's economic potential, to benefit local people and boost UK plc in a post-Brexit landscape. For the residents of South Oxfordshire and particularly this Division facing the potential of an expressway cutting a ten mile swathe through our countryside, there were encouraging signs in that the Commission recommended that a more logical route would be to follow existing rail and road routes (to the West and North of Oxford). But the Commission declined to be specific which is frustrating. So the work of the Expressway Action Group continues lobbying locally and at Westminster to encourage Highways England to take this advice. I will continue to do all I can to support them.

QUARRY APPLICATION AT CLIFTON HAMPDEN AND CULHAM REJECTED

I am delighted that after years of diligent and effective campaigning by local residents against the application for a huge quarry at Fullamoor Farm between Clifton Hampden and Culham it was rejected by the County Council's Planning and Regulation Committee on November 27th. The main reason was the unacceptable impact upon traffic and congestion in the area, particularly at peak times. The quarry would have generated 100+ lorry movements per day. A last minute attempt was made by Hills to save their application by agreeing to prohibit lorry movements at peak times. This failed to satisfy the Councillors as did the arguments that the quarry would not impair the construction of the North-South road from Didcot, the new river crossing and the Clifton Hampden bypass all of which now look as if they could be in place by 2025, which is really good news.

OXFORDSHIRE ADULT SOCIAL CARE SETTINGS OUTSTRIP NATIONAL AVERAGES

Older people and adults with disabilities are getting a better level of service from care settings in Oxfordshire than elsewhere in England, official figures have again proved. The number of care homes and home care providers in the county rated as "Outstanding" or "Good" by the Care Quality Commission was yet again comfortably higher than the national average when the latest figures were published on November 1. A total of 89 per cent of the 209 Oxfordshire providers are rated "outstanding" or "good" compared to a national average of 81 per cent. The CQC regularly publishes updated national figures and Oxfordshire has for some time outstripped the national averages.

OCC ANTI-SCAM CAMPAIGN

OCC's Trading Standards is asking people to "Take a Stand Against Scams". This month, National Trading Standards started offering free call blockers to any person living with dementia that is currently receiving scam or nuisance calls. It's the latest initiative in the Friends Against Scams campaign launched last year to protect and prevent people from becoming victims of scams and empowering communities. Locally, OCC introduced free training and local awareness sessions,

available online and face-to-face to provide people with the confidence and skills they need to identify and prevent scams. Around 100 people have now received training and some have become "SCAMChampions", which means they are now busy spreading the message and hosting their own sessions to recruit more "Friends". The campaign aims to inspire action, highlight the scale of the issue by encouraging communities and the nation to talk about scams, change the perception of why people become scam victims and prevent people from becoming or continuing to be a scam victim. More information can be found here: <http://news.oxfordshire.gov.uk/friends-against-scams-in-oxfordshire-would-you-like-to-become-a-scamchampion/>. Applications for a free call blocker for people living with dementia can be made via www.friendsagainstscams.org.uk/callblocker

SMOKE ALARM TESTING

OCC's Fire and Rescue Service are urging residents to test smoke alarms regularly. The Local Government Association warned that almost 40% of battery-powered smoke alarms failed to activate in residential fires in England in the past year. Figures show that more than a fifth of households never test their smoke alarm and one in 10 homes do not even have a smoke alarm. More information can be found here: <http://www.365alive.co.uk/cms/content/smoke-alarms-0>

Appendix 2

SODC A Conservative District Councillor's View (Or What The Council Is Doing)

January 2018.

Firstly, I hope that you have all had a great Christmas and I wish you a Happy New Year!

Planning Matters.

Figures for appeals

The Henley Standard recently ran an article suggesting we were close to being put into 'special measures' due to the number of our planning decisions that are successfully appealed. The article used figures supplied by the government, which we disputed.

The government has now clarified the figures they will be using and we remain confident we will not be at risk of being put in 'special measures'.

Judicial Reviews:

Thames Farm, Shiplake

Along with Shiplake Parish Council, we are seeking a judicial review in respect of an inspector's decision to allow an appeal for 95 houses to be built on the edge of the village.

Although both councils have been refused permission to proceed with the applications, we have the right to renew our application and to present our case at a hearing and this is what we intend to do.

Land off New Road, East Hagbourne

A developer has been seeking a judicial review in respect of a planning inspector's decision to dismiss their appeal to build 170 houses on the site between Didcot and East Hagbourne.

Following a hearing at the High Court to seek a review of the inspector's decision, it has been refused. Grainger PLC, the developer, now has the right to lodge an appeal to be considered at the Court of Appeal.

Enforcement action:

The White Lion, Crays Pond

Last year we successfully prosecuted Mr Sandhu, owner of the property, for failing to comply with an enforcement notice. Since then we have continued to investigate the case to support further legal action as Mr Sandhu still resides in the premises, which is a breach of the notice.

The magistrates ordered Mr Sandhu to pay £2,500 fine with £170 victim surcharge and £2,000 towards prosecution costs.

The Lamb Inn, Satwell

An appeal by the owner of The Lamb Inn, Satwell against our enforcement notice was heard at Henley Town Hall on 17 October. The inspector's decision supported our enforcement.

Local Plan 2033

We are now processing comments from the recent publicity period, to submit alongside the Local Plan to the Planning Inspectorate next month. We will also submit a report detailing all the consultation we carried out during the plan-making process.

We expect that the examination will require public hearing sessions, which are likely to take place in the spring or summer next year.

Neighbourhood Plans

Kidmore End - the six week publicity period for the plan area finished on 4 December. You can read more about the plan [here](#).

Dorchester on Thames - the examination has now concluded with a recommendation that it proceeds to referendum subject to some modifications.

Benson and Watlington - Both parish councils have submitted their plans and these will be publicised for a minimum of six week starting on 11 December.

Brightwell cum Sotwell, Chinnor and Long Wittenham - all three plans were approved at the council meeting on 12 October and are now the starting point for making planning decisions in their respective areas.

Government consultation: Our response

We have submitted our response to the latest government consultation 'Planning for the right homes in the right places: consultation proposals' regarding changes on

- how housing needs are calculated
- how neighbourhood planning groups can have a better idea on housing needs
- how local authorities can work across boundaries
- making assessments easier and more transparent
- increasing planning fees where authorities are delivering new homes

We are generally supportive of the changes and you can read our response at

<https://southandvale.us8.list-manage.com/track/click?u=33bec1cf8b5523ad47c7183a0&id=d6d7c8d1e3&e=eda6ce4f57>

Details of the government's consultation can be found on their website.

How much of your area is built on?

The BBC has created an interesting map that shows how much land in every council area of the country has been built on, and how it compares with the national averages.

You can access the map on the BBC website at;

<https://southandvale.us8.list-manage.com/track/click?u=33bec1cf8b5523ad47c7183a0&id=7da03130c1&e=eda6ce4f57>

New scheme offers a 'Safe Place' for vulnerable residents in Wallingford and Didcot

A new support network is now available for vulnerable people visiting Wallingford and Didcot. Safe Places aims to provide a safe location for someone to go if they are feeling lost, worried or threatened.

Those premises taking part in the scheme are identified with a distinctive Safe Places logo in the window, for example local shops, community centres or cafes – this will be issued with the approval of local Thames Valley Police officers. A list of the locations signed up to the Safe Places scheme can be found at southoxon.gov.uk/safeplaces.

Under the Safe Places scheme people can request a special card to carry with them when out and about. This provides details of someone to contact if they are in need of help. Whether you have a Safe Places card or not, you can enter a participating location and ask for assistance. Staff have been trained and will be able to help keep you safe.

If you or someone you know wishes to request a Safe Places contact card, or you are a business interested in becoming a Safe Place, please email South Oxfordshire District Council's Community Safety Team via communitysafety@southandvale.gov.uk or call 01235 422593.

The Safe Places scheme in Wallingford and Didcot is supported by the South and Vale Community Safety Partnership, Oxfordshire Family Support Network and Age UK Oxfordshire.

Cllr Elizabeth Gillespie, Cabinet Member for Community Safety at South Oxfordshire District Council, said: "The Safe Places scheme is particularly important for those with dementia, learning disabilities, mental health needs, and overseas visitors. Vulnerable people who may experience difficulties in public spaces now have that extra reassurance that support will be available should they need it in Wallingford and Didcot.

"If you, or a person you know, are someone who can feel vulnerable while out and about, please contact our community safety team for a Safe Place card. We'd also love to hear from any businesses in Wallingford or Didcot interested in becoming a Safe Place."

Protect yourself online

The police estimate that one in ten adults in the UK fall victim to crime on the internet, that's why we are backing Thames Valley Police's campaign to encourage all residents to take action to protect themselves online - there is a lot of information that you could use to help keep yourself safe too!

Cyber crime is always evolving and can take many forms, but essentially it is where a computer is targeted or used to commit a crime. Identity fraud, cyberstalking, grooming, confidence scams, hacking are all examples of cyber or cyber-related crimes.

There are simple ways to reduce the risk of becoming a victim. For some useful information and advice visit the Thames Valley Police online safety page.

If you fall victim to a cyber crime or experience an attempted scam, you can report it to Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040 or visit www.actionfraud.police.uk.

Work experience 2017

Since January 2017 we have provided work experience for 39 students and young people to learn about how we work and gain some new valuable skills. Every single one of them said in their feedback that they enjoyed their placement and that they would recommend it.

The students and young people worked with teams right across the council as well as at Cornerstone and The Beacon.

We currently have opportunities for work experience for year ten students during term time for 2018 and, during February half term, other art workshop projects at Cornerstone, so if you know of any schools or young people who might benefit, or if you want more information on our work experience programme, contact Karen Tolley.

Rail vision and consultation

Strategic vision for our railways

The government is setting out a vision for the country's railways, which is likely to have an effect on our districts - you can read more about it here.

<https://southandvale.us8.list-manage.com/track/click?u=33bec1cf8b5523ad47c7183a0&id=bd2cbe2854&e=eda6ce4f57>

Great Western Railway consultation

The Department for Transport is also setting out its proposals for improving train services on the Great Western rail network after the current franchise with GWR ends. They are running a consultation to help identify passengers most pressing priorities for improvements from 2020 onwards.

You can download the proposals here.

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/n6ho0yozhaqyv8i/great-western-rail-franchise-consultation-web.pdf?dl=0>

You can respond to the consultation here.

<https://southandvale.us8.list-manage.com/track/click?u=33bec1cf8b5523ad47c7183a0&id=6b0a5a983b&e=eda6ce4f57>

You will need to submit your comments by 21 February next year.

Hate crime - new guidance – A Reminder

Please make yourself familiar with new guidance on dealing with hate crime. We all have a duty to take hate crime seriously and advise people of the reporting options available to them. Hate crimes are any crimes that are targeted at a person because of hostility towards a person's perceived:

disability

race or ethnicity

religion or belief

sexual orientation

transgender identity

You can find out more about how to protect yourself and others on the Thames Valley Police website or contact the community safety team for more information on our guidance (communitysafety@southandvale.gov.uk)

<https://southandvale.us8.list-manage.com/track/click?u=33bec1cf8b5523ad47c7183a0&id=155f92829e&e=eda6ce4f57>

Changing Places toilet coming to the Orchard Centre, Didcot

We have funded a new Changing Places toilet, which is being installed in the new Orchard Centre expansion.

The toilets are specially designed for people with learning and physical disabilities and they'll be ready in the new shopping centre for the grand opening in spring next year. The room will include a height adjustable changing bench, a hoist and plenty of space for up to two carers.