

Title	District Councillors' Report
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Parish	Ewelme Parish Council
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Local Nature Recovery Strategy

Every responsible authority (in our case the County Council) is required by law now to produce a Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS). SODC is a member of the Local Nature Partnership, to which this responsibility has been delegated, and there have been a number of workshops involving large numbers of stakeholders over the past 9 months or so. The final draft LNRS is now available for public consultation for 6 weeks from 15th October - see [People in Oxfordshire urged to have their say on local nature recovery - South Oxfordshire District Council](#)

If you just want to look at the map and investigate our area go to <https://oxfordshire.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=8d1906c05f1941f585491fd63ee06e92> but it does take a while to load. You can put comments on the proposals.

Police & Crime Commissioner Local Crime Survey

[Public consultation - Thames Valley PCC](#)

Matthew Barber is asking Thames Valley residents to share their experiences and have a say in how policing services are shaped in the Thames Valley (Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire). The information provided (anonymously) will help inform the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) on any gaps or improvements that could be made in the future. So if you feel particularly strongly about the need to prioritise certain areas of concern (e.g. domestic violence, antisocial behaviour or road safety), this is your chance to have your say. There doesn't appear to be a closing date, but it's an easy survey to complete.

Planning – Neighbourhood Plans

Council recently “made” four new Neighbourhood Plans in the District, making South Oxfordshire one of the top (if not the top) district for NPs in England. Our response to the NPPF consultation has included strong support for NPs, which allow local people to determine where housing should be built in their communities. There is no indication that NPs will be downgraded in the new structure. So it is important that the revision which will fairly soon be necessary for the Ewelme Neighbourhood Plan to provide additional protection against unwanted and unallocated sites should not be forgotten.

Waste Projects

Our first waste electric vehicle (EV) has been delivered. Drivers are undergoing training, and final checks and paperwork being completed before it begins collecting food waste.

The trial full sized electric Refuse Collection Vehicle funded by Innovate has also arrived. It is also undergoing final checks before beginning the trial period.

The new waste strategy, which was formally approved by Cabinet last month (see below), puts a strong emphasis on encouraging and enabling people to reduce, reuse, repair, refill and rehome items - instead of throwing them away. Everyone

can read the strategy and find out more about rethinking waste and our plans to keep our streets clean and tidy at: www.southandvale.gov.uk/rethinkingwaste.

SODC Cabinet and Council News

Cabinet met twice in recent weeks to consider two of our most significant service contracts, one for car park management and the other for waste collection and street cleansing. While some details of these contracts are commercially confidential, the papers detailing the issues to be considered and the options available (both contracts are held jointly with Vale of White Horse council) can be found on the SODC calendar of meetings page - [Monthly meetings calendar - October 2024](#)

Remember that all Cabinet meetings can be viewed live or after the event through YouTube – the link is on the meeting page.

The Cabinet also recently received the annual performance report for 2023/24 which summarises progress made against the Corporate Plan objectives. We are pleased to report that none of the projects listed was given a “red” rating, with nearly all actions either complete or progressing according to plan. The annual and quarterly reports can all be found online at www.southoxon.gov.uk/corporateplan. Work to create the next four-year strategic plan is well under way (it was postponed slightly due to the need to focus on the JLP) and will be ready for adoption early in 2025, in line with the next budget.

Council met on 24th October to “make” the four new Neighbourhood Plans mentioned above, to review the Treasury Management outturn for the last financial year and to debate motions relating to Thames Water, Local Government financing, Net Zero targets and protecting Pubs as assets of community value. All four motions were passed, mostly unanimously. All details can be found on the Calendar page listed above.

Community Grants

The deadline for our Councillor Community Grant Scheme is fast approaching. Community organisations, including town and parish councils have until **Friday 29 November** to apply for funding of up to £5,000 from each South Oxfordshire District Councillor. If there are any projects within the parish that you think would benefit from funding, do let us know!

You can find the details on our website southoxon.gov.uk/grants and organisations can also contact our Community Enablement team if they have any questions grants@southandvale.gov.uk.

Over £920,000 boost for local infrastructure in South Oxfordshire

Over the last six months, the council has transferred over £920,000 thousand to invest in vital infrastructure delivered by the council, town and parish councils and other community organisations. Investments have ranged from public art projects to new gym equipment and sports hall lighting.

As the local planning authority, South Oxfordshire collects financial contributions in the form of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and Section 106 (S106) – this is the funding from housing developers to support the growth of the district when new developments are created. S106 funding transferred between 1 April to 30 September 2024 has totalled £361,585. During this six-month period the council has

also transferred £562,813 of CIL to town and parish councils that have experienced CIL liable development in their area.

Follow this link for a breakdown of [S106 funds have been approved and paid out and CIL monies transferred for South](#) (the document should download automatically).

Find out more about [CIL here](#) and [S106 here](#).

Christmas highlights at Cornerstone

This December, Cornerstone Arts Centre is offering festive shows for everyone:

- [Hundred Watt Club](#) (5 December): A cheeky, vintage-inspired burlesque and cabaret show with plenty of laughs, sparkle, and circus acts. Perfect for a memorable night out with friends — adults only!
- [Oxford Gospel Choir](#) (7 December): Kick off Christmas with soul-stirring gospel and holiday tunes, supporting Camerados. Get ready to clap, sing, and celebrate.
- [An Elf Advent-ure](#) (8 December): A sensory theatre experience for ages 0–3, as little ones join ‘Elf’ in a magical countdown to Christmas, full of festive sights and sounds.
- [Cinderella Pantomime](#) (18–31 December): KD Theatre Productions presents Cinderella, a magical pantomime filled with comedy, enchanting characters, and lavish costumes. Don’t miss the discounted Preview Night on 18 December!

Join them for a December full of holiday cheer with [more details on their website](#).