

Title:	District Cllrs Report	
Chinnor District:	Aston Rowant, Chinnor, Sydenham and Towersey	
District Cllrs:	Ed Sadler ed.sadler@southoxon.gov.uk +44 7482 602398	Ali Gordon-Creed Ali.Gordon-Creed@southoxon.gov.uk +44 7770 935579
Date:	09 MAY 2024	

Our joint District level activities at a glance:

03 APR 2024 Planning Committee
 09 APR 2024 Group meeting
 11 APR 2024 Friends of the Earth
 16 APR 2024 Planning Committee
 21 APR 2024 Group meeting
 24 APR 2024 Climate Café
 05 MAY 2024 Annual appointments review
 14 MAY 2024 Planning Committee
 15 MAY 2024 Annual appointments review
 16 MAY 2024 Council Meeting AGM
 20 MAY 2024 Joint Scrutiny Committee
 21 MAY 2024 Planning Committee
 22 MAY 2024 Planning Committee annual training
 23 MAY 2024 Licensing Committee
 23 MAY 2024 Site visit Food waste
 04 JUN 2024 Joint Scrutiny
 05 JUN 2024 Planning Committee

Spring Clean Update:

Following some excellent collaboration between village spring cleans and with the ongoing problem of littering and fly tipping along vast stretches of the B4009, one of our Councillor colleagues met with the SODC's waste team leader and Biffa's streets supervisor to consider surveillance and maintenance options. SODC will also introduce their mobile anti-littering signs to the area over the coming weeks, alongside random enforcement patrols, and will publicise this via the council's social media. These actions won't completely resolve the situation, but the ongoing level of litter - much of it unhygienic and harmful to wildlife - is appalling along the B4009 and I hope any improvement will be a positive thing. It is pleasing that SODC and Biffa are taking it seriously.

Help set the 'The Way Ahead' for South Oxfordshire:

Sent details to Parish Cllrs by email 19th April 2024:

Previously known as the Corporate Plan 'The Way Ahead' (not the local Plan) will set the direction for SODC for the next 4 years. Delivering new council owned homes and increasing the amount of land protected for nature are just two of the ideas being discussed in the consultation:

- South Oxfordshire District Council is setting a new council plan for the next four years and is encouraging everyone within the district to join in the conversation 'The Way Ahead'.
- The conversation runs until **Tuesday 14 May**.

- It's a four-week discussion around creating a fairer, more inclusive South Oxfordshire where all residents can thrive both now and in the future. To find out more and take part, visit: www.southoxon.gov.uk/TheWayAhead

Police and Crime Commissioner Election:

Conservative Matthew Barber has been elected as the police and crime commissioner for Thames Valley, meaning he keeps the role he has held since 2021.

- **Matthew Barber, Conservatives - 144,092**
- Tim Starkey, Labour - 141,749
- Tim Bearder, Lib Dem - 84,341
- Ben Holden Crowther, More Police Officers for Thames Valley - 46,853
- Russell Fowler, Independent - 31,460

New empty homes policy:

The new SODC Empty Homes Policy aims to bring more empty homes back into use. The SODC housing team, working proactively with owners of empty homes, will use the support on offer through the policy to help homes become reoccupied. The focus will be on making homes available for those that are in most need of housing. SODC will be promoting the policy and the help available to empty homeowners and residents shortly. SODC will also be offering residents advice on reporting any empty homes causing issues in their neighbourhoods.

New housing enforcement policy:

Our new Housing Enforcement Policy supports residents as well as social housing landlords, private landlords, letting agents and tenants by setting out in a clear and transparent document the housing standards we expect in the districts. The policy also explains the enforcement approach we take against non-co-operative landlords. We have a strong track record of engaging positively with landlords and the majority provide a good quality service to their tenants. However, where necessary, we must take robust action against rogue landlords who are unwilling to meet the required housing standards set out in the policy. This policy will help ensure a fair and consistent approach to housing enforcement in the districts. The policy supports our corporate objectives to help us provide homes and infrastructure that meet local needs. It also builds upon the work already being undertaken by our Private Sector Housing team to promote and maintain good housing standards in South Oxfordshire and the Vale of White Horse.

You can view the policy on our websites [Housing enforcement policy - South Oxfordshire District Council \(southoxon.gov.uk\)](http://www.southoxon.gov.uk/Housing-enforcement-policy-South-Oxfordshire-District-Council)

New online training course for small businesses launched:

The Department for Business and Trade has launched the [Government launches new free business management course for small businesses - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/courses/business-management-course-for-small-businesses) a free online course with practical tips and resources for small business leaders. Essentials is the latest addition to supporting UK small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). [Support from the UK Government - Help to Grow](https://www.gov.uk/government/courses/support-from-the-uk-government-help-to-grow). The course is suited for leaders of newer or smaller SMEs, or those who are looking to explore the principles of business growth and management.

Local Plan update:

Well over a thousand individuals and organisations have shared their thoughts on an emerging district plan for South Oxfordshire. Their comments will contribute to the development of a new Joint Local Plan, which will guide planning decisions in the districts until 2041. South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse district councils are working together to deliver the Joint Local Plan, which will guide what kinds of new housing and jobs are needed and where they should go. Almost 600 people attended 10 drop-in events held across the districts in a mix of traditional community venues and social café-bar lounges, where people could find out more about the plans and draft policies, get their questions answered.

Changes to our garden waste scheme:

We have been working hard on introducing changes to the way our garden waste subscription works. Last month we began the transition period towards introducing a new permit scheme next year in April 2025. When a customer's invoice is due, they will receive information on the changeover, what to expect, and what they need to do in early 2025 if they wish to continue to receive the service from April 2025 onwards.

If you have any queries – or if residents ask you about the changes, you can find out more on our Garden Waste change FAQ pages: [Garden waste scheme changes - South Oxfordshire District Council \(southoxon.gov.uk\)](https://southoxon.gov.uk/garden-waste-scheme-changes)

Climate and sustainability news: Meadow areas to be allowed to grow:

As we support No Mow May and after the success of our 'Let It Bee' trial last year, our Parks team is pushing ahead once again with a biodiversity-friendly land management programme, where we allow grass to grow on sections of land we own or manage. This year we have sites across the districts in Abingdon, Benson, Berinsfield, Botley, Didcot, Faringdon, Marcham, Shepherds Green, Wallingford, Wantage, and Woodcote. For more information please see our grass cutting pages on our websites. [Grass cutting - South Oxfordshire District Council \(southoxon.gov.uk\)](https://southoxon.gov.uk/grass-cutting).

Local Nature Recovery Strategy:

Oxfordshire County Council has organised a free webinar on 8 May to present a summary of responses from local people on the Local Nature Recovery Strategy. This follows workshops and a survey in February and March. At the webinar you will hear the plans to create biodiversity priorities and to then map the areas for action across the county. Anyone can join so please spread the word. Sign up here: [Oxfordshire's Local Nature Recovery Strategy - Progress Summary Tickets, Wed 8 May 2024 at 18:00 | Eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/oxfordshire-s-local-nature-recovery-strategy-progress-summary-tickets-755555555555) - Progress Summary Tickets, Wed 8 May 2024 at 18:00 | Eventbrite. To find out more about the local nature recovery strategy, visit the [Oxfordshire's Local Nature Recovery Strategy \(LNRS\) | Oxfordshire County Council](https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/local-nature-recovery-strategy)

No Mow May:

SODC is again supporting 'no mow may' and promoting a biodiversity led approach to land management. This year, SODC has sites across the district where it is allowing grass to grow.

Grants for sports clubs:

SODC have a budget of £50,000 for grants of up to £1,000 for sports clubs, parish councils, not-for-profits and schools to fund sporting projects that benefit more than 1 person (e.g. buying leisure equipment, training courses, promoting active travel, setting up a community garden).