

## District Councillor Report to Parish Councils

Hendreds Ward

September 2019

### Vale of White Horse District Council

**Grants for voluntary sector organisations** – The **Festival and Events** Grant is now open and applications are being accepted until noon on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2020. The scheme funds community events or festivals taking place within the next 12 months. Voluntary groups can request between £250 – £1000, and up to a maximum of 75% of the event's costs. There is £10,000 available to support music, sporting, cultural, children's and grassroots community events that build thriving communities and seek to improve the lives of our residents. The **New Homes Bonus Community** Grant will be open for applications between 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2019 – noon 28<sup>th</sup> October 2019. Constituted not-for-profit organisations can apply for a minimum of £1000 and up to 50% (budget permitting) of the cost of capital and one-off revenue projects benefitting the community (other eligibility criteria apply).

Further grant information and the application form can be found at:

<http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/services-and-advice/community-advice-and-support/grants> email [grants@southandvale.gov.uk](mailto:grants@southandvale.gov.uk) or call 01235 422405

**PopUp Business School** - This autumn, the South and Vale Business Support Team will bring the free five-day PopUp Business School to Shrivenham for people looking to start and/or expand their own business without using any money. Each day from **7-11 October**, the PopUp Business School will be held at the Viscountess Barrington's Memorial Hall, from **10am to 3pm**, to give practical advice on how to get a business idea off the ground through a series of hands-on workshops. The informal workshops help give people the vital skills they need to help them make money doing what they love, and everyone is welcome to attend all week or just turn up to the workshops they feel are most useful. This is the fourth time that South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils have hosted the event to encourage residents to start their own business with previous events in Didcot, and earlier this year, in Faringdon and Berinsfield.

I have 2 Gold Tickets that I can gift, entitling the recipient to a free space and guaranteed 1:1 coaching session at this event.

**Cycling Champions appointed** - South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils have each appointed their first ever Cycling Champions to help and encourage people to travel by bike.

Cllr Sam Casey-Rerhaye at South Oxfordshire and Cllr Eric de la Harpe at Vale of White Horse will work with local organisations, communities, other councils and transport bodies to make sure there is wider access to cycling paths across the districts.

The work of the Cycling Champion will help to deliver the legacy of The OVO Energy Women's Tour, which saw thousands line the streets and get enthusiastic about cycling when it passed through both districts on 12 June. The race provided a significant platform to showcase Southern Oxfordshire as a cycling and tourism destination and is set to return to Oxfordshire again in 2020 and 2021.

Eric's email address is: [eric.delaharpe@whitehorsedc.gov.uk](mailto:eric.delaharpe@whitehorsedc.gov.uk)

**Residents reminded to respond to their Household Enquiry Form** - Residents who haven't responded to their yellow 'Household Enquiry' form are being urged to do so as soon as possible.

Last month, South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils sent a yellow letter to all homes across the two districts requiring people to confirm everyone over the age of 16 who currently lives in their property.

So far more than 80,000 properties have responded but the councils are now sending out yellow reminder letters to roughly 43,000 homes they are yet to hear from.

If a household hasn't confirmed their details by 5 October they will receive a visit from a council officer to confirm the details.

**Give driving a miss for a day** - Sunday 22 September is World Car Free day and South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse district councils are offering drivers in the districts the chance to win a prize – if they give their vehicle a rest on that day. World Car Free Day has been running for 25 years. Cities, towns and villages take the opportunity to raise awareness of air pollution and air quality by encouraging people to leave their cars at home for the day and choose alternative forms of transport.

Since Clean Air Day on 20 June both South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils have been urging drivers to turn off their engines if they are stopped for a minute or more as part of their joint anti-idling campaign called [Turn It Off](#). Now the councils are suggesting that drivers turn off their engines for a day!

If drivers in the districts pledge not to use their cars on World Car Free Day on 22 September and then tell the councils how they got around instead – on the train? bus? cycling? walking? kayaking? they will be entered for a draw for travel vouchers worth £50.

TO ENTER Simply click on <https://survey.southandvale.gov.uk/s/Worldcarfreeday/> and show (using words and photos) what you did on 22 September without your car. Deadline for entries is 5pm Monday 30 September.

**Changes proposed to support Vale residents on low income – have your say!** Residents and local organisations in the Vale of White Horse are being asked to comment on some proposed changes aimed at supporting people on low income.

Vale of White Horse District Council is proposing to make three amendments to its Council Tax Reduction Scheme to benefit some people of working age who receive a reduction in their council tax payments.

The three changes the council is proposing are:

- to remove the 91.5 per cent limit and the band E restriction when calculating the council tax bill for single parents with children under age five. This will mean that qualifying residents will have their reduction calculated at 100 per cent of their council tax bill after any deductions and based on their property's actual council tax band
- to widen the definition of who is considered disabled and exempt from the current restrictions
- to disregard Bereavement Support Payments as income when calculating an applicant's council tax reduction amount.

To find out more and comment on the proposed changes please visit <https://survey.southandvale.gov.uk/s/ValeCTRS/> before 5pm on Wednesday 9 October 2019.

## **Planning**

Date range: 01/08/19-01/09/19

### **Current**

#### **P19/V1899/HH - 1 Ginge Road, West Hendred**

Single storey extensions and conversion of outbuilding

Officer: Nathaniel Bamsey

Registration date: 5th August 2019

End consultation period: 3rd September 2019 (passed)

Target decision date: 30th September 2019

### **Appeals**

No records found

Although I don't hold surgeries I am always available to deal with any issues

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