

District Councillor Update for Hendreds Ward – September 2026

Cllr Sarah James

Sarah's latest news in Hendreds Ward

I continue to support residents with issues they bring to me. Residents and Parish Councils are always welcome to get in touch on Sarah.James1@whitehorsedc.gov.uk or 07811 085661 (WhatsApp or phone).

New proposals emerging for the old Esso Research site

New owners of the former Esso Research site at Milton Hill have applied to Vale of White Horse District Council for a screening opinion on an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). They are drawing up a planning application for new employment buildings, and this application will clarify whether their planning application would need to include an EIA or not.

The application is online at <https://valeofwhitehorse.planning-register.co.uk/Planning/Display?applicationNumber=P26%2FV3664%2FSCR>

Planning is changing

There are some major changes from 31st October to how Vale Council can make planning decisions. In particular, the type of applications which can go to Planning Committee will be more limited.

Parish Councils should have received an invitation to an online briefing on **Thursday 10 September** 5.30pm – 7.30pm. Please do attend or catch up with the recording which will be circulated afterwards. Email planning.admin@southandvale.gov.uk to register your interest.

Mapping services back on Council website

The Council's Geographic Information System of map data has been transferred to a new system which is now live. This does reinstate being able to search for planning history by location which I know many of us find useful and have missed.

You can find the mapping system and information on how to use it here -

<https://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/vale-of-white-horse-district-council/data-hub/maps-of-public-data/>

People's Emergency Briefing – local showings

I saw the People's Emergency Briefing in Charney Bassett in June, during the red heat alert. It's a short film providing a concise summary of a briefing given to Parliamentarians last year. It is being shown in communities and workplaces up and down the country and we've got two local showings coming up soon. Vale of White Horse District Council is one of the organisations co-hosting the showing in the Beacon.

I highly recommend seeing this film if you haven't already.

Harwell Village Hall – Friday 25th Sept – 7pm - to book a free ticket visit

<https://www.tickettailor.com/events/sustainableharwell/2291534>

The Beacon, Wantage – Thursday 1st October – 7pm – to book your free ticket visit

<https://www.zeffy.com/en-GB/ticketing/peoples-emergency-briefing-at-the-beacon>

Didcot Garden Town update

Residents, community groups and local business leaders are invited to attend the autumn Didcot Garden Town Community Update Meeting later this month to find out more about the future plans for the town and surrounding areas.

All are welcome to the event on **Wednesday 30 September from 5-7.30pm** at Harwell Village Hall.

Attendees will be able to hear from representatives from South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils about the latest projects from the Didcot Garden Town team including new wayfinding signs and plans for public art, the Broadway housing development project, heat recovery and heatwave resilience support with the Climate Team and updates on the districts' leisure infrastructure projects.

Waste Less campaign coming to local markets

Vale of White Horse and South Oxfordshire District Council are running a campaign to help residents reduce waste at source and save money at the same time. There is more information at <https://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/waste-and-recycling/waste-less-clean-spaces-better-places-small-changes-that-make-a-big-difference/> and coming to pop-up stalls at nearby markets. The team will be at Didcot market on 12th September 9am to 2pm and at Wantage market on 16th September 8am to 3pm.

Signposting for Parish Councillors and Residents:

Cost of Living Help

[Cost of living advice and support from Vale of White Horse District Council.](#)

This page summarises help from the district council and other sources.

The Community Hub can also point people to a range of help:

- Tel: 01235 422600
- Email: communitysupport@southandvale.gov.uk

Help with energy bills

Better Housing Better Health is a free service for Oxfordshire residents to help you keep warm and save money on energy bills. Now also offering advice on keeping cool in summer. - [Better Housing Better Health – free energy and heating advice](#) or ring 0800 107 0044.

Rural Services Network's Latest Funding Digest

A digest of funding opportunities which may be useful to rural councils and community groups. This is updated every month. [Rural Services Network – monthly rural funding digest](#).