

District Councillor Update for Hendreds Ward – October 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).

Pause and review for Local Government Reorganisation

In a shock announcement since my last newsletter, the Government has said that Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) is paused in our area (and many others) for a short review. The Council has been told that May 2027 elections will now be on existing boundaries (that is they will be for Vale of White Horse District Council). It had been expected that the May elections would be electing councillors to shadow unitary authorities.

LGR is not (we think) cancelled, but it is delayed by at least 1 year.

Developer to hold consultation event

Developer XLB have bought the Esso site in order to build employment buildings for lease. They will hold a public consultation for local residents to take a look at the plans at the Harwellian, Harwell sports ground, on 20th October (I think 3pm – 7pm).

Potash Lane temporary lights removed

Residents have raised concerns with me that the traffic lights have been removed at the junction of Potash Lane and the A4130 despite the fact that all Milton Heights traffic is still forced to use this junction while Trenchard Avenue is closed for the Steventon Lights roadworks.

I have written to Oxfordshire County Council and Cllr Peter Stevens to ask that this is reconsidered. This junction has appalling visibility and before the roadworks many residents had told me that they avoided using it.

Clean up at the Ridgeway

Saturday 26th September saw an impromptu rave at the Ridgeway above East Hendred. Police were in attendance; it was not large as these things go, and it mainly dispersed of its own accord on Sunday morning.

There was a lot of litter left at the Ridgeway car park by Scutchamer's Knob, despite some attempts to use the bin and rubbish sacks to contain it. I reported it promptly for street cleansing and by Wednesday, when I visited next, the car park was tidy again.

Mather House waste and licence concerns

I'm in contact with council officers regarding multiple concerns raised with me about how Mather House, a former B&B in East Hendred, is operating. It does have a 6-bed HMO licence (house of multiple occupation). Concerns raised include waste accumulating and causing a rat problem, noise and disturbance, and possible over-occupation beyond the HMO licence.

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.](#)