

## **South Oxfordshire District Councillor Update**

**November 2020**

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### **Local Plan – Final Stages**

Consultation on the main modifications for the Local Plan 2034 closed on 2<sup>nd</sup> November, with more than 400 responses received. The inspector will now review these submissions. The Inspector's recommendations will be considered by Scrutiny on 7 December, Cabinet on 8 December and Full Council on 10 December.

<https://www.southoxon.gov.uk/south-oxfordshire-district-council/planning-and-development/local-plan-and-planning-policies/forthcoming-planning-policies/our-forthcoming-local-plan/>.

### **Planning for the Future White Paper**

The consultation on the Planning for the Future White Paper has closed. SODC submitted a robust response of many of the key proposals contained within it. The response can be seen here:

<https://www.southoxon.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2020/11/2020-10-29-SODC-Response-to-Planning-for-the-Future-consultation.pdf>

The White Paper can be found at:

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/907273/Planning\\_for\\_the\\_Future\\_web\\_accessible\\_version.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/907273/Planning_for_the_Future_web_accessible_version.pdf)

### **Constitutional Changes**

#### **Extension of temporary Call-in procedures for Planning Applications**

As a result of the backlog of planning applications waiting for consideration by the Planning Committee (70 in early October), Council agreed to extend the temporary scheme of delegation (which had previously been agreed in May but which had not actually been implemented fully by Officers) until the end of July 2021, when it will automatically end.

A few changes were also agreed by Council to ensure that applications are dealt with within government-set time limits and to protect the right of Ward Councillors to call in applications where the recommendation of the Officer is at odds with the views of the local Parish Council.

For minor applications, an objection from the Parish Council will NOT automatically trigger a call-in to Planning Committee, so it is vital that the Parish Council requests a call-in by their Ward Member. All call-ins must be made in writing and with valid planning objections, and

within 28 days of the application being listed on the SODC website. When the Ward Councillor calls a matter in, citing planning reasons, it will be sent to Committee.

From 2 November, Ward Members who are on the Planning Committee will be allowed to participate in debate and vote on planning matters in their own wards.

Also, as a result of the constitutional changes agreed on 4 October, the 28 day consultation period for planning matters will now begin when the application appears on the SODC website, not on the date the application is filed.

The constitution has been updated accordingly. You can view the revised constitution here: [Constitution 1 November 2020 on the South website](#)

### **COVID: Community Hub details**

The Council will be fully re-launching its Community Hub to the public in the next couple of days, but Parish Councils are asked to spread the message. If people are in urgent need of support during the lockdown they should contact the Community Hub on 01235 422600 or email [communitysupport@southandvale.gov.uk](mailto:communitysupport@southandvale.gov.uk).

More information available at: [southoxon.gov.uk/covid19](https://southoxon.gov.uk/covid19)

Businesses are asked to sign up to the South and Vale Business Support mailing list at [svbs.co.uk](https://svbs.co.uk).

Businesses with queries about Business Rates should contact: [sodc.businessrates@secure.capita.co.uk](mailto:sodc.businessrates@secure.capita.co.uk) for more detail on business support grants.

### **Leisure centre update**

To comply with the new lockdown, our leisure centres will be temporarily closed from 5 November. GLL is contacting their leisure members with further information but they will not be charged during the lockdown period.

### **Parking Policy Consultation**

We've had a good response to our Parking Policy consultations, which launched last week, with 249 comments for South and 145 for Vale so far. The deadline for giving feedback is Thursday 19 November.

You can find out more about the consultations by visiting [southoxon.gov.uk/parking](https://southoxon.gov.uk/parking)

### **Oxford-Cambridge Arc public briefing event**

On 17 November the key figures behind Oxfordshire-Cambridge Arc are hosting a virtual event to launch [the Arc Economic Prospectus](#) and to give people a chance to find out more about the what it means for the region.

The Arc, which may include a million new houses and a car expressway, will have a major impact on the whole of Oxfordshire.

The event takes place online from midday until 1.30pm and is the first in a series which will explore different aspects of the Arc's development.

To find out more and to register please visit the event's [the event's webinar page](#).

**Do please contact us if you have any queries.**