

SODC report February 2018

Housing Matters.

South Oxfordshire District Council has adopted a new strategy which sets out how it will meet the significant challenge of delivering thousands of new homes over the next 14-16 years.

The number of new homes proposed in the district is set out in the council's emerging local plans. The council's new Housing Delivery Strategy will work alongside the local plan to guide how these new homes will be delivered, in line with infrastructure, and ensure that the types of homes provided meet the various needs of our communities.

In adopting the new strategy, the council is taking on an 'enabler' role to ensure that the required number of new homes can be delivered, which are also of the right type to meet local need.

To view the new strategy visit southoxon.gov.uk/housingstrategy.

Planning update

Brownfield land register

SODC has published details of all brownfield development sites in our district that have full or outline planning permission. The register also includes sites that may be considered as appropriate for residential development.

The brownfield land registers can be viewed on the SODC website:

Submitting a planning application?

If you're submitting a planning application, or if an application is being submitted on land you own, you need to make sure they are submitted by the same process we expect of all applicants. This means you should email the application to the planning team: planning@southoxon.gov.uk

Following this procedure we will make sure your application is correctly recorded and processed and will avoid any unnecessary delays.

Engagement matters

Planning's customer engagement officers had a busy year raising the profile of the service and encouraging residents to get involved in the development of the Local Plan. For example, during their work they spoke to 2,100 people at events right across the district.

How much of your area is built on?

The BBC has created an interesting map that shows how much land in every council area of the country has been built on, and how it compares with the national averages.

You can access the map on the BBC website at;

<https://southandvale.us8.list->

[manage.com/track/click?u=33bec1cf8b5523ad47c7183a0&id=7da03130c1&e=eda6ce4f57](https://southandvale.us8.list-manage.com/track/click?u=33bec1cf8b5523ad47c7183a0&id=7da03130c1&e=eda6ce4f57)

New project to help people with diabetes

SODC is supporting a new countywide project to help people with diabetes to be more active and they would like your help to spread the word.

Go Active Get Healthy aims to help the 28,000 people in Oxfordshire who are registered as having diabetes.

Adults with diabetes can sign up to receive coaching sessions, subsidised activities and advice on managing their condition.

You can find out more information and people can sign up on the Get Healthy Oxfordshire website.

Support for athletes

Budding athletes in your area could benefit from up to £1,250 of funding thanks to the SODC leisure partner GLL.

The GLL Sport Foundation could also provide support for athletes with training membership access to more than 300 venues across the UK and give them access to physio and injury rehabilitation.

Work experience 2017 Reminder

Since January 2017 SODC has provided work experience for 39 students and young people to learn about how it works and help the students gain some new valuable skills. Every single one of them said in their feedback that they enjoyed their placement and that they would recommend it.

The students and young people worked with teams right across the council as well as at Cornerstone and The Beacon.

SODC currently has opportunities for work experience for year ten students during term time for 2018 so if you know of any schools or young people who might benefit, or if you want more information on our work experience programme, contact Karen Tolley as SODC

Rail vision and consultation - Reminder

Strategic vision for our railways

The government is setting out a vision for the country's railways, which is likely to have an effect on our district

Great Western Railway consultation

The Department for Transport is also setting out its proposals for improving train services on the Great Western rail network after the current franchise with GWR ends. They are running a consultation to help identify passengers most pressing priorities for improvements from 2020 onwards.

You can view the proposals on the GWR website. You will need to submit your comments by 21 February next year.

SO Business action plan launch

We've officially launched the SO Business and Innovation Strategy Plan 2017 to 2020 to support and boost the wide variety of businesses in our area.

The plan has four main actions:

- introducing superfast broadband
- helping businesses to find sufficient space to allow their organisations to grow and succeed
- supporting businesses with skills and employment issues
- improving business support and communication

Residents asked to talk rubbish

We've joined forces with all the councils across Oxfordshire to ask residents how they think we can recycle more and create less waste.

The consultation was open until 18 February - the results will help us review the joint countywide waste strategy, which sets out the county's shared priorities for waste and recycling until 2030.

The county council will publish the results in July and any actions arising from the consultation will be approved by all councils over the summer. We will adopt any changes relevant to us later this year.

Hotels still failing to challenge potential Child Sexual Exploitation

Hoteliers in South Oxfordshire are still failing to spot the dangers of child sexual exploitation (CSE), a recent test operation has revealed.

Last month, South Oxfordshire District Council worked with Thames Valley Police to carry out a series of tests to check whether hotel staff recognise the signs of CSE and understand what action they need to take if they suspect there's a problem.

The operation ran over two nights covering 12 hotels in South Oxfordshire. The test involved a police officer in plain clothes attempting to book a double room while accompanied by a 14-year-old girl with no identification.

To pass the test, the hotels should have refused the booking and called the police. Six hotels accepted the booking, potentially allowing a serious crime to take place and putting a child at risk of being sexually exploited. While the other six refused the booking, they did not call the police.

The results of the CSE test are a slight improvement from a previous operation that took place in June when nine out of 12 hotels accepted the booking.

Following the June operation, 'Hotel Watch' – a scheme which sees police, councils and hotels sharing information, arranged for hotels and B&Bs to take part in awareness training delivered by the Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children Board's 'Kingfisher' team. Following the latest results more training sessions are planned in 2018 to help raise awareness of what staff need to be aware of.

In the most recent operation the hotels that accepted the booking were also tested to see if they would allow the girl to buy alcohol. Two premises failed to ask her for ID and

subsequently served her an alcoholic drink. As a result, those two premises have since attended a meeting with the district councils' licensing team and improvements have been implemented.

If you are in the hospitality industry and see something suspicious, always say something, to your manager, or the police by calling 101. In an emergency always dial 999.

If you are a hotel interested in future training please email communitysafety@southandvale.gov.uk

For more information on the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults visit http://www.barnardos.org.uk/what_we_do/our_work/sexual_exploitation/about-cse/