

7	Planning:	
7.1	Planning Decisions:	
i	P19/S2090/FUL: Hill Barn - Proposed demolition of existing dwelling house, detached garage and other ancillary outbuildings and construction of contemporary part single storey/part two storey replacement dwelling house with integral garaging and other ancillary accommodation. This has now been approved by SODC subject to the reinstatement of the lane and hedgerows once construction is completed. HL to take photos before construction commences.	HL
ii	P19/S2040/HH: 2 Fir Close – replace single storey with double storey extension. Approved by SODC.	
iii	P19/S0443/FUL: Larkstoke Farm application to construct a steel-framed barn. Further to the parish council's objection to this application, SODC have assured that there is no permitted development as regards agricultural buildings in the AONB and that any future change of use would have to be approved through the planning process. The application is therefore approved by SODC.	
7.2	SODC Planning Process: JJ expressed thanks to the district councillors for help with concerns re the Larkstoke Farm application. Council members agreed to form a rota to attend future SODC planning meetings in the interests of better communication where planning issues are concerned.	IPC
8	Any Other Business: None	
9	Date of next meeting: The next meeting of the Ipsden Parish Council will be held on Tuesday 26 November at 6.00pm in the Ipsden Memorial Hall.	
	The meeting closed at 18:57	

Approved by:

(Chairman)

Date:

**SODC District Councillors' Report
2 September 2019**

**Cllr Jo Robb
Cllr Lorraine Hillier**

Emerging Local Plan 2034

The leader of the council and cabinet members have had meetings with members of OCC, Highways and MHCLG regarding the impact on the Housing Infrastructure Fund (HIF) of withdrawing the Emerging Local Plan 2034 from the inspectors.

The Inspectors of the Local Plan have issued a series of questions and the council has received several letters, including from Ian Hudspeth of Oxfordshire County Council and Tom Walker of MHCLG. You can read the letters and inspectors questions on the Local Plan here:

www.southoxon.gov.uk/services-and-advice/planning-and-building/planning-policy/local-plan-2034

Loss of the HIF money will mean that some key sites already approved and allocated under the Core Strategy may not come forward.

Council will meet on 10 October to decide on a course of action on the Local Plan.

Audit of accounts and Budget 2020/21

Our unaudited financial accounts for 2018/19 are now available online on our website.

<http://www.southoxon.gov.uk/about-us/how-we-work/our-finances/statement-accounts-0>

This year, our audited accounts were not available by the 31 July deadline due to a delay by our external auditors. They have written to both South and Vale councils in a joint letter to explain the reasons for the delay and have let us know that the audits will now take place later this month or in September.

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/jgs3a1ttrgbe63/South%20%20Vale%20Reschedule%20letter%20130619.pdf?dl=0>

Once the accounts are audited, we will publish them on our websites.

Budget

The budgeting process begins this month and the council will begin drafting its new medium-term financial plan. The District, in common with councils across the country, is in difficult financial straits.

Over the past five years the council has been taking an average of £2m per annum from usable reserves in order to balance its budget. At this rate, the usable reserves will last seven years.

David Turner, cabinet member with responsibility for finance, and William Jacobs, the council's head of finance, have asked for all cabinet members to work alongside heads of service to identify savings and potential ways of increasing revenue through fees and charges. New projects should seek external sources of funding.

It should be noted that the average council tax charge in Shire District councils for a Band D property is £186 compared with SODC which charges £122 for a Band D property.

Grants

The Councillor Grant Scheme has opened again. Under the scheme, each Councillor has a budget of £5,000 to award to projects or services that will benefit our communities.

Councillors can award between £250 and £5000 to a project - examples might include new play equipment, installation of solar panels, tree planting, pollinator reserves or accessibility improvements for a community facility. Applicants CAN approach more than one councillor if their project supports residents across a larger area.

Projects must be complete within 12 months of the award decision. The scheme closes on **10 January 2020**.

Apply through the website: www.southoxon.gov.uk/grants

Electric Blanket Testing

As autumn approaches and temperatures fall, residents might be thinking about getting out their electric blankets. Oxfordshire County Council Trading Standards and Fire & Rescue Service are offering free electric blanket tests. Safety test sessions take place in Henley on Wednesday 23 October, Henley Town Hall.

To book a safety check, please phone 01865 895 999 or email

communityengagement@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Fly-Tipping

A Bix resident raised concerns about the imposition of charges for disposing of waste at Council recycling centres. Similar concerns have been raised by Keep Britain Tidy and the Telegraph and Sun newspapers.

Figures obtained under Freedom of Information show there has been an increase in fly tipping nationally since the introduction of charges, there is no definitive evidence to show the increase is as a direct result of these fees.

SODC's Environmental Services department said: "We work proactively on enforcement wherever we obtain evidence and have had significant successes over the last few years. During the investigations and interviewing process, the introduction of charges hasn't been shown to be a factor as to why someone has fly tipped."

Fly tipping does not result in a specific clearance cost to the District Council as the contract with Biffa is all-inclusive and covers the removal of fly-tipping.

Broadband

Some of the hardest-to-reach places in the UK are eligible for additional funding towards the cost of installing gigabit-capable broadband to their premises when part of a group project. Premises must be in rural areas, available broadband speeds must be less than 30 Megabits per second and applicants must be part of a group project (two or more premises). You can check whether you are likely to be eligible for our rural gigabit voucher and search for a registered supplier in your area by looking up your postcode on gigabitvoucher.culture.gov.uk

Please contact the digital infrastructure team if you have any further questions.

Broadband@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Job Seekers' Advice and PopUp Business School

SODC is running two key FREE events to help job seekers and those looking to start or expand their own businesses.

1. The PopUp Business School will deliver a free five-day workshop in Shrivenham for people looking to start or expand their businesses. The programme will be held at the Viscountess Barrington's Memorial Hall from 7-11 October 10am-3pm to give practical advice on how to get a business idea of the ground through a series of hands-on workshops. You can attend all week or just pop in for particular workshops.
2. For those wanting to return to work or start their career, a Job Fair will be held at Cornerstone Arts Centre in Didcot on 15 October. Businesses across a range of sectors including hospitality, retail, food and motor, will showcase their full and part-time vacancies. Just pop in any time from 1-5.30pm to have a chat with the business representatives.

Jo Robb and Lorraine Hillier