

Three-year housing land supply

Following a consultation in July, councils in Oxfordshire now only need to provide a three-year supply of land for housing, instead of the five-year supply normally required by the government.

The government has agreed to this change while we work together with the other Oxfordshire Councils on a Joint Statutory Spatial Plan, the document that will address how we collectively plan to deliver 100,000 homes across the county by 2031, which was agreed as part of the Oxfordshire Growth Deal.

This means it is now much less likely for developers to win planning permission on appeal after we have rejected their applications.

Neighbourhood Plan updates

Benson and Watlington plans were adopted by council on 23 August.
Warborough & Shillingford and The Baldons on 11 October

Capital Grants applications open

Our Capital Grants scheme opened on Monday 1 October and we are encouraging any groups with a project which could benefit from this funding to get in touch with our Grants Team before they start an application.

There's £145,000 available to help fund a variety of facilities and improvements, such as upgrading a community hall or improving a play area. For more information see our grants pages.

New legislation coming for HMOs

New legislation comes in on 1 October, which affects landlords of houses in multiple occupation (HMOs).

As licensing authorities, both South and Vale grant licences to larger HMOs that are three or more storeys and occupied by five or more people forming at least two separate households.

From 1 October, the legislation changes so that smaller properties used as HMOs will also require a licence. Other changes to be introduced include national minimum sizes for rooms used as sleeping accommodation and the requirement for landlords to adhere to council refuse schemes.

If you have any information on HMOs in your area that may require a licence, please email our Environmental Health

Team env.health@southandvale.gov.uk or by phoning 01235 422403.

It's a yellow letter day in South and Vale as residents are urged to confirm their details

More than 87,000 properties have responded to our 'Household Enquiry' letter which required people to confirm who currently lives in their property. However, we're yet to hear from 34,000 homes so we are sending reminder letters to those properties.

We need this information to make sure everyone who is eligible to vote is able to do so in future elections.

If people get a reminder letter, or if they can find the original letter, they should visit householdresponse.com/southandvale to confirm their details are correct or, if not, provide the correct information.

If a household hasn't confirmed their details they could receive a visit from one of our officers to confirm the details.

£1.2million recovered

During 2017/18 we recovered more than £1.2million in council tax arrears. This was thanks to tough enforcement action we took against non-payers.

We issued 5,000 court summonses to people who had repeatedly failed or refused to pay their council tax.

Magistrates then granted liability orders against almost 4,000 of those individuals meaning we could take enforcement action, including the use of bailiffs, to retrieve the money. We of course offer support to those who are genuinely struggling.

Mountain Warehouse comes to Didcot

Outdoor retailer Mountain Warehouse have opened a new store in the Orchard Centre.

Perfectly located on the doorstep of the Chilterns, Ridgeway and Wittenham Clumps, the retailers offer a wide range of clothing and equipment for activities outdoors.

You can read the joint press release from Hammerson on our website [here](#).

Recycling

Recycle Now national recycling campaign for England.

This year's theme is

'Recycling. We do. Because it matters.' with an emphasis on plastic items.

Up to 80 per cent of household waste can be recycled and the council offers lots of recycling information online, including our Binzone app which gives details of collections and of individual items which can be recycled.

More information about waste and recycling can be found on the councils' recycling pages

*WRAP – Waste and Resources Action Programme is a registered charity set up to promote sustainable waste management

Cooking oil recycling

We've just introduced a new cooking oil recycling service for residents as part of our food waste collections.

After cooking and once it has cooled, any leftover oil can be poured into a plastic bottle no bigger than one litre in size. The bottle and its contents can then be placed into the kerbside food waste caddy, along with other food waste, and put out for the weekly collection. For those who don't want to use a plastic bottle, oil can also be poured straight into the caddy along with other food waste.

One litre of cooking oil can generate enough electricity to make 240 cups of tea !

