**District Councillors Report – Jan 24**

**Flooding** which is now, hopefully, receding.

Residents affected by flooding can potentially apply for government funding themselves – the information is here:  <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-payments-for-communities-affected-by-flooding>

People can also call the Environment Agency’s flooding hotline for advice and support at any time, seven days a week, on 0345 988 1188.

**Waste collection** contract with Biffa has been extended (basically because we did not know what the requirements for the next contract or arrangement would be until very recently.)  See

<https://www.southoxon.gov.uk/waste-and-recycling/successful-residential-waste-collection-contract-extended/>

The extension will cost more but will give the councils more control.

**New energy saving measures at Didcot Wave** Leisure Centre - fans to push the heat downwards rather than up near the ceiling. See

<https://www.southoxon.gov.uk/climate-emergency/leisure-centres-install-fan-tastic-new-energy-saving-measures/>

**Reflect on what has been achieved in the past 12 months** - read the Leader's report at:

<https://www.southoxon.gov.uk/uncategorised/a-statement-from-cllr-david-rouane-leader-of-south-oxfordshire-district-council-2/>

But the big issue for this week is the launch today - Wednesday 10th January of the next **consultation on the new Joint Local Plan.** This will be mainly carried out online but opportunities to see the plan and talk to council officers about it. The focus of the Joint Local Plan is different from the last local plan - here is the theory - now it is your chance to see if you agree or can make suggestions for improvement!

* Working to the Good Growth principles means thinking radically about how much development we plan, where it is located and how it is done.
* Rather than more of the same kind of development we’ve seen in recent years, we will focus on delivering homes to meet the actual local need.
* We will look at the number of and types of homes, their affordability and the energy efficiency standards they need to meet.
* We will use the opportunities we have through the planning system to protect nature and increase nature recovery.
* We will help tackle climate change by reducing carbon emissions, recognising this as an emergency and in line with our ambition to become zero carbon districts.
* We will focus on community health and wellbeing and locate new homes near to work places and community facilities.
* We will work hard to secure new and improved social and physical infrastructure to support development, ensuring that developers contribute a fair share of the cost.