

Title	District Councillors' Report
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Parish	Warborough Parish Council
Date	7 th May 2025

Ticketless car park machine trial

The councils are trialling two new **ticketless** payment machines in the Civic and West St Helen car parks in Abingdon from 9 April and in Cattlemarket and Goldsmiths Lane car parks in Wallingford from 14 April 2025. Each car park will have two different makes of machines (both machines are solar powered) for a three-month trial, users of the car park can choose which payment machine they use.

Users will still need to enter their registration and the length of stay as they do now and can continue to pay by cash, card/contactless/ or app, the only difference will be that users of the car parks will no longer need to display a ticket, users will need to ensure they have seen and note the expiry time displayed on the screen unless they use the app and opt for a reminder on their device.

The aim of this trial is to evaluate the effectiveness, reliability, and use of both payment machines. Users will be encouraged to complete a short survey on how they found the experience. This will inform the decision on awarding the contract for supplying all the car parks in South and Vale with new machines later in the year. The current machines are now end of life and require replacement.

Joint Local Plan – Public Hearing Dates Announced

The dates for the start of the public hearings for the South and Vale Joint Local Plan have recently been published. This stage of the examination involves our appointed Planning Inspectors (Inspectors R A Bust and C Mulloy) holding hearing sessions to hear from the Councils and other participants about whether the JLP is sound and has been prepared in accordance with legal and procedural requirements.

The first week of hearing dates will cover the following topics:

- **Tuesday 3 June 2025:** Matter 1 – Procedural and Legal Requirements followed by Matter 2 – The Duty to Co-operate
- **Wednesday 4 June 2025:** Matter 3 – The Housing Target/Requirement
- **Thursday 5 June 2025:** Matter 4 – The Employment Land Requirement

All the hearing sessions will be held at Bee House on Milton Park, OX14 4SB. Those who made representations seeking changes to the local plan at the Publication stage in autumn 2024 can register with the Programme Officer by 6 May if they would like to speak at the hearings as a participant. The hearing sessions will be held in public and anyone can attend in person to watch (subject to capacity at the venue). The sessions will also be available to watch online via a livestream from Bee House.

Our [Joint Local Plan examination webpage](#) contains all the details produced by the Inspectors: the Matters, Issues and Questions ([ID02](#)), Guidance Notes ([ID03](#)) and a draft Hearings Programme ([ID04](#)).

Accessible Moorings at Wallingford Riverside

The new accessible moorings, paid for with nearly £210k of SODC's share of CIL receipts, are due to be officially opened on 15th May, in time for the new boating season. The project has been managed by SODC's Facilities Team with the support and eager anticipation of the local volunteer-run charity, Wallingford Accessible Boat Club.

The package of improvements has been designed to be step-free to provide easy access to people of all disabilities and to enhance the whole riverside as an attractive destination for residents, visitors, clubs and river users alike. Work has covered improvements to the existing access path, roadway, ramp and moorings at the riverside – in addition to the installation of an accessible pontoon designed for river lovers with a disability. Whilst the facility is available to all, it has been specifically designed to meet the requirements of the Wallingford Accessible Boat Club's wheelyboat, WOW-one, to enable disabled and less mobile people have equal access to the river. To contact the club for further support or guidance, visit www.wabc.org.uk

In a related project, a Changing Places accessible bathroom has also been created at the riverside, next to the existing toilet facilities and is now available for use. The campsite has already opened and the outdoor pool and splash pad will follow on 24 May 2025.

Recent Cabinet Decisions

At a meeting on 10th April the Cabinet duly approved a new **Housing Delivery Strategy and Action Plan** and noted progress made on the **Cornerstone Development Action Plan**, which is essentially to optimise performance using the chosen in-house management strategy. Following the recruitment of specialist arts managers, it can be reported that the quality of the programming and the financial performance of Cornerstone are steadily improving. For example, forthcoming appearances by Bill Bailey sold out almost immediately and last year's pantomime was an outstanding success. Cornerstone is the key asset in SODC's arts and cultural service and efforts to reduce the funding needed to ensure its viability affect all residents of the District.

Update on Garden Waste Permits

As of 22nd April, some 49,000 new garden waste permits had been issued to subscribers across South and Vale. Benefits to customers include a new online system so they can manage their account and change their details much more easily. This will also mean the councils can contact people quickly if there are any major disruptions to the service, such as during adverse weather. The online account will also make things easier when people need to renew in 2026. When customers pay for a permit, there will be a link to sign up for a MyAccount and the account sign-up is also available on the councils' websites.

People can sign-up for a garden waste permit online at:

South Oxfordshire: www.southoxon.gov.uk/gardenwaste