

Title	District Councillor's Report
Author	Cllrs Andrea Powell & Sue Cooper
Parish	Ewelme Parish Council
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Autumn Recycling Campaign

Local residents are rightly proud to be in the second best recycling district in the country, and we want to keep it that way! This autumn we will be running an extensive promotional campaign to ensure that householders know what can and cannot be recycled and how material should be cleaned ready for collection. Unfortunately, around 11% of the waste put in the recycling bins ends up being rejected because it has been incorrectly handled by the householder. So look out for orange stickers on your green bins with a QR code that will take you to a website that explains all the detail and how to ensure that the effort you're putting into recycling your waste is worth it!

Designated Bathing Water Status for Wallingford – an Update

Following the refusal of the Government to award Bathing Water Status to the river at Wallingford, a second application is being prepared by SODC, Wallingford Town Council and Thames21, the charity which works to improve water quality. Many local residents have participated in surveys and water sampling over the summer and records have been kept of how many people use this wonderful location for bathing, paddleboarding, kayaking or just paddling.

More information about this application can be found at

<https://tinyurl.com/2w7bv4za>

EV chargers and cars

If any parishes want to bid for funding for any EV chargers in the village on Parish land OCC have requested expressions of interest for this before 15th September. There is still currently an introductory offer for those wanting to join the EV car clubs in Oxfordshire. Co-Wheels, which runs many of the car clubs in our districts and across the County, has a deal which offers no joining fee and £10 towards your first hire. There is one based in Wallingford. Find out more on Oxfordshire County Council's website.

Street Trading

There has been a lot in the local press and social media recently about street trading, particularly in relation to the pub company Oak Taverns and the food vendors who regularly visit their sites. Locally, Oak Taverns own The Cross Keys in Wallingford, and regulars there will be familiar with the street food traders who complement the drinks on offer at the pub. There has been confusion over what kind of licences are needed for this kind of activity, so here are some of the facts.

SODC's regulations state that all street traders require a specific consent for each site where they operate if members of the public can enter without paying a fee, including on private land.

Street trading consent is important to ensure public safety and the venue is meeting its insurance requirements, as well as preventing nuisance or annoyance (for example from noise, litter and parking) to those in the area. A 28-day consultation

period allows local residents and other businesses to make representations on the plans; a good example at the moment is the McDonald's in Didcot which wants to be able to serve until 5.00 am, so local residents need to be aware and able to make their views known before this is approved (or not).

If a vendor visits multiple locations over the course of a typical week or month, this needs to be included in their permit, but it can be done as a single licence rather than having to have a separate licence for each site.

The SODC Licensing Team issues trading licences to those wanting to offer this valuable service to the community, so it's important that venues plan ahead and check the requirements before starting up such a venture. They can also decide who should pay for the consultation and the licences themselves – the vendor or the owner of the premises. This process is handled in negotiation with SODC to ensure that all legal requirements are met and the costs are not prohibitive for the vendors, who are often small independent businesses.

Grant funding availability

There are some pots of money available to parishes:

- SODC has a £50,000 fund to increase biodiversity and encourage public access to green spaces in the district. In a new partnership with Trust for Oxfordshire's Environment (TOE), the money will be given as grants through TOE's Local Environment Fund to help boost local nature recovery efforts and reduce the impacts of climate change.

Community groups, town and parish councils, charities and non-profit organisations are invited to apply to TOE for funds to help look after South Oxfordshire's green spaces. Grants ranging between £1,000 and £15,000 can be used for tree and hedgerow planting or restoring community orchards, ponds, and nature-rich meadows.

Grants could also be used to improve access to nature for the public to enjoy and learn from. This could include replacing stiles with gates for better accessibility and also improving pathways.

The new fund uses money from Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) paid by developer contributions.

Early applications are encouraged, so any South Oxfordshire based group involved in protecting and restoring their local environment should contact TOE to find out more.

- Thames Valley Police have grants to make communities safer!

- Councillor grants are available – closing date 20th October- see <https://www.southoxon.gov.uk/south-oxfordshire-district-council/community-support/grants/councillor-community-grants/>

SODC Capital grants should be available from this month and there is a useful list of other grants available at

<https://www.southoxon.gov.uk/south-oxfordshire-district-council/community-support/grants/>