

Title	District Councillor's Report
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Parish	Warborough Parish Council
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SODC Issues its latest 5-year Housing Land Supply Statement

The latest statement indicates that SODC has a 4.2 year supply of housing – the full report (all 381 pages) can be downloaded from the SODC [website](#). Clearly this is a concerning, if not unexpected, outcome to this painstaking and time-consuming exercise, but we are confident that we can robustly defend any major speculative planning refusals because our Local Plan is up to date with a strong policy base and our recent record of delivery has been strong. We have allocated enough strategic sites in the LP35 to satisfy our housing targets, but developer-side delays and market conditions mean that the build-out has been slower than hoped.

Indeed, recent appeals (e.g. one in Chalgrove) have been lost by developers despite the 5 yr HLS falling below 5 years, due to other factors which the inspector felt were more compelling. The application at the Cuckoo Penn site, for example, should be refused for a wide range of reasons, not simply because it is an unallocated site in the Local Plan and in the W&S Neighbourhood Plan.

We still await Government action on this inefficient and unfair method of determining the readiness of a local authority to grant permission for new homes, despite the Secretary of State's comments on its inequity early in 2023. However, it is clear that Neighbourhood Plans will continue to be extremely important irrespective of who wins the next General Election, so having an up-to-date one, preferably (in the case of Warborough & Shillingford) with modest site allocations for small, affordable homes, will be the best protection against unplanned applications.

Town & Parish Council Planning Forums

Invitations have been sent to parish councils for two in-person planning training sessions in October (one is in the afternoon of the 10th and one is in the evening of the 17th, but they will cover the same content). These are designed to act a bit like “speed dating” events, with topics to be covered including enforcement, permitted development, neighbourhood planning, conservation and forestry, along with a general update on changes to the planning system.

Free carbon emissions calculator tool

SODC can supply parishes with a FREE simple-to-use **carbon emissions calculator tool** (a spreadsheet) designed to help town and parish councils to measure their current carbon emissions. It makes it easy to keep track of the energy used by buildings and vehicles. Once you have this information you can then work out where carbon and cost savings can be made.

The spreadsheet is simple to use:

- You will need copies of your energy bills/statements and vehicle fuel receipts (or mileage records) for the previous financial year.
- You will need to list all sources of carbon emissions under the organisation's operation (this can include mowing equipment, pool cars, lighting and heating for buildings).
- Once you have input the data your results will be presented as a summary showing where improvements can be made to save energy and money and reduce carbon emissions.

If you are interested in using the carbon emissions calculator please contact climateaction@southandvale.gov.uk.

Online forum on supporting energy efficiency upgrades to homes

We are hosting a **free online forum** to help you support residents to reduce their energy use and costs. This will be held online **Tuesday 14 November at 6-7.15pm**. The speakers will talk about the support that is available and some inspiring examples of local projects to help residents. There will also be an opportunity to ask questions. Again, if anyone from the PC is interested in attending, please contact climateaction@southandvale.gov.uk

New Air Quality Website

A new Oxfordshire air quality website has launched providing up air quality guidance and resources for the county. The website (www.oxonair.uk) aims to integrate all relevant air quality-related information from all district councils in Oxfordshire under one single platform.

The launch of the joint website demonstrates each Council's commitment to tackling air pollution across the county.

In March 2021, Oxford City Council was awarded £162,500 to develop an [air quality community website](#) to help raise awareness of air pollution across Oxfordshire. The platform replaces <https://oxfordshire.air-quality.info/>, and includes several new features, including:

- Air pollution forecasts up to five days in advance
- Air pollution alerts for Oxfordshire
- Air quality footprint calculator
- Air quality pledges for individuals
- Information on individual council air quality projects across the county

The website also continues to feature a map and real-time readings of monitoring stations across Oxfordshire including NO₂, PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀, as well as general advice on air quality, why it is important, and how it is monitored across the county.

Across Oxfordshire in 2021, it was estimated that air pollution's effect on mortality was equivalent to 320 early deaths.

Supporting Safer Places

It's important that we do what we can as a district to make sure our most vulnerable residents feel safe. Our Community Safety team works closely with the police and local businesses to identify organisations and locations that can become **Safe Places**.

Safe Places are for people in need of help or somewhere to go where they feel safe, whether they may be frightened, are in need of medical support or just having a bad day. They can be identified by a nationally recognisable logo, which we have shared in the link below and can be downloaded so that the public can see it clearly.

We're looking for more organisations and businesses in South Oxfordshire that would be happy to sign up to being a Safe Place for our residents. They can find out more at www.safeplaces.org.uk or by emailing our [Community Safety team](#).

[Safe Places downloadable logo](#)

Community tree planting opportunity

The tree planting season begins at the end of the year and Oxfordshire County Council is looking for community tree planting projects that will benefit people and nature. Please pass on to any groups who may be interested. More details are available on the [Climate Action Oxfordshire website](#).