

<b>Title</b>	District Councillor's Report
<b>Author</b>	Cllrs Pieter-Paul Barker, David Bretherton, Kate Gregory
<b>Parish</b>	Thame Town Council
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## **Community Safety Partnership and the PCC**

As you all know, we now have a new Police & Crime Commissioner, Matthew Barber, who was previously the Deputy PCC. He has begun to consult all local authorities on his Police & Criminal Justice Plan, and SODC & Vale's Community Safety Partnership has reviewed his proposals in detail. Officers are confident that the proposed targets set out in the PCC's agenda align fully with the CSP's priorities and objectives:

*In addition to delivering these objectives through our core areas of work; **anti-social behaviour, hate crime, rural crime, burglary, fraud and cyber-crime, and terrorism**, the CSP will focus on three key priorities:*

1. *Tackling domestic violence and abuse, including early intervention to reduce harm and improving services for victims*
2. *Working with vulnerable people and children to reduce the likelihood of being exploited*
3. *Reducing serious youth violence, knife crime and harm and vulnerability caused by drugs and alcohol*

## **New Appointments at SODC**

SODC Council met in person for the first time since early 2020 on 20<sup>th</sup> May for its Annual Meeting. This was quite a strange meeting, as you can imagine, with two Councillors unable to join in person and participating via Teams instead (and therefore unable to participate in any votes). However, the meeting was successfully concluded with the adoption of seven new Neighbourhood Plans (including those for Ewelme and Wallingford) and the appointment of a new SODC Chair, Cllr Jo Robb (Green). This is the first time that a Green Party councillor has chaired SODC. It is also pleasing to note that each political group at SODC chairs at least one of the standing Committees, thereby ensuring that we tap into everyone's interests and areas of expertise.

## **SODC Planning Meetings**

Planning meetings are now held in person at the council offices in Milton Park, The new Chairman is Cllr David Bretherton. As per Council meetings all meetings will continue to be broadcast via the internet. SODC recently took the decision to enable members of the public and representatives of Parish Councils to attend Planning Committee meetings virtually, thereby saving them the time and trouble of travelling to the meetings in person. They will be able to make their representations to the Committee using MS Teams. The first meeting was held successfully on 9th June and they should now continue as per the schedule.

## **Town and Parish Council Forums**

The two sessions held recently, on Assets of Community Value and on The Climate and Ecological Emergencies were very well attended and there was a lot of positive feedback received, including the following comment:

"I thought it was excellent. Was really inspiring to hear about what SODC are planning, and also to have the sense that the parishes are really starting to take action. That collective groundswell - as well as the practical ideas - pushes us to do more, and I feel like I have

more “permission” to be a bit bold in our community, because it has endorsement from SODC and other parishes and organisations, rather than me going it alone as a bit of a renegade. Obviously still need to get local community buy-in, but feels like that is easier once you can cross-reference it with other parishes. I’d quite like to get a climate action parish group going where we could regularly share ideas.”

Councillors may be interested to know that the meeting on the Climate Action Plan held on 27<sup>th</sup> May was recorded so can be watched at a future date.

There is a plan in development to hold Town & Parish Council Forums on a much more regular basis, potentially as frequently as once a month, with each one focusing on a different topic. Hopefully this will also help Parish Councils to work collaboratively on issues of common concern, such as motorbike noise and speed nuisance along the A4074.

Are there any subjects which you would like a Town & Parish Council Forum to tackle?

### **Performance Management at SODC**

As part of this Council’s commitment to Openness and Transparency, we will be launching a new Performance Management Framework shortly, which will ensure that progress towards achieving the objectives set out in our Corporate Plan is monitored, measured and reported to all interested audiences. Quarterly performance reports will be published on the SODC website and this will be a good way for local residents and businesses to hold the Council to account for how it spends public money and how it responds to the needs of the local community. An interim performance report to be published shortly reveals how much has already been achieved since the new Corporate Plan was adopted in October 2020, despite the challenges and restrictions caused by the coronavirus situation.

### **Hiring out land: Covid-19 safety measures for landowners**

It’s important that landowners are up to date with the current Covid safety regulations for hiring out their land now that we’ve reached Step 3 of the government’s roadmap out of lockdown. This includes parish councils, who must help ensure that the hirers of their land are fully aware of their roles and responsibilities under the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 and the current coronavirus regulations.

It is important that event holders and landowners get in touch with the SODC Licensing team as soon as possible about their planned activities to ensure they are managed in a Covid secure way. Landowners should refer to the latest version of the [working safely sector guidance](#), which includes ‘visitor economy guidance’ for fairgrounds, events and shows. Guidance on all types of events and information about the Safety Advisory Group can be found on SODC website, along with lots of other useful links and guidance: Landowners can also get advice for any events held on their land by emailing [events@southandvale.gov.uk](mailto:events@southandvale.gov.uk)