

## PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

### **Council budget 2018/19**

The Parish Council held its budget meeting on 12th December to look at its expenditure for the next financial year. The precept request has been lodged with the Vale of White Horse District Council for £58,786. This is the amount charged via the council tax to the residents of the parish. This is an increase of £7,130 over what was given by the District Council last year, but the costs will be shared between a larger number of houses, as many of the latest houses on the new developments in the village have become occupied. The Parish Council will have significant expenditure this next year, particularly in regards to the planning appeals, and the employment of consultants to represent the Parish Council at the Public Inquiry. The Council believes that Sutton Courtenay has had more than its share of development and is supporting the Vale of White Horse District Council in its opposition to the proposed 554 new houses and other buildings, off Hobbyhorse Lane and Harwell Road. The Parish Council will also be giving grants to deserving local organisations for the benefit of the local residents. These include Sutton Courtenay news, the Scout Group, Damascus, the Primary School, the costs of providing the Community First Responder for Sutton Courtenay and the Citizens Advice Bureau, as well as other small grants.

### **Appleford Road – pothole repairs**

The Parish Council, as well as residents, have frequently contacted the County Council regarding the poor state of Appleford Road and parts of Church Street, particularly since the trenching works undertaken on behalf of Thames Water. There were numerous deep holes, and the Parish Council was very much aware of the problems they caused. Rather than repair several small areas, the County Council decided to arrange for resurfacing, particularly in the vicinity of The Fish public house. The Parish Council will continue to refer on, areas which are not completed to its satisfaction.

### **Cyclists on pavements**

The Council has had reports of cyclists that ride on the footways particularly in the High Street. This is dangerous for the pedestrians who use the path, and also for the cyclists themselves as vehicles emerge from driveways and side roads such as Courtenay Close where visibility is limited. Cyclists could get hit by a car. The Sustrans cycle route from Abingdon to Didcot is along the High Street, but cyclists should use the road and not the pavement. The matter has been brought to the attention of the Police, who will be patrolling the area, so for your own safety and that of others, please ensure you do not cycle on the pavements.

### **Recycling**

Your chance to talk rubbish with the Councils in Oxfordshire. Consultation is being undertaken by Oxfordshire County Council regarding how it can help reduce the quantity of waste thrown away and increase recycling. The results will inform the review of the joint countywide waste strategy. This sets out priorities across Oxfordshire for waste and recycling until 2030. The agreed priorities will be approved by the Oxfordshire Environment Partnership and will be adopted by the relevant District Council later in the year. To take part in the consultation and survey, which is open until 18<sup>th</sup> February go to

<https://consultations.oxfordshire.gov.uk/consult.ti/wastestrategy2018/consultationHome>

### **Stop Press and Latest Information**

The Parish Council holds its meetings monthly on the first Tuesday of the month, and the agenda for those meetings is finalised one week beforehand. The copy deadline for Sutton Courtenay news is about one week after the Parish Council meeting. It is therefore not always possible to have up to the minute public information available at Council meetings, or in its articles in the News. The Council's website too is not done in house, so that cannot be immediately updated. To get over the problem, the Parish Council will be providing any stop press and urgent items to the Sutton Courtenay News team, with a request that information goes on its website. So for the latest news items, complaints received by the Council, and events about which, the Council wishes to inform residents then please check <https://suttoncourtenaynews.co.uk>

The Parish Council can email out its agendas and minutes to residents who wish to receive them, so should you wish to have regular copies of these, then please email [info@suttoncourtenay-pc.gov.uk](mailto:info@suttoncourtenay-pc.gov.uk) and you can be added to the list.

### **December Parish Council meeting**

At the December meeting, there were 2 presentations, one on the independent studies on the Oxford Flood Relief Scheme. These concluded that there would no additional effect downstream should the Oxford Flood Relief Scheme go ahead. A business case for the Abingdon scheme should be available in the first quarter of 2018, and then more information would be available.

Also agents acting for Diageo Pension Trust gave a brief presentation about the plans for the warehouse site in Sutton Courtenay Lane. Residents should have received a leaflet through their doors about this. The large warehouse proposals have been shelved, and currently the plan is for a data centre to the rear of the site, and 2 smaller warehouses closer to Sutton Courtenay Lane. It is understood that the planning application for the 2 smaller units will be lodged in the early part of 2018.

### **The following planning applications have been considered :**

P17/V2965/FUL construction of 6 bed detached dwelling following demolition of existing dwelling at 1 Appleford Road. The Council wished the height of the dwelling to be reduced in line with the adjacent dwellings.

P17/V1963/O Additional highway information for Sutton Courtenay East site, Hobbyhorse Lane  
The Council objected to the highway report as it compared Sutton Courtenay to large towns and cities and did not take into account limited rural bus services, the requirement for people to use their cars.

P17/V3131/FUL Retrospective application for the laying of a hardstanding. Material change of use of land from agriculture to domestic car parking on land south of 6 Abingdon Road. The Council commented that there was no tracking shown on the drawing and the vehicle would have to reverse into the road too close to traffic lights. No drainage was included in the hardstanding.

P17/S4416/FUL Change of use of land from agricultural land to farm park, wildlife and outdoor activity centre at Culham Hill off the A415. The Council had concerns regarding the traffic impact on Sutton Courtenay, and coalescence with Abingdon.

P17V/3273/HH Erection of two storey front extension at 14 The Green. The Council had no objection.

One planning decision that the Parish Council is pleased to report is the refusal by Oxfordshire County Council for mineral workings near Clifton Hampden. The main reasons being the impact of additional vehicle movements, the new link road and river crossing which would be prejudiced, and development was to take place in the green belt.

### **Public Inquiry /Planning Appeals**

The dates of the public inquiry are 23<sup>rd</sup> January to 2<sup>nd</sup> February, and it will be held at the Steventon House Hotel. In addition to all the written submissions at the time of the planning applications, the Inspector will hear evidence submitted as part of the appeal process, and will listen to the opposing views. His report and decisions will be available some weeks after the hearing.

**Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> February, 2018, at 7.15 p.m. in the village hall, Frilsham Street.  
Clerk: Mrs. L. Martin 90 Howard Cornish Road, Marcham Tel: 01865 391833 or  
email:info@suttoncourtenay-pc.gov.uk.**

### **Sutton Courtenay (National Power) Trust**

This Trust was established with the donation from what was National Power (now RWE nPower). The Charity meets twice a year and will consider grants specifically for the relief of poverty and distress, education and recreation and any other general charitable purposes. The next meeting, will be held in the Spring. If there is any local organisation or individual who would like to be considered for a small grant, then please contact the Clerk to the Trustees, by the end of the month, stating the purpose for the grant, the amount required, and if an organisation supply a copy of the latest accounts.

Clerk to the Trustees: Mrs. L. Martin, 90 Howard Cornish Road, Marcham, Oxon OX13 6PU Tel: 01865 391833

### **SUTTON COURTENAY PARISH COUNCIL - VACANCY**

The Parish Council has a vacancy for a councillor, and the Council would welcome anyone interested in joining the Council to apply. The Council is the tier of local authority closest to the people and provides local services, and a vital part of the community. If you would like to help keep the Parish a desirable place to live, interesting in planning and development, and want to be a voice for the people, then please contact Linda Martin, Clerk to the Council, on 01865 391833 or email [info@suttoncourtenay-pc.gov.uk](mailto:info@suttoncourtenay-pc.gov.uk) to find out more about the role.