

Minutes of the East Hagbourne Annual Parish Meeting duly convened and held on Thursday 28th March 2024 at Hagbourne Village Hall, East Hagbourne

Present were Chairman Iain Duff, Cllrs R. Jaboor, D. Rickeard and C. Shaikh, District Councillor B. Manning, L. Lloyd (Parish Clerk) and 24 members of the public.

Apologies received from: District Councillor A-M Simpson, County Councillor J. Murphy

1. Welcome and Introductions – Iain Duff, Chairman:

I. Duff welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted the good turnout. He reminded everyone that this was not a Parish Council meeting but was a village meeting. B. Manning from SODC was introduced to the attendees.

2. Formal approval of the minutes from the Annual Parish Meeting on 30th March 2023:

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of 30th March 2023 were approved and signed. It was noted that the draft version has been available on the website and will now be updated to the final version.

3. SODC and OCC activities:

I. Duff confirmed that J. Murphy of OCC apologised for not attending the meeting.

B. Manning of SODC noted highlights from his report. He reassured those present that although there are a lot of councils in financial difficulty at the moment, SODC is not one of them. Please see the full report in attachment 1.

R. Elliott queried whether the SODC Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Grant Fund was available in addition to the Parish Council's CIL money. B. Manning confirmed that it is, and applications are welcome for this with a deadline of 5th April. The village hall is in need of refurbishment and B. Manning confirmed that this fund would be appropriate for the project.

D. Rickeard commented on recycling, noting that different types of packaging and markings are still confusing as to which items can be recycled. B. Manning indicated that information on the district council's website can help with this, but there is definitely further room for improvement.

4. Parish Council activities:

Chairman's Report – Iain Duff, Chairman

I am pleased to present a summary of the activities of the East Hagbourne Parish Council since the last Annual Parish Meeting on the 30th March 2023.

We had a new council in May, so I first want to introduce the councillors to you. Councillors Paul Dixon, Cordelia Gover, David Rickeard, Carolyn Shaikh and myself continue from the previous year, and we were joined by two new councillors Robin Jaboor and Natalie Milner. We must register our sincere thanks for the great service provided by our retiring councillors Derek Button and Jean Elliott over many years, and it is great to see them still taking an interest in village affairs. In fact, Derek is now a co-opted member of the Cemetery Committee.

I would like to recognize the crucially important role of the Parish Clerk, Laura Lloyd, who is also our RFO, Responsible Financial Officer. I continue to feel very privileged to have such a highly effective and efficient Clerk resident in the village. Laura is also clerk for the Cemetery Committee. Because Laura is a fully fledged employee of the council, we have an Employment Committee, and I very much appreciate the good work of councillors Cordelia Cover and Carolyn Shaikh on that committee.

Since the last APM, we have held 11 regular Parish Council meetings and one extraordinary meeting to affect the legal transfer of the car park extension from Deanfield to the Parish Council. However, much of the actual work is done in both online and in-person working groups, by circulation of planning applications of which we had 17 since the last APM, and with regular correspondence by email and

phone with officers and councillors from SODC and OCC. The Cemetery Committee has had three meetings. This is a joint committee with West Hagbourne and has councillors Paul Dixon and Robin Jaboor as the East Hagbourne members.

We have a long term rental on Butts Piece from the Hagbourne Parochial Charities and the Clerk and Paul Dixon manage the allotments there. We also own the Pavilion and Recreation Ground that is managed by the independent East Hagbourne Sport and Recreation Committee chaired by David Rickeard. It is great that David was successful in getting new blood on this committee and our thanks to Rob Bignall in his role as Bookings Secretary and Rebecca Hancock as Treasurer. While delighted by this enhancement to the committee, David has asked me to make a call for further new blood, particularly for someone to help with safety and maintenance.

The building activity by Deanfield Homes for 74 houses on the field next to the Village Hall and opposite the school on Main Road has been very much in evidence throughout this year. There are already more than 25 houses occupied, roofs are now on all buildings, and the builders should have left us well before the end of this year. Although both the Parish Council and most residents fought the original outline planning application in 2017, we now must look at the positive aspects of this development. We have much new energy in the village for clubs and facilities, we have more car parking spaces in the village car park, we have a good and secure extra access to the embankment through both a ramp and steps, and we also have over a quarter of a million pounds to spend on village infrastructure. This will be the main scheduled topic for this meeting.

Our financial details will shortly be presented by our Responsible Financial Officer and you can see these monies, under Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) to which another £106,843.63 will be added later this year resulting in the sum mentioned above. Last year I mentioned our frustration in moving ahead with footway repairs and, although it continues to be very time consuming, I am really pleased that we have at least made a start on Main Road near the Fleur de Lys with financial support from our county councillor, Jane Murphy. The recent work on providing dropped kerbs for mobility scooters and wheelchairs in Kingsholm Close was done and funded by OCC after being alerted to the situation by a wheelchair user.

Another place where we have already committed a small amount of CIL money to supplement a grant from Trust for Oxfordshire's Environment, is on our footpaths, where there should shortly be the installation of a good path from Wilcher Close past the allotments to the linear path. A footpaths group of the Parish Council headed by Councillor Carolyn Shaikh has been studying our footpaths and has some plans mentioned in our sheet for potential CIL projects. I should add that Carolyn is also looking for volunteers to help with more routine footpath maintenance.

We are in the next tranche for the county wide adoption of 20mph speed limits. This will happen after April this year. In a survey conducted last year, there was very good support for the installation of a 20mph speed limit on Blewbury Road and a majority, but lower majority, for New Road. The County Council have been in touch prior to the tranche 3 launch to discuss speed limits in New Road. It is likely that the 20mph zone on New Road will only be from close to Great Mead to the junction with Blewbury Road.

Last September we had a village meeting to discuss grass-cutting and biodiversity. This followed on from a survey of the village that was sent to all households and had a good response. I am very grateful to Councillor Natalie Milner for her work in preparing and analysing the survey and for facilitating the meeting. One important aspect of the meeting was that people primarily worried about village tidiness and people strongly concerned with maintaining and enhancing biodiversity were able to meet each other. Longer term this has resulted in a greater appreciation by all parties of these two sometimes conflicting viewpoints. There was a strong plea for roadside verge cutting but also strong support for enhancing biodiversity. This has resulted in a well defined grass-cutting strategy and also a Climate and Biodiversity Plan. My thanks to the Clerk for implementing the grass-cutting strategy and to Councillor David Rickeard, with the help of other councillors, for preparing the Climate and Biodiversity Plan.

The grass-cutting strategy was used for obtaining bids for our contract which was awarded to BGG who are our current contractors. At the same meeting we voted to change the dog waste bin collections to

another contractor with savings of nearly £4000 per year. We have reason to believe that the service will be at least equivalent to our current one, but I am sure you will let us know if this is not the case!

The new East Hagbourne Neighbourhood Plan, two years in the making, was made (that is adopted) by the District Council at their meeting on February 22nd. This was the culmination of much effort from the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group (NPSG), chaired by Crispin Topping who is also the village representative on the Oxfordshire Neighbourhood Plans Alliance (ONPA). There are several changes from the earlier Neighbourhood Plan, in particular the addition of appendices on “East Hagbourne Design Guide & Codes” (initiated and led by Crispin) and another on “A Strategy for People and Nature in East Hagbourne” (initiated and led by Councillor David Rickeard). East Hagbourne is something of a pioneer in this and our efforts were greatly appreciated by SODC. Our thanks are due to them and to Bill Barksfield and Councillor Paul Dixon, the other members of the NPSG. Not only does this Plan give us better protection against speculative building and higher CIL returns on any building, it is above all an important resource for guiding future development in our village, including not just building but protection and enhancement of the environment.

There was unprecedented flooding in the village on the night of January 4th. Around 13 houses in the village were flooded some for the first time in their history. The Parish Council has since had meetings with SODC, OCC, and the Environment Agency and the District Council is studying some of the flooding to advise on possible future action. Within the council, we are now accelerating the update of our Emergency Plan (contact Councillor Robin Jaboor if you feel you can help with contacts or equipment), and are pressing the councils for better warning alerts and more drain clearance. The flood group, chaired by Robert Ainger, would also welcome more volunteers and are appreciative of efforts of other residents in this respect.

There are plenty of roles for you as the public to be involved as volunteers in the work of the Parish Council. I have already mentioned footpaths, emergency plan, and flood group. Councillor Robin Jaboor has already got some people signed up for Speedwatch but needs more.

Communications between the Parish Council and the village continues to be a concern of mine, and I write a regular column in the Parish Magazine with comments on items of current importance that supplements the excellent and official Parish Page produced by our Clerk. We both thank the editor, Joy Napper, for her forbearance in allowing us extensions to the copy date to enable us to make our contributions as up-to-date as possible. I continue to hold my surgeries at the Fleur de Lys and have even attracted advanced bookings in addition to a regular flow of villagers... and not all of them complaining!

When talking of communication, I should of course mention the excellent website, managed by councillor Cordelia Gover, and the use of the Village Facebook Group by our Clerk and some councillors. Our Clerk has also set up a secure mailing list using Mailchimp for council information, that includes messages which are sent to the Facebook page. This has now 87 subscribers, and I encourage any of you who use email and are not on this list to sign up. The Welcome Pack for newcomers to the village produced last year by Councillors Carolyn Shaikh and Jean Elliott is now in its third edition. Every new resident in the large estate has had and indeed has welcomed a copy and the document has also proved useful for some not-so newcomers to the village!

We have also recently made it easier to contact individual councillors by email. All councillors now have the same format for their council email address, viz. firstname.surname@easthagbourne.net.

I hope we can all agree that our community is very special with many diverse activities from sport to culture to environmental concern. It would be remiss of me to try to list them all but I would like to mention the focal points of the village: the pavilion and the recreation ground, the village hall, the community shop, the school, the church and the pub. On the environmental side, we have the Hagbournes and Upton Group for Sustainability (HUGS). We engage with them all as a Parish Council at various levels to try and use our combined strengths for the betterment of life in our village.

Finally, I remind you that all Parish Council meetings are open to the public, and you are always welcome to attend and contribute - you can find the agendas on notice boards or the web site where you will also find minutes of previous meetings.

A recent change that we have made to council meetings is to remove the so-called Action List from the agenda. This still appears as a record of current actions of the Parish Council and is in an expanded form to define the status of each action. This is updated after every meeting and published with the minutes that are now posted as a draft in advance of ratification at the next council meeting. This has the dual effect of streamlining council meetings by having a more focused agenda and of increasing transparency by giving councillors and residents a clearer view of parish council actions.

An MOP queried whether there is going to be any money available for replanting the area around the new embankment access. I. Duff confirmed that Deanfield do have a requirement to do this. It was noted that it will be important to keep the pressure on and ensure that this is done.

It was noted that there are a total of four dropped kerbs to facilitate the access to Kingsholm Close for wheelchairs and mobility scooters. The new cobblestones and reinforced verge outside the Fleur were complimented, but the drain outside Fletchers is not functioning properly and this may lead to damage to the new road surfacing. It was agreed that this would be followed up by the clerk.

The missing steps on Main Road at the end of the Bakers Lane footpath were queried. It was confirmed that the issue has been raised and chased with SGN but there is very slow progress – we will continue to chase for the steps to be reinstated but this is ultimately an OCC matter.

The poor state of Main Road from the cemetery to Coscote was raised, as this is once again in a dangerous state due to potholes and damaged edging. Unfortunately, no work on this access road was included in the S278 agreement between SODC and the developers in 2017 so the builder has no responsibility for repairs to this road. Thus all repairs to the route are OCC's responsibility.

Financial Statement – Laura Lloyd, Parish Clerk & RFO

The activities of the Parish Council are largely financed by the Precept, which is requested annually from the District Council to enable the management of Parish affairs. The Parish Council produces a budget each year with detailed projected income and expenditure which informs the Precept decision. The Precept is paid for out of your council tax. The Precept for East Hagbourne parish has remained the same for several years at just under £31,000. Budgeted income is also received for Hop Field rent and allotment rentals, as well as interest earned on funds held in savings accounts. The most significant items of regular expenditure for the year 2023-24 are as follows, with percentage of precept noted:

- The employment of the Parish Clerk/Responsible Finance Officer – 30.4%
- Loan repayment for the Pavilion Car Park construction (this will be fully repaid in December 2026) – 27%
- Dog Bin Emptying – 16.7% - the Parish Council has made the decision to move to an alternative contractor for 2024-25 with an anticipated cost saving of £3,800.
- Village grass and hedge cutting - 6% (as part of a wider contract which includes the cemetery and recreation ground, paid for from separate funds).
- Allotments – 5.8% - this year has included hedge cutting along the southern boundary
- Insurance – 4.4% • Butts Piece Lease – 2.8%
- Internal and External Audit Costs – 2.3%

Other expenses include subscriptions and donations to local organisations, training for the clerk and councillors, defibrillator consumable costs, meeting room hire, website costs and village car park lighting.

All expenditure is approved by the council and noted in financial reports which are included in the monthly minutes. The Parish Council also carries out quarterly budget reviews. The Approved Budget for 2024-25 can be found in the Financial Information folder on the easthagbourne.net website.

The Council also holds Reserve Funds allocated for specific expenditure as follows:

Planned Development Support Fund – £5,300

Cemetery Management Fund – £15,600

Community Projects Fund – £4,700

CIL Fund – £174,000

The Parish Council's CIL Fund has increased significantly in the last 12 months due to receipt of 2 large payments as a result of the housing development adjacent to the village hall. The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) money is collected by SODC from builders and then is then distributed to local authorities for infrastructure work. As East Hagbourne benefits from a made Neighbourhood Plan, the Parish Council is able to claim 25% of the total levy raised. CIL money must be carefully accounted for and spent within 5 years of receipt on improvements within the parish. As a result of the CIL funds received, an Investment Strategy is now in place, and new savings accounts have been opened with Redwood Bank and Nationwide to maximise the security of the funds with FSCS protection. A General Reserve Fund is also held – this is to enable EHPC to cover unexpected but necessary items of expenditure without having to resort to borrowing. Typically the recommendation is that these should equate to three to twelve months of gross expenditure. The general reserve fluctuates throughout the year but is currently c.£25,000, or eight to nine months gross expenditure.

An MOP queried the interest rates on the savings accounts - they are around 2.5% - 3.5% and vary between instant access and 35 day notice accounts for liquidity purposes.

5. Community Projects and CIL Money Priorities:

R. Elliott spoke concerning the Village Hall, which is in need of refurbishment. The Village Hall Committee has around £50k in reserves, but a roof survey last year indicated that around £80k is needed for roof repairs. The main hall has a single brick wall and will need some insulation. It is important to consider how repairs can be done externally to allow activities to continue as the village hall is the heart of the village. This work is not currently included on the CIL shortlist (although it is on the longer list of Community Projects), and R. Elliott felt that this vital project should be a prominent consideration. He confirmed his intention to step down as Chairman of the VH Committee at the AGM in November and appealed for village hall committee volunteers. It was noted that SODC's CIL Grant Fund could be an option to fund the project and leave the Parish Council's fund for other projects in the village. It was queried whether solar panels could be included in the overall project but the concern would be that the initial cost would be significant and possibly not paid back within a reasonable timeframe.

C. Stutley also spoke in support of a replacement roof, as there will be health and safety issues arising in the next 1-2 years so if SODC funding is not available he requested that the Parish Council help with funds.

A young member of the parish spoke in support of improving the playground at Great Mead, which could be upgraded to include equipment for slightly older children than the existing equipment which is largely aimed at younger primary age range, noting Upton and Harwell as examples - potentially a seesaw, zip wire and replacement slide for the mound.

An MOP asked whether Lawson's Orchard could be made into an accessible public space. This idea was supported by a second MOP who noted that it would be lovely to reintroduce some public orchard spaces whether it be Lawson's Orchard or an alternative space in the village. It was noted that Lawson's Orchard is privately owned and indeed there are almost no options for doing such work on land that is not privately owned. It was also noted that there were opportunities in the parish for planting new trees, along FP16 and other locations.

An MOP queried the slow progress on footway repairs in the parish as this has been in discussion for a long time. This issue has been a priority and discussed with OCC on many occasions, it was agreed it

should continue to be pushed with OCC. The raised and narrow sections along Main Road are difficult to navigate and buggies have to use the road. One issue with these paths is ensuring as a starting point that the full tarmacked width is available as a footway. It isn't possible to widen the existing footways in the centre of the village without encroaching into the road.

It was suggested that the Parish Council should organise working groups to carry out repairs to the footpaths and C. Shaikh confirmed that she and other councillors have spent considerable time in recent months assessing the footpaths in the parish to establish what is needed (e.g. simple aggregate laying by a working party or more complex works using a contractor) – the complication is that all works on public footways or footpaths need quotes, and approval from OCC. The timeframe for the resurfacing works along FP4 was queried and it was confirmed that this will hopefully be completed this Spring, subject to contractor availability and weather conditions.

C. Topping volunteered to co-ordinate aggregate laying along FP8 with some extra help, and L. Lloyd confirmed she would need OCC's approval for this but there should not be an issue as it is a straightforward project.

I. Duff then read out the shortlist of projects (please see attachment 2) and asked people for a straw poll on the way out of the meeting to see which were favoured. C. Topping spoke on the benefits of an information board with community information, although there was some concern that this would benefit visitors rather than residents themselves. The village hall refurbishment and possible orchard space suggested at the meeting were also added for consideration.

An MOP queried how any voting and decision making on spending the CIL money would be made, and it was confirmed that any spending decision would be made at a full Parish Council meeting for which the agenda is publicised ahead of the meeting.

6. Open Discussion: No further items were raised for discussion.

Signed.....Dated.....

ATTACHMENT 1:

Title	District Councillors' Report
Councillors	Cllr Anne-Marie Simpson & Cllr Ben Manning
Parish	East Hagbourne Parish Council
Date	28 March 2024

[Booking link](#) for planning surgeries for town and parish councils
Corporate Plan Performance Report – [Third Quarter](#)
Climate Action Plan Performance Report – [Third Quarter](#)

Help shape the future of sporting and leisure facilities

Starting today, sports clubs, leisure users and sports enthusiasts can have their say on sports and leisure facilities in South Oxfordshire and the Vale.

South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils have launched their Playing Pitch and Leisure Facilities consultations looking at current and future provision of facilities across the districts.

Each district has a separate consultation which looks at what sports pitches and leisure facilities the districts have and recommends options for the future.

The councils are now inviting residents and organisations involved with sports in South Oxfordshire and the Vale to get involved with the consultations and give their feedback about what the councils need to protect, enhance, and provide.

The consultations can be found on the council's websites:

<https://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/LeisurePitchVale>
<https://www.southoxon.gov.uk/LeisurePitchSouth>

Copies of the consultation have been sent to sports groups, clubs and leisure providers across the districts and can be found at the Council's offices at Abbey House in Abingdon and in Better Leisure centres for those who do not have access to the internet.

In some areas of the districts such as Didcot, organisations may wish to comment on both consultations as their sports clubs may serve residents from both districts.

The consultations focus on opportunities to enhance or improve facilities that are already in place such as adding Artificial Turf Pitches (ATPs), new MUGA (multi use games areas), improvements to village halls/community halls and cycling facilities.

The councils appointed external experts to help identify what was already available, what needed improvements and where new facilities could be introduced in the districts.

The closing date for comments is Wednesday 17 April.

Once the consultations are completed the Councils will review the findings and identify which projects need to be approved. They will then work in partnership with sports clubs, town and parish councils, national governing bodies, leisure providers and other organisations to allocate funding and support these projects going forward.

Where your council tax goes

The annual council tax bills are going out this month and we've put together this [video](#) as a handy explainer to show residents who provides which services and where the money goes. To find out more, visit our [council tax area \(south\)](#)

Household Support Fund voucher scheme

There are now only a few days left for local people who are struggling with cost-of-living pressures and the rising cost of food and energy bills to receive vouchers through the current Household Support Fund.

Local South and Vale organisations are acting as referral agents which enables them to make direct referrals for this support into our Community Hub for their clients. Please help to spread the word in your ward to encourage more organisations to urgently come forward to act as referral agents to help us get to those who need it most.

The current round of Household Support Fund closes on 31 March 2024 (or sooner if all funds are spent). Following the announcement of the temporary extension of the Household Support Fund for a further six months, the councils will shortly be considering the next round of funding. More details to follow in due course.

For more information contact our Community Hub team by calling 01235 422600 or email communityconnectors@southandvale.gov.uk

Retrofitting measures

We have setup new webpages to help residents who want to retrofit energy-saving measures to their properties but are unsure if they need planning permission. This specially created online guide offers information whether people want to add simple insulation, solar panels, air source heat pumps or cladding to their properties.

They can be found at www.southoxon.gov.uk/retrofitting-rules

Changes coming to garden waste

Changes are coming in 2025 to the way people pay for their garden waste service in both South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse Districts. The councils' have agreed the introduction of a permit scheme from April 2025 which will include subscribers receiving a sticker for their bins to identify them as fully paid-up garden waste customers.

Find out more about these changes and read the full FAQ here: [South FAQ](#) / [Vale FAQ](#).

Enjoy fun for all the family this Easter

Fun activities and community days, family exercise, a museum of marvellous things and a cartoon circus are just some of the free and low-cost activities we have on offer for children and their families to enjoy during the Easter holidays. To see the full list of what's on and to book, residents should visit our new joint [South and Vale holiday activities page](#).

People can also keep up to date with all our Active Communities events by following our new [South and Vale Active Communities Facebook page](#)

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Grant Fund

South Oxfordshire District Council will soon be launching a new grant scheme called the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Grant Fund. Town and parish councils and not for profit community groups and organisations will be able to bid for between £75,000 to £250,000 for a wide range of infrastructure to support existing or planned future growth in the district. The council collects CIL funding from liable developments in order to deliver the infrastructure required to support growth in the district. Through this pilot scheme, we're helping to fund local organisations to deliver infrastructure for their community required as a direct result of development.

Eligibility:

You can find more information about the [Grant Fund and view the full eligibility criteria online](#), a few points to note:

- The fund is available to town and parish councils and not for profit community groups and organisations only.
- Proposed projects need to have a genuine focus on providing the infrastructure needed as a result of development and must be delivered in the South Oxfordshire District Council area.
- Proposed projects must adhere to the CIL spending requirements as set out in the regulations – the fund may only be used to support the actual delivery of physical infrastructure. It can be new infrastructure or improve or expand the reach of existing infrastructure. It is not able to cover costs for scoping or pre-planning of projects.

- We will prioritise projects that support our corporate priorities and other key criteria to ensure deliverability, sustainability, inclusivity and consideration towards the climate and ecological impacts.

How to apply:

You can now submit an Expression of Interest (EOI) until **05 April 2024**. The EOI stage will be open for six weeks and you can view the [guidance materials](#) now to help prepare. We will be in touch again once submissions open. Following the EOI process, applicants whose projects meet the funding requirements will be invited to submit a full application.

If you have any questions, please send them to infrastructureobligations@southandvale.gov.uk.

Didcot Wave flexes new gym equipment

South Oxfordshire District Council has just upgraded the gym at Didcot Wave Leisure Centre to the tune of £130,000 with new state-of-the-art cardio and resistance equipment.

It's not just good news for those trying to get fit and healthy – it's also great news for the climate with some new equipment being powered by human energy rather than by electricity. These self-powered gym stations help reduce the energy consumption and therefore operational costs at Didcot Wave.

The refurbishment covered a full replacement of kit, including 57 new machines from bench presses, bikes and rowing machines to free weights and an Olympic Power Rack, as well as new flooring and lighting. It was largely funded from payments by developers which have built homes in the area, known as Section 106 funding, with some additional capital funding from the council.

New planning rules mean good news for nature recovery

New planning rules came in across the country which will mean those looking to build a new development must include wildlife enhancements as part of their plans.

Developers in England will have to deliver at least ten per cent Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) when building new housing, industrial or commercial developments. This means that by law they must replace any biodiversity lost to the development plus an additional 10 per cent by creating new habitats. BNG – which came into law nationally on 12 February – is not a new concept for South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils, whose officers have been working on similar approaches to enhancing the wildlife value of new developments since becoming the first authorities in the UK to successfully secure a BNG agreement in 2013.

What BNG means for developers of sites (large or small)

- To achieve BNG developers must first survey their sites before work starts to measure its biodiversity value.
- When submitting plans for a new development they must show they can replace the value of the habitats lost as well as provide a 10 per cent increase in wildlife value of the site (before work begins)
- Where this is not possible on-site they must provide habitats offsite.

Where offsite habitat is required, this can be provided on other land owned by a developer, in agreement with third parties, or through the purchase of credits.

South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils have already been working with local nature organisations such as the Trust for Oxfordshire's Environment (TOE) and Buckinghamshire, Berkshire and Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust (BBOWT) to create new habitats that can be made available to developers who require biodiversity offsets. This ensures any BNG requirements caused by development in our districts benefit our local wildlife.

Successful recycling districts urge residents to reduce and reuse before recycling

Residents in South Oxfordshire are officially the best recyclers in the country, with residents in the Vale of White Horse a close third, according to a government league table published yesterday.

However, both districts are now encouraging residents to further boost this good work by turning their efforts to reducing and reusing where possible.

The Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) officially published the [recycling performance league table](#) yesterday (Wednesday 31 January). South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils were placed in the top three of the recycling tables for English local authorities. South Oxfordshire had been ranked the highest for household waste recycling rates in 2022/23 at 61.6% and Vale of White Horse in third place with 60.9%. Each council has been in the top 5 for the last five years.

Alongside the high performing collection rates for both councils, locally, a recent waste satisfaction survey has yielded encouraging results for the councils' household waste collections, indicating a high level of resident approval with this side of the service. An impressive 82% of respondents expressed satisfaction, or high satisfaction, with the overall quality of the waste and recycling services provided.

Have you tried the EV Car Clubs?

As the EV car clubs continue their trial period at our car parks in [Abingdon](#), [Henley](#) and [Wallingford](#), we are keen to hear from drivers who have used them. If you are a member of the EV car club or know anyone who has please get in touch via the climateaction@southandvale.gov.uk as we'd like to share real life experiences with other would-be EV car club users. Now is a good time to sign up as there are free membership and driving credit offers at some sites.

Residents Urged To Sign Up For Polling Station Work

South Oxfordshire District Council is appealing for more people to come forward to work as poll clerks and presiding officers to help run polling stations on Thursday 2 May for the Police and Crime Commissioner Election.

Hundreds of people have already signed up to work at the elections in South Oxfordshire. However, there are still around 40 vacancies at polling stations across the district and the council needs to confirm arrangements as soon as possible.

The following positions are available to those who are 18 or over and entitled to work in the UK:

- **Presiding Officers:** (previous experience preferred): £251.00 – Thursday 2 May, 6.15am to 10.30pm
- **Poll Clerks:** £200 – Thursday 2 May, 6.15am to 10.30pm

For more information, including details on how to apply, visit southoxon.gov.uk/electionjobs or call 01235 422528.

Please note, the council is unable to offer these roles to people who work for or are connected with a political party.

ATTACHMENT 2:

East Hagbourne Parish Council Potential CIL projects - Options for discussion at 2024 APM

This document list has been prepared to facilitate prioritisation and selection of capital projects by EHPC, including the use of CIL money where appropriate. It is based on discussions with Councillors and extracts from the Community Project Strategy.

At an informal meeting on 17 January 2024, Councillors selected the following items as the most attractive options to consider as projects which would benefit the village.
This is a preliminary list for discussion at the Annual Parish Meeting.

Making Walking a Pleasure £25-30k

Parish Council has surveyed the footpath network and identified a number of areas where surface improvements are needed, including:

- FP8 surface at Bowls Club to Bakers Lane.
- FP4, Wilcher Close to Millennium Wood.
- FP6 near the bend where it crosses the stream. The path edge next to the stream has fallen away and holes are appearing in the path.
- FP13 along Parsonage Lane to fill potholes and some edges in the causeway.

Some of these can be handled by the Parish Council, others will require the assistance of OCC. It will not be possible to action all the items shown here, so some prioritisation will be needed

Make our Village Sparkle

(a) Village map/interpretation, bus shelter £20k

A proposal was made at an APM some years ago for a village map/information boards as a guide for visitors.

An additional proposal is for interpretation boards e.g. at Shovel Spring (in WH parish) and the field end of Parsonage Lane to highlight landscape and wildlife features, to encourage both pride in our village and enhance environmental awareness).

The bus shelter at Lower Cross would benefit from renovation and would make an ideal location for a village map.

(b) Recreation Ground £10k

The existing Recreation Ground gate is rather functional: consider something more attractive.

Recreation Facilities £50k

The children's playground is well used and appreciated, but caters for mainly younger children. The possibility of adding equipment for older children has been discussed in the past, but space at the Recreation Ground is limited. In addition, some communities have installed equipment to encourage adults to exercise.

Equipment can be expensive, but options could include some of the following:

1. A trim trail - exercise items placed around the village to encourage activities.
2. Outdoor table tennis table
3. Consider upgrades to existing play equipment. The slide is a good candidate for replacement and the remaining mound would provide opportunities for creative ideas.
4. More facilities for teens e.g. 'pods' - hard to damage seating/shelter area

Making Walking Safe and a Pleasure

Village footways (pavements) £ 10-50+k

(a) The condition of footways(pavements) throughout the village needs improvement. In spite of the very poor condition of some stretches, OCC say they do not meet their criteria for action. It is possible that we could use EHPC resources, but it would have to come from CIL funds.

The section of Main Road from Upper to Lower Cross generates the most comments/ complaints, based on poor surface condition and vegetation obstructing access.

Critical areas are:

- by Lawson's Orchard
- by Greenshutters
- from Buckels, along the raised section to Lower Cross.

The first part of Blewbury Road from Lower Cross also has poor surface

Cemetery access £38k

(b) A new footway from Manor Farm Lane to the railway bridge has been proposed, but the cost could be very high (estimated at £118731.63 in May 2023, pedestrians only, no cycles), so is on hold until experience has been gained with the new access from St Andrews Crescent.

An alternative proposal is for new footway on the opposite side of the road from St Andrews Crescent which has been costed at £38k.

Road Safety £10-15k

The Vehicle Activated Speed sign on New Road has been in place for a number of years. Consider similar signs at the Blewbury Road village entrance, and on Main Road at the start of the 20mph limit. Locations would need to be carefully chosen.

Added to include in the straw poll at the meeting:

Village Hall Refurbishment £80K

Public Orchard space in the village £??

DRAFT