

<b>Title</b>	District Councillor's Report
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<b>Parish</b>	Berinsfield Parish Council
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### **Garden Waste Collections**

Councillors will be aware that the garden waste collection service will be resuming next week, with a four-weekly schedule to be implemented as in interim measure while the situation with HGV drivers is kept under review. An Extraordinary Council Meeting, called by the Conservative Group on 24<sup>th</sup> September, debated a report on the situation and concluded that the Business Continuity Plan within the Biffa contract had been activated and implemented appropriately. It was accepted that the collection of direct debit payments should have been suspended while the service was also temporarily halted, and the recommendation to extend the subscription period by 3 months was also approved.

One of the criticisms received by SODC has been the lack of communication with customers about the suspension of the service. This has also been investigated and some key findings were included in the officer report. Firstly, when it was decided to bring the fulfilment service back in-house from Capita (this process started in April 2021), it was discovered that the customer data was in very poor shape and that there were email addresses for only 37% of customers. There was no Customer Relationship Management (CRM) system in place, so there was no way to link the billing data with the service delivery data (one system had been outsourced to Capita, the other to Biffa). Every effort was made to communicate the suspension to residents via social media, local newspapers, TV & radio, but it wasn't feasible (or would have been prohibitively expensive) to send physical letters to everyone.

Fortunately, we will be approving a refreshed IT Strategy in November, and one of the projects included is the selection and implementation of a suitable CRM system so that SODC will be able to manage information about residents and service subscribers in an effective and efficient way (and allow them to provide us with information such as up-to-date email addresses).

### **Move Together – part of our Active Communities strategy**

Our new Move Together team has been busy since the project launched in July. They have been on walks with residents who haven't left their homes during the pandemic, talking about the support available to help them get active again. Resident feedback has been positive about the beneficial impact of this support. On a related topic, a webinar will be taking place on Tuesday 12 October at 10am for healthcare professionals, social prescribers, partner organisations and anyone working with people whose physical or mental health and wellbeing has been negatively affected by Covid-19.

Please share these details with organisations you feel would be interested.

More info about the webinar [here](#).

### **Berinsfield Garden Village**

The next online steering group meeting is now scheduled for Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> October at 6pm.

<https://www.southoxon.gov.uk/berinsfield> links direct to the Garden Village info page and will be kept updated as information becomes available.

## **New leader to be elected on Thursday**

Cllr Sue Cooper has announced her intention to stand down as Leader of the Council at Thursday's full Council meeting. Cllr Cooper has been a district councillor in South Oxfordshire for a over 23 years and has been Leader of the Council since May 2019.

Cllr Cooper said at last week's Cabinet meeting: "I have been proud to serve South Oxfordshire Council and its residents as its Leader since May 2019, having been a councillor for over 23 years. It has been a real honour to establish a new partnership Cabinet and I wanted to thank you all personally for your support. We can be rightly proud of our many achievements to date, particularly our fantastic new corporate plan, and our clear and visible leadership in the areas of climate change and ecological recovery. I have thought long and hard about my decision and I believe that now is the time for a new leader to drive forward delivery for our residents."

Nominations for a new leader are put forward at the council meeting and then it is up to the councillors to decide. The nominee with the most councillor votes is elected as Leader of the Council.

## **Oxfordshire 2050 Consultation and the Future Oxfordshire Partnership**

This consultation runs until 8<sup>th</sup> October, so there isn't long to have your say. The consultation is being run by OCC at <http://oxfordshireopenthought.org>.

The former Oxfordshire Growth Board has been renamed the Future Oxfordshire Partnership, to reflect the new focus on sustainability and dealing with climate change as much as accommodating the Government's housing targets. As a reminder, this is a joint committee of the six councils of Oxfordshire together with key strategic partners. The role and purpose of the Partnership is to:

- Coordinate local efforts to manage economic, housing and infrastructure development in a way that is inclusive and maximises local social and environmental benefits;
- Support the development of local planning policy that meets the UK Government's stated aim of net zero carbon by 2050, and contributes towards biodiversity gain whilst embracing the changes needed for a low carbon world; and,
- Seek to secure funding in the pursuit of these aims and oversee the delivery of related work programmes delegated to it by the Joint Committee's constituent local authority members.

It does this by overseeing the delivery of projects that the councils of Oxfordshire are seeking to deliver collaboratively in the fields of economic development and strategic planning.

The Partnership is supported by four Advisory Groups (Infrastructure, Environment, Housing and Oxfordshire Plan 2050), a Scrutiny Panel and a small team of officers who are tasked with delivering on elements of the Partnership's work programme. The Partnership's work is guided by an overarching Strategic Vision which was published in 2021.

I am currently a member of the Housing Group.