



Focus on Parishes with Cllr Freddie van Mierlo (Watlington Ward)

September 2023

Welcome to my monthly update, shared in the first week of every month.

Upcoming meetings:

- 12th September: Watlington PC
- 28th September: South Cabinet

*****SODC NEWS*****

'Let is Bee' a success: SODC allowed nature to take over at [17 specific sites](#) in parks and open spaces to make them more bird, bee and butterfly friendly. Across these sites, council parks teams have reported an increase in the abundance of wildflowers and plants.

Celebrating World EV day: SODC is marking [World Electric Vehicle \(EV\) day](#) on 9th September – an annual event to highlight the progress in e-mobility and promote the shift to electrified transport. EV charging companies are offering deals – including free charging – across Oxfordshire.

Views sought on S. Oxon landscape character: An [online consultation hub](#) has been launched for the 2023 update of landscape character evidence for South Oxfordshire District Council. The aim is to support the work of the Council and to underpin policies in the emerging Joint Local Plan by reviewing and refreshing landscape evidence.

Bathing water: SODC is supporting Wallingford's application for bathing water status. Charity Thames21 are submitting the application and have launched a public [consultation](#).

*****GRANTS AND COST OF LIVING*****

£50,000 fund for climate and nature: SODC is funding a £50,000 grant pot for projects to enhance nature and biodiversity and access to it. Applications for grants between £1000 and £15000 should be made to The [Trust for Oxfordshire's Environment](https://www.trustforoxfordshire.org) (TOE). Deadline 2nd October. Contact: admin@trustforoxfordshire.org.uk

Councillor community grants: A budget of £5,000 is available to each councillor. Applications are made online and are open until [20 October 2023](#).

*****PARISH ROUND-UP*****

Britwell Salome

- **Appeal dismissed:** An application for 10 houses has been dismissed by the planning inspector

Watlington

- **Red Kite View Play Area:** Work has been carried out to allow play areas to open
- **Red Kite View Litter Bins:** Bloor homes should provide bins to serve the developments, which are included in the planning application. Bins will be emptied by a management company. Officers are investigating why no bins have been installed yet
- **WAT B & C:** Planning permission was granted by SODC's planning committee in July
- **Waste collection:** Missed collections at Prospect Place have been reported
- **Watlington Service Station:** A planning application has been submitted to make changes to the service station, including addition of flats, a café, and shop.