

Town and parish digest



Listening Learning Leading

MARCH 2007

Council tax – special offer for tax year 2007/2008 only

How would you like to start paying your council tax in May? To qualify, all you need to do is sign up to direct debit before 10 April 2007. For further details, call 08456 122422 today!

Bus pass and travel token scheme 2007

Bus Pass

South Oxfordshire District Council will be offering **free** bus passes to:

- people aged 60 and over
- the disabled,
- necessary travel companions to the disabled.

The bus pass

- offers **free travel** and is valid for five years
- can be used on single or return bus journeys that start and finish within the district, and also on journeys to Reading, Oxford, Abingdon, Aylesbury, Princes Risborough, High Wycombe, Stoke Mandeville Hospital, and destinations on those routes
- can be used on services which start and finish within Oxford and Reading.
- can be used any time after 9.00am on weekdays, and any time at the weekends and public holidays
- can be used on relevant community transport schemes (registered as section 19 transport services under the Transport Act 2000) such as the Henley Handibus and the FISH volunteer bus in Sonning Common
- bus companies accepting the pass include Arriva, Motts Coaches, The Oxford Bus Company, Reading Buses, Stagecoach, Thames Travel, Heyfordian and Whites Coaches.

- community bus schemes accepting the pass include Henley Handibus, Readibus and FISH (Sonning Common)

Please note that the bus pass cannot be used on tours or excursions.

Travel Tokens

The Council will continue to offer, **as an alternative to the bus pass**, travel tokens to the value of £20 per person per year to:

- people **aged 70** and over
- the disabled, including children aged 15 years and below; and
- necessary travel companions to the disabled.

The method for collection of travel tokens has changed, you need to request travel tokens directly from South Oxfordshire District Council. Please contact the Concessionary Fares Team on 01491 823413.

Our bus pass and travel tokens scheme applies throughout our district, and does not affect any travel tokens that your own town or parish council may offer.

Local elections, May 2007

Elections are scheduled to take place on Thursday, 3 May 2007 for all 48 district council seats and all parish council seats. Nomination papers for these elections must be submitted between Tuesday, 27 March 2007 and noon on Wednesday, 4 April 2007.

If you want to vote you need to register by 18 April 2007. If you are unsure whether you have registered or need to change your details contact the elections team at South Oxfordshire District Council on 0800 389 5560.

On 3 May, polling stations will be open from 7.00am until 10.00pm. If you want to vote, but will not be near your polling station on the day, you can apply to vote by post or proxy (someone else voting on your behalf). The last day for the receipt of postal vote applications is 5.00pm on Wednesday, 18 April. The last day for the receipt of new applications to vote by proxy is 5.00pm on Wednesday, 25 April.

If you require any further information on the elections please phone 0800 389 5560 or visit our website at www.southoxon.gov.uk which contains further information and links to other relevant sites.

Calendar of meetings 2007/08: amendment to Council meeting date, May 2008

In the calendar of meetings issued in the last edition of the Town and Parish Digest, the date of the Council meeting for May 2008 was shown as Thursday, 22 May 2008 - this should have read Thursday, 15 May 2008. We apologise for this oversight.

For any information concerning the calendar of meetings, please contact Kathy Fiander, telephone 01491 823649, email kathy.fiander@southoxon.gov.uk.

Easter holiday activities – 31 March to 13 April 2007

The 2007 Easter activities booklet is now available. The booklet provides a comprehensive guide of what's on offer for young people during the Easter holidays. Copies are available at locations around the district, including libraries, schools and doctors' surgeries, or can be downloaded from our website at www.southoxon.gov.uk

For further information, contact our leisure and economic development team, telephone 01491 823417, email leisure@southoxon.gov.uk) or visit our website.

Rural touring promoters evening

We are holding a rural touring promoters evening on 26 April at Dorchester Village Hall. The evening will provide an overview of the 2006/07 rural touring season as well as giving an update on the development of the Oxfordshire touring schemes. It starts with refreshments at 6.45pm and will finish at around 9.30pm.

If you would like to attend, or need further information, please contact Joyce Scarth, telephone 01491 823417, email joyce.scarth@southoxon.gov.uk.

CCTV review report

On 26 February 2007, the Customer and Community Scrutiny Committee considered a report reviewing the use and effectiveness of CCTV in Henley and Wallingford, between December 2004 and March 2006, and in Didcot from December 2005 to March 2006.

The report:

- evaluates the support CCTV provides to the police and other agencies involved in crime reduction
- assesses the value of CCTV as part of a broad mix of tools to tackle crime and antisocial behaviour.

The report draws on a range of police data and data from the CCTV monitoring suite in Abingdon and also uses evidence from interviews with town clerks and police officers.

The report's main findings are that:

- the police use CCTV extensively and value the positive contribution CCTV makes to reducing and detecting crime
- staff at the CCTV monitoring suite demonstrate a proactive and focused approach to their work which supports and complements police priorities.

The report also concludes that some improvements to CCTV, many of which are already being implemented, would help to increase its effectiveness, including:

- improving camera repair times

- improving information to residents about how CCTV is being used to tackle crime
- improved reporting to stakeholders

Copies of the report are available from Susan Pinkstone on 01491 823423 or by email at susan.pinkstone@southoxon.gov.uk.

Rural Transport Review Report

On 21 February 2007 the South Oxfordshire Partnership (SOP) adopted a report reviewing rural transport in Oxfordshire. SOP- the local strategic partnership for the area – set up a transport review group after rural transport was identified in the South Oxfordshire Community Strategy as a key issue.

The review group was made up of representatives from SOP's partner organisations and from local transport groups and the voluntary sector with officer support provided by the Council. The work of the group involved bringing together and analysing large amounts of existing research and data into a report which identifies:

- key needs and issues affecting people in the district
- existing transport services which help to address the needs/issues
- gaps in transport provision and information on transport services
- how SOP can contribute to addressing any gaps identified.

The review group recognised that although public bus service provision is a major concern for rural communities there is little scope for increasing provision or for SOP to influence this. The report, therefore, focuses on general issues and needs.

Although the SOP recognised that there was still a lot more work to do on rural transport issues it agreed an action plan containing 23 actions to start to address the issues that had been raised in the report including:

- lack of awareness of services and concessionary fares
- gaps in community transport provision
- access to hospitals
- understanding older people's travel needs
- young people's transport needs

SOP will review progress on implementing the actions twice a year.

For a copy of the report please contact Emma Morris on 01491 823612 or by email at emma.morris@southoxon.gov.uk.

What can go in a green recycling box?

- plastics – for example drink bottles, milk bottles, detergent bottles, yoghurt pots, margarine tubs, ice cream tubs, plastic bags. We collect all types of plastics
- tins and cans – the (MRF) materials recovery facility can only accept drinks and food cans
- cardboard – corrugated cardboard, cereal boxes, greetings cards
- paper – for example newspapers, envelopes, junk mail, phone directories, magazines catalogues, writing paper.

We do not collect:

- foil or pie tins
- drinks cartons/Tetra paks (due to foil/ plastic lining)
- cling film or expanded polystyrene

CLEAR SACKS

Clear sacks can be used as well or instead of our green recycling boxes. You can purchase clear sacks, (25 for £2.50) from a number of places throughout the district. For more information and details of your nearest stockist, please contact the Public Amenities Team on 01491 823416 or visit www.southoxon.gov.uk/recycling

Bank holiday rubbish and recycling collection arrangements

Details of the arrangements for rubbish and recycling collection over the Easter, May Day and spring bank holiday periods are attached.

For further information contact public amenities, telephone 01491 823416, email public.amenities@southoxon.gov.uk

Garden waste service – update

To date, we've taken orders for 10,623 brown wheeled bins for our garden waste service. The number of orders is increasing each week now that the weather is improving, so don't miss out, order yours now!

To order yours, visit our website at www.southoxon.gov.uk, call 01491 823416 or email public.amenities@southoxon.gov.uk.

Easter rubbish and recycling dates



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EASTER 2007

Normal collection day		Revised collection
Good Friday	6 April	Normal collection
Monday	9 April	Tuesday, 10 April
Tuesday	10 April	Wednesday, 11 April
Wednesday	11 April	Thursday, 12 April
Thursday	12 April	Friday, 13 April
Friday	13 April	Saturday, 14 April

Collections will return to normal on Monday, 16 April.

Please put your rubbish and recycling at the kerbside by 7.00am on your collection day, as collection times may vary over the Easter period. Please do not put your rubbish out on any other day or before 6.00pm on the evening before collection.

The Oakley Wood, Redbridge and Drayton waste recycling centres (tips) will open as normal on Good Friday and Bank Holiday Monday (8.00am to 5.00pm).

Spring bank holiday rubbish and recycling dates



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MAY DAY 2007

Normal collection day		Day to be collected
May Day	Monday 7 May	Tuesday, 8 May
Tuesday	8 May	Wednesday, 9 May
Wednesday	9 May	Thursday, 10 May
Thursday	10 May	Friday, 11 May
Friday	11 May	Saturday, 12 May

Collections will return to normal on Monday 14 May.

SPRING BANK HOLIDAY 2007

Normal collection day		Day to be collected
Monday	28 May	Tuesday, 29 May
Tuesday	29 May	Wednesday, 30 May
Wednesday	30 May	Thursday, 31 May
Thursday	31 May	Friday, 1 June
Friday	1 June	Saturday, 2 June

Collections will return to normal on Monday 4 June.

Please put your rubbish and recycling at the kerbside by 7.00am on your collection day, as collection times may vary over the bank holidays. Please do not put your rubbish out on any other day or before 6.00pm on the evening before collection.

The Oakley Wood, Redbridge and Drayton waste recycling centres will be open as normal over the bank holidays (8.00am to 5.00pm).