

Great Milton Parish Council

Clerk: Jacqueline Wren

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DRAFT Minutes of the Great Milton Parish Council (GMPC) Parish Council Meeting held at the Pavilion on Monday 21st July 2025, at 7.30pm

Present: Stephen Harrod (Chair), Councillors David Harms (DH), Andrew Noble (AN), Sarah MacMahon (SM) and Malcolm Horsley (MH).

In attendance: Jacqueline Wren (Clerk), Judith Edwards (JE, County Councillor), Georgina Heritage (GH, District Councillor) and one Member of the Public.

55/25 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Vice Chair Bill Fox.

56/25 Variation of order of business

There was no need for a variation of the order of business.

57/25 Declarations of members' interests

MH declared an interest in the planning application pertaining to 11 Thame Road since he is a client of the applicant. The Council resolved that he be excluded from any vote on this matter.

58/25 Reports

Oxfordshire County Council

The County Councillor's Report was received – see Attachment 1.

The County Councillor gave an update on certain matters in hand, noting that the largest pothole on the Forties has been filled but others have not. Several Councillors expressed their frustration with the incomplete nature of these repairs and JE noted the frustration and inconsistency and said she would feed this back. AN raised the issue of severe congestion in Milton Common following the closure of the A40 for roadworks and access problems for the emergency services. The road closure has not appeared on Google Maps until today so many vehicles are still coming off the M40 unaware that the A40 is closed. Residents have reported damage to front gardens and verges and local farmers have raised concerns due to the timing of the closure as it is harvest time and tractors and trailers frequently use that route. AN expressed disappointment that there seems to have been a lack of consideration for the wider community when planning the timing of the works. The Chair also raised concern that there had been poor communication. AN also raised the question of where motorway traffic would be diverted to if the M40 were closed due to an incident. JE noted that in this instance traffic should be routed all the way around Thame but all agreed that in reality this is unlikely. JE agreed to feed back these concerns to the relevant department. AN said he would report back to residents when he has a response from Highways.

South Oxfordshire District Council (SODC)

The District Councillor's Report was received – see Attachment 2.

The District Councillor noted that since she wrote her report the planning application for the Didcot Gateway development has been approved and noted that whatever the future purpose of the site a site with planning permission is of more value. GH also noted that due to the forthcoming Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) the Council will not proceed with the building of council offices until the new organisational structure is determined. GH also noted that the money in budget for the development of Didcot Gateway will now be going towards social housing which is a very positive redirection of funds. GH noted that the Capital Grant programme is still open for applications; the Performing Arts Grant will open after this has closed and the District Councillor Grants Scheme will open on 18th August with more funds available than previous years - £7500 to distribute in Haseley Brook. GH emphasised that it is therefore a good time to start considering smaller projects.

59/25 Haseley Trading Estate

The recently submitted planning application for development of the Former Ariens Factory Site on the Haseley Trading Estate was discussed;

P25/S1653/FUL

Redevelopment of the site as a Vehicle Depot retaining one of the buildings as a workshop to contain offices and welfare. Works to include all associated external works.

The Chair opened discussion by expressing his disappointment with the response from our local representatives. He noted that MP Freddie van Mierlo (FvM), JE and GH have all stated how representation of their constituents is close to their heart but also seem to be accepting the proposal as a *fait accompli* rather than representing overwhelming objection from community. The Chair explained that he would like to see a more robust response and representation of local residents concerns. He went on to ask that if SODC is delaying the relocation of the new head office due to LGR, shouldn't the relocation of this vehicle depot also be delayed for similar reasons? GH noted that SODC can delay building council offices as they have that provision already but they will not have the provision to deliver statutory service for refuse collection beyond summer 2026.

GH responded by explaining that any objections that Councillors put forward need to be in line with planning law. She explained that JE, GH and FvM met with SODC recently and were all keen to pick up residents' concerns. GH emphasised that it won't be SODC making the decision it will be the Planning Committee, and she will be speaking as Haseley Brook ward member and raising objections on behalf of the residents.

MH asked whether planning application has been discussed at SODC meeting, GH noted that the decision to purchase the site was obviously discussed and agreed to share the amount the site was purchased for. GH also noted that it was deemed that the Haseley site would be a good investment regardless of whether planning went ahead for this purpose. She also noted that SODC had not been accepted in the first tranche of LGR so did not know about this when we bought site. GH noted the concern about the rationale for buying the Haseley site and the process of discounting others. She also explained that SODC did try and extend the lease at Culham but not possible.

MH noted the FOI request he has submitted for this information and asked why SODC didn't purchase the Culham site when it was for sale? GH not able to answer that – predates her time in office.

The Chair noted that the Council are exasperated that this move has been known about for 7 years and yet we are now facing a last minute planning application with mitigation looking more likely than rejection.

MH and DH both raised concern that due process was not followed in spending tax payers' money on the site and submitting planning at the last minute without due consideration for residents' concerns.

GH confirmed that the only contingency she is aware of if planning is not granted is for refuse vehicles to park on council owned land at another location. AN noted that Grundon are based in Crowmarsh Gifford with their own site but Biffa's contract was extended by two years so it seems unlikely Grundon can takeover the contract in time.

MH raised concern regarding accountability of refuse contractors taking care in local area, GH reassured that the buck stops with SODC.

JE noted her meeting with Highways regarding this planning application and talked particularly about traffic movements on A329, and the number of HGVs going through Little Milton. Both JE and GH say they are applying pressure to get some form of planning condition which limits movement through Little Milton.

The Chair reiterated the frustration that the message from our Councillors seems to be how can we mitigate problems at this location and not is this the right location. JE noted the need to consider on both fronts – need to consider planning concerns that we can work with as well as bigger question of location.

JE noted that the Highways team seem to feel it would be difficult to enforce planning condition on those terms but also expressed her determination for something to be done. The Clerk noted that the pre-application Traffic Assessment makes no mention of the new Manoir entrance on A329 or the impact of HGV traffic through Little Milton. JE and GH are aware and this is also their main concern.

The Chair noted that GMPC have engaged a Planning Consultant who will be representing the Council at the Planning Committee meeting. He proceeded to summarise the GMPC letter of objection and agreed to send a copy to Councillors.

The Chair asked GH if someone offered to buy the site for more than it was purchased for would Council consider it? Also whether SODC are still considering alternative sites. GH confirmed that they are still looking at alternative sites.

A Member of the Public asked JE about OCC's green/sustainable objectives and their 'active travel' policy. It was noted that the modelling says most employees would have to get to work in private cars. Discussion followed on the proposed crossing over the A329 which seems unsafe and the local difficulty with employees using public transport or walking or cycling to work. The question was raised of how the Councils will be able to meet their own objectives in this regard. Both JE and GH agreed with these concerns but noted that the refuse collection contract is currently out to tender and therefore we don't know where employees to site will be travelling from.

DH noted that the response from Environmental Protection was extremely limited and does not address the many concerns with regard to drainage, air quality etc. GH suggested that some of the points may have been covered in the application's supporting documentation.

The Chair noted that GMPC's letter of objection will be submitted by the consultation deadline and he and other GMPC Councillors thanked JE and GH for attending the meeting and for their consideration.

60/25 Correspondence and Public Discussion

The Council considered correspondence received since the last meeting and resolved to reply to the email from the "Action to oppose being part of a Greater Oxford Unitary Authority" group and express an interest in joining. Clerk to action.

61/25 Roads, verges and mowing

It was noted that GH has flagged the pavements in Oxen Piece as urgent for the deep clean team since this poses a health and safety risk. The overgrown bushes fall within OCC's domain – the Clerk to contact OCC and request attention.

There was discussion regarding recent issues with inconsistent mowing of verges and greens. It was noted that Tactical have been very responsive and returned to remedy some of the areas of concern but service quality has remained inconsistent. It was noted that the mowing contract is due for renewal in February 2026. Clerk to add this to the autumn agenda.

62/25 Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting of the 16th June 2025 were approved and signed.

63/25 Actions from the previous meeting

The action list from the previous meeting was reviewed.
The Council resolved to defer the local plan until after LGR.

64/25 New or amended policies:

The Council resolved to adopt the revised Standing Orders and Freedom of Information Procedure and Publication Scheme.
Clerk to continue to review and prepare other documents as per the action list.

65/25 Planning Applications: The Council considered and discussed the following planning applications:

[P25/S1864/S73](#)

11 Thame Road, Great Milton OX44 7HY

Removal of condition 4 of planning permission ref P83/N0457 regarding the use of the garage.

The Council resolved to respond in **SUPPORT** of the application since the existing condition is unnecessarily restrictive and the applicant's intended use for the premises would be beneficial to the community.

[P25/S1940/DPO](#)

Views Farm Barns, Windmill Hill, Great Milton OX44 7NW

Discharge of obligation in respect of the restrictive nature of the residential occupation of the residential unit on the Section 52 Agreement dated 24 July 1987.

The Council resolved to respond stating they have NO CONCERNS regarding this application.

66/25 Finance

A The following payments were authorised:

Payee	Element	Amount	Date	Minute Ref Order Agreed	Power to Spend
Shield Maintenance Ltd.	Dog waste – July 2025	£92.82	23/07/25		OSA s10
Bibby Financial Servies Ltd.	Tactical Facilities Management Ltd. June 25	£581.60	23/07/25	150/24	OSA s10
Castle Water	Allotments Water	£5.55	23/07/25		Small Holding & Allotments Act 1908 s23
Parish Online	Website Service 1 st July 2025 – 1 st July 2026	£378.00	23/07/25		LGA s111
Jonathan Dudley	July Bulletin	£307.14	23/07/25		

B The Bank Reconciliation up to 30th June 2025 was received and signed.

67/25 Training:

No new training opportunities were identified. The Clerk noted that she will be taking advantage of the free training available through the Scribe Accounts system.

68/25 Casual Vacancy

MH and the Chair noted that they have been contact with interested parties and will suggest they attend the September meeting.

69/25 Security in the village

The Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator was not in attendance.

70/25 Items for next agenda or information only

Web Hosting – the Clerk noted that on further appraisal the platform and interface offered by HugoFox is also limited and given the investment of time and money in switching to Parish Online to date it would be in the Council’s best interests to stay with this provider and end the contract with HugoFox after downloading the content. Clerk to action.

Parish Mailing List – the Clerk noted that she has established a MailChimp account for GMPC and is working on a template email in order to send out updates. All agreed that this will be a useful means of communication and that the Chair’s existing mailing list should be transferred to MailChimp and offered an ‘opt out’ option if they do not wish to receive future mailings.

Meeting closed 21:00

***The next meeting of Great Milton Parish Council will be held on
Monday 15th September starting at 7.30pm in The Pavilion.***

***Agenda items for the September meeting are due to the Clerk by
Wednesday, 3rd Sept 2025***

Attachment 1

County Councillor Report
Chalgrove & Thame West Division
13 July 2025

Cllr Judith Edwards



My Meetings and Council Activity

It's been a busy month, getting to grips with council business and attending multiple training sessions on council business, and our various legal responsibilities. So getting around everything has been a bit tricky this month. Apologies to anyone who had to wait for a response from me this month as it's been a lot to juggle.

In our local area this month the big highlight was Thame Pride, which was a huge undertaking by a big team of volunteers. It was wonderful to have such a festival of inclusivity and community taking part in a small market town. I formally represented the council at the opening of a photography exhibition which was the first event of the weekend and thoroughly enjoyed the event itself on the Saturday. A personal highlight was my son performing with his school band in the opening act.

I also thoroughly enjoyed the Family Fun afternoon in Tetsworth on Sunday 28th June. This was another fabulous community event, with lots of activities for the whole family. I had fun meeting the therapy goats and admiring the old cars. Sadly, I missed the Stadhampton Summer Party, owing to a family event on the same day but I'm looking forward to the Chalgrove Party in the Park next month.

This month I attended parish council meetings in Great Haseley, Tetsworth, Great Milton and Berrick Salome and Thame Town Council. I've also held a private meeting with the chair and town clerk of Little Milton and met with Freddie van Mierlo, our MP to discuss the Great Haseley Trading estate planning application and press SODC staff on the details of the plans. I also enjoyed a visit to the First Steps Family Hub and was introduced to several staff and volunteers. The First Steps Hub is a wonderful organisation but is in need of greater financial security and more trustees on its board. I also took part in the annual ceremony at County Hall to celebrate our armed forces, with a formal flag raising event.

Action log

I was glad to see that several dangerous potholes have been fixed following my intervention in Great Milton. I've had discussions with our MP about the Great Haseley Trading estate planning application and the progress he's been able to make in pushing for improvements to the pumping station at Little Milton that's been exacerbating flooding issues recently. I've also been pushing for answers about when we may be able to see repairs carried out to the Ickford Bridge near

Tiddington, and get a longer-term solution with a weight restriction over the bridge. I've also reported the dangerous drain cover at the entrance to Swinstead Court in Chalgrove.

Resurfacing Plans 2025/26

I mentioned in last month's report that there were plans to upgrade the road surface on some key roads in Oxfordshire. Most notably this was done in Thame on the bypass and the Oxford road. The white lines will be repainted soon, I hear, but it's great to have an improved road surface in some areas at least.

Updated details about the programme, including a map showing where and when the work will be taking place, is available on Oxfordshire County Council's [website](#).

Roadside drainage gully cleaning now underway in Chalgrove and Thame West

Work to clean and empty every highway drainage gully in Oxfordshire this year - and every year going forward - is now under way.

For the Chalgrove and Thame West division, the scheduled dates this year are 1st June – 31st July 2025, so if you haven't had your drains cleared they should be done very soon.

If there are drains that are particularly susceptible to blockage and cause floods, please note these on the FixmyStreet app or website, to make sure that Highways are aware.

Local Government Reorganisation Consultation launched by the County Council

Oxfordshire County Council has launched its consultation on the proposal to have a single unitary authority across Oxfordshire. The link is [One council: Your Oxfordshire | Let's Talk Oxfordshire](#). It should be noted that while contributions from the public will help to shape the proposals to make them more effective, the final decision on which model will be implemented will be made by the Secretary of State.

Share your views on Oxfordshire's recycling centres

The waste and circular economy team would like to receive your views on the recycling centres in Oxfordshire. Your feedback will help them to make future changes to their two policies which include the [waste acceptance policy](#) and the [van and trailer permit scheme policy](#).

The questions they are asking are based around understanding:

- which centre you use (if any);
- proposals to change when they are open;
- how they can improve reuse and recycling;
- the types of waste accepted and what vehicles and;
- trailers should have access.

How to take part?

The consultation is live on [Let's Talk](#), where you can find more information and all responses must be received by 11 August 2025.

Local Government Reorganisation – One Oxfordshire Consultation

We are asking residents across Oxfordshire for their thoughts about our interim proposal for a single unitary council for Oxfordshire as part of wider local government reorganisation across the country.

This engagement exercise is open for comments until **11.59pm on Sunday 27 July 2025**. Your views will help inform our final proposal that we will send to the government by 28 November 2025.

[More information and the survey link can be found here.](#) There's also information about the other proposals on the table via the same link.

For town and parish councils, reorganisation presents the opportunity for local areas to build a new, more efficient way of doing things, potentially including taking on more powers or bringing decision-making closer to communities. Please make sure to include any thoughts you have about how this could work in your area.

Grants and Cost of Living

Hardship fund: OCC's hardship fund (Resident Support Scheme) is launched in June. Phone: 01865 804171

Home Upgrade Grants: OCC & its partner AgilityEco is reaching out directly to households who will qualify to benefit from Home Upgrade Grants (to improve energy efficiency for 'off-grid' homes)

Councillors' priority grants launching soon: OCC allocates a small pot of funding to each county councillor to spend on important projects in their division. The criteria and timetable for these grants will be launched soon so watch this space.

Attachment 2

District Councillor Report
Haseley Brook ward
07 July 2025



Cllr Georgina Heritage

What I've been doing - Meetings and Council Activity

- Represented residents at planning committee meetings regarding two Stadhampton planning applications I called in to committee (P24/S3902/FUL and P25/S0643/O).
- Registered a planning committee call-in for the Lewknor planning application P25/S1430/O for 25 houses on the land off Watlington Road.
- Attended the Oxfordshire Food Summit, which included launching South and Vale's Food Action Plan. This endorses Oxfordshire Food Strategy which aims to create a healthy, sustainable and affordable food system for everyone in Oxfordshire. More details about this can be found here: [The Oxfordshire Food Strategy - South Oxfordshire District Council](#)
- Sat on the Police & Crime Committee in Aylesbury, a cross council scrutiny committee of work of the Thames Valley police & crime commissioner.
- Presented awards to South Oxfordshire athletes at the inspirational GLL Sports Foundation Awards. GLL is the council's leisure partner, and it was a privilege to be part of this event. I met some truly inspirational athletes from our district, including gold medal winning Paralympian rower Giedre Rakauskaite MBE. Giedre has benefitted from the foundation herself and took part in a Q&A with the audience. I also learned at this event that our local leisure centre in Thame had just achieved an interim score of 'Excellence' in their unannounced visit by Quest (the leisure industries equivalent of a national benchmarking service), which is fantastic news for both staff and users of the facility.
- Attended and presented at South and Vale's Cultural Heritage Networking Event at the abbey in Abingdon. We hosted local museums, cultural organisations and heritage sites across the districts, and heard from key organisations like the National Lottery Heritage Fund, Oxfordshire County Council, Museums Development Trust and Arts Council England. We're looking forward to introducing our new Culture, Heritage and Creative Industries Strategy which is a long-term plan to strengthen and grow arts, culture and heritage across the districts. There's more info further on in this report about the strategy.
- Responded to residents' and parish councils' requests for assistance on matters of planning applications, housing need and waste services.
- BBC radio interview about Cornerstone arts centre; That's TV interviews about Cultural & Heritage strategy and leisure centre decarbonisation

IT Systems downtime

Following the planned IT downtime which allowed the council to move systems away from Capita and onto servers managed in-house, we have experienced various technical and teething issues over

the last few weeks. This included impacts on customers using the website mapping (GIS) and links to applications. SODC are doing everything they can to fix the issues and are now embarking on the "catch-up" phase to work through the backlog that built up when they were unable to process planning and building control applications. Although Building Control has made significant progress, planning is more challenging.

The council has temporarily suspended pre-application planning advice service to help expand the team's capacity to work on recovery. The position will be reviewed at the beginning of August.

Parish councils will be updated throughout, as the council is aware that they have experienced impacts from viewing the website and commenting on applications, and SODC apologises for this disruption.

Planning application submitted for Haseley Trading Estate vehicle depot

SODC has now submitted a planning application for the proposed vehicle depot site, and the plans are now available to view online and for people to leave their comments.

The full plans can be viewed

here: <https://data.southoxon.gov.uk/ccm/support/Main.jsp?MODULE=ApplicationDetails&REF=P25/S1653/FUL>

The planning application is to redevelop and retain one of the existing buildings, and site improvements such as adding solar panels on the existing building, improving the screening with planting and managing the adjoining woodland.

Statutory consultees such as Oxfordshire County Council (including Highways' response) and Thames Water Development Control have not yet responded at the time of writing this report.

The district council's Planning department will determine the planning application. As such, the council has been observing strict and careful internal procedures to ensure the Planning officers involved in reviewing the application are independent from council staff working on the project.

The application will ultimately be debated and determined in a public meeting of the council's politically representative Planning committee. The comments made during the planning application consultation will be presented as part of the report being considered at that committee meeting and there will be an opportunity for public speaking at the committee meeting.

Didcot Gateway

The application for the proposed Didcot Gateway development was heard at SODC's planning committee on 2nd July, where members voted in favour of the development.

This is the application for proposed council office accommodation at Station Road Car Park, Didcot.

Why is the application still going ahead in light of LGR?

The full planning application was submitted to the Local Planning Authority (LPA) in August 2023.

The planning process has taken longer than originally anticipated for a number of reasons, including prolonged and complex negotiations with statutory consultees.

It was submitted before the government published its Devolution White Paper and subsequent Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) plans.

Whilst LGR has significant implications for decision making and investment in some council projects, including this scheme, progressing the planning application is still the most appropriate course of action in any scenario as it will enable the council to future proof options for the site.

Once in place in 2027, the shadow authority would have the opportunity to decide on the delivery strategy for the site, to meet the new authority's requirements.

Didcot Gateway Regeneration Masterplan

The development is part of the wider masterplan for regeneration of this area of Didcot as prepared with Homes England (HE) and Soha in accordance with planning policy.

Work is also underway to install a power supply on the site, subject to securing the necessary permissions, to enable any potential future development options at the site and address a shortage of electricity network capacity in the Didcot area.

Leisure Centre Decarbonisation

Multi-million-pound plans have been approved to improve energy efficiency and reduce carbon emissions at two South Oxfordshire leisure centres in Berinsfield and Henley.

SODC was successful in its bid for government funding of around £1.5m towards installing energy efficiency measures including double glazing and insulation, as well as solar panels and air source heat pumps to replace end-of-life gas boilers at the leisure centres.

The owner of the buildings, Oxfordshire County Council, will put in £2m towards the improvements, while SODC will fund a further £2.8m from developer contributions. All work should be finished by the end of March 2028.

Abbey Sports Centre in Berinsfield was built in 1959 as a school, before being converted to a leisure centre in the 1980s. Because of the age of the building, the roof insulation is well below current standards and the centre will benefit from extensive roof renovation to minimise heat loss. Plans also include replacing gas heating with air source heat pumps, adding double glazing, insulating the squash court walls and installing solar panels on the roof. It is projected that the new measures will mean a 75 per cent saving in energy kWh (gas and electricity).

Built in the 1970s, Henley Leisure Centre has some elderly heating plant – two of the boilers set to be replaced are estimated to be between 22 and 25 years old. Even though the centre is shaded by trees it will still benefit from solar panels. In addition, the council will install air source heat pumps and roof insulation. It is projected that these three measures will bring a 59 per cent per cent saving in energy kWh (gas and electricity).

The funding for the decarbonisation work has been provided from Phase 4 of the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme which is delivered by Salix Finance on behalf of the government. The scheme is run by the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero. It is aimed at tackling emissions from heating public sector buildings, aid a green recovery and support the UK's 2050 net zero target and clean growth goals.

Cornerstone Arts Centre at the heart of a new culture strategy for South Oxfordshire

Cornerstone Arts Centre in Didcot is at the heart of efforts to improve the cultural and performing arts offer to our communities. Over the past year, the centre has seen more community groups adopt the centre as their location for monthly meet ups, seen sell out shows such as The Zoots, Primary School Assembly Bangers, Spires and Boden, Shaparak Khorsandi, and is looking forward to welcoming Bill Bailey this September (sold out of course)! Plus the introduction of the first pantomime at the centre in December, Cinderella, which saw new audiences coming to Cornerstone for the first time.

Off the back of the success of Cinderella, the Council is now working on a long term contract with a pantomime company so that Cornerstone Arts Centre can be the go to panto venue for families each year.

A year after it announced its plans to introduce an 18-month action plan to secure its future, Cornerstone is now ready to move into the next phase after a successful year.

SODC councillors approved the new phase in the Cabinet meeting in June, which will also see the adoption of a pathway to a new Culture, Heritage and Creative Industries (CHCI) Strategy for the district as a whole, which will be adopted in summer 2026.

In February 2024 Councillors approved the first phase of the plans, with a vision for Cornerstone to maximise its community benefit and financial efficiency, and to establish its long-term sustainability.

Some of the improvements already planned for the next year, as part of a second phase, include:

- A food and beverage review to be undertaken for the Café at Cornerstone
- CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) of £405,000 will be used at the centre to improve the outdoor social area, Box Office, toilet facilities, and give the auditoriums sound and lighting an upgrade
- Decarbonisation funding awarded to South Oxfordshire District Council by the government will be used to install air source heat pumps and solar panels early next year, which will help reduce the centre's carbon footprint

As Cabinet Member for Communities, I'm really proud that SODC runs a venue like Cornerstone, with something for all ages to enjoy. Over the last year the team at the centre have worked hard to introduce even more to their programme and engage with their visitors to find out what they want to see at the centre.

The second phase of the action plan will see SODC work alongside Vale of White Horse District Council on the development of the Culture, Heritage and Creative Industries (CHCI) Strategy, which it is hoped will also support economic growth in the districts linked to the STEAM agenda, skills and learning, destination management and the visitor economy and support employment in creative industries.

The Strategy will put Cornerstone at the heart of arts and culture in the district and look ahead to 2026-2030. It will focus on the operation improvement of Cornerstone Arts Centre, providing a valuable public service of entertainment, skills and learning, health and wellbeing and community cohesion.

The CHCI will see the council working with key partners such as the Department for Digital, Culture Media and Sport, Arts Council England (ACE), Oxfordshire County Council, National Lottery Heritage Fund to improve arts and culture accessibility and experiences across the district.

With the second phase of work the council will continue its aim to reduce revenue and increase the value of Cornerstone as the go to arts venue in the area and its importance to the community.

Grants

The Capital grant scheme is open until 25th July, and the Performing Arts grant will open on 28th July. More details about SODC's grant schemes can be found here: [Community Grants for 2025/26 - South Oxfordshire District Council](#)