

District and County Councillor's Report – October 2026

Local Plan

The last round of public consultation for the District Council's Local Plan has concluded, a big thank you to all of those that engaged with it and submitted their comments – this was one of the key times to do so, as all of the submissions made during this period will be sent onto the government's Planning Inspector – the person(s) that will be making the final decision on the Plan.

The current timeline for the Local Plan is that it will be submitted to the Planning Inspector in December this year, with the examination likely to take at least a year, likely longer. During this time the Inspector will look at all aspects of the proposal and will make a determination on whether they believe that the plan is 'Sound' and deliverable.

Changes to the planning system

On the 31st October, there will be some changes to the planning system and how applications are decided. The new rules coming in are meant that we lose some control over which planning applications are decided by officers and which ones are decided by the planning committee. District Councillors (Geoff) and Parish Councils will lose their ability to ask for applications to be decided at committee, this decision will only be made by the officers at the council. Also, fewer applications will be decided by the planning committee generally, the majority of decisions will be made by officers. These changes, made by the government, are an attempt to speed up the planning process by removing an element of democracy.

Kingsway Solar

At time of writing we have been made aware that Kingsway Solar, the applicants of the enormous solar farm proposal, have indicated that they will be in a position to resubmit their application by the end of October. Our view is that this is still very premature, given that it's only been a few months since they were asked to withdraw the application by the Planning Inspectorate due to it being massively incomplete and missing basic data, surveys and information.

Either way, if they do resubmit, we will have to see if the Inspector accepts it and takes it forward for examination.

Food Waste Collection

The roll out of separate food waste collections are slowly moving forward. We have had an update that the new food waste bins will be delivered to our area over October with the new collections beginning mid-December.

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