

135 Eastern Avenue
Milton Park
Milton
Oxfordshire
OX14 4SB

An open letter from Cllr Emily Smith to residents and businesses in the Vale of White Horse

Dear Resident

The deadline for the UK to leave the EU has changed, but the country continues to prepare for this event. I am writing to you all on behalf of the Vale of White Horse District Council about issues related to Brexit - in particular we want to make sure affected EU nationals from countries outside the UK who live in our district know what they need to do to protect their rights to remain in the country.

The new deadline to leave the EU is 31 January 2020 at the latest, but it's still not clear exactly when we will leave or how we will leave, especially now there will be a general election in December. We share many of our residents' frustrations about this uncertainty, particularly over the future immigration status of affected EU nationals.

If you live in the UK but are a citizen of another EU country, it's very important you know what you need to do to be able to stay here after we leave the EU. You might need to apply to the government for "settled" or "pre-settled status" in the UK – if you do not do this as soon as possible, you might not be able to stay in the UK in the long term. We have put lots of information on our website to help, including links to the right pages on the government's website. You can find this at www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/brexit.

If you don't have access to a smartphone or tablet to carry out your identification verification, you can do this at the libraries in Abingdon, Botley, Wantage and Didcot.

Like all of our residents, you make an important contribution to our district and our communities – you are most welcome in the Vale of White Horse, and I want to let you know you have the Council's continued support.

I also want to reassure all our residents that Council officers are working hard on Brexit preparations to make sure our services are not affected.

The Council also remains committed to supporting our local economy and we are here to advise or guide any local businesses that could be affected by Brexit. There's lots of information, guidance and support on our dedicated South and Vale Business Support website at www.svbs.co.uk.

Yours Sincerely,



Cllr Emily Smith

Leader of Vale of White Horse District Council