

District Councillors' Report to Parish Councils and Parish Meetings: Botley and Sunningwell Ward

Sept 2017



- 1. North Abingdon Housing Development:** At the Planning Committee on 26th July permission was granted for 950 homes in Sunningwell Parish, north of Abingdon. We worked hard to represent the views of residents both side of the A34 and made the case for better infrastructure and for the southern slip roads at Lodge Hill to be fully funded and a contractor in place before any houses are built. Unfortunately, the Committee didn't change the condition relating to Lodge Hill but they did include a requirement for a well designed cycle link to Radley station and a condition to monitor air quality at the most congested junctions.

More details available on Debby's blog at: <http://cllrdebbyhallett.com/2017/07/27/north-of-abingdon-a-planning-committee-event>

- 2. West Way Redevelopment:** We were expecting the planning application for the temporary changes of use to go to committee on 23rd August, but this has been delayed due to objection from the County Council in relation to access from West Way. Mace are working with County officers to agree a new junction, which will require a 2 week public consultation. We expect this to come to planning committee in October.
- 3. Local Plan:** Part 2 will be discussed by the Vale's Scrutiny Committee on 20th Sept (7pm at 135 Milton Park) and then debated and voted on at a special Vale Council Meeting on 27 Sept, 7pm at the Beacon. Part 2 covers policies and locations for housing to help meet Oxford's unmet need and - detailed development management policies to complement Part 1. This meeting is open to the public. The adoption of CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) will also be debated and voted on at the special meeting on 27 Sept.

- 4. New Biffa Lorries:** A new fleet of vehicles to provide improved waste and recycling collections are being rolled out across the Vale of White Horse, replacing old trucks that have become unreliable. With the introduction of the new fleet, there will be a change to the way waste, recycling and rubbish is collected. Food waste and recycling was collected in separate compartments within the same truck but from now on these collections will be carried out by two separate vehicles – one for food waste, another for recycling or rubbish. This will not affect residents' collection days or the way they use their bins.

We have been raising the number of missed collections regularly and know there have been significant problems with missed collections in North Hinksey. Please let us know whether the service improves once the new fleet reach your area.



- 5. Parish Partners:** The Vale's Parish Partner programme has been set up to improve the way Parishes and the Vale communicate, share information and deliver training around planning. The first launch event went well and we recommend each Parish sends a representative to the final session at 6.30-8.30pm on Thursday 28 September at The Beacon in Wantage if you haven't already attended.
- 6. Food Waste:** You can now use plastic bags to line your food waste bins and caddies. Agrivert's anaerobic digestion plant near Wallingford can now accept thin plastic bags, bread bags, paper wrappings and normal bin liners. This avoids the need for more expensive compostable bags that can easily tear. Any plastic bags will be removed at the processing plant and food will continue to be recycled into gas for electricity and fertiliser for local farmland.
- 7. Capital Grants:** The second round of capital grants for 2017/18 is open until 15 Oct with around £77,000 up for grabs in our area. We did not have any applications in our area last round so we are keen to get this money spent locally. You can find out more here:
<http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/services-and-advice/community-advice-and-support/grants/capital-grants-scheme>
- 8. Broadband Coverage:** The Better Broadband for Oxfordshire programme is about delivering superfast broadband to all parts of Oxfordshire. Our Ward is now almost complete, with a few parts of Sunningwell to be covered by December and the far northern part of Wytham which remains without any funding yet identified. You can check your Parishes coverage at:
https://public.tableau.com/views/OxonCoverage_0/Viewcoverageinyourarea?:showVizHome=no&:embed=y
- 9. Annual Canvass for the Register of Electors:** 50% of the households have responded to their yellow letters, but we all need to encourage the rest to respond by 14th September. After this data a reminder will be posted to those who have not replied, but the fewer letters we need to send the lower the cost to the tax payer.
- 10. Air Quality Near Schools:** Parents at North Hinksey and Botley schools have been in touch raising concerns about air pollution. The Vale does not currently monitor nitrogen dioxide at the schools sites as they fall outside of the Air Quality Management Area and historic data showed that NO2 levels were within safe levels, but the Vale's Air Quality Officer is supporting both schools to carry out their own monitoring. Our group did put forward a motion to last year to invest in monitoring equipment but the administration voted that down. Without evidence of harm it is difficult to get agreement for public funds to be spent on mitigation. So while the officers do not believe the children are at risk they await the results of the schools' surveys and we will keep pushing for better monitoring here and across the Vale.

- 11. Realising the Vision: North Hinksey's Economic Future:** The Vale's Economic Development team are working with the North Hinksey Neighbourhood Plan Economic Policy group to host an event on 4th September in the Seacourt Tower. This event is to bring businesses and other interested parties together to develop a vision for the future of North Hinksey's economy and how it relates to Oxford and other nearby employment sites. Please spread the word and encourage people to sign up at: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/realising-the-vision-north-hinkseys-economic-future-tickets-36686717961?aff=ebdsorderfbbutton>

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