

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

February 2018



- 1. West Way Sale Complete:** Vale of White Horse District Council has completed the £12.4 million sale of land to Botley Development Company (BDC). The council and other site land owners agreed a new price to help Botley Development Company proceed. The council took a reduction of approximately £1.4 million and agreed to sell the land for just over £12.4 million. This means that management of the whole site is now the responsibility of BDC and phase 1 of the building work can begin.

BDC have submitted some amendments to their approved plans for West Way (ref: P17/V3298/FUL). We have spoken to the planning officers and highways officers about a number of concerns, including the potential impact on the community space around Church Way, the loss of a ramp between the two levels of the car park, and traffic implications of having a third food store and no defined servicing areas. The consultation on this has now closed and we await the officers recommendations. This application will go to Planning Committee because Debby has called it in.

- 2. North Abingdon Development (in Sunningwell):** Emily is actively involved in the Community Liaison Group run by the developer CEG. The next meeting on 12th February will include a discussion about the possible uses for the community hub, pavilion building and open spaces so if you have any suggestions or know of any community groups that may want to be included please let Emily know.

CEG report an encouraging response from retailers, care home providers and pubs interested in being part of the development. They are working to identify house builders for the first two stages of the development and expect planning applications for some of the site to be submitted during the spring.

- 3. Foxcombe Hall Development:** Peking University are working on a plans for the new Business Studies campus at Foxcombe Hall in Boars Hill. Because the buildings on the site are in Wootton Parish (the parish and war boundary runs right through the property), we have not had much information about the plans until residents came to our surgery to ask about it. Emily attended a packed out meeting with the new owners and residents of Boars Hill where concerns were raised about the scale of the building, sensitivity to the Green Belt, transport and pollution implications. Emily suggested setting up a Community Liaison Group that would include Sunningwell Parish Council, District and County Councillors as well as representatives from community groups and residents. Savills seemed keen to set up a CLG.

We have requested that Vale planning officers ensure Sunningwell Parish Council are an official consultee when a planning application comes forward because part of the Foxcombe Hall site is in Sunningwell (even though the buildings are not).

4. **Ox-Cam Expressway:** We support the call for a public enquiry and consultation into the route for the new Oxford to Cambridge Expressway. The Government are due to announce the rough route in July 2018 and there is no planned public consultation before then. We are concerned about the option of widening the A34 through Botley and Wytham as part of this scheme and are pleased that Layla Moran MP has secured a promise from the minister to visit Botley to discuss the proposal with local residents. We have had no information from the minister about when and how this visit is likely to take place, but will update you when we know more.
5. **Waste consultation:** The District and County councils are working together on a joint Waste Strategy and have a consultation open until 16th Feb for people to comment on the current waste services and what could be improved. Please feed in your views via:
<https://consultations.oxfordshire.gov.uk/consult.ti/wastestrategy2018/consultationHome>
6. **New Puffin Crossing on West Way Botley:** The County consultation on the design for a new pedestrian crossing is open until 16th February via:
<https://consultations.oxfordshire.gov.uk/consult.ti/lffleyFieldsCPZFormal/consultationHome> We welcome the removal of the central 'pen' but are concerned that the design does not include a wider pavement on the Elms Road side of West Way and have fed these concerns back to the Highways team at County.
7. **Vale Community Grant Awards:** The Abingdon and Northeast Area Committee (of which Debby and I are both members) met in December and made the following grants to organisations in our Ward;

Botley Bridges	£1,518
Oxford Rugby Club	£2,820
Sunningwell Cricket Club	£5,019
North Hinksey Pre-School	£15,000

We expect the Capital Grants schemes to be included in next year's budget, in which case the next round should be open in April.
8. **New Vale Staff Structure:** A new management structure for staff teams at the Vale has now been agreed and recruitment in to senior manager posts is underway. An organisation chart is at the end of this report for your information.
9. **Vote to name to new rubbish vehicles:** Until 16 Feb Vale wants you to vote on vote for their favourite names put forward by local schoolchildren for our new fleet of food waste recycling trucks.
<http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/news/2018/2018-01/our-food-waste-trucks-need-name-vote-now>

10. District Councillors on Tour: We have had a good response to our drop-in style surgeries for residents of Botley and Sunningwell Ward so far. We would appreciate your help promoting the next few dates (and parish councillors are of course welcome to come along too):

Weds 7th Feb, noon-2pm at The Fishes, North Hinksey Village, OX2 0NA

Thurs 15th Feb, 10am-noon at Wyevale Garden Centre Cafe, Southern-By-Pass OX1 5AR

Weds 14th March, 10am-noon at The Seacourt Bridge, West Way, Botley, OX2 9JU

Sat 24th March, 2-4pm at the White Hart, Wytham OX2 8QA

We are Online in Four Ways:

Facebook: [facebook.com/DebbyHallettLD](https://www.facebook.com/DebbyHallettLD) and [facebook.com/cllremilysmith](https://www.facebook.com/cllremilysmith) (you don't need to be a registered Facebook user to see these pages, but you do to comment).

Twitter: twitter.com/DebbyHallett_LD and twitter.com/emilysmithLD

Blog: Various news items and opinions on Debby's blog: CllrDebbyHallett.com

Newsletter: Please sign up to Debby's email newsletter here: bit.ly/18TbbzU.

It is sent out every other month or so, or when there's urgent info.

