

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

October 2017



- 1. Local Plan Part 2 (LPP2):** LPP2 will be published for a 6 week consultation on the 11<sup>th</sup> of October. All responses from this consultation go to the inspector, rather than to the Vale. It's the best opportunity to comment on issues of the soundness of the plan, with confidence that comments will be heard and considered.

LPP2 expressly means to accomplish four things: housing sites to meet Oxford City's unmet need; plans and policies for Didcot Garden Town; new policies to replace the policies saved from Local Plan 2011, and safeguarding land for planned infrastructure.

Lib Dems are concerned that the plan may not be sound and so tabled a motion last week to refer the plan back to Cabinet. We wanted to make sure that infrastructure planning for the new development sites is in line with County plans, and that council had time to consider the implications of the government's proposed new methodology for assessing housing need. Tories voted that down. Debby was alarmed to hear more than one of them say that even though they had objections or concerns about the plan, they would vote for it to go forward anyway, and it could be fixed by Inspector's orders. Debby called it a 'Bodge it and fix it plan.'

LPP2 now proceeds to the 6 weeks consultation in October and November. Please remember: only individuals and groups who submit comments during this consultation will be invited to speak at the Planning Inspector's Examination in Public next year. Please copy us in to your submissions and let us know if you have any comments or concerns that you would like us to raise as well.

- 2. Reviewing Parish Boundaries:** The Vale's Community Governance and Electoral Issues Committee is currently consulting on a proposal originating from Sunningwell Parish Council about moving 14 houses on Hinksey Hill into Sunningwell from South Hinksey, and some cottages from Cumnor into Sunningwell. Residents directly affected have been written to and have until 14<sup>th</sup> October to comment. A decision about whether to amend these parish boundaries will be made in November by the committee.

These requests for boundary changes have highlighted some flaws in the way boundary reviews are processed by the Vale. Emily has been working on improving the system to make it simpler and more transparent. Debby has ensured these processes will be studied by the Vale working group who looks at procedures (she sits on that working group). A report about how the system might be improved will be presented and discussed at the Community Governance and Electoral Issues Committee on 23<sup>rd</sup> October.

- 3. Housing Delivery Strategy Consultation:** The South and Vale District Councils have identified the need to build a significant number of new homes up until 2031. The number of new homes we need, and the areas where they will be built, are detailed in the South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse Local Plans. A joint Housing Delivery Strategy has been developed to guide how to meet our housebuilding targets.

The Housing Delivery Strategy is open to consultation until 23<sup>rd</sup> October and comments from developers, residents, parish councils, builders and others are sought. More information about the consultation can be found at:

<http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/services-and-advice/housing/joint-housing-delivery-strategy>

- 4. West Way Redevelopment:** The sales contracts are in the final stages before signing. Debby has been reviewing the contract conditions with Vale officers, and it's expected we will finally see the sale completed in the first two weeks of October. The money Vale receives from this sale will be reinvested, mostly, to provide income for the Vale. But there have been positive indicators that local residents' plans to fill the gap in North Hinksey's leisure needs may get a significant boost. So once the sale is done, we'll go back to Vale's leadership about the Botley leisure facility provision. Remember that we were successful last year in getting funding for local leisure facility planning.

The next milestone is Mace's change of use planning application for the temporary shops in the north east corner of the site. That is due to be considered by Vale planning committee on the 4<sup>th</sup> of October, 18:30 at The Beacon in Wantage. The meeting is open to the public, but in order to speak you need to register with Vale officers by noon the day before.

- 5. New Biffa Lorries:** Missed collections continue to be a problem, but only in Botley it would appear. Debby will be asking at Vale Council this month about the terrible services in Botley and whether residents can get a refund! (We shouldn't count on it, but if you had such bad service from a private company, you would expect your money back.)
- 6. Oxford to Cambridge Expressway:** Do you have an opinion on, or information about, which route this planned highway should take? Vale Scrutiny will be looking at this issue on the evening of 26 Oct. at the council offices in Milton. Public are welcome. If you want to speak register with Vale officers by the day before [Democratic.Services@southandvale.gov.uk](mailto:Democratic.Services@southandvale.gov.uk).
- 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. Let us know if you are submitting an application and need any support. You can find out more here: <http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/services-and-advice/community-advice-and-support/grants/capital-grants-scheme>

I'm sorry there's a third page and another piece of paper just for our contact details. Maybe, if you print this report, only print pages 1 and 2? Debby

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