

District Councillors Report to Parish Councils

Watchfield & Shrivenham Ward – March 2018

Planning

Local Plan Part 2 was submitted to the Secretary of State for independent examination inspection on 23 February. The Vale now waits a Planning Inspector to be named and a date to be set for examination.

Appeals There are a number of appeals in the Ward that are being considered by the Planning Inspectorate. Three of these have already been dismissed. The appeal hearing for the Gypsy and Traveller site on Compton Road Shrivenham was held in Shrivenham Memorial Hall on Tuesday 13 March. The Inspectors decision is awaited. The appeal for the Badbury Hill site will be held in due course. All representations to be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate by 16 April 2018.

Legal & General Consultation – Shrivenham residents were invited to attend a public exhibition held on Tuesday 20 February from 1500hrs to 1900hrs. The exhibition gave residents the opportunity to discuss the type and design of dwellings with representatives from the company. Initially L & G propose to build 240 homes on the Phase 1 allocated site which is located directly behind the Blue Cedar development to the east of Highworth Road. This Phase also includes land for a new primary school. It is anticipated that a Reserved Matters application will be submitted within the next couple of months. The Phase 2 Reserved Matters application for 265 dwellings is expected to be submitted before the end of this year. Concerns were expressed regarding access to the Phase 1 site during construction and L & G indicated that they may build a temporary access road from the A420. This is to be confirmed with the County Council.

Bovis – Townsend Road – Bovis has submitted a revised RM application which addresses many issues that have been raised by the Parish Council and local residents. The consultation for the revised plan ends on 12 April.

Gladman – Townsend Road – Phase 2 – As previously mentioned Simon and I wrote to Gladman explaining that the Vale has more than a five year land supply and that the site is not included in either Local Plan Part 1 or in the upcoming Local Plan Part 2 which clearly states that there will be no additional allocated sites in the western vale. Needless to say there has been no acknowledgement of receipt of our letter which was sent by both Email and post.

Taylor Wimpey - Longcot Road – The Vale Enforcement Team and OCC Highways are dealing with numerous issues and breaches of planning conditions that have been raised by local residents.

The application for additional dwellings was considered by the Vale Planning Committee on Wednesday 7 March and permission granted. There will now be 63 dwellings rather than the 59 that were approved at appeal.

Land South of Steeds Farm Gt. Coxwell – An Outline application for a further 125 dwellings has been submitted to the Vale. This application is in addition to the 200

that are already being constructed on part of this strategic site. Concerns have been raised by both Gt. Coxwell Parish Council and Faringdon Town Council as well as local residents. The deadline for comments passed on 15 March and the decision target date is scheduled for 2 May 2018. This application will be considered by the full Planning Committee.

Swindon Eastern Villages – Elaine recently attended a “drop in” event organised by Swindon Borough Council. The purpose of the event was to highlight the transport proposals for traffic improvements in and around the White Hart Roundabout. The impact of the proposals on the A420 are considerable so much so that Oxfordshire County Council are extremely concerned and meetings between the two authorities are ongoing. Additional events are being held by SBC over the next few weeks. However, details of the proposals are available on Swindon’s website

Go Active Get Healthy is a new project to help people with diabetes. The aim of the project is to help and advice to the 28,000 registered sufferers in the County. For more information go to the getoxfordshireactive.org website

Naming of Food Waste Trucks – Following the consultation the most popular name chosen was Munching Molly. The name was suggested by two pupils at John Blandy Primary School in Southmoor. The children will receive £150 book tokens for their school and a swimming pass for their family. The other names proposed for the trucks were: Chompy, Compost Carl, Monster Munching Michael, Foody Fren and Banana-munch Bob.

Growth Deal – As you will be aware Oxfordshire Council Leaders have been working for some months on a deal to provide the necessary infrastructure to support up to 100,000 homes. The Chancellor announced funding of £215m over a five year period for the County in his November 2017 budget. All six Oxfordshire Councils have now approved the deal. The deal would also see the establishment of a Joint Statutory Spatial Plan (JSSP) for the County to improve a joined up approach to planning. The Vale has made it clear that the plan must not allocate housing sites and will put no pressure on the Vale before 2031. Further consultation on this plan will follow in due course.

Council Tax 2018/19 At the Vale Council meeting on 14 February the annual budget was approved. The Vale’s element of the Band D Council Tax will be £126.69. This is an increase of £5.00 from last year.

Fly Tipping – The Vale has had another successful prosecution for fly-tipping. The latest was for dumping household waste in a drainage ditch. The offender was fined, and made to pay costs and compensation which amounted to over £3000.

Public Realm Team – Included in the Vale’s budget is an allocation of £250,000 pa over the next three years for delivering improvements throughout the district. The project is in its initial stages and more details will be published shortly.

Grants – The following dates have been confirmed for grant applications:

Capital and New Homes Bonus – Round one – 25 April-6 June Round two (budget permitting) 11 September-22 October

Festival Grants – 1 April-28 February 2019

The Grants Team are always pleased to offer advice and contact details are on the Vale website. In addition the team are holding advice sessions on 16 April in Botley, 18 April in Uffington and 24 April in Letcombe Regis. For more information call 01235 422103. Booking is essential.

Social Media Communication – The Vale’s Facebook page is an excellent way to keep up with the latest news. During the recent bad weather the Facebook page reached over 24,000 people regarding the disruption to the bin collections and some 37,000 people were reached about emergency support for rough sleepers. Please help to spread the news by sharing the Vale’s posts with Facebook friends.

Voluntary Group Awards – South and Vale are sponsoring categories for Best Voluntary and Community Group at the Oxfordshire Charity and Volunteer Awards. They are looking for local groups to submit their nominations by midday on Tuesday 10 April. The ceremony will take place on Tuesday 5 June. Details are available on the OCVA website.

Royal Wedding – If any community is proposing to hold a street party to celebrate the Royal Wedding on 19 May you may need to submit a temporary road closure application. This would need to be submitted to the Vale Licensing Team no later than 19 April to ensure approval. For more details see Celebrating the Royal Wedding on the Vale website.

Thames Water Consultation

Parish Councils will have been notified that Thames Water is carrying out a public consultation on their proposals for the coming years. Included is a proposal to build a reservoir at Steventon. This proposal has been ongoing for a number of years. Details of the consultation can be found on the Thames Water website.

As you know we don’t hold surgeries but are always available to deal with issues.

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