

District Councillor Debby Hallett's Report to North Hinksey Parish Council

15 May 2014

Just a short report for the AGM, to catch you up on main things. I didn't receive notice of this meeting as I usually do, so am not sure a report is expected. But here you go.

- Air Quality Management Plan for Botley.** For two years I have been asking the Vale for their Air Quality Action Plan, so we can see how the Vale plan to reduce our air pollution to acceptable levels. I have been especially persistent on how the Vale plan to mitigate the effects of their planned redevelopment of the West Way area. I've repeatedly had no answer and no action, so last night I tabled a motion: *Council resolves to fulfil its legal responsibility to create Air Quality Action Plans for Botley and for Marcham.* I proposed it and spoke to it, as did Cllr Judy Roberts of Dean Court, and Cllr Catherine Webber of Marcham, who seconded. I'm pleased to report that it passed., so I hope to be able to point you to a viable plan very soon.
- West Way Redevelopment:** The Vale is waiting for Doric's Environmental Statement (ES) anticipated for mid-May. Once that's in, there's a 3-week period of consultation to follow. The Vale CEO released a statement about Compulsory Purchase Orders. To see the Vale's published statement, <http://bit.ly/1sDDpXs> and scroll down to Compulsory Purchase Orders. You can read what I wrote about it on my blog, here. <http://bit.ly/1s6Z6gc>.
- Lime Road Development:** I've had a notice of road closure from 27 May for three weeks for sewer work. Lime Road will be inaccessible between Sycamore Road and Laburnum Road. See it on my blog: <http://bit.ly/1sRUL2M>
- Design of blocks of flats:** In discussing the planning applications being considered and recently determined for replacing one or two single family homes with blocks of flats, I have two main concerns. First, often the plan has fewer parking spaces than we expect will be needed. Second, the flat roof design used by so many applicants doesn't fit in with the local character of our neighbourhoods. See particularly the design at the corner of Westminster Way and Arthray Road; have you noticed what that looks like from the A34 as you drive south? That design is proposed to be repeated at 26-28 Westminster Way, but four storeys rather than three. See also the recent flats built at 100 West Way, set to be repeated next door at 102. Now there is a similar design at 34 North Hinksey Lane. I've tried to explore what we can do to have more of an influence on the design in our area, and I get the same answer from all planners: a Neighbourhood Plan and local evidence to support planning guidelines we think are important here. In it, we could look at the evidence for minimum parking spaces. We could have conditions about the rooflines and how energy savings aspects can be made as attractive as possible. It's the only effective way for local people to have a say in what's built here.
- Local Plan 2031:** there is no feedback yet from the consultation, which closed on the 4th of April. There were over 1500 comments received. We await the Cabinet decision about whether they will protect the Oxford Green Belt or release parts of it for housing development.
- Neighbourhood Planning:** I haven't seen the results of the NHPC survey on Neighbourhood Planning. Is it published somewhere?

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7. **Neighbourhood Communications.** That I didn't see the results of the recent parish survey anywhere has led me to think about the vehicles we use for communication in North Hinksey. We are fortunate to have such high quality organisations as the Botley-Hinksey community website and The Sprout newsletter. Congratulations to each for their success, and thank you to the volunteers who run them, and to the parish council for the support offered. I'd like to see more council information posted regularly in each of these. Perhaps the PC can put a regular article in The Sprout and maybe an invitation to dialogue on the Botley-Hinksey website? In the past year Botley residents have shown they are keen to give their views!
8. **Consultations:** To participate in all Vale consultations, you have to register; do that here: <https://consult.southandvale.gov.uk/portal/vale/>
 - No new consultations that I know of.
 - **Customer Engagement Charter.** The Vale have considered how it engages with customers and have a new policy. You can read about it and see the policy here: <http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/haveyoursay>
9. **Planning Applications.** You can see current and recently determined planning applications on my blog here: <http://bit.ly/1dQfqeM>.
10. **Town and Parish Forum.** 16th of June 6-9 pm, Guildhall in Abingdon. You should have your invitation from the Vale.
11. **My portfolio responsibilities are Legal & Democratic Services, and IT, HR, and Customer Services.** Regular meetings with Heads of Services in these departments keep me aware of what's going on. If I can ever help the council or residents in any of these areas, I'm happy to do it. Please contact me.
12. **Online presence in four ways.** Facebook: [facebook.com/DebbyHallettLD](https://www.facebook.com/DebbyHallettLD) (you don't need to be a registered Facebook user to see this page, but you do in order to comment).
Twitter: twitter.com/DebbyHallett_LD
Various news items and opinions on my blog: debbyhallett.mycouncillor.org.uk/
Sign up to my email newsletter here: bit.ly/18TbbzU. I send one out every couple of weeks or so, or when there's urgent info.