

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

17 April 2013

- 1. West Way Redevelopment:** There were well over 800 comments submitted in the statutory consultation period that ended 27 Mar 14. Head of Planning at the Vale has said comments will be accepted until the 30th April. This is an arbitrary date; in reality comments can still be made until 21 days after Doric submit their Environmental Statement. There is no promised date for that submission, but it is expected sometime in the middle of May.
- 2. Lime Road Development:** In my opinion, the day-to-day experience has improved. Others may disagree. The dry weather has eased things. Many fewer lorries are delivering, and in general things are quieter. The complaints I have are mainly to do with road and verge conditions, which I wouldn't expect to be restored until after construction is complete. I do pass all comments on to Bovis, but you are welcome to contact them yourselves. I've previously provided contact details.
- 3. Vale Housing Needs:** Housing figures from the Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) were provided last month. I have submitted my comments that the housing targets the Vale are setting are unachievable. We have never built houses at the rate that will be expected. North Hinksey has only one more site that could hold a new housing development, at the end of Elms Road and Hazel Road, but this is NOT identified as a strategic site in the Local Plan, so we expect no development there in the next 20 years. We do still have coming down the pipeline Oxford Brookes University and their master plan, West Way redevelopment, and many sites where it's proposed to demolish one or two single family homes to build blocks of flats.
- 4. Local Plan 2031:** the current consultation on the Local Plan closed on the 4th of April. There were over 1500 comments received. Well done on getting your opinion in (if you did). Many local people did submit comments, in spite of Consultation Fatigue. In my comments I objected to the piecemeal nibbling away at the boundaries of the Oxford Green Belt. The Louie Memorial Upper Fields were identified as not contributing to the purpose of the Green Belt, as were Fogwell playing fields, and the consultants' report recommended removing them from the Green Belt. I think it's unlikely that development would be proposed for playing fields; they must not be developed unless alternative playing field sites are made available. Throughout the Vale, it's proposed to build 1700 houses in the Green Belt, in spite of Parliamentary guidance published in March that lack of housing supply is not a good enough reason to build in the Green Belt. We await the Cabinet decision about whether they will protect the Oxford Green Belt.
- 5. Neighbourhood Planning:** I understand the parish council is divided as to whether we should create a Neighbourhood Plan. One reason FOR that I've not heard discussed very much, certainly it wasn't included in the letter set out to all homes, is that only with a Neighbourhood Plan is the parish guaranteed to financially benefit from CIL money on new developments. If we have a NP, we are guaranteed a share that the PC can use as it sees fit. If we don't have a NP, the Vale is under no obligation to give us any part of CIL money they get from developers. I look forward to hearing the result of the PC survey.

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6. **Brown bins for less.** Throughout April and May, the Vale is offering all new garden waste customers a 10% discount. The service is normally £37 per year. This offer applies to the first year for both new customers, and existing customers ordering a second bin. Contact waste.team@southandvale.gov.uk.

7. **Consultations:** To participate in all Vale consultations, you have to register; do that here: <https://consult.southandvale.gov.uk/portal/vale/>
 - **Parish Community Governance Review.** Now through the end of May. This is not on the Consultation portal, so please see it via this link: <http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/services-and-advice/local-democracy/town-and-parish-councils/local-government-and-public-involvement>

8. **Planning Applications.** Let's talk about the planning applications for blocks of flats. 102 West Way was recently approved. 35-37 Yarnells Hill is under way (the stalled demolition resumed this week). We have 13 Cumnor Hill, Little Dene in Harcourt Hill, 26-28 Westminster Way, 34 North Hinksey Lane, 50 Laburnum Road, and a prospective application for 58 Hurst Rise Road, all under consideration, or expected. (That's off the top of my head; there may be more.) Personally, I'm sorry to see this tendency to packing as many flats onto a property as the developer can get away with. It's changing the nature of our neighbourhood. However, with no Local Plan in place, and a shortage of housing land supply, we are pretty much defenceless against it. I'd be interested in discussions with the parish council about how we can fight this trend. It will continue for the foreseeable future, and probably grow (it's a real money-maker) unless we do something. You can see current and recently determined planning applications on my blog here: <http://bit.ly/1dQfqeM>.

9. **Town and Parish Forum.** 16th of June 6-9 pm, Guildhall in Abingdon. You should have your invitation from the Vale.

10. **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.

11. **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.