

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

18 October 2012

1. **Neighbourhood Plans.** Local plan working groups have been established with town and parish councils in the two areas where the local plan 2029 proposes to allocate large housing sites (Wantage/Grove and Harwell/Didcot). Briefing events were recently held for those parish councils considering the production of neighbourhood plans.

In my report last month I highlighted what government financial support is available to towns and parishes who want to develop their own neighbourhood plans.

On the 13th of Sept, an extraordinary meeting of the Vale passed the following resolution:

THAT Council requests that Cabinet and planning officers continue the process of positively encouraging and promoting the development of Neighbourhood Plans all across the District (particularly in the villages) and that this process should be undertaken as soon as possible, side by side with the developing Local Plan, in order to ensure that a robust, complementary, compliant and sustainable set of planning guidelines is available to planning committees in making their decisions.

Council further welcomes the intention of the Cabinet to bring forward proposals to share a proportion of the Department for Communities and Local Government funding to support Neighbourhood Plans with parish councils to enable them to bring forward their plans as soon as possible.

Cabinet and planning officers are also requested to inform the Planning Inspectorate and the Planning Advisory Service and all potential developers and landowners of the Council's intentions, and the Council's wish to ensure that sufficient numbers of houses of all types, particularly affordable houses are built, whilst protecting the District from inappropriate speculative and random development.

2. Consultations

- **Budget.** Have your say (through **7 Nov 2012**) about where the Vale should spend our money next year. Are you happy to have your tax money spent on free parking for shoppers in Abingdon, Faringdon and Wantage? Are you satisfied with Vale support for local recreational facilities? See it here: bit.ly/QtMsrn
- **Oxford Brookes Harcourt Hill Master Plan.** Oxford Brookes have been consulting extensively in the past few months about their plan for the future of their Harcourt Hill campus. See it here and have your say (through **27 Oct 2012**): bit.ly/RIwf3J
- **Drayton Neighbourhood Plan.** Drayton are blazing the trail for local Neighbourhood Plans. Here is a chance to see what they've drafted, learn what might work for North Hinksey and comment (through **28 Nov 2012**) on its appropriateness. See it here: bit.ly/RIvdFO

3. **Brown Bins for Garden Waste.** To reduce costs arising from unpaid fees and collections thereof, all brown bin customers are being asked to pay their annual fee by direct debit. The conversion in payment method has been ongoing for a few months now. If any questions, please contact me.

4. **Local info online:** You can easily find current North Hinksey planning applications on my public-facing Facebook page: www.facebook.com/DebbyHallettLD (you don't need to be a registered Facebook user to see this page). I add info as soon as I receive notice of the planning application from the Vale. I include the consultation period, targeted decision date, and a link to the Vale Planning site so readers can see what information about the application has already been received.