

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

20 December 2012

1. **High Street Innovation Fund:** The Vale received £100k in May 2012 to spend on 'revitalising the High Street experience'. Cabinet decided Botley gets £22,500. Money must be spent by the end of March, and in alignment with the Portas Review.

- Shop "wrapping" – 7 The Square (old video store) £2,000 1 Dec 2012
- Community shop – 6 The Square (formerly Clovers) £3,000 1 Feb 2013
- Information Boards £3,800 1 February 2013
- Shoppers map for information board, including design, print and install £2,000 1 Feb 2013
- Develop logo and branding for West Way (with artist, Oxford Brookes University, local young people) £300 1 Nov 2012
- ByBox scheme (no cost) 31 Mar 2013
- Christmas tree, lights and associated events £2,400 1 Dec 2012
- Drop down banners on lampposts £1,000 1 Dec 2012
- Purchase and install benches £4,000 31 Mar 2013
- Paint lettering on front fencing £1,000 1 Feb 2013
- Installation of recycling bins £1,500 1 Dec 2012
- Paint gazebos and lettering above Co-op and lampposts £1,000 31 Mar 2012
- Trader window Christmas display competition and possible Santa's grotto £500 1 Dec 2012

2. **Good news from Planning:** The Vale's Planning Department refused Bewley Homes permission to knock down the 1907 house Larkbeare, at 85 Cumnor Hill, to make way for a 21-home housing estate. Larkbeare was designed by Sir Bertram Clough Williams-Ellis, famed for creating the Italianate village of Portmeirion, North Wales.

Neighbours opposed the demolition saying it would destroy 200 trees and create a flood risk. The council said it was a poor quality and visually harmful development that failed to provide adequate open space for children and would impact on neighbours and infrastructure. Council also said the eight proposed affordable homes would not be evenly spread across the site and did not vary enough in size.

Organised community opposition CAN make a difference!

3. **West Way Re-development:** There is no publicly available news, although word is expected soon.

4. **Electoral Review of Vale of White Horse:** The LGBCE has published its draft recommendations on the future electoral arrangements for Vale of White Horse District Council. Have your say here: <http://bit.ly/Yn6wl6>. Consultation is through 7 Jan 2013. Their proposal will split North Hinksey parish between two district council wards. As a result, North Hinksey Parish will become warded, changing the nature of our parish council.

The word is that LGBCE values comments from individuals that demonstrate evidence about community ties and identity. They feel most people don't care very much, as in the initial consultation, only two individuals submitted comments.

I urge parish councillors, and your friends, to respond as individuals, by 7 Jan.

5. **Oxford Brookes Master Plan:** Recent consultations have been somewhat heated. Oxford Brookes are apparently on a time scale to get their visionary master plan included with the upcoming Local Development Scheme (due to be considered by Cabinet in Feb 2013). (OB have

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done similarly for their Wheatley campus.) But North Hinksey parish residents feel that the issues around traffic, access and parking from the planned increase in number of students and staff are so serious as to be a deal-breaker; no one can see how the plan is feasible without serious attention to the traffic plan, which hasn't been published yet (and may not have yet even been created). Send your comments to me, and I'll ensure they are passed on. Or you can email the Planning Policy Officer, Mark Williams, directly. [mark.williams@southandvale.gov.uk](mailto:mark.williams@southandvale.gov.uk)

6. **Westminster Way road sign.** I reported that it was damaged. A new sign is expected soon after Christmas.
7. **Resident's satisfaction survey.** During this summer, consultants M-E-L Research carried out a residents' survey on behalf of the council. It was the first time Vale had undertaken a survey, who are very keen to hear what residents think about the area they live in and council services. It is planned to repeat the survey every two years.

Over 1,000 residents were interviewed to find out their views on the quality of the services the council provides, their satisfaction with the customer service they have received from the council, how well they think the council runs things, and which services are most important to them. See the results here: <http://bit.ly/UHlcoV>

8. **Local info online:** You can easily find current North Hinksey planning applications on my public-facing Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/DebbyHallettLD](http://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. Included: consultation period, targeted decision date, and a link to the Vale Planning site so readers can see all information about the application.
9. **On my Facebook page,** you can also see the proposed new boundaries for our district wards.