

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

20 Oct 2011

1. The Vale now stocks some 360 litre green recycling bins, which are half again as large as the standard green bins. At the moment, they are only for households of 6 or more, but that policy is to be reviewed in Nov 2011. If you'd like a larger green bin, contact the Vale 01235 520202, or waste.team@southandvale.gov.uk
2. I've started listing current planning applications on my blog. I want to make it simple to find out what applications are currently under consideration in North Hinksey and Wytham ward. 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. See them at www.DebbyHallett.MyCouncillor.org.uk
3. Town and parish council forum 2011. The Vale has invited town and parish councils to attend a town and parish council forum to be held during the evening of Wednesday 23 November 2011 at Wantage Civic Hall. This is the first of its kind in the Vale. It's expected to be a well-attended event providing town and parish councils the opportunity to meet with other parish councillors, councillors and officers from the district council and local public sector representatives. The evening includes a buffet and networking session, service information stands, an address from the chief executive and an opportunity to discuss current issues and how organisations can work together to tackle them. If you're interested in attending the forum or would like more information contact Anne Hall, Corporate Strategy, 01491 823311, anne.hall@southoxon.gov.uk
4. David Buckle, Returning Officer of the Vale, has sent a letter to all parish and town councils in the district that had elections in May 2011, which the parish clerk has forwarded to all parish councillors. The letter sets out the reason for the delay in invoicing these councils, the fact that the invoice will reflect the compensation payment received from the printers and the fact that David Buckle has decided not to receive his personal fee as returning officer for these elections.
5. County Cllr Janet Godden and I hold a Get It Sorted Session every other month in a different part of the parish. Our first one was a Seacourt Hall on 13 Sep 2011. A few people came along, and we hope the numbers will grow as we continue to get the word out and hold regular sessions. In the 2-3 weeks prior to each session, Janet and I deliver announcements and a residents' survey form to the neighbourhoods nearby to where we were holding the session. If you'd like a survey form to fill in, please contact me.
6. Our next Get it Sorted Session is 29 Nov 2011, 6-7pm at the Westminster Sports Centre. This is particularly handy for residents of Harcourt Hill and the upper part of Elm's Rise, but everyone is welcome.
7. Our first iteration of the residents' survey asked many questions. Here are samples, with some answers:
 - **What do you like best about living in the parish?** Recreational places to visit, shops, close to countryside, my garden
 - **What do you find most frustrating living in the parish?** Signals at the Botley interchange roundabout, traffic on Botley Rd, no community life, parking
 - **What do you think are the best local facilities or activities for young people?** Youth club, Westminster Sports Centre, MUGA, scouts and children's play area
 - **What is most needed for older people?** Some help with essential household tasks (for pay), free transport up and down the hill, volunteers to regularly call on frail or disabled, a drop in place for advice and a cuppa, benches, boules/bowls pitch
 - **And finally, what should we have asked that we didn't?** Litter, untidy front gardens and obstructed paths and pavements, medical facilities at the surgery don't meet our needs, plant trees around the new mobile mast at the top of Crabtree Road.