

21 July 2011

1. The new Vale of White Horse cabinet intends to discontinue the Vale's residents' newsletter, Unvaled (see current issue at <http://bit.ly/pDOZ6I> . On p2 in the blue box, they are asking for your opinion. I hear there is no plan to replace Unvaled, and residents will have to check the Vale website for information. This decision will probably be taken at the Cabinet meeting on Friday 12 August at 2pm in Abbey House (Cabinet meetings are open to the public.)
2. I went along to the North Hinksey Youth Club open night, and what an energetic group that is! More volunteers are needed. Please help if you can; one evening a month (or more) will help these kids have fun while learning about life and friendship. Contact Emily Newson ([ejnewson@gmail.com](mailto:ejnewson@gmail.com)) or any of the Youth Club team. Or, contact me and I'll put you in touch with them.
3. Your Oxfordshire County Councillor, Janet Godden, and I are beginning a series of Get it Sorted sessions. Every other month, Janet and I will be at a different venue where you can drop in and talk to us about whatever is on your mind. First session is Tues 13 Sept 2011, 6-7pm, upstairs in Seacourt Hall. We hope to be in a different location every other month, so there's bound to be one close to you. For up-to-date info, please visit my blog ([www.debbyhallett.mycouncillor.org.uk](http://www.debbyhallett.mycouncillor.org.uk)). Or check out the back page of The Sprout.
4. The new Vale cabinet is introducing 2hr free parking in Abingdon town centre, against the recommendation of Vale financial officers. To pay for it, permit fees are rising for residents and commuters, and the fee for parking longer than 2 hours. Also, new house development bonus reserves will be used, which would otherwise be used to enhance the facilities and infrastructure in neighbourhoods with large new housing developments.
5. Changes to the Vale's garden waste service - from the Vale officers (edited for size):

*...We will suspend collections for two weeks over Christmas, [...] to enable us to collect the extra household waste produced at this time of the year. [We will also] collect extra garden waste during a week in spring, which we will publicise nearer the time.*

*[...] for new customers we will only accept direct debit payments [...] We are planning to include a letter with future invoices to advise existing customers that we will be moving to direct debit payments only for our garden waste service before their service is next renewed. We hope this will encourage some customers to switch now but gives all customers up to 12 months notice of this change.*

*For more information on the terms and conditions, please visit the council's website at [www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk](http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk).*

For questions related to the garden waste service, please contact Ian Matten on (01235) 547640 or [waste.team@whitehorsedc.gov.uk](mailto:waste.team@whitehorsedc.gov.uk)

7. The council initiated an inquiry into the mishandling of many aspects of the recent elections. The investigators report found problems with printer selection, their ability to carry out their duties, and general oversight shortcomings. You can see the report online here: <http://bit.ly/mWbC5y>
8. The Vale will decide next month who the buyer will be for the land to be redeveloped in the West Way shopping centre area. By September, there should be an opportunity for parish input into the plan with the selected developers.
9. The Seacourt Retail project is due to be decided upon, now that all the Thames water obstacles have been overcome. Many residents provided written feedback, and all letters are available to read on the Vale's Planning website: <http://bit.ly/q4iHb0> (scroll down a few screens and you'll see all the documents associated with this plan). Many people objected to the removal of the only petrol station serving this area. There were other objections to do with environmental impact, pedestrian access and more traffic for our already clogged streets.