

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

23 May 2013

- 1. Progress of Local Plan Part 1.** Consultation on Part 1 closed 9 May 2013; there were over 500 responses (including one from me). I hope you sent in yours.
- 2. Why the Local Plan matters:** Until we have a robust Local Plan in place for the Vale that identifies our strategic housing sites, developers will continue to successfully register speculative applications; inspectors are upholding appeals against refusals. One inspector said that until there was a local plan in place, he had to discount any local policies and be guided by the National Planning Policy Framework, which urges decisions in favour of sustainable development. Because our area is 'sustainable' I'd expect most planning applications to be allowed until the Local Plan is in place. That's why it matters.
- 3. Lime Road Development.** Consultation closed 24 Apr 2013. Many residents left comments; I did, and I hope you did. You can more on the Planning website: www.bit.ly/142m5IW
- 4. Leisure facilities:** This week the report on the leisure facilities consultation in Dec 2012 comes to Scrutiny as part of the Vale Leisure Strategy, which will guide decision making through 2029. Of about 140,000 residents in the Vale, only 34 responded to the consultation. The set of 'Cares about leisure/recreation facilities in the Vale' and the set of 'Aware of the consultation' overlapped by 34 people (and 16 organisations). This is so small a return rate as to be meaningless; there's no way to tell if this indicates people don't care, or people didn't know about the consultation. Most disappointing is that the Vale's Leisure Strategy, based partially on consultation results, is part of the evidence base supporting the Vale's drive, over the next 16 years, to get s106 or CIL money from developers as a contribution to the local community. We've lost out recently in the Lime Road and Tilbury Lane s106 agreements due to 'no evidence of need'. Lack of community (and parish) response now makes it harder to make a case for s106 or CIL contributions from developers here. In spite of lack of local participation, I will continue to point out to the Vale decision makers that, despite the fact that our area is considered one of the four main settlements, the Vale doesn't currently provide leisure or recreational facilities for our residents. I think it's the right thing to do for our community.
- 5. West Way Development.** This week we have the feedback on Wednesday evening from the survey taken by West Way Concern. No word from Doric since consultation closed. I assume they're busy collating results and creating plans.
- 6. Oxford Brookes University (OBU) Master Plan:** Cabinet consideration of this masterplan has been delayed from June and is now scheduled for 2 Aug 2013. Previously, OCC was requiring that OBU and their developers complete a transport assessment. Now, apparently it's enough to have a *plan* to conduct such an assessment. Despite requests, no one has been able to see the masterplan since it was revised to take into consideration consultation feedback. I'm working on having it made public. When I hear anything I will post it on my Facebook page.
- 7. 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. Included: consultation period, targeted decision date, and a link to the Vale Planning site so readers can see all information about the application.