

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

24 July 2014

1. **Air Quality Action Plan for Botley.** As you know, for two years I have been asking the Vale's Cabinet to fulfil their legal responsibility to create an Air Quality Action Plan. This is where we could expect to see how the Vale plan to reduce our air pollution to acceptable levels. They have finally published their plan. I'm disappointed that we waited all this time for one suggestion to explore: make the wall higher between the A34 and Westminster Way. Go have a read; it's interesting to see the causes. The consultation is open until the 15th of August. I urge you to take part, give your views, and if you have some ideas they didn't consider, tell them. Access it via the link in **Consultations**, below.

2. **West Way Redevelopment:** Mace now own 50% of Doric, so 'Doric' now includes Mace. Consultation on Doric's Environmental Statement ended in late June. Feedback from that consultation, and from the design panel review, led Mace to decide they wanted to make some changes. Mace have spoken openly about this, in the press and in private correspondence with some residents. Their amendments include a proposal to phase the construction (without the portacabins originally mooted). The amended plans haven't been submitted yet, so we don't know what's coming. Once they are in, there will be another round of consultation. I have had no news on the food store partner negotiations.

West Way Community Concern have done an amazing job listening to residents and people who work here, harnessing community opinion and turning it into something positive for Botley. They've worked tirelessly examining and explaining the plans and the consequences to our community. I'm grateful for all their work; champions for our community!

3. **Lime Road Development:** An enforcement file was opened after I reported residents complaints about Sunday working. Bovis said, 'Sorry', but it's well known that it's easier to ask for forgiveness than for permission. I have no recent news; things seem to be proceeding as planned.

4. **West Way Letting Policy:** Last week in the full Vale council meeting, I asked the Cabinet member for Property, "What is the current policy for deciding about letting empty units in West Way Centre?" She said that the Vale is the decision-maker, and that the Vale, as a courtesy, consult with Doric and also ensure that any new tenants understand the rental agreement might end in Dec 2015. She said Doric have been contributing money to the Vale to help offset the impact of low rents being negotiated in some instances.

5. **Local Plan 2031:** Last week in the full Vale council meeting, I asked the Cabinet member for Planning Policy (he's responsible for creating the Local Plan) when we would be able to see the responses from the first consultation (from Feb 2013 - c2700 items from 500 people or organisations) and the consequent changes to the next draft of the plan. He said it would be included in the release of the next draft, to be published later this year.

6. **Neighbourhood Planning:** Nothing new to report. How's it going from your end?

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7. **Consultations:** To participate in all Vale consultations, you have to register; do that here: <https://consult.southandvale.gov.uk/portal/vale/>
 - Vale of White Horse Air Quality Action Plan, through 15 Aug 2014. whitehorsedc.gov.uk/services-and-advice/environment/pollution/air-quality
 - Oxfordshire Local Flood Risk Management Strategy, through 19 Sep 2014. consultations.oxfordshire.gov.uk/consult.ti/floodriskmgmt/consultationHome
8. **Planning Applications.** Recently, most of my time has been taken up with helping people in their objections to planning applications. West Way takes up the lion's share of my time. Next week we have 13 Cumnor Hill coming to committee, and a re-determination of 34 North Hinksey Lane, and 66 Westminster Way. You can see current and recently determined planning applications on my blog here: <http://bit.ly/1dQfqeM>.
9. **My portfolio responsibilities are Legal & Democratic Services, and IT, HR, and Customer Services.** Regular meetings with Heads of Services in these departments keep me aware of what's going on. If I can ever help the council or residents in any of these areas, I'm happy to do it. Please contact me.
10. **Online presence in four ways.** Facebook: [facebook.com/DebbyHallettLD](https://www.facebook.com/DebbyHallettLD) (you don't need to be a registered Facebook user to see this page, but you do in order to comment).
Twitter: twitter.com/DebbyHallett_LD
Various news items and opinions on my blog: debbyhallett.mycouncillor.org.uk/
Sign up to my email newsletter here: bit.ly/18TbbzU. I send one out every month or so, or when there's urgent info.