

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

27 February 2013

1. **West Way Redevelopment:** As I reported previously, most of my working time has been filled with work in support of the people of Botley who have contacted me about their views of the proposed Doric Plans. For every letter I get in favour of the scheme, I get more than 15 against.

On 20 Dec 13, Doric submitted their plans for the Regeneration of Botley District Centre (as they like to call it). Some documents and reports were incomplete or had problems, so it wasn't until the end of January 2014 that the plans were posted where the public could see them. I believe all reports and appendices are available now.

The Vale Planning Department decided on 12 Feb 14 that an Environmental Statement (ES) is required. You can read the decision here: <http://bit.ly/1bliuxV>. Doric have 3 weeks from then to either agree to provide the ES, appeal the decision, or forfeit the application. All indications are that Doric will provide the report. It's not known how long it will take them to provide the ES. Consultation on the main application continues in the meantime. If a re-consultation is required for any reason, we will be notified by the Vale.

The parish council requested from Doric a 3D model of the plan. I'm unaware of any reply. West Way Concern commissioned such a model. It will be available to view at their public meeting on the 27th of Feb (7pm at St Peter and Paul church). Contact them for viewing after that date.

You can see the plans online here: <http://bit.ly/1li8gro>

Printed copies are available in the Library and in West Way Concern offices in Elms Parade.

Watch my website or Facebook page; I'll announce things there as I learn of them.

You can keep up to date here: <http://westwayconcern.wordpress.com/>

2. **Lime Road Development:** This has been the wettest winter since records began. Combine that with the clearance and deliveries at the Lime Road site, and you have a recipe for a messy nuisance. I see someone changed the road sign this week to Slime Road.

Everyone is inconvenienced and annoyed. The verges are chewed up. Mud flows down Laburnum Road. Lime Road is indeed Slime Road. Lorries ignore the weight limit signs on Westminster Way and come up Yarnells Hill to try to make the sharp turn into Lime Road. Work jumps the 8am starter's gun most mornings. Workers broke a water main the 24th Feb, so we were without water for many hours. With every complaint, Bovis apologise and try to implement measures to ease the pain.

This development will continue to progress. We can either grin and bear it (and even try to find the humour in it, as in 'Slime Road'), or we can remain angry about it forever, which makes nothing better. This is my opinion. Your opinion may differ. I've previously provided contact details for key Bovis staff; please contact them with any problems.

3. **Tilbury Lane Development.** Development has begun on the Cumnor Parish part of the site. Residents there are concerned about the downhill run-off and flooding over the allotments toward the drainage ditch. Work hasn't yet begun on the North Hinksey Parish side.
4. **4 Bus route.** Of course, you've heard that Oxford Bus company cancelled its 4C service to Dean Court. The Route 4 manager also told me about sewer works expected in Park End Street.

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Around Easter time that road will be torn up and buses will be re-routed, probably around Oxpens Road. More details later, but here's the heads up.

5. **Vale Staff move to Crowmarsh in South Oxfordshire.** Most of the Vale staff are relocating, since the Vale administration decided to lease most of Abbey House in Abingdon to Oxfordshire County Council. Most major Vale meetings will now take place in Wantage Civic Hall.
6. **Local Plan:** In my Dec 2013 report, I half-heartedly predicted further delay on the Vale's Local Plan. I should have taken a flutter on that. Yes, the Local Plan 2031 (renamed from Local Plan 2029) is now further delayed, and expected to be complete in July 2015. Detailed Policies and Local Sites is expected to complete in Aug 2017. I'm angry about this delay because lack of a plan is causing us pain here in Botley. Ugly developments of flats get approved, and then they become the precedent for further ugly developments of flats. Those flats at 98-100 West Way and the corner of Arthray Rd and Westminster Way are now precedents for 102 West Way, 34 North Hinksey Lane, and on and on until there is some sort of plan in place. This is also my opinion. Yours may differ.
7. **New Home Bonus Grants.** The Vale gave a grant of £3870 to Bike Safe, towards their project of providing a community path between the Swinford Toll Bridge and the A420 bridge at Dean Court. The Vale also gave a grant of £5630 in start-up funding to the Dean Court Community Assn. As I reported in Dec 13, no North Hinksey organisations applied.
8. **Consultations:** To participate, register: <https://consult.southandvale.gov.uk/portal/vale/>
 - **Local Plan Part 1.** Additional consultation on the draft plan you saw in Feb last year, open through 4 Apr 14. There are 'road shows' scheduled in various parts of the Vale, but none in Botley. When this happened last year, I enquired. I was told that the presentations were only being offered in areas that would be asked to accept new housing in strategic sites. The current administration didn't consider West Way and Oxford Brookes to be important enough. I know the NHPC has requested a Botley showing, but I've not heard more on it.
9. **Vale News.** You can see the latest issue here: valenews.whitehorsedc.gov.uk. You can get to back issues from this page too.
10. **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.
11. **Online presence in four ways.** Facebook: 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 week or so, or when there's urgent info (such as the broken water main yesterday).