

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

27 March 2013

1. **West Way Redevelopment:** Deadline for comments is today. More comments have been filed on this single planning application than were received from the whole of the Vale for their Local Plan consultation last year.

The number and variety of objections based on material planning considerations, and received from organisations, neighbouring authorities and people who live and work here make me think it's likely this plan won't go forward. (But I might be wrong.) If that's the outcome, we have a unique and hard-earned opportunity to work together with the Vale and a developer to bring a development to Botley that meets local and district needs. Housing, offices, shops and services to support the local economy. We shall see.

You can see the plans online here: <http://bit.ly/1li8gro>. Have a read of some of the objections. They are comprehensive and many of them offer a perspective of a future in which Botley is a nicer place to live and work.

As always, watch my website or Facebook page; I'll announce things there as I learn of them. You can keep up to date via West Way Concern, here : <http://westwayconcern.wordpress.com/>

2. **Lime Road Development:** Slime Road is back to normal Lime Road. Bovis have finally got their wheel washing facility up and running, and with the street sweeper still regularly going up and down, the road conditions aren't nearly as bad as they were. Houses are going up rapidly now.

Recently reported to Bovis: shoddy road patching. Damage to roads from heavy goods vehicles.

Please feel free to let me know of problems you want reported to Bovis. You can also contact them yourself.

3. **Vale Housing Needs:** Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) figures are now available in a doc for download, here: <http://bit.ly/1m7XgdN> (then scroll down to SHMA). You can see how it was determined that we need so many houses to be built.

4. **Green Belt under threat:** Consultation on the Local Plan continues through the 4th of April on the Local Plan 2031 (see the link just below). The Vale administration didn't include our area for its road show presentations, ostensibly because we have no strategic housing sites here. But the Green Belt around us is under threat, and in my opinion we deserved to be included in the presentation schedule. A local resident who *was* invited to one of the presentations, let me know that our playing fields were under threat. A bit of research got to the bottom of it, and you can read about it on my blog, here: <http://bit.ly/1le6EiC> . (I know many people express dismay when things turn 'political'. But we live in a world where decisions are politically made. I keep it out of this report as best I can, but my blog has political points of views. In my opinion, it matters who runs the Vale.)

5. **Neighbourhood Planning:** A Neighbourhood Plan for Botley could bring us large benefits. There's some sense of urgency now, as well. Tony Wood has a guest post on my blog, discussing some of them. See it here: <http://bit.ly/1duRy5y>

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6. **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. The current administration suggest targets for house building that are 3 times more than anything we've ever been able to accomplish. They also are proposing to grab parts of the Green Belt for housing development.
7. **Town and Parish Forum.** 16th of June 6-9 pm, Guildhall in Abingdon. You should have your invitation from the Vale.
8. **Planning Applications.** I've returned to keeping track of open consultations and recent decisions on my blog, here: <http://bit.ly/1dQfgeM>. Two recent applications are for demolition of houses to build blocks of flats. One is in upper Yarnell's Hill, the other at the corner of Laburnum Road and Lime Road. I expect to see more of these types of applications until we have either a Local Plan in place that addresses them, or a Neighbourhood Plan that does.
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> (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.