

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

29 November 2012

I always try to fit this report onto one page, but there is more than a page-worth this month.

1. Lime Road Development section 106 money. The section 106 agreements are in draft form and about to be agreed between the Vale and the developers. I enquired why there was to be no section 106 contribution to the North Hinksey recreational sites (LM Playing fields, etc). The answer was much the same as for the Tilbury Lane site. Contributions were reliant upon two main factors: 1) a detailed improvement scheme for the playing fields, provided by the Vale's landscape service in cooperation with the parish council. Unfortunately this scheme was not finished due to cuts made to the Vale's landscape service; and 2) a willingness of the developer to provide this contribution as a goodwill gesture. The developers have decided to provide their own play equipment on the site, so this money is no longer available. The down-side to freezing council taxes is cuts in services.

2. Flooding in North Hinksey Lane. I contacted the Vale Planning team to express my concern that the £7 million sewerage improvement work's failure to handle the rainstorm last Wednesday (21 Nov 12) in North Hinksey Lane was cause to re-investigate whether the problems were actually fixed. I am concerned at the major planning applications going ahead now under the assumption that all is well with the sewers. I had this response:

The recent improvements to local sewers by Thames Water have been deliberately designed to prevent the previously recorded instances of sewage surcharging by installing significant additional capacity in those parts of the system that deal in a combined pipe with surface water and foul water. The work has also been designed to accommodate a significant increase in the amount of housing in the locality. Given the extreme amount of rainfall that has occurred over recent months it would not be surprising to see surface water drains overflowing. ... there are separate surface water drains in parts of the system, so overflowing of these drains does not mean there is a problem with the sewers. Thames Water has now confirmed that it does not object to the new housing proposed at Lime Road and Tilbury Lane, and it is difficult for the Vale to object in the face of this independent expert advice.

3. West Way Re-development. According to the latest briefing I've had from the Vale officers, we are likely to have some decisions regarding the sale of the Vale's land before Christmas. We are not informed about other landowners inclinations to sell their land. The Vale's land sale is a Cabinet decision, and if they agree the sale, then the developer would want to start doing some local consultation from mid/late January onwards. This would then inform a future planning application itself possibly 9 to 12 months away. It might be that the developers could use one of the vacant shops as a consultation and planning centre. That's all I know.

4. Consultations:

- 1. Electoral Review of Vale of White Horse:** The LGBCE has published its draft recommendations on the future electoral arrangements for Vale of White Horse District Council. Have your say here: <http://bit.ly/Yn6wl6>. Consultation is through 7 Jan 2013. Their proposal will split North Hinksey parish between two district council

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wards. As a result, North Hinksey Parish will become warded, changing the nature of our parish council. Tell them what you think!

2. **Extending permitted development rights for homeowners and businesses.** This consultation, which ends 24 Dec 2012, concerns the proposal to allow homeowners and businesses to add larger extensions to their homes and business premises without requiring a planning application. The changes also aim to allow for the quicker installation of broadband infrastructure.
A full copy of the consultation can be viewed on the Inside Government website <http://bit.ly/UKfMtb>.
3. **Leisure and Sports Facilities Strategy.** The Vale is consulting (until 17 Dec 12) on its Leisure and Sports Facilities Strategy, which shapes the effective delivery of leisure services across the district. The strategy is linked to relevant policies as part of our emerging Local Plan. This online and postal consultation is open to all, but targeted at town and parish councils, schools, sports, recreation and leisure providers and sports, recreation and leisure groups. The strategy will guide effective delivery of leisure services across the district. See it here: <http://bit.ly/115uksK>
4. **Oxford Brookes Master Plan:** This has not yet come to the Vale in a planning application so is not yet a formal consultation. The recent consultations are pre-planning and intended to elicit concerns from the community that can be addressed in the plan that is ultimately submitted. And there have been plenty of concerns, chiefly to do with traffic and parking, but also drainage and use of local services. The master plan was originally intended to be considered by the Vale cabinet in early December, but we managed to get it put back to February.
5. **Vale is top recycling council in England for 2011/12.** The Vale topped the recycling, composting and reuse league table for England with 68.7 per cent recycling rate. Vale and South have been operating a joint waste collection service over the past two years, delivered by Biffa, which involves alternate weekly collections of waste and recycling and weekly food waste collections. We congratulate all those responsible for providing this service and thank residents for embracing the scheme and making it a success.
6. **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. I include the consultation period, targeted decision date, and a link to the Vale Planning site so readers can see what information about the application has already been received.
7. **On my Facebook page,** you can also see the proposed new boundaries for our district wards. My street has been scooped out of Botley Ward and put into Kennington Ward. Makes no sense to me.