

Parish Plan Update 2009

ACTION PLAN

1) Protect and preserve the rural character of West Hagbourne

- *Resist further expansion of Didcot towards the village.* The Parish Council continues to oppose further development of Didcot beyond Great Western Park. Representations were made to the Examination in Public on the SE Plan but were unsuccessful. More houses are planned for the period 2016-2026 and it looks as though SODCs preferred direction for these will be in the Parish of West Hagbourne. This will match the site already being promoted by Vale of the White Horse DC.
- *Lobby for a buffer zone.* Plans shown on SODCs web site show that developers are applying for permission to develop land in West Hagbourne Parish as far as the A417. They show a minimal buffer zone (about 500m) for the village, which is encircled to the north and west. Reference to buffer zones to prevent coalescence of settlements was removed from the updated SE Plan.
- *Lobby for a relief road.* A recent survey of traffic volume through the village (carried out by the Highways department of OCC) showed an overall increase of 17% within 2 years and increases of up to 50% in the peak morning rush. A recent report prepared for SODC identifies that a relief road from the Wantage Road in Didcot through to the A417 and on to the A34 at Chilton would significantly reduce traffic through West Hagbourne. This project was not the one recommended by the report.

2) Improve pedestrian safety and access

- *Improve accessibility of local footpaths.* Work has started on clearing some of the undergrowth in Moor Lane. This is part of a habitat development project being coordinated by the Village Appearance group. The surface of the track at the western end will also be improved.
- *Replace styles with kissing gates on footpath to Upton.* This work was completed by the Village Appearance Group in 2007. Access was improved by making steps up from the bridge to the style
- *Improve Church path by removing debris.* This is being done on a regular basis. The possibility of raising the surface of this end of the track is being explored.

3) Improve the parish environment

- *Establish a village appearance group.* This group was established in 2007. Since then the planters on the green by the bus stop have been replanted and the gardens by the bus shelter weeded and pruned.
- *Plant more trees* Regular tree planting takes place each spring using trees donated to the Parish Council. These have been planted along side roads and tracks through the village. Proposed sites include along the railway embankment and Moor Lane.
- *Identify a site for a memorial grove.* No progress
- *More regular village clean ups* These take place twice year. The Parish Council now has high visibility jackets, gloves and pickers for those who take part. Clean ups by individual villagers also take place from time to time and are greatly appreciated.
- *Encourage more recycling via green boxes, brown bins composting and occasional garage sales* SODC continues to encourage recycling. Kerb side glass collections should start later this year. Old batteries can be recycled by taking them to XXXXX

- 4) Seek solutions to the increase in volume and speed of traffic through the village
 - *Establish a traffic group.* This group has not really got off the ground
 - *Develop a speed management plan* A survey conducted by the Highways Department of OCC did not find evidence of significant speeding in the village.
 - *Coordinate a campaign for the reduction of traffic volume* No progress
 - *Lobby for a relief road* The Parish Council continues to make its case via contacts with SODC, OCC and the local press.
 - *Investigate ways to enforce the weight limit* Meetings with Trading Standards have clarified the law with respect to weight limits. Signing has been improved.

- 5) Develop village facilities
 - *Village meeting place (site and possible use).* The Parish Council continues to try to acquire the land opposite the pub as a site for a meeting place.
 - *Create a register of volunteers and update regularly.* Anyone who would like to register as a volunteer for projects within the village please contact Andrea Mitchell.
 - *Produce a village welcome pack.* A Welcome Pack has been delivered to new residents for the past two years. It has been updated recently
 - *Find more contributors to the Newsletter* Any articles for the newsletter can be submitted electronically to the Parish Clerk.
 - *Encourage support for Village Association Events* Plans are being made for a celebration to mark St George's Day (April 23rd). Please support these efforts.
 - *Hold coffee mornings from time to time.* A number of coffee mornings/afternoons have taken place. There are also drop-in coffee mornings at Upton Village Hall – please see Newsletter for details.
 - *Promote clubs and activities via the web site* If you wish to post details of your club, please contact the web master or the Parish Clerk.

- 6) Improve transport links between West Hagbourne, local schools and Didcot
 - *Lobby for more direct bus routes* The Parish Council has lobbied for a bus route directly from West Hagbourne to Didcot without success.
 - *Discuss timetabling with OCC* Feedback has been sent to OCC about bus timetabling
 - *Lobby for better integration of transport* One resident has had considerable interaction with OCC with respect to retiming buses to connect with trains to London.

- 7) Improve cycle routes between West Hagbourne and local schools
 - *Form of cycling group* No progress
 - *Lobby for improved cycling routes to schools* No progress, Unfortunately the recent transport report prepared for SODC reveals that none of the bids made for improved cycle ways in the Didcot area matched the criteria required for funding

- 8) Ensure that future development meets the needs of local people
 - *Investigate the feasibility of affordable housing in the village* Contacts were made with the housing officer of SODC but a scheme of only 4 houses would not be practical
 - *Identify a location for up to 4 affordable homes* See above

- *Ensure that any development is sympathetic with existing buildings and does not spoil the rural feel of the village* Interactions with SODC planning continue to make this point

9) Develop activities for young people

- *Recruit a youth facilitator from the village community* No progress
- *Organise a social event to explore what activities are wanted* This is dependent finding a coordinator
- *Establish priorities of village youth* See above
- *Create pages especially for the young people of the village on the web site.* No young people have come forward to create this resource.

HOW ARE WE DOING? HAVE YOUR PRIORITIES CHANGED?

Please write into the spaces below your comments about how your priorities have changed and your vision of the future of West Hagbourne

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2) Improve pedestrian safety and access

3) Improve the parish environment

4) Seek solutions to the increase in volume and speed of traffic through the village

5) Develop village facilities

6) Improve transport links between West Hagbourne, local schools and Didcot

7) Improve cycle routes between West Hagbourne and local schools

8) Ensure that future development meets the needs of local people

9) Develop activities for young people
