

# West Hagbourne

## reports for 2007 / 2008

The Annual Parish Meeting is a statutory meeting held once a year for residents of West Hagbourne. It is intended to provide an opportunity to tell you what the Parish Council has done over the past year, to give a series of updates that affect the whole community and to allow you to raise questions of your representatives at Parish, District and County Council levels.

In the past the following reports have been presented to the Annual Parish Meeting but at last year's meeting it was requested that they were circulated in advance.

This years meeting will be held on **Saturday 24th May at 3pm** at Broomsticks.

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**Please note** that on page five we have included details of a consultation which Thames Water are undertaking this includes details of the **proposed Reservoir** near Steventon.

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### Parish Council

Whilst building has not yet started on Great Western Park, there is now a new threat to the Parish as the District Council develops its forthcoming Spatial Strategy, which includes the next phase of growth at Didcot. This means many thousands more houses, a country park and possibly yet more land being taken from West Hagbourne Parish.

The review of parish boundaries, which would consider re-drawing the line which divides Didcot town from West Hagbourne, has been delayed. Currently the Parish Council is minded to oppose any boundary change, as there has been no gain offered to the Parish in return for such a huge shift in favour of Didcot.

With only three nominations last year, the Parish Council co-opted two new Councillors and this enabled us to operate with a full compliment of five members, ensuring as broad a view as possible is taken on all the issues which have to be considered.

These pages aim to summarise what your Parish Council and representatives have done during the past year, and includes individual reports from representatives of The Village Association, South Oxfordshire District Council, Oxfordshire County Council, the William Tyrrell Trust, the Parish Plan Steering Group and the Village History Group.

Particular thanks must go to our outgoing Parish Clerk, Roger Sweet. We are very grateful for all of his hard work and diligence in bringing our administration procedures up to date. Given the amount of procedural change that is being passed down from Government this will prove invaluable to the Parish Council in the future.

I am sure you will welcome the new Parish Clerk, Michelle Lightfoot and note her contact details which are included on page three.

The Parish should also join us in thanking Roger for all the effort he has put into developing the web site together with John Baile. It is hoped that this project will continue to evolve and that it will become a valuable resource for the whole community.

Each year the Council has maintained a list of aims and objectives, which are formulated in response to feedback from parishioners and the external demands placed on us. This forms the basis of our declared 'policy'. An update of these issues is included – and is always available for new items to be added as different matters arise.

At the last formal meeting of the Parish Council on May 8th, we reported how we had spent the precept, ( this is the part of the Council Tax which is given to the Parish to spend ). It is used to cover all the maintenance in the Parish, the salary for the clerk, grass-cutting and other general expenditure such as the newsletter and any village planting. Full copies of the accounts are available from the clerk if you wish to see them.

As I have reported in previous years, we have continued to develop what we feel are important links between us and local stakeholders, allied organisations, neighbouring councils and campaigners. We do this to increase our visibility within the wider community and to try and ensure we are not overlooked, as has happened so often. Because the Parish population is so small, it is extremely easy for larger organisations to use their louder voice to great affect. We have continued to build on established alliances with neighbouring parishes, relevant agencies,

reports

PARISH  
COUNCILS

TYRRELL  
TRUST

HISTORY  
GROUP

RESERVOIR  
PLANS

SOUTH  
OXFORDSHIRE

VILLAGE  
ASSOCIATION

COUNTY  
COUNCIL

PARISH  
PLAN

continued overleaf

district and county councils and the local MP, to help in addressing threats such as Didcot's' continued growth, the impact of its poor infrastructure planning and the associated traffic issues this growth brings with it. Despite all of our protestation we believe that little or no improvement to the infrastructure will happen before building commences on Didcot's' Great Western Park.

By actively participating in any consultation led by South Oxfordshire District Council (SODC) we have built relationships which we hope will help in the future as the local community grows. For example the proposals for a country park were welcomed by the Parish Council, as a potential opportunity to influence future building of houses which pose a threat to the area. The latest round of ideas, shows more green zones being linked around the edge of Didcot, linking cycle paths and footpaths.

Our thanks must go to Keith Little for acting as a representative on the Hagbourne Village Hall committee, and to Ruth Webb who has agreed to attend these meetings where possible to represent West Hagbourne.

In the past few days the brewery, Greene King, have confirmed that it is still very much their intention to conclude the transfer of the parcel of land known as the Toll House Garden to the Parish Council. Given the legal process has commenced, I do hope this does all come to a conclusion during 2008, but after so long I will believe it when I see the documents signed and sealed in the hands of our solicitors.

The Parish Council were consulted on several minor planning applications this year and all small works were approved and most of them have now been completed. Only the conversion of the barn at Ivy Farm was refused by the planning committee of SODC; this was disappointing as the Parish Council had strongly supported this application, which would have seen one of the last remaining dilapidated barns to be improved and converted into a single dwelling. I hope the riparian owners feel it appropriate to appeal this.

But please remember, the Parish Council is only 'consulted' on planning matters, and we are only entitled to give a view, as all final 'decisions' to grant or refuse planning, are actually made by South Oxfordshire District Council. Often their reasoning will appear to lack common sense and can contradict even the most recent 'similar' decisions. The Parish Council intends to meet the Head of Planning soon, and will raise this inconsistency with them among other questions relating to planning gain and why the Parish was not offered anything to reflect the impact SODC's plans had when Didcot was being expanded.

In the past year numerous conversations have taken place over what to do to improve the condition and access to the western end of Moor Lane. We received many complaints about it being impossible to navigate with a pushchair or without becoming entangled with nettles and thorns. It had become overgrown with brambles and elder, and many of the trees on the south bank have died and fallen across the line of the ditch. This spring saw the village improvement group clearing back dead wood and brambles, which have almost obscured the ditch and thanks must go to Chris Lay who removed many, many tonnes of debris and wood, and has provided some hardcore at the wettest point.

The village maintenance programme continued this year as planned. Yet more tree planting has taken place and further

planting will continue along the parish boundary though suggestions for new sites are always welcome. We continue to accept the offer of any 'free' trees which are offered to the Parish. There will be the opportunity to discuss what happens next at the Parish Meeting.

The condition of the verges and roadsides this year have seriously deteriorated, and the blame can be squarely put on the size and frequency of vehicles coming through the village. We have recently met with Trading Standards and they have promised their help by increasing their visibility at peak times and when the A34 is affected.

As last year, the Parish Council have continued to lobby Highways, SODC and SEERA over the inadequacies of the pavements and road & transport infrastructure in the Parish and around Didcot, and repeatedly pointed out that if the town continues to grow, the impact on this and other villages will be very significant, and some alternative has to be put in place to change the road usage. South Oxfordshire District Council do seem to have adopted our view and acknowledged that the lack of infrastructure must be remedied, before any expansion of Didcot can continue, though whether West Hagbourne gets a 'suitable' traffic remedy remains to be seen.

Following the period of hard frosts there were a number incidents with black ice by the pond, with the posts and the planter being destroyed as vehicles slithered almost into the water. What happens next is open to debate.

The blocked culvert by Moor Lane was eventually cleared, and on the advice of Highways the ditch at the top of Moor Lane was cleared and deepened. This seems to have remedied the problem.

There are plans to continue making the annual traffic measurement as this allows us to show unequivocally that the flow of vehicles through the village is growing year on year.

It's only correct that I take this opportunity to formally thank my fellow Councillors for sharing the responsibility of taking part in other Committees, attending meetings with other organisations and for their input into the process of responding to the consultations which continue to form the basis of so much local government decision making.

The Council are grateful for their help and would like to thank Tracey Anderson for printing the newsletter and John Baile and Roger Sweet for the development of the website. Also to Hagbourne Farm Partners for keeping their footpaths mown, and for the help with Moor Lane. Thank you too to those of you who continue to pick up litter as you walk the footpaths, those who continue to undertake anonymous maintenance of small areas in the village and those who came to the village tidy ups.

The conduct of our regular Parish Council meetings has changed slightly this year. Meetings start formally at 7.30pm and if members of the public attend, items discussed in the open forum which has been held for many years, are now minuted. This forum gives everyone the chance to ask questions and discuss matters that are of concern.

So do please tell us if anything is bothering you or if you have suggestions for things you would like to see us do.

*Phil Taylor* - Chair May 20th 2008

## ***Parish Plan*** Steering Group

The Village appearance group has taken on the task of clearing Moor Lane and re-instating it as an important thoroughfare for the village. If you have any other suggestions for what you would like to see there, or would like to volunteer to help, please contact the Parish Clerk.

The Village Welcome pack has been updated to take account of the new council and various other changes. Copies can be obtained from Andrea Mitchell, Mary Ann Butler or Sue Totterdell, if you know someone has recently moved into your area.

The French Conversation group continues to meet every month, discussing a range of topics, all helped by a sociable glass of wine.

Traffic continues to be a focus of concern in the village and various issues have been brought to the attention of both SODC, and OCC's Highways department, by the Parish Council and separately by individuals.

If there is anyone prepared to run a 'Traffic Group' to coordinate these efforts, please contact the Parish Clerk.

It is now some time since the successful Village Garage Sale. If there is any interest in repeating this event some time in the next 12 months, please let Sue Totterdell know and we will try to arrange an event.

The Parish Council continues to explore the possibility of having our own village meeting place and is currently trying to identify a suitable site and possible funding opportunities. If you can help with either please let them know.

If there is any project that you had hoped to see come out of the plan that has not been mentioned, perhaps it is time to get going yourself and see what you can do.

*Sue Totterdell*

## the ***William Tyrrell Trust*** 2007—08

The William Tyrrell Trust was originally set up in 1662 for the benefit of the residents of West Hagbourne and has continued to be managed by three Trustees appointed by the Parish Council.

The current Trustees of the charity are: Mike Butler, Marion Judd and Bridget Pickup.

The Trustees met twice during 2007-08.

### ***Tenancy - Tyrrell Trust land***

As a formal tenancy agreement currently required by the Charities Commission had never previously been in place, a lease with the basic land has been signed and executed and copies have been exchanged with Matt Napper, the tenant. The date of the lease is 27th September 2007. The rent term is still April to April and we have received the rent under the lease for 2008 / 2009

At the same time, we are taking advantage of recent changes in the law to include the allotment land in the lease, having established that under the Allotments Acts of 1922 and 1950 the Trust has no legal obligation to provide allotments.

The introduction of a formal tenancy benefits both the Trust and the Tenant by providing a clear definition of each party's responsibilities under the lease, and this will be of benefit to the Trust and future Trustees in administering the Trust in accordance with legal requirements and in the best interests of West Hagbourne.

A huge vote of thanks is due to Trustee Mike Butler for undertaking all the legal work involved in setting up the tenancy agreement.

### ***Dispersement of Charity funds***

During 2007/08, a grant of £100 was made to Ellie Taylor toward her World Challenge expedition to Borneo in 2009.

The Trust continues to offer small grants for young people and others in the village to assist with worthwhile initiatives and pursuits.

Anyone wishing to apply for a grant should contact the Trustees.

### ***Accounts for 2007/08***

The annual Charity Commission returns were submitted in January 2008.

The Trustees are grateful once more to Bridget Pickup for preparing the accounts for the year which are available for inspection. Thanks go to Ian Thompson for auditing the accounts.

*Mike Butler  
Marion Judd  
Bridget Pickup*

## the *History Group* 2007—08

During this year two members of our History Group died, Diane Garland in November 2007 and Eleanor Bowey in April 2008. Both were valued members of the History Group and will be sadly missed. The members of West Hagbourne History Group send their condolences to family and friends of Diane and Eleanor.

Three members had to relinquish their membership due to ill health and one member has emigrated to Australia. We would be very pleased to welcome new members—---- contacts and information can be viewed on the History Group's page on the Village website or phone Josie Hill, chairman 01235 210900 or Val Walton, secretary 01235 851089.

**Village Website:** The History Group has contributed to the website with its own dedicated pages. As well as information about the Group including minutes of meetings, there is a potted history of the village, a summary of the contents of its publication, *Windsor Hakeborne*—---The Story of West Hagbourne,-- together with a review and order form, an explanation of the village name and West Hagbourne's entry in the *Doomsday Book*.

**Medieval Chapel :** During the summer of 2007 another survey took place at Chapel Hayes. This was a seismic study using a magnetometer. Results of the resistivity survey have not been published but the History Group are currently making enquiries. However, the Berkshire Archaeology Research Group confirmed from the survey in September 2004 that there was a chapel but as the print out of the findings were difficult to decipher so a second survey took place in 2007.

**Our Telephone Kiosk:** situated in a conservation area , West Hagbourne has one of the few remaining red telephone kiosks.

**Expansion of Didcot:** The Group is concerned about the expansion of Didcot and is keen to protect our village

### *Village Association*

Last year we celebrated the Village Association's 10th anniversary by inviting everyone in the village to a free lunch. Ninety or so people came to a splendid lunch held in Marion's garden at 'Broomsticks' and later enjoyed afternoon tea. Entertainment was provided by some of our talented young musicians who at one stage continued to play in the open air despite the rain! Altogether a lovely occasion thanks to all who worked hard both before and during the event.

Earlier in the summer (what summer!) the Madge Trophy Competition for the best front garden was held. The original cup was handed to Mrs Madge for safe keeping.

Publication of new book-----West Hagbourne at Court of Star Chamber by Pete Annells and Jillian Hedges. This book is concerned with a case brought to the Court of Star Chamber in the Royal Palace of Westminster in 1583 by William Dunch, a wealthy landowner, against Andrew Wyndsoor and several inhabitants of West Hagbourne alleging that they had conspired together to break down fences and destroy newly planted trees in his recently enclosed wood at Hagbourne Down. The book also enables the reader to understand more of West Hagbourne in the sixteenth century and relationships that existed between landowners, tenants and labourers at this time.

West Hagbourne at Court of Star Chamber is available at Didcot Library

**Archives and Photo Albums :** The History Group continues to maintain an historical archive and has created photo albums of Silver Jubilee celebrations, Village Open Day, Millennium celebrations, village events as well as house surveys and lists of maps.

A lot of interest was shown when these projects and photo albums were displayed at the Village Association's tenth Anniversary celebration which was held at Broomsticks on July 15th 2007.

Our History Book, *Windsor Hakeborne*, and notelets and tea towels depicting village scenes, can be purchased from Edna Scott at Chapel Hayes.

**Recording of tree planting :** A Register of Memorial Tree Planting in West Hagbourne is now in place.

**Growing Stone :** This has been exposed in Moor Lane. We think that the ancient stone was called growing stone because the size of the stone depended on the depth of water in the pond which used to exist in Moor Lane. More information can be found from our book and the next Newsletter.

A new cup, with plenty of space for winner's names, came into use. This year the competition will be held in August, plenty of time to get our front gardens into good shape.

On a more sombre note a tree with plaque was planted in memory of Steve Gore whose untimely death shocked us all. Steve's widow Julie, the triplets, her parents and some of the committee were present at the ceremony.

More events are planned for later this year so watch out for details in future editions of the Village Newsletter.

*Peter Mitchell*

## Consultations

### *Do you want to tell Thames Water where to put their reservoir?*

Perhaps you have noticed in the press and on local television recently that Thames water have launched a consultation on their Water Management Plans until 2035 which you can see at

[www.thameswaterconsult.co.uk/bgoss/consultation\\_documentsS.asp](http://www.thameswaterconsult.co.uk/bgoss/consultation_documentsS.asp)

you will have to register to access the documents

West Hagbourne lies in the Swindon and Oxfordshire Water Resources Zone (SWOX) which already has a water supply deficit. Thames Water has to plan to provide a reliable water supply for existing customers and to accommodate the predicted population growth. There seem to be four elements to their plans for this region.

#### *In the short term:*

They will continue to reduce water loss through leaks (although the biggest losses are in London via the Victorian pipe network that is gradually being replaced).

Increases in water efficiency of various appliances and better technology will reduce demand.

#### *In the medium term:*

Compulsory water meters will be introduced throughout the SWOX zone along with different tariffs aimed at reducing demand during peak periods, such as hot, dry summers.

#### *In the medium to long term:*

They will go ahead with the planned reservoir to the southwest of Abingdon. This will provide water for the local area as well as making up some of London's supply deficit.

The consultation runs from May 7th until 27 August. The Parish Council will be preparing a full response, and you should contact the clerk to find out how this is progressing. Issues you may want to consider are whether improvements recycling of grey water, rainwater collection and more careful use of water could avoid the need for a new reservoir.

What are the issues in terms of long term food production in this area if, in addition to the areas of agricultural land being lost to housing, more will be needed for the reservoir?

Perhaps, in addition to ensuring water supplies, the reservoir will provide a useful recreational facility in the area.

## Oxfordshire *County Council*

The Conservative controlled Oxfordshire County Council provides around 80% of the county's local authority services. These include social care, schools & children's services, waste management, trading standards, roads, transport planning, land use, countryside, the registration service, the fire and rescue service, countryside service, libraries, museums, emergency planning, public health (jointly with the Primary Care Trust) and Youth services.

#### Cabinet members:

Leader of the Council Cllr Keith Mitchell, Cllr David Robertson - Deputy Leader of the Council, Cllr Charles Shouler - member for Finance, Cllr John Howell - member for Change Management, Cllr Jim Couchman - member for Social & Community Services, Cllr Roger Belson - member for Sustainable Development, Cllr Louise Chapman - member for Children, Young People & Families, Cllr Michael Waite - member for School Improvement, Cllr Ian Hudspeth - member for Transport Strategy & Implementation and Cllr Judith Heathcoat - member for Community Safety.

#### Management Team

Joanna Simmons - Chief Executive, Directors:- John Parry - Community Safety and Chief Fire Officer, Richard Dudding - Environment & Economy (soon to retire), Janet Tomlinson - Children, Young People & Families, John Jackson - Social & Community Services, Stephen

Capaldi - Assistant Chief Executive (Strategy), Sue Scane - Assistant Chief Executive & Chief Financial Officer, Steve Loraine - Associate Director for Change Management, Jonathan McWilliam - Public Health (ex officio). The County Council Management Team (CCMT) meets on a weekly basis and takes a strategic approach to the management of the council. Each directorate comprises of a number of services, each of which is led by a head of service.

#### Medium Term Corporate Plan 2008/9 - 2012/13

This plan provides a medium-term focus on achieving the Council's priorities. It sets out a vision for Oxfordshire to deliver prosperity and security for the residents at the same time improving the quality of life and environment. Success will be measured by continuous improvement in services and working in partnership with other public, communities, voluntary & business organizations to seek greater benefit for the taxpayer. To deliver low taxes, real choice & value for money.

The council's values in pursuing its objectives are:- Customer Focus, Honesty, One Team, Involvement, Can-do & Efficient and effective. Its highest priorities are set out within four themes, namely:- World Class Economy, Environment and climate change, Healthy and thriving communities & Better public services. Further details can be found on the Council's website

## Change Management Board

Comprises of the council's management team plus three Cabinet members and meets every six weeks. The Board has put into place a 'Change Programme' that encompasses the organisational and behavioural changes required to deliver low taxes, real choice and value for money for the people of Oxfordshire. The Board manages and monitors the council's major programmes corporately for the council to achieve its objectives, focus on its priorities & live its values for the benefit of the people of Oxfordshire. The Board delivers its Change Programme through a series of projects and programmes that in 2006/07 were as follows:- Better Offices, Charter Mark, Organisational Development, Oxfordshire Highways, Shared Services and Time to Change.

## Partnership Working

The Oxfordshire Partnership is the over-arching strategic partnership for the county, bringing together organizations from the public, private, voluntary and community sectors to focus their efforts on those matters that are important to people who live, work and visit the county and, more importantly, to do something about them. The Partnership is to develop a Sustainable Communities Strategy that will provide a vision for Oxfordshire. This Strategy is in its last stages and has been widely consulted on and will be adopted by the Partnership and the Oxfordshire County Council (as the accountable body) in April this year.

## Local Area Agreement (LAA)

The three-year agreement bid between the council and government structured around key national and local priorities was successful for a LAA 2006/09. The Council has the lead role in brokering the LAA allowing it to work collaboratively with other public sector and voluntary organizations by pooling resources and achieving joint delivery. The importance of the LAA is that it 1). Gives the opportunity to deliver more effective local action 2). Allows better use of resources and 3). Provides more funding for local services. A Public Services Board chaired by Cllr David Robertson, Deputy Leader of the Oxfordshire County Council, oversees the implementation of the LAA. Key decision-makers from the public services are members of the board including the District Councils, Thames Valley Police, South East England development Agency, Government Office for the South East, the Learning & Skills Council and the NHS.

The County Council will be negotiating a new LAA with government this year and will be part of its delivery plan for the new Sustainable Communities Strategy.

## Budget Highlights

Council approved a Council tax rise of 3.875% on the 12th February. The Conservative manifesto pledge was to bring the rise down to 4% by the end of the current term up to 2009 but this was achieved in just the first two years. This further reduction from a 4% rise is due to tighter and stricter control with good financial management. Balanced budgets have ensured that new spending pressures have been offset by savings. Efficiency saving targets are set for £5m per annum year on year providing headroom to fund unavoidable financial pressures.

## Funding

The Council will be spending £20m more in 2008/09 than in the previous year. Spending plans for 2008/09 are in the order of £933m that is funded by council tax 30%, central government 11%, specific grants 50% and other income 9%. Capital resources provided by central government for schools and transport will be used for those purposes. The council plans to spend in addition £25.6m capital to improve our assets between 2008/09 and 2012/13 in response to other project bids. Prudential borrowing will provide much of this capital.

Capital money has been set aside for a new Fire Station and Youth Centre in Wallingford, also the new Didcot Station Forecourt project. The multi-million pound 'green' science block for St Birinus School started in the summer of 2007 should be complete in the autumn of 2008 and is funded by the Council to the tune of nearly £5m.

The Council has set aside £3m for IT systems that will make it easier for the people of the county to access its many services.

## Flooding

Continues to be a subject of great interest and concern. The Council has been looking to government to provide financial help to alleviate problems caused by the £3.3m funding shortfall that is a result of the county's floods of July. Recently, there has been talk of the possibility of European money to assist flooding problems nationally in the UK. Your councillor is part of a Flooding review under the Environment & Economy Scrutiny Committee that should report in July 2008. This review is hoped to bring recommendations and advice to mitigate flooding problems in the county.

Your local councillor serves on the Environmental & Economy Scrutiny (Vice-Chairman) and Audit Committees. Under the Environment & Economy Scrutiny committee and he has served on a review of 106 Development Awards with recommendations to cabinet that have been accepted making the system more accountable and transparent. Of local matters he has pressed for more road safety measures particularly along the A4130 in support of the North Moreton Parish Council, with the result that the council has implemented a 40mph speed limit between the Long Wittenham Road junction and Tescos along with other safety measures along the A4130 on 5th May 2008. The measure of the 40mph speed limit is for a three-year trial period to see if accidents on this stretch of road reduce and traffic volumes on side roads will be monitored to see if there is an undue increase in traffic on these roads. He continues to ensure road repairs are promptly brought to the attention of the Drayton Office. He is a member of the 'Wallingford' - Neighbourhood Action Group (NAG). He has pressed for speed checks and enforcement in 30mph limits within the Moreton Division and many have resulted in the police issuing fines etc.

Your Division member thanks the West Hagbourne Parish Councillors for their co-operation during the year.

*Cllr Patrick Greene* - Moreton Division – Oxfordshire County Council – May 2008

## South Oxfordshire *District Council*

The council has received the lowest Government grant ever, 1.9% increase with 0.5% 2009/10 and 0.5% 2010/11, so savings across the council will need to be made year on year to enable the council to keep a low council tax. For this year our council tax increase has been set at 3.5%. We have made 3% savings within the council for the last two years but it will be difficult to find these savings into the future. The Council has fewer staff than other Oxfordshire councils; however, it has contracted out services with set costs. Joining services with the Vale of White Horse District Council has provided savings and the council will look at more joined up services in the future.

Government has introduced Local Area Agreements. More sharing of services in itself should be more efficient and provide benefits for the residents yet to be achieved.

National Bus passes started in April '08 and 15,500 applicants had already been received in April for their passes. The costs are unknown as we pay for all journeys started in South Oxfordshire. The Government has given us a travel grant of £317,000 this year, which we have budgeted as covering the actual costs.

The Local Development Framework has been out to consultation. It is very early in the process and it is showing that most villages and towns want some new development.

The South East Plan is still in draft; the Minister has yet to confirm the actual number of houses to be built in South Oxfordshire up to 2026.

Didcot is the growth area that will be taking the bulk of the new houses; we have invested in a five-screen cinema now open and an arts centre called Cornerstone, and are providing land for the town shops and new development beyond the Orchard Centre.

Municipal Waste – There will be a new contract in 2009 with wheelie bins, alternate weekly collection of recyclables, residual and glass with weekly collection of food waste. This was not an easy decision but we must reduce landfill and achieve 50% recyclables currently approximately 40% for the year including green waste.

The brown bin paid service for green waste has been a huge success. We have just over 14,000 households taking part at £29 a year, with an increase of £1 for 2008/09.

Car parking charges increased from April '08, still being one of the lowest in the area. One hour free parking is still available in certain car parks.

Homelessness is still in single figures, which means less costs for the council.

Choice base lettings (CBL) will be introduced this year meaning people on the housing lists can access available properties via the website and bid for a tenancy. A points

system will remain in place but CBL makes the process of letting more open.

The Council's Economic development strategy is working to improve the town centres of Wallingford and Thame. Henley has on-going improvements but no major schemes.

The council has capital monies that we can invest in one off schemes. The £1 million capital needed for wheelie bins and leisure centre improvements will have no affect on the revenue account, i.e. council tax.

The Council is working with Oxfordshire councils on the Oxfordshire Sustainable Community Strategy that has four priorities namely:- World-class economy, Environment and climate change, Health and thriving communities & Better Public Services. This involves the Primary Care Trust, NHS plus a wide range of organisations. GOSE has praised OCC and all districts for working well together.

The Council has worked to save post offices at Crowmarsh Gifford and Stanton St John together with MP Boris Johnson and local residents, however, the result was not as residents required. The Council has a website to fight any building on the 'Green Belt', a major issue raised in the South East Plan and by Oxford City Council.

To fight crime the council continues to help pay for Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs), who have been welcomed by our residents. CCTV units in the towns plus a mobile unit (firstly installed in Wheatley) have helped to lead to convictions for crimes committed and to reduce the fear of crime.

During the floods in July the council was able to help with sandbags for residents in need. The council has made funds available in the budget to help mitigate flooding problems in some areas that are known to flood.

It is the council's aim to continue to give value for money, always looking at efficiency with no service cuts.

Your ward member thanks the West Hagbourne Parish Councillors for their co-operation during the year

*Cllr Patrick Greene*

South Oxfordshire District Council – Hagbourne Ward

May 2008

# the issues for *2008/09*

This list is informed by the input and opinions gathered at the Annual Parish Meeting and from residents throughout the year.

Ongoing main issues in order of priority

1. Continue to represent the best interests of the Parish in consultations and other relevant opportunities, especially in relation to plans for new housing surrounding Didcot; with particular reference to maintaining strategic gaps and the need to address road infrastructure issues including a Harwell/Hagbourne relief road.
2. Sustain and build on relationships with neighbouring Parish Councils in the interests of all affected villages; jointly pursuing issues of common concern through mutually agreed collaborative initiatives.
3. Continue to pursue implementation of a traffic strategy, calming and speed control.
4. Achieve some tangible planning gain from the next stage of development of Didcot should it take any more of the Parish of West Hagbourne for housing development
5. Monitor and comment on proposed Parish Boundary changes and achieve maximum result from any change
6. Support implementation of the Parish Plan:
  - Provision of a Village meeting place
  - Provision of a children's play area
  - Continue to maintain flower and tree planting
  - Village improvement group
7. Continue to provide interim green waste collection of larger volumes
8. Lobby for a Cycle track between York Road and Didcot Wheatfields
9. Monitor and react to waste water and foul water system issues
10. Continue to develop the Newsletter
11. Produce a guide for living in the conservation area
12. Erect old notice board in Foxglove Lane
13. Improve / maintain School Path
14. Continue to monitor local transport issues and integrated bus services
15. Propose a planted buffer zone ( consecrated woodland ) between Great Western Park which would ultimately help create a visual and physical division along the Parish Boundary

## Parish Council

**Phil Taylor** Chair 850 182  
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**Marion Judd** Vice-Chair 850 434  
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**John Thornhill** 850 489  
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**Tom Barker** 850 858  
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**Sue Totterdell** 850 080  
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## new Parish Clerk

**Michelle Lightfoot** 851 875  
parishclerk@westhagbourne.org



previous minutes and newsletters are available at  
[www.westhagbourne.org](http://www.westhagbourne.org)

## District Councillor and

## County Councillor

**Patrick Greene** 813 396  
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