

West Hagbourne newsletter

August 2004

Vol 2004 Issue 60

Revised Didcot planning application

Many of you have responded to the call to make your views known over the proposals to build 3,200 new homes and facilities on land to the West of Didcot.

The impact these proposals will have on this village will be very significant.

It is proposed that a large part of the Parish is swallowed up by urban landscaping as well as by a huge number of new homes. A development of this size will completely change the nature of our local landscape, add to the risk of localised flooding and the impact on traffic through the village will be huge.

The proposals rely on a wholly inadequate spine road which will inevitably force additional vehicle movements through the

villages as people find their way between Didcot to their place or work.

The Parish Council has responded vigorously and a copy of our submission is available if you would like to view it. Please contact the clerk.

It seems inevitable that Didcot is going to be made to grow, even though an evenly distributed growth of every settlement would seem a much fairer and less damaging way of achieving the same result.

The aim of the Parish Council is to demand a suitable road is created in such a way that the villages are effectively spared any further damage by excessive traffic.

Bike Night Success

It was great to see another successful bike night at the Horse and Harrow.

What has become one of the best attended events in the area, over 4,000 spectators, bikes and bikers came to see a wide range of vintage bikes, trikes and modern machines.

Pics courtesy of Malcolm Brownsword



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Parish Council news

The Parish Council last met on the 8th July 2004

Planning applications

The first half hour of the meeting, the open forum for public questions, was used to study plans and maps of **Land to west of Didcot between A4130 & Park Road and to both north and south of B4493 Wantage Road - a mixed use urban extension of approx 3,200 new dwellings** together with associated local shops and services, leisure, open space and community facilities- transport, drainage and utility infrastructure..

The over-riding concern is how this development will affect the village. The Council considered the response date 21st July unrealistic giving insufficient time for a constructive response. An additional 21 days is asked for. Time was given to how best to review this application as well as considering and including the opinions of parishioners. Since this meeting the date has been extended to 29th July.

Horse and Harrow – erection of ten signs, three illuminated and seven non-illuminated. Upgrading of current signs was approved by the Council.

Thatch Cottage and Ivy Cottage – no decision yet. 14 Manor Close planning permission granted.

Village maintenance

Garden area next to bus shelter requires regular professional attention and care – the Parish Council agreed it would allocate £100 to purchase 8 hours service annually (3 to 4 sessions) from a gardener.

Regular maintenance required for bench near bus shelter and seating round tree as well as notice boards. Will try to organise working party for this.

Renovation of village map plus notes of historical interest of importance beneath the map. Village History Group will undertake this and the cost.

Re-paint of telephone box – will approach British Telecom

Bus shelter – Dave Carter had kindly inspected the bus shelter and reported many broken tiles, hips and guttering need replacing. Asbestos in roof cannot be confirmed. Agreed to obtain builders quote to ascertain cost of repairs.

Land adjacent to Horse and Harrow – this was brought up at the APM. The landlord's opinion has been sought on this matter, who has stated he would be interested in hearing any constructive ideas on what to do with this land having had several previous proposals rejected by the Parish Council. Varied suggestions on how to manage the land were put forward but it was agreed discuss this further with the landlord. This will be followed up. Future cost for ongoing maintenance will have to be considered.

Replacement of waste bins in the village – clerk to action.

Dog bins – charges are made for emptying but will look into costs. Alternatively dog owners can be encouraged to use 'pooper scoopers' and plastic collection bags that can be obtained free from Town Council Offices, Didcot.

Village Hall Challenge – Phil Taylor reported that there was a grant available from WREN (Waste Recycling Environment Ltd) a registered environmental body that distributes grants to community, heritage and conservation projects under the Landfill Tax Credit Scheme. They are offering two grants of £250,000 each for village halls. West Hagbourne qualifies to apply and though chances are slim it's he will put forward the required initial application.

Parish Plan

Four out of the six PP survey trials have been returned and these are being worked through towards a

total village survey planned for Aug/Sept. Children will be given a separate survey but will also be able to respond to the main survey.

Finance

The Audit Commission's Annual Return for the year ending 31st March 2004 was accepted by the members of the Parish Council and the statement of assurance signed by the Chairman and clerk.

Local vegetable show at Hagbourne Village Hall (September) – The PC agree to underwrite half the cost of hire of hall for night before - if the Village Hall Committee insists on charging for this local event. This decision will be relayed to the committee.

Donations – It was agreed to give a donation of £25 to each of the following:

British Legion, Didcot Volunteer Centre, Citizens Advice Bureau and Didcot Community Hospital.

Annual Parish Meeting

General opinion suggests the new venue and style was well received. Approximately 35 parishioners attended. Agreed to similar programme next year. Marion Judd was thanked for providing the venue and tea.

How to encourage more people to attend was discussed.

Any other business

As West Hagbourne is not included in Didcot ITS short term programme (2004/05) – the question was posed who else can be contacted re traffic calming. Although Didcot has been erased from road sign HGV's still continue to pass through West Hagbourne. There is an urgent need to add an HGV restriction sign at the entrance to village.

After discussion it was agreed to contact Highways for an estimated cost of project to do something quicker than waiting another two years or longer.

The subject of old vehicles being left in Moor Lane was discussed - owner to be visited to discuss situation.

Surface dressing of our road from Coscote to the A417 and along Main Street will be carried out in the autumn.

Patrick Greene gave a short report on current OCC and SODC developments.

Meeting ended 10pm.

Guy Fawkes



This year the Village Association have again very kindly put forward the first £100 toward a firework display.

Last year some of the fathers in York Road decided it would make for a more effective display, to join forces and pool resources and arranged a private display.

The fireworks and sparklers purchased last year came to a total cost of £334 - and all of the children in the village were invited. Adults came along too.

This year we plan to repeat the event, with even greater distance between the firing zone. The intention is to only have aerial fireworks and rockets.

This can only happen if the cost is shared so all contributions will be greatly received.

Travellers at Haddon Hill

As you might know, there is a growing number of 'travellers' occupying a site on Hadden Hill and this is becoming a nuisance to occupants of the surrounding villages.

Unfortunately this has coincided with a spate of traffic accidents and several incidents of theft and vandalism.

One Hadden Hill resident has written urging you not to employ any of these travellers doing work like paving, driveways and hedge cutting. Also encouraging anyone to make their views known to the local authorities.

It appears that swift action will be helped by bringing concerns to the notice of the planning officer in charge.

Mr H Venners, Planning Enforcement Officer

South Oxfordshire District Council, Benson Lane,
Crowmarsh Gifford, Wallingford OX10 8HQ

tel: 01491 823000

Summer Holiday Sports Programme

Stuck for something to occupy the children this summer? Why not involve them in one of the many activities being organized by the South Oxfordshire District Council. There is a *Sports Camp, Golf, Lawn Bowls, Tennis, Soccer, Cricket and a Holiday Roadshow*.

No experience is necessary, and the youngsters will learn new skills and handy tips from a team of qualified coaches whilst having lots of fun.

Details can be found on notice boards in the village - or telephone 01491 823124

email leisure@southoxon.gov.uk
ww.southoxon.gov.uk.

Farming and Countryside

Here we are, half way through summer and still waiting for it!

It was ideal weather for hay making, a good quality crop, it does tend to be rather a hit and miss time of year as soon as you cut, the weather turns and down comes the rain, so it has been a sigh of relief to have that job behind us.

We have been busy desiccating the Barley and Rape with the view to beginning harvest round about the 20th July. All the Set Aside can now be ploughed and we have been spreading farmyard manure to put the goodness back.

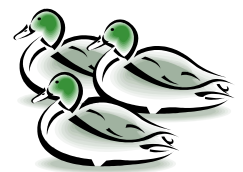
The hedgerows are bushing out where they were coppiced in the winter and some of the margins have different flowers from the ones there last year, although common, for example: Corn Chamomile, Aaron's Rod, Greater Knapweed, Musk Mallow, Field Scabious, Red Campion and Meadow Cranesbill to name but a few.

The birdlife is abundant, all the Housemartins and Swallows are back messing on the window sills and Swifts screech overhead. Plenty of Owls can be heard both day and night and there are masses of Moorhens everywhere which is a good sign that there are no Mink about.

Two pairs of Lapwings reared young in the Set Aside field behind the farmhouse which was an absolute delight as they have decreased in numbers considerably all over the country. Unfortunately the kestrels didn't come back to the box they must have found somewhere better.

There are Water Voles, Frogs and Newts in the side stream and the Purple Loosestrife is looking pretty.

I have reared a few ducklings to keep my stocks up; many of the ducks go broody and nest up the stream, never to be seen again. One thought the horse stable was just for her with all that lovely fluffed up straw, not to be I'm afraid, she had to be moved but has since reared 7 young, I just hope they're not all drakes! The three boys seem very happy and settled on the pond.



Peter's back for harvest and Nicky has itchy feet for the combine so fingers crossed for action!

The Farming and Wildlife calendars are ready and available FWAG are delighted with the end result, do call around if you are interested in purchasing.

Sue Lay Hagbourne Farm Partners

next meeting

The next meeting of the

West Hagbourne *Parish Council* will be held on the **Thursday 9th September** at Hagbourne School, East Hagbourne. 7.30 open forum, 8.00 Meeting starts

Everyone is welcome, and the first 30 minutes of the meeting is used as a forum for you to raise specific issues - or to discuss problems from around the village. Anyone wanting a copy of the minutes or who has any queries should please contact the Parish Clerk - Ruth Webb on 851352

Madge Trophy

Judging for this year's Madge trophy will take place on **Thursday 9th September**. This award is for the best front garden in the village. The tradition is to move the judging forward one month each year to give everyone a chance.

So if your garden looks particularly good in September, this could be your year! Judging will take place in the morning and the results will be announced in the next newsletter.

next newsletter

If you would like to contribute something to the next newsletter - copy should be with us by end of September. Please help by sending this typed or even better via email.

Saturday 9th October *a Skittles's night*

The Village Association will be hosting a Skittles evening with a fish and chip supper in Hagbourne Village Hall.

These occasions have been enormous fun in the past so keep this evening free in your diary. A flyer will be distributed to everyone with more details of the supper and where to obtain tickets.

Any queries contact Hazel Rack,
Secretary - 851241.

West Hagbourne newsletter

planning applications

Ivy Farm Barn and Thatch Cottage - no decision has been reached by SODC planning department

Didcot Great West Park, 3,200 new homes on land to the west of Didcot

Horse and Harrow re-branded signage and lighting replacing current Morland items on exterior



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*your
Parish
Council*

the clerk

Ruth Webb 851352
ruthannwebb@aol.com

New Bus Service (94)

to and from Didcot - Broadway and Parkway Station

Time tables are posted on both notice boards and bus shelter

The new improved service started on the 5th July - Monday to Saturday

Departs West Hagbourne bus shelter

07.16 via Upton and Blewbury

08.56 via Upton and Blewbury

10.36 via Upton and Blewbury

12.36 via Upton and Blewbury

14.44 via Coscote and East Hagbourne

17.34 via Coscote and Park Road (M-F)

Returns from Didcot Broadway (northside)

10.20, 12.20, 14.20, and 17.10 (M-F)

(M-F) Monday to Friday only.