

West Hagbourne *newsletter*

April 2005

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yet *more* houses for Didcot

The *SEERA proposals* for housing up until the year 2026 include thousands more homes to be built centred on either Oxford or divided between Bicester and Didcot. The Parish Council is preparing a vigorous and detailed response to these proposals. In view of current infrastructure deficiencies in the Didcot area, especially with regard to our roads, proposals for additional housing in Didcot in addition to the Didcot West development give rise to worrying concerns and will have very serious implications for the future of West Hagbourne and other surrounding villages.

Oxfordshire County Council favours the building of very large numbers of houses mainly in Didcot and Bicester. Didcot Town Council and West Hagbourne, Harwell and East Hagbourne Parish Councils favour the alternative option, either a proportional spread of housing between all towns and villages, or the bulk of housing being built in Oxford where a good infrastructure including roads, public transport, schools and major employers already exists.

The Parish Council is doing its utmost to represent our community's best interests and present our views in the most effective way possible. To what extent we can hope to influence planning remains to be seen.

If anyone wishes *to see a copy* of the Parish Council's response, contact the Clerk.

parish plan survey report 2005

The Steering group worked hard in 2004 to produce and trial a survey form to explore the views and aspirations of the residents of West Hagbourne. This survey form was finalised in November and printing was paid for by a grant from the Oxfordshire Rural Community Council.

It was decided that, not only would it be a good idea to avoid distributing it over the run-up to Christmas, but that we should wait until the lighter evenings since householders might be reluctant to open their doors after dark.

It is planned that a survey form will be delivered to every household in the village at Easter time. Volunteers will be asked to deliver and collect about 10 forms each. Once this exercise is complete analysis of the replies will be used to produce a description of the current state of the village and an action plan for the future.

The Madge Trophy

Dr Chisholm Ogg, a garden enthusiast from Long Wittenham, will be judging the gardens around the village.



Judging for the Madge Trophy will be held this year during the month of April. Good Luck!

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Parish Council news & update

Annual Parish Meeting to be held in the village on *21st May*

new roof for the *bus shelter*

The Parish Council have been fortunate to obtain a grant of 50% towards the cost of the repairs needed to the roof of the War Memorial Bus Shelter, as it is in the Conservation Area. This came from the Environmental Improvement Scheme operated by SODC.

The Village History Group has promised £250 towards the cost of repairs to the roof. They feel it was appropriate to make this donation to a memorial dedicated to the memory of the men from West Hagbourne who died during the two world wars and which bears their names.

After further discussion over the pros and cons of incorporating some minimal solar lighting in the bus shelter, it was agreed unanimously by the Parish Council to not proceed with this part of the proposals mainly on the grounds of cost.



Village tidy up Saturday 9th April at 2pm

Parish Council report

The Parish Council met on Thursday 10th March

South East Plan – the South East England Regional Assembly (SEERA) consultation on a new draft plan to guide development across the SE to 2026.

The public consultative period on the draft Plan runs till the 15th April. The Parish Council are preparing a response for West Hagbourne.

Patrick Greene reported County Council and SODC favour option 'A'. This option puts emphasis on Bicester and Didcot for even more housing provision in the area. South Oxfordshire County Council's Cabinet will meet on the 21st April to discuss its report.

Further discussion followed on housing development and numbers. The Parish Council expressed the view that all local and surrounding villages must present a concerted front and collaborate when preparing their response to SEERA. The Local Parishes Group should be given the chance to focus attention and opinion for all those affected.

Traffic

The Chair complained to Patrick Greene that the work done to control traffic through the 'narrows' of Main Street simply did not do what was asked for. Pedestrians are offered no more protection, and traffic flaunts the signs suggesting single file. Patrick Greene asked for a full written report on this, so he could follow it up.

The Council want to undertake another 'pictorial survey' of the village, showing road condition, broken signs etc, essentially an assessment of what need to be done. It was agreed this kind of presentation has more impact than the written word.

Traffic Survey

Another survey of traffic movement through the village is planned for Monday June 6th. This will cover a 12 hour count of traffic entering and leaving West Hagbourne. Volunteers are needed to help cover this period. This kind of research on numbers, type of vehicle and speed gives valuable support to future traffic requirements for this village. If you can offer just an hour of your time it will be a great help to the village. Please contact Marion Judd who is coordinating this – 850 434.

Village maintenance

A selection of 38 trees have been donated to West Hagbourne and are ready for planting. (ask Marion)

Grass cutting

It was agreed by the Parish Council to renew the contract with Isis Accord for grass cutting in the village this coming summer and autumn.

Planning applications

Didcot Development – Appeal to the proposed development of land to the west of Didcot. Patrick Greene informed the Council this will not be heard by the planning inspectorate until January 2006.

Meadows Edge, York Road – planning permission granted for erection of first floor extension and shower room.

our next meeting is the **Annual General Meeting** of the Parish Council on the **21st April** at Hagbourne School 7.30 when reports from sub committees are presented, this is then followed by an ordinary meeting.

This year's **Parish Meeting** is then held in then due to be held in the garden of Broomsticks on Saturday **21st May**.

Village Spring Clean - Saturday 9th April - meet at the Square 2pm (but if too wet Saturday 16th)

Time has come around again to tidy up the village, collecting litter and debris that has accumulated over the summer and winter months and before the undergrowth begins to grow and cover it up.

Lots of Volunteers needed for this, children welcome. Come and walk a route, collecting litter as you go. We meet at the bus shelter where pickers and bags will be given out. We do have some protective gloves you can borrow but cannot guarantee a pair for everyone.

The Minor Injuries Unit at Abingdon Hospital

The new Minor Injuries Unit and Out of Hours Medical Centre at Abingdon Hospital will be officially opened by the Mayor of Abingdon on 21st March.

The Minor Injuries Unit provides a service for people with sprains, broken bones, minor burns, cuts, bruises, bites and stings and other non-serious injuries. No appointment is needed and treatment will be quicker than attending the A&E Department at the John Radcliffe.

The Unit does not deal with coughs, colds, flu, chest pains or other more serious illnesses for which people should contact their GP in the first instance, or call 999 for an ambulance.

The Unit is open from 10 am – 10.30 pm 7 days per week.

Address: Abingdon Hospital, Marcham Road, Abingdon OX14 1AG Phone: 01235 208 730

traffic on Main Street

Reports that cars are speeding along Main Street is worrying to the residents who live along this busy thoroughfare. Its time for some action !

The Parish Council have taken this up with the Road Policing Department in Abingdon and PC Baverstock is asked to look at this matter and offer appropriate advice. However his findings may show the only support that can be given will be speed checks at infrequent intervals.

concessionary fares

If you are 60 years of age, or a little more, man or woman, you are entitled to receive tokens to the value of £20 towards bus fares, train journeys, and for taxi rides.

These will be distributed through April by the Parish Councillors; a chance for them to meet and talk to you. The Parish Clerk also issues these, so if you think you have been overlooked, or have not claimed before please ring Ruth 851352.

waste service 2005/06

SODC is currently considering the provision of a community green waste service in the smaller villages of South Oxfordshire for 2005/06. This would be a temporary service, this year only, while future waste management provision as a whole is being considered. If this temporary service is provided it will be weekdays only – Tuesday to Friday, between May/June and November. The Cabinet will take a decision on this on 7th April

Keep your eye on notices boards for news of their decision.

village association news

The Village supper planned for Saturday 5th February was cancelled as very few people were able to attend.

The Madge Trophy

Judging for the Madge Trophy will be held in April. This year Dr Chisholm Ogg, a garden enthusiast from Long Wittenham, will be judging the gardens. We have such beautiful gardens throughout the village - good luck everyone!

Bring and Share supper

The next bring and share supper will be held following the Parish meeting on Saturday 21st May 2005. Fliers will be circulated to every household nearer the time.

future events

It has been decided not to hold an open village event this year. New ideas are needed from everyone about what sort of social events they would like in future - all ideas and suggestions welcomed.

Let us know what you want:

phone Hazel Rack 851 241, Keith Walton 851 089, Betty Kendrick 850 788 or Peter Mitchell 850 719.

getting to know our neighbours

As you drive up Park Road, you will probably have noticed that *Didcot is twinned with Meylan* but have you ever wondered why? Meylan lies in the Isere region of France, just outside Grenoble. The surrounding countryside is dramatic with the heights of the Chartreuse on one side and Belledonne on the other.

Sometimes it is hard to see what a town in this stunning location can have in common with Didcot and its surrounding area. In fact we share a concentration of hi-tech and scientific employment, we are both close to a large university and both areas are under intense pressure to build more houses. There is much to share between the communities and visits take place every year.

Last June a party of people from Meylan came to Didcot. They had a day sight seeing in London, visited the Power Station and the Great Western Society and picnicked on Wittenham Clumps. Perhaps their lasting memory was a reception in the garden of Orchard House in West Hagbourne, on a sunny summer's evening. In November there was a visit from a group of young people and once more West Hagbourne residents welcomed guests into their homes

Maybe you would like a chance to visit our twin town? If so, book Thursday 22- Sunday 25 September in your diary. If you would like to join in, flights to Grenoble or Lyon can be found for under £100 and you will be made very welcome by host families in Meylan.

For more details

contact *Sue Totterdell* or *Janet Cockburn*.



recycling collection containers

SODC consider the following is suitable for collection of recycling materials: **Green boxes** issued by the Council (you can have more than one) **or** clear plastic sacks, Carrier bags **or** bins clearly labelled 'Recycling' are also OK. This list has been agreed by the contractors for SODC.

Any questions or queries please contact 01491 823459 or email Jennifer.walden@southoxon.gov.uk

next meeting

The next meeting of the *Parish Council* will include the Annual General Meeting and will be held on the **21st April at 7.30** in Hagbourne School, East Hagbourne.

Everyone is welcome, and the first 30 minutes of the meeting is used as a forum. Anyone wanting a copy of the minutes or who has any queries should please contact the Parish Clerk - Ruth Webb on 851352

dial a ride scheme

Don't forget the bus service for the elderly or disabled, specifically for those who find it difficult to use conventional public transport, is operating now in South Oxfordshire.

Full details, including membership leaflet, is available from local libraries, centres etc or by phoning **01869 327048**

donations

Every year the Parish Council makes a small donation to local charities. Last year we gave £25 to each of the following agencies:

Didcot Volunteer Centre provides transport, at a small cost, for hospital visits, doctor's appointments, and for shopping trips. *The Citizens Advice Bureau - Didcot, The British Legion and Didcot Community Hospital.* **Do you approve of this?** Would you prefer a donation to another charity or agency?

This item will be considered at the Annual General Meeting of the Parish Council on the 21st April - a chance to put your viewpoint and preference.

attention young residents of West Hagbourne!

Would a small grant help you towards doing something different or special that will be of benefit to you? *The Tyrrell Trust* is offering small grants to young people who live in the village to sponsor musical, sporting, educational or other worthwhile initiatives.

Want to know more? Contact Bridget Pickup 850 392 or Marion Judd 850 434 for more information. Grants are available for individuals or groups (up to £100 for groups). **Applications should be sent to** Bridget Pickup, 12 Manor Close, West Hagbourne, giving details of the project to be sponsored.

planning applications

The outcome of SODC planning department is still awaited on the following: Ivy Farm Barn conversion of a barn, Retrospective application for Thatch Cottage.

And the major development of Didcot Great West Park which is now the subject of an appeal.

Meadows Edge extension was approved by SODC

your Parish Council

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Sue Totterdell 850080
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Ruth Webb 851352
ruthannwebb@aol.com



the clerk

new Clerk wanted

Is there anybody who would be interested in taking on the duties of Parish Clerk?

You will need to be computer literate, as much of the Parish Council business is now communicated using email. You will also need some space to hold the records and day-to-day paperwork.

The Parish Council only meets every other month but you will need sufficient time to co-ordinate things like the newsletter plus the distribution and correspondence for five councillors.

To be considered for the post please contact Phil Taylor - by phone or email, details above.

The Parish Meeting will be held in the village - in the garden of Broomsticks on Saturday 21st May
There will be a bring & share supper in the evening

Keep an eye on the web site - there are now pictures of the village, minutes of Parish Council Meetings, useful numbers and you can even access previous copies of the newsletter. ***For more information about how to get involved, or contribute contact the webmaster***