

# West Hagbourne newsletter

October 2005

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## conservation area review and consultation

South Oxfordshire District Council have completed a Character Study of the village and are now undertaking a period of consultation over the proposed extension of the conservation area to include Grove Manor Farm, and parts of Moor Lane.

This will have severe implications for any of you that live within the new boundaries.

There will be a formal presentation on Thursday 13th October at 6pm in the Village Hall in East Hagbourne (before the Parish Plan drop in session) to explain the proposals and obtain people's views.

## yet more houses in Didcot before 2026

The regional assembly SEERA are now in the process of planning for yet more houses in the Central Oxfordshire region - which affects us in West Hagbourne.

Unbelievably the County Council have already decided that there are only two possible choices.

Either most in Didcot and some in Bicester and Grove or most in Didcot with a different split between Bicester and other sites.

The Parish Council have suggested that an alternative would be an equal, proportional split between ALL built up settlements, in order that each village and town takes a fair share of the allocation. This in turn helps build a sustainable region rather than forcing yet more housing to be concentrated in one place, where, in the case of Didcot, the road and public transport infrastructure is hopelessly inadequate.

The transport links to Didcot are indeed quite good, but as we know, the A34 is too small to cope with the current traffic flow. The number of trains stopping at Didcot Parkway is being cut and the local buses make it impossible to catch a train that allows you to get to work in Oxford in the morning. And the price of

## Bypass proposals

Some of you may have seen a recent consultation document produced by Harwell Parish Council to gather local opinion over the location of a by-pass to alleviate their traffic problems.

West Hagbourne has decided to do the same, and included in this newsletter is a proposal which seems to fit the criteria for 'removing the traffic through the village' which so many of you agree to be essential.

Please tell us what you think. It is hoped that we can find a solution which is in the best interests of the majority!

parking at the railway station, or using Park & Ride is so high that it is actively discouraging people from using public transport to get to work.

Because the trend set so far by the County Council has been to concentrate new housing in supposedly 'sustainable locations' it seems inevitable that they want the larger towns to take the brunt of this growth.

Unless you help make it known that this is against the will of the people who live in the affected areas, nothing will happen to improve matters.

We urge you to lobby your District and County Councillor and your MP, and to respond to the consultations - every single comment and response has to be acknowledged, collated and taken into account.

Unless you act now, it will be too late, and the rural environment we live in now will be lost for future generations.

Included in this newsletter is a response form; please return it to the County Council.

Start shouting now before it's too late!

### in this issue

Skip success

Dates for your diary

Pumpkin competition

Parish Plan drop in sessions

History group seeks new blood

New notice board

Parish Council news & update

Green waste sacks now only 30p



# parish council update

The Parish Council met on Thursday 8th September at Hagbourne School.

The following matters were discussed in the Open Forum:

The History Group proposed replacing the board in the Square as the existing board has deteriorated and is in very poor condition. They have obtained quotations for a new notice board to house the village map. The History Group offered to make a contribution towards the new notice board equivalent to the lowest quotation received.

Concerns were raised about a rat problem that appears to stem from Thatch Cottage now that it is empty. It was also reported that 'dog waste' had been thrown in the ditch adjacent to Thatch Cottage in Moor Lane. Environmental services are responsible for this, NOT the Parish Council, and they will be contacted again by the clerk.

It was suggested that a lobby group might be formed to increase the voice of West Hagbourne, especially in respect of traffic and the growth of Didcot. The East and West Hagbourne Society do not feel that they are the right group to lead a 'Keep Hagbourne Rural' campaign although they do agree with the sentiment. There is hope that something will arise from the Parish Plan; there is wide support in the village for a bypass and the Parish Council's hope to propose a route which all the affected Parishes would support was discussed. Strength in numbers will help support any future action plans.

The suggestion for a one-way system through the village was again put forward but councillors present were not in favour as it has already been proved that York Road is unsuitable to take more and heavier traffic. Also children still play in the street as previous Parish Councils have failed to take advantage of proposals for a play area.

Patrick Greene reported that the County Council would be holding a public consultation about the next stage of the SEERA proposals for additional new housing for the period up to 2026. He also informed the meeting that a traffic calming assessment had been carried out outside the Horse and Harrow in July but the results showed there is no need for traffic calming measures. The average speed was deemed to be 35mph and this did not warrant any measures to be implemented. Parish Councillors were not informed/were unaware that the assessment had been carried out, and questioned the basis of the measurement, especially as it stated that no HGV's passed when the measurement was taken.

## pumpkin competition

this annual event  
will be held at the  
Horse and Harrow  
on Sunday 9th October  
at 12 Noon



The formal meeting of the Parish Council included:

Planning applications:

The planning application for work at Thatch Cottage has now been withdrawn.

Erection of four bedroom detached dwelling on land adjacent to Ash Farm: an amended application was discussed. Phil Taylor withdrew from the discussion as he had a declared interest in the planning application. Insufficient councillors able to vote were present for a decision to be made but none of the councillors present had any objections.

Land adjacent to Horse and Harrow: Greene King are still prepared to convey the land to the Parish Council for a nominal sum and would have no objection to a community facility being put there. Available grants will now be investigated and the village interest groups consulted for their opinions. The land will be cleared in the Autumn when the main vegetation has died back.

New village notice board: With the kind contribution from the History Group it was decided to purchase a new notice board in oak for the new village map

Green waste collection: The Parish Council agreed to provide a skip for two hours on Saturday 10th September at a cost of £129.25. The Clerk will also obtain supplies of the garden waste bags supplied by SODC for sale to the public.

Parish Plan: A series of drop-in meetings to consult with residents about the Parish Plan will be held at Hagbourne and Upton village halls. The Parish Council will make £144 available towards the cost of the Parish Plan meetings.

Storage of archives: Ruth Webb has kindly offered to store the Parish Council's archived documents for a limited period. It was agreed that a nominal monthly payment will be made to her for this.

Traffic calming assessment: The Parish Council will find out more about the traffic calming assessment carried out in July.

The next meeting is on Thursday 10th November at Hagbourne School.

The Green Waste Skip in September proved very popular and was used by lots of people with a wide range of wheelbarrows - some in better condition than others.

The success of this facility will be reviewed at the next Parish Council meeting.

Our thanks to Jeff Powell for providing the location

## village history group

- Are you enthusiastic about local history?
- Want to get involved in a village group?
- Want to find out more about your village?

Then the West Hagbourne Village History Group may be just what you are looking for.

The History Group was established in 1991 and published an acclaimed history of the village in 2000. It is a friendly group of locals, many of whom have been members since the beginning. Some of the members would now like to stand down and make way for some new blood – yours!

The Group needs new members if it is to keep going.

If you are interested, why not get in touch and find out more about one of the village's most successful groups?

No experience necessary – just enthusiasm.

Contact Mary Wiley on 850 451 or come and see us at one of the village drop-ins in October.

Date of next meeting: Monday 10th October, 8pm at Mary's place.



Check us out on the village web-site.



## £500 for Hagbourne school

Frankie Taylor of West Hagbourne won the Central England regional award for the Jet Safe and Smile national schools competition to design a poster.

The objective of the competition was to raise awareness of the importance of wearing a cycling helmet. Over 4 million children who cycle in the UK find it uncool to wear helmets, and with over 100,000 children involved in cycling accidents every year the awareness campaign aims to save lives.

Frankie's prize of a cheque for £500 was presented by Jet and has been used on the outside structures for the early years class.

## parish plan news

There will be DROP-IN SESSIONS held at:

Hagbourne Village Hall: 13th October 7-10 PM  
Upton Village Hall: 15th October 2-6 PM

You will already have received your leaflet announcing the next stage of the Parish Plan process. From now on it gets exciting!

The steering group needs you to come along to one (or both) of the drop-in sessions in October and help prioritise what needs to be done.

Which projects are most important? What can we do within the next 12 months and what will take a bit longer?

Why should you come?

- You will see the results of the survey in detail
- You can help shape the Action Plan
- Many local organisations will be represented.
- Your MP and local District & County councillor will hopefully come along

Representatives of SODC planning department have been invited.

Find out from local rural housing and rural transport specialists what is on offer and discover how the Oxfordshire Playing Fields Association might be able to help us.

Organisations invited to send representative include:

- Oxfordshire Rural Communities Council
- Sustrans
- Oxfordshire Youth Service
- Hagbourne Tennis Club
- Hagbourne Bowls Club
- Hagbourne Garden Club
- Hagbourne Environment Group
- West Hagbourne Village Association
- West Hagbourne Village History Group
- SODC Planning Department

Please contact Sue Totterdell on 850 080 if you know any other organisation or individual we should invite.

The Steering group has applied for a grant from ORCC to cover this stage of the Parish Planning process and, if successful, we will be providing transport to the sessions.

The prizes still have not been claimed. Have you got a winning ticket from the Survey?

## next meeting

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on the Thursday 10th November at 7.30 in Hagbourne School, East Hagbourne.

Everyone is welcome, and the first 30 minutes of the meeting is a public forum—come and have your say.

## green waste scheme

From 4th July SODC launched a new service to collect green waste separately at the kerbside for composting. The green waste must be placed in strong paper sacks; these can be purchased from Town Council Offices, Britwell Road, Didcot for the lower price of 30p each.

You can also buy these sacks directly from the Clerk - please contact Roger Sweet on 850 492 to arrange a time to purchase sacks from him.

There is a booking system for weekly collection of garden sacks: To use the service residents must contact the Council 24 hours before their normal rubbish day to book in their sacks for collection -

freephone 0800 731 8752

or email them to arrange for collection on [public.amenities@southoxon.gov.uk](mailto:public.amenities@southoxon.gov.uk)

## parish plan events

Two drop in events are being held for people to see the survey results and to find out what everyone thinks should be done for the benefit of the village. They will be held on:

Thursday 13th October 7-10pm Hagbourne Village Hall

Saturday 15th October 2- 6pm Upton Village Hall

There will be transport from the village - watch the notice boards for further details and times

## auditor needed

Can you help? The Parish needs an internal auditor to check our accounts before we submit them to the District Auditor. Our accounts are not complicated!

Please contact the Clerk if you can help.

## saving water

The water butt at the Bus Shelter collects only rainwater and this is fed to the plant containers via an automatic timer. It is not connected to mains water, and if left alone will happily keep the flowers looking good.

## collection of Mail

The Royal Mail informs us that our last collection of letters from the square is 5pm Monday to Friday.

Post is also being collected mid morning and mid afternoon, but they arrive at their destination no more quickly than those posted at 5pm.

A collection is made at Cockcroft Post Office at midday on Saturdays and the last post on weekdays is 6.30pm at the Royal Mail depot in Didcot.



## planning applications

- *Outline application for 270 houses at Chilton VVHDC*
- New rear extension at 2, Main Street
- Extension to Conservation Area

The outcome from SODC planning department is still awaited on the following:

- Ivy Farm Barn conversion
- New house on plot at Ash Farm

### your Parish Council

Phil Taylor 850 182 Chair

[phil@philtaylor.demon.co.uk](mailto:phil@philtaylor.demon.co.uk)

Marion Judd 850 434 Vice-Chair

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Keith Little 850 094

Bernard Mead 850 783

[bernardmead@westhagbourne.org](mailto:bernardmead@westhagbourne.org)

Sue Totterdell 850 080

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### the clerk

Roger Sweet 850 492

[roger.sweet@dsl.pipex.com](mailto:roger.sweet@dsl.pipex.com)

## attention young residents

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.

Please contact Bridget Pickup 850 392 or Marion Judd 850 434 for more information.

## please keep hedges cut back

Just a quick reminder to all of you with hedges that border pavements or the road, especially if you have any road signs that are on your boundary!

It is your responsibility to ensure they are kept trimmed and cut back.



## village association

On Sunday 11th September the Village Association held a very successful Pimms, Paté & Pudding event. The weather was reasonable and over fifty people including new villagers met up over a convivial lunch. Thanks to all who supported the event and to those who provided the food and drink.

The event broke even.

The Village Association's AGM will take place in November when future activities will be discussed—lunchtime events have proved popular. A date for the AGM to be advertised shortly.