

## next meeting

The next meeting of the *Parish Council* will be held on the **Thursday 14th September** at 7.30 in Hagbourne School

## recycling boxes

Green Boxes are free and can still be obtained from Bridget Pickup at 12 Manor Close.

## parish web site

Information about the village, local links, previous newsletters and minutes of meetings of the Parish Council as well as notification about planned events are all on the website. Remember **Free access** to the world wide web is now available in the Didcot library

## speeding in Moor Lane

Once again concerns have been expressed about the speed of vehicles in Moor Lane.

**Please watch your speed!** Remember that Moor Lane is a byway and pedestrians use it as well as motor vehicles.

## police station hours

Revised opening hours of police stations  
**Didcot** Mon, Tues & Sat 1000 – 1800  
Wed, Thurs, Fri 0800 – 2000  
**Abingdon** Mon – Sun 0800 – 2200

contact them on one number **0845 8 505 505**

## book exchange

A small book exchange is held by Marion Judd at Broomsticks. If you are short of reading material, or if you have a book to exchange, please come along and see what there is. A fee of 20p is being charged for Village Association funds. Please phone Marion first on 850 434

## bonfire nuisance

Please think of your neighbours if you really need to have a bonfire. They do inflict their smoke on many houses and cause a nuisance especially when the wind is in a particular direction. **Smoke from a garden bonfire must not be a nuisance or be prejudicial to the health of other people.** In legal terms it must not cause a statutory nuisance under the Environmental Protection Act 1990.

## keep hedges trimmed

It is the responsibility of all individual landowners and householders to **keep overhanging shrubs and hedges cut back.** Especially where they encroach or hang over footpaths.



## planning applications

new planning applications have been considered for

- Scotland's Ash Nursery
- Ivy Cottage conversion
- Revision to GWP Didcot

### your Parish Council

**Phil Taylor** 850182 *Chair*

phil@philtaylor.demon.co.uk

**Marion Judd** 850434 *Vice-Chair*

mbjudd@supanet.com

**Keith Little** 850094

bernardmead@westhagbourne.org

**Bernard Mead** 850783

bernardmead@westhagbourne.org

**Sue Totterdell** 850080

susan.totterdell@pharm.ox.ac.uk

### the clerk

**Roger Sweet** 850492

parishclerk@westhagbourne.org

## newsletter copy deadlines

- **October** 30 September
- **December** 30 November
- **February** 30 January 2007

please email copy for inclusion to parishclerk@westhagbourne.org

### Memorial Bench

The new bench given in memory of past residents Mike Wilson and Jeff Higgins is now in place near the horse paddocks at Manor Farm.

Thanks go to Mike Parker, John Baile and Dave Totterdell who laboured relentlessly under a boiling sun to mix the concrete by hand. Particular thanks also to Chris and Sue Lay for permission to use the site, and to Chris who dug out the base with his digger.

### Village Appearance Group

This group has evolved from the Parish Plan and, so far, is made up of those who expressed an initial interest when the plan was formulated. It has met three times and come up with a list of 15 actions to help tidy and enhance the appearance of the village.

If anyone would be interested in contributing some time or their ideas then please contact Dave Totterdell, Mary Ann Butler, Michelle Thornhill or Marion Judd.

Particular **thanks** go to Hazel Rack and Robert Griffiths for keeping the water butt full during the drought, so the automatic watering of plants in the troughs by the bus shelter can function.

### Memorial Trees

The Village History Group has kindly agreed to maintain a record of the trees planted in memory of parishioners. It is hoped that these can be planted around the Parish Boundary.

[www.westhagbourne.org](http://www.westhagbourne.org)

# West Hagbourne newsletter

August 2006

Vol 2006 Issue 71

## public consultation

The villages of Cholsey, Moulsoford, Aston Tirrold, Aston Upthorp, the Moretons, **East and West Hagbourne** are invited to attend a public consultation meeting.

It will be hosted by representatives from Thames Valley Police, South Oxfordshire District Council, Youth Services, the Fire Service, South Oxfordshire Housing Association, neighbourhood watch and many others who want you to come along and tell them what problems you are experiencing and what you want them to focus their attention on

The meeting will ask all those who attend to tell the local authorities and partner agencies specific problems that you want resolved, issues such as speeding, crime, litter and housing and will ask you to identify exactly where those

problems are occurring.

You will then be asked to select and prioritise the three main problems for your area which you want tackling

These issues will then be taken to the Neighbourhood Action Group, a panel of representatives from across the agencies and local residents and businesses who will discuss and make decisions on implementing practical solutions in order to improve the quality of life in your neighbourhood

This is an opportunity for you to have a direct input on what the local authorities will do in your area so come along and have your say. Everyone is welcome so please encourage your friends, neighbours and children to come along

Refreshments will be available **Monday 21 August 7.30pm** at Cholsey Primary School

## bike night

British Bike Night held annually at the Horse and Harrow was again a tremendous success, and in view of the increased numbers of cars attendance was at least 10% up on last year.

**John Wheeler**, one of the two founder members and organisers of this event tragically passed away during the year, hence it was decided to rename the event "the John Wheeler Bike Night".

## traffic update

The traffic monitoring project continues and we will be reporting on the final results at the end of the year. In the meantime, residents will be interested to know that over **900** vehicles pass through Main Street daily in morning peak hours (excluding school holiday times when there is a slight reduction). The complete closure of Hagbourne Hill during the last two weeks in June resulted in a reduction of 50% in traffic through Main Street.

## great western park - gets approval

SODC's planning committee met on Wednesday 19th July to consider the plans for Great Western Park.

**Parishes and other objectors were given the right to speak at this meeting** and representatives from East and West Hagbourne, Harwell and Didcot Town Council were allowed 5 minutes each to express a range of concerns about the development. On behalf of West Hagbourne, Sue Totterdell concentrated on three main issues; traffic current and future, the impact of GWP on West Hagbourne's environment and the need/rationale for commitment by SODC Planning department to agree and implement strategic gaps for all historic villages surrounding Didcot - this being to prevent the

villages being swallowed up by GWP and other future planned housing developments.

The committee subsequently approved the plans with 8 votes for and 6 against.

The VOWH Planning Committee met on Wednesday 26th July to consider the GWP plans. A summary of the key issues for West Hagbourne was again presented along with presentations made by East Hagbourne, Harwell, Upton and Milton Parish Councils.

The committee voted on political lines with a majority of 9 for and 6 against approving the plans in their current form. All the Parishes present have major concerns about

current and future traffic/transport issues, the effect on the environment and the lack of guaranteed protection for rural gaps, none of which have been satisfactorily addressed in the plans which lack both detail and solutions to all of these serious problems.

The Parish Council had hoped to have some recognition of the need for an adequate road system. There does seem to be a complete lack of common sense being applied by our local politicians at district and county level and beyond. **Especially as there also now appears to be yet further development plans for housing growth in Didcot.**

### in this issue

bonfires

skill swop

lorry watch

village news

new bench

book exchange

Parish Council report

**concern over rubbish dumping causing nuisance to landowners and danger to stock in fields**

## parish council report

The Parish Council met on **Thursday** the **13th July** at Hagbourne School.

**Two** members of the public attended.

Cllr Patrick Greene sent his apologies

**General forum** John and Doreen Watling were present. They raised the health hazard caused by the increased traffic through Main Street. Sue Totterdell pointed out that under the Parish Plan a "traffic group" had been set up although this had not yet met. She also pointed out the importance of having an action group that is independent of the Parish Council

### Planning applications

**Ivy Cottage** The Parish Council considered the planning application for repairs and alterations for a barn conversion. There were no objections and councillors felt this planning application should be granted as it would convert a near derelict building into a useful dwelling.

Since the last meeting the Parish Council has advised SODC that it had no strong views on the planning application for nursery rooms and sleepover accommodation at **Little Acorns Day Nursery**. The Parish Council drew SODC's attention to the sewer that crosses the site.

The Parish Council noted that planning application for an extension and alterations to **Orchard House** has been granted by SODC.

**Experimental traffic proposals** The Parish Council noted that the white lines and traffic signs had not yet been removed and the Clerk was asked to chase this up.

NB Since the meeting the lines and traffic signs have been removed. They will be replaced if the experiment proves not to be successful.

**Closure of Hagbourne Hill** The Parish Council noted there was a greatly reduced traffic flow through the village while Hagbourne Hill was closed.

The Parish Council thought the work done on Hagbourne Hill had been inadequate considering the time taken to do the work and it appeared poor value for money.

Note - The Parish Council has now written to Oxfordshire Highways expressing these views.

**School path** The dangerous potholes have still not been repaired despite reminders to Oxfordshire Highways. A reminder will be sent again.

NB Since the meeting a cyclist from the village has had an accident as a result of one of the potholes. Oxfordshire Highways have been told about this but said they have insufficient funds to treat this as a priority and highways carrying traffic at speed are a higher priority for repair than footpaths and cycle tracks. Despite this, the potholes have now been repaired.

**Parish Plan** The emphasis recently has been on progressing some of the suggestions made by the village for the Parish Plan, for example

- The **Garage Sale** held in May was successful.
- **Welcome pack** - This has been designed and is being tried out.
- **Youth events** - Promised but not yet forthcoming.
- **Village appearance** - A meeting of interested people will be held next week.
- **French Conversation Group** - This now meets regularly.

### Toll Garden

Land adjacent to the Horse and Harrow: The ground has still not been cleared by the contractor. The Parish Council will continue to try and engage a contractor and continue discussion with Greene King.

**South East Plan** The Parish Council has responded to the public consultation on the draft South East Plan and has enlisted the support of a number of other parish councils around Didcot in campaigning for a buffer zone to be left around Didcot to prevent undue encroachment into the villages.

**Parish Clerk training** The Parish Council agreed to pay for the Clerk's subscription to the Society of Local Council Clerks and to pay for a SLCC basic training course for the Clerk.

**Community Rights of Way** Improvement Fund: The Parish Council has been notified about a limited fund for improvements to rights of way.

Unfortunately the Parish Council was given insufficient time to identify necessary improvements to rights of way and make an application, but suitable projects will be identified in case a similar fund is available in future.

**Great Western Park** (Didcot West) planning application: The Parish Council decided to apply for the opportunity to speak at the SODC and Vale of White Horse planning committee meetings and it was decided that Sue Totterdell and Marion Judd would prepare a presentation.

### Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on **Thursday 14th September** at 7.30at Hagbourne School.

## Madge Trophy

The winner of this years award for the best kept front garden goes to

Bob and Joyce Beacroft at Lilley Cottage.

Runners up were

David and Lynne Carter at Greenthatch and Angela Booker at 5 Manor Close.

This year's judges were Reg Dadds and Roger Renment



## Lorry watch

Can you help monitor the heavy goods vehicles that continue to flout the 7.5 T weight limit on the road through the village.

There are simple to fill in forms, which ask you to record the time of day and details of the truck. If you are willing to help, contact the clerk for a few forms.

## new feature + skill swap

If you'd like to offer a days gardening in return for someone to clear your gutters, or two hours ironing in return for a trip to the dump - we'll put this in this new slot in the newsletter

No news items or personal messages this edition.

Please send the details of items to be included in the next newsletter to - [janet@jcockburn.plus.com](mailto:janet@jcockburn.plus.com)

## mobile library

the mobile library will stop in the middle of the village in **The Square** from **09:00am — 09:15am**

**25 August 8 September 2 2 September**

Please support this service if you want to keep it

## rubbish endangers animals

**please do NOT dump any garden or other waste over fences into the fields behind your property.**

This is totally unacceptable, and apart from the mess and nuisance may endanger the safety of animals if the field is used for grazing. ( a cow died in recent years because of hedge clippings )

With the availability of brown bins, **there is no excuse for dumping garden or any other waste into adjacent farm land** so please make sure that you do not do this!

The Parish Council will be monitoring the situation and will take further action if necessary.

### Village Association committee members 2005-2006

Peter Mitchell (Chair)	Appledore York Road	850719
Hazel Rack (Secretary)	Woodleys The Square	851241
Keith Walton (Treasurer)	Fairview York Road	851089
Simon Ford	7a Manor Close	850157
Marion Judd	Broomsticks Main Street	850434
Betty Kendrick	Driftway York Road	850788
June Little	Lenton York Road	850094
Mike Parker	Manor Barn Foxglove Lane	851389
Bridget Pickup	12 Manor Close	850392
Eva Pinkava	Longmynds Foxglove Lane	850770
Roger Sweet	Uplands Main Street	850492
Val Walton	Fairview York Road	851089

## Parish Plan update

Although the written plan is still a work in progress, the Parish Plan steering group continues to work towards the goals set during the village consultations.

We are still trying to arrange the first meeting of the **Traffic Action** group. This will probably take place after the summer holidays, in a local village hall. Details of the place and time will be circulated in advance. If you have strong views about present traffic levels or want to get involved in projects to deal with the increased traffic resulting from Great Western Park, come along. Writing letters, lobbying councillors or practical solutions are all important contributions.

Progress made in other areas.

The **Village Appearance** group has identified some areas for action but also welcomes suggestions from residents. They are investigating funding opportunities and will be looking for volunteers to provide some muscle for future projects.

Mary Ann Butler and Andrea Mitchell have produced a **Welcome Pack** which has been shown to people who have recently moved to the village for their comments. If you know that someone will be moving in near you, please let Mary Ann or Andrea know so that a pack can be delivered.

### Less successful ventures

There was a lot of support in the survey for social events, **so cancellation of the Mystery Trail and lunch was disappointing**, particularly as it aimed to include children. Obviously we are missing something important.

The most recent coffee morning was a success but would have benefited from more people coming along.

Large numbers of residents never attend any events nor offer to help but also never come up with any suggestions re what they would really like or what they don't like

### Are events

- Not of the type that most people would want ?
- held at the wrong time ?

- do they cost too much ?
- are they poorly advertised ?
- should we open them to non-residents ?

The Village Association exists specifically for the benefit of all residents. In view of the recent unpopularity of events run for residents it would be understandable if the Village Association decided to stop arranging and publicising events chosen to suit a wider range of villagers and just concentrated on those activities for which they know there is already support. But if they do that, they will be accused of catering for a small clique.

So, we need **more feedback** telling us what events you would attend and whether you are prepared to help organising them.

Please speak with any of the Parish Councillors or committee members of the Village Association to let them know your views on what events, if any, would appeal most to you, and what, if any, issues you have around past activities arranged by the Village Association.