

West Hagbourne news

April 2014 ISSUE 114

Didcot expands

In the past couple of weeks, the Vale of the White Horse District Council has published its Local Plan to 2031. A summary of the main points of the plan can be accessed via <http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2014%20Local%20Plan%20leaflet.pdf>

Of interest to residents of West Hagbourne will be the continued growth of Didcot within the Vale's boundary. A new area of housing (**Valley Park**), a site for over a thousand more homes, is shown to the west of the Great Western Park site, stretching all the way to the A34 from the Milton Link Road in the north to the A417 in the south.

In addition, sites in Chilton and Harwell parishes adjacent to the current Harwell Business site will provide yet more housing and employment locally. Shown on the map is the first part of a proposed link road from the Wantage Road in Didcot down to the A417 near the Kingswell Hotel.

This could alleviate traffic through West Hagbourne but only if the route is



extended from the Kingswell to the entrance to the Harwell site. Sadly this second phase of the road, proposed almost 10 years ago by the then parish councillors, is alluded to but not included in the plan.

You can have your say about this plan <http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/services-and-advice/planning-and-building/planning-policy/new-local-plan-2031> and following the links. Responses must be made before April 4th so you will need to be quick.

An additional parcel of housing has been proposed to fit in beside the proposals for expanding the access onto the A34 north and south at Chilton. This would certainly impact on West Hagbourne, as the nearest place for shopping would be in Didcot and the logical route is straight through the village.

Floods

At the time of writing it does seem as though the worst of the wet winter weather is over. Streams and ditches are starting to dry up and the huge puddles of water visible in many fields are gradually shrinking. We are told that such extreme weather may become the norm in the future. It is probably time for all residents to think about what they can do to reduce the risk of flooding due to run off. For example, you can reduce the impervious surfaces around the house, and use gravel trenches to catch some of the run-off.

Collecting the rain water that comes from your roof will not only slow down the rate at which the water runs into soakaways and drains but will also provide you with water for the garden later in the year. Interestingly, bare soil also contributes to faster runoff so a few plants can help enormously. Even better if you plant some that will thrive in wet conditions. Trees are great at taking up water and reducing levels in the ground, too.

Maintenance of ditches and water courses will also help and this is the responsibility of the land owner.



Village garden

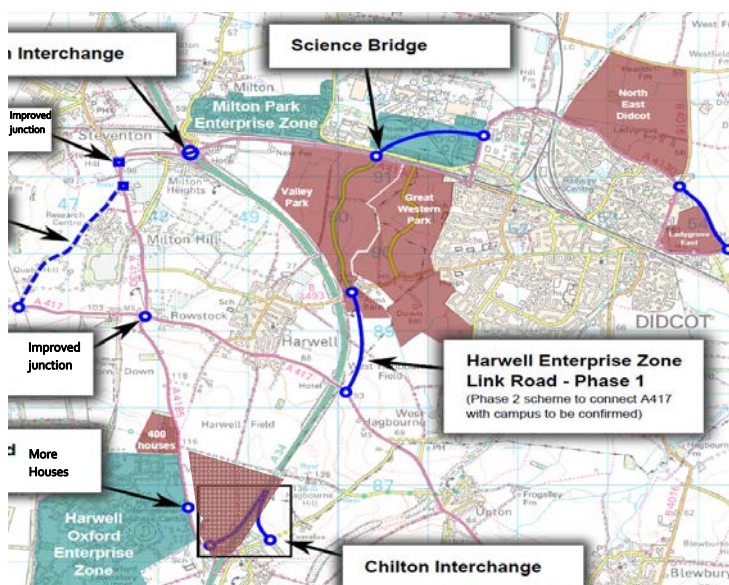
Work has now restarted on the village garden, beside the bus shelter. You may have noticed that some shrubs have been planted which should give structure, colour and year-round interest to this area. In the next few weeks some herbaceous perennials will be added, for additional interest, with a selection for the sunny part of the border and others chosen for the shady areas. Under the noticeboard the recent spring tidying has revealed some winners and losers from last autumn's planting. We will wait a little longer before deciding whether any plants need to be replaced or moved.



Dragons

It's Dragon time again! The annual West Hagbourne Dragon competition to celebrate St Georges Day will be held between Sunday 13th – Sunday 27th April. Judging will take place during the week of 21st April.

For our new residents; the dragon competition takes place annually in April when dragons of all shapes and sizes are displayed in peoples' front gardens. The competition is great fun for all and often attracts local media attention. The large dragon who usually manages to land on the pond for this occasion (depending on its depth at the time) is always a spectacular sight for everyone to enjoy, including visitors and passing motorists.



The theme for the planters beside the bus shelter this summer will be the Centenary of the outbreak of the First World War. This is particularly appropriate as the bus shelter serves as the village war memorial. In line with an initiative by the Royal Horticultural Society, we shall be scattering annual poppy seeds on the garden beside the shelter and will concentrate on red flowers and foliage in the adjacent pots. The plan for the half-barrels under the horse chestnut tree has yet to be decided.

Mary Ann Le May's planting of the trough beside the pond continues to delight everyone.

News

U3A

Didcot & District University Of The Third Age meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month at 2pm at Didcot Civic Hall. Visitors are welcome to come to a meeting as a taster before joining.

The April meeting will be the AGM and will be held on 15 April. The AGM will be followed by a short talk by Avis Furness about the Thames Valley Network Historic Pathways project . The May meeting will be held on 20 May on the topic of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution with John Owen.

D&D U3A is a self-help, self-managed lifelong learning co-operative for older people no longer in full time work, providing opportunities for its members to share learning experiences in a wide range of interest groups and to pursue learning not for qualifications, but for fun. There are over 25 interest groups including family history, gardening, wine appreciation, dance, science & maths, play reading, creative writing, walking, bridge, crafts, books, poetry, singing, badminton, photography and 5 languages. There's something for everyone!

Tel: 07804159993

Lunch Club

Thirteen diners met at the Horse & Harrow in February and 8 came along to the March lunch. As the 3rd Friday in April falls on Good Friday and very few people are available on that day or suggested alternative dates, the next organised lunch will be on Friday the 16th of May.

Employment

No one knows when an accident or ill-health could have a dramatic impact on their life. Last year the Government

added an extra step to the process for applying for sickness and disability support. The Work Capability Assessment (WCA) process, will now include an extra step before sick and disabled people can access financial support through Employment Support Allowance (ESA).

If your sickness or disability prevents you from working, then you could be entitled to ESA to help you manage your day to day living costs. Since October last year, the Government introduced a new 'mandatory reconsideration' phase to ESA. This extra step happens after you receive a decision on your initial application for support and you can't lodge an appeal until it is completed. It is supposed to take about two weeks to go through the reconsideration period but unfortunately some of our clients report it can take much longer.

You won't be able to claim ESA during the reconsideration phase but you can apply for Jobseekers Allowance so some people might be left with no financial support . If you're in this situation then you should go to your local Citizens Advice Bureau in Didcot for help on how to manage your finances and make sure your application is dealt with fairly and promptly. Once the reconsideration process has taken place, you may well get a positive decision about your application. If you are unhappy with the decision, you can appeal.

CAB - Debt

Debt can be daunting but taking a proactive approach to sort them out is a good way forward. One of the first things you need to do is figure out who you owe money to and how much. It is easy for debts to get out of hand, particularly as interest and other charges may be added to the amount you owe.

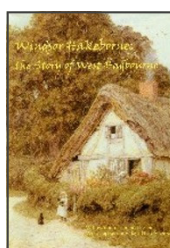
It's really important to prioritise your debts. Urgent debts are things like rent, energy bills and council tax. If you don't pay these, you could face being evicted, have your gas and electricity

cut off or taken to court because you didn't pay your council tax. It's worth remembering that those who shout the loudest aren't necessarily those who should be paid first. Less urgent debts are things like water bills and credit cards.

The next step is to work out a budget by listing all of the money you have coming in and going out each month. That way you'll be able to see what you have left over and how much you can pay towards your debts. After that, it is time to speak to the companies you owe money, agree a new repayment plan, remembering to stick to your list of urgent and non-urgent debts. Only agree to repayment plans you can afford. You can get free, independent and impartial advice from your local CAB.

Book Success

The Village History Group has finally sold out of Windsor Hakeborne: the Story of West Hagbourne. This history of the village was published in the millennium year 2000. To celebrate the millennium and thank the village for its support, a copy of the publication was given to every household in the village.



The rest have been sold over the years to fund further village projects.

We continue to receive requests for copies of the book, particularly from new villagers. If

anyone has a copy which they have finished with or no longer require could they give it to the History Group so that others can have an opportunity to learn more about our lovely village.

If you do have a copy going spare could you please contact:
Sheila Taylor: Tel 01235 850251 or
Val Walton: Tel 01235 851089
Copies are available to borrow from Didcot Library.

Events

If you have a local event that you want to publicise, please get in touch and we will include it in the next edition.

Didcot film club

Wednesday 7 May: Black Cat, White Cat (Emir Kusturica)

A 1998 Yugoslav romantic comedy film directed by Emir Kusturica which won the Silver Lion for Best Direction at the Venice Film Festival.

Wednesday 28 May:

Gigi (Vincente Minnelli)

A 1958 American Metrocolor musical romantic comedy film. Weary of the conventions of Parisian society, a rich playboy and a youthful courtesan-in-training enjoy a platonic friendship, but it may not stay platonic for long. Gigi won a record-breaking 9 Academy Awards

Didcot Choral Society

Saturday June 7th at 19h30

An evening of Mendelssohn's Elijah with Abingdon and District Musical Society at the Yolanda Patterson Hall, St Helen and St Katharine's School, Abingdon. Conducted by Alexander Walker, Leader: Kate Bailey

Hagbourne Garden Club

Thursday April 24th, Christina Stapley will be explaining 'When Is A Flower Not A Flower'. The talk starts at 7.30 with refreshments served from 7.00 in Hagbourne Village Hall. Visitors are most welcome. Further details available from Jane on 01235 813350

Didcot Cineworld

Saturday 26th April 17h55 a live screening of MET Opera Cosi Fan Tutte

Thursday 12 June 19h00 live screening from the National Theatre of A Small Family Business by Alan Ayckbourn

Healthwatch

Are you a user of adult social care services from Oxfordshire County Council or do you care for someone who uses the service? If you answered yes to either of these questions you might be interested in Healthwatch Oxfordshire. This is an independent organisation that listens to people's views and experiences of health and social care in Oxfordshire. Continued funding comes from Oxfordshire County Council with the initial two-year grant running from April 2014.

Healthwatch Oxfordshire wants to help people get the best out of adult care services, whether it's improving them today or helping to shape them for tomorrow. It gives children, young people and adults a powerful voice both locally and nationally.

What Healthwatch does

- Provide you with information about local health and social care services
- Listen to your views and experiences on the way that health and social care services are delivered
- Use your views to make recommendations about how your services could or should be improved now
- Make your views known to influence the way your services are designed for the future

How they do it

- Run an information and advice line – 01865 520520
- Attend events and meet with groups and listen to you where you are
- Represent your views to the people who make the decisions
- Have a Project fund to engage with the public.
- Involve others in our work so we reach out to as many people as possible



Broadband

As you may have read in the press, the government has released more money to ensure that rural areas do not lose out on access to superfast broadband. On their website, Oxfordshire county council state that their aim is to bring at least 24 Mbps to 90% of households in the county.

So it is interesting that West Hagbourne may be destined to suffer a second-rate service. Part of the problem is that we are deemed by BT to already have access to high-speed fibre broadband since fibre optic cables were laid to Upton. However, as residents will be aware, speeds in the village are some way short of the target of 24 Mbps. Recent correspondence with our MP Ed Vaizey confirms that we are likely to fall through this gap. He says "given that you already have good broadband speeds (albeit not superfast), it may be difficult to get an upgrade under the scheme." This is particularly disappointing given that his ministerial responsibilities include Communications. Continued lobbying at every opportunity is recommended.

Next edition

The newsletter is written and edited by Sue Totterdell and Marion Judd independently of the Parish Council and its production is funded by the advertising it carries.

Contributions are welcome especially for local events.

The next edition will be in June and any copy should be supplied by the last day of May. The deadline is the 30th day of the month before publication. **deadline 30 May**

Parish Council

Clerk

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parishclerk@westhagbourne.org

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South Oxfordshire District Council
01491 823000

County Councillor

Patrick Greene 813 396
patrick.greene@oxfordshire.gov.uk
Oxfordshire County Council
01865 792422

Meetings in 2014

- 7th May Annual Meeting
- Annual Parish Meeting to be advised
- 2nd July Ordinary Meeting
- 3rd September "
- 5th November "

Minutes of all meetings of the Parish Council are available online. If you do not have access to the internet, call the clerk and a printed copy will be delivered to you.

www.westhagbourne.org/pc_minutes.htm

Planning Applications

You can search for any current or past planning applications. See decisions based on your post code at <http://www.southoxon.gov.uk/ccm/support/Main.jsp?MODULE=ApplicationCriteria&TYPE=Application>

HGV's & potholes

The Community led plan highlighted that the police are not interested in reports of oversized vehicles in the village. You should report breaches of weight restrictions in West Hagbourne directly to Trading Standards <http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/weight-restriction-orders> or by phone (0845 051 0845) or email trading_standards@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Report potholes direct to Oxfordshire Highways. If you can supply a photograph that gives some idea of the extent of the pothole(s) this will help assess the urgency of its repair.

or by writing to:

Southern Area Office
Oxfordshire County Council
Milton Road
Drayton OX14 4EZ

You can do this online at <http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/contact-highway-enquiries-team>

by telephone: 0845 310 1111

All of this information and the relevant links are available on the village web site. Go to Noticeboard:

www.westhagbourne.org/noticeboard.htm#potholes

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Personal ads

Singers wanted still. Rehearsal night has altered to Thursday which may suit new volunteers.

Do you sing and would you be interested in joining a small choir in West Hagbourne? If so, please contact Eva Pinkava:
evajpinkava@gmail.com; phone 850 770



HFP

Hagbourne Farm Plumbing

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M 07816 399315
T 01235 851176
hagbourne_farm_plumbing@hotmail.co.uk

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