



As you all know Taylor Wimpey applied to build over 900 houses and a care home on Hagbourne Fields – the field on the left hand side as you go up Park Road towards Didcot. This planning application generated a huge response by villagers in West and East Hagbourne, Didcot, Coscote and further afield and an extraordinary number of objections were lodged.

However just before Christmas Taylor Wimpey withdrew the application. They had been advised already that both OCC and SODC oppose the plan for many reasons including the following:

1) The site was not allocated in the existing Core strategy and there are no plans to allocate it in the new local plan. This is crucial.

2) Development here would be contrary to the Local Plan and has been demonstrated to be harmful in appeal decisions eg Catesby (on the other side of Park Road). SODC are

Success for Hands Off Hagbourne Fields

therefore entitled to refuse it and says that they would do so even if TW's new transport model enables them to get OCC to lift their highways objections. SODC would still be able to refuse as contrary to the Local Plan and on landscape grounds (as for Catesby).

3) SODC currently still have in excess of 7 years land supply which means the tilted balance favouring "sustainable" development would not apply here which makes it much easier to refuse. This supply level will fluctuate but under the Oxfordshire Growth Plan SODC

benefit from having the protection of a 3yr supply hurdle which is very unlikely to be undershot.

In addition TW had been told by OCC that they would have to have provided a new transport model too – this would have taken many months and so is likely to have been a factor in withdrawing the application. It is probably better from TW point of view to have withdrawn the application than to have had it refused but, for the time being at least, the result is the same!

With development you can never say that a site will never

be developed and we must continue to be vigilant but it looks very likely that this site will stay the way it is for some time.

Taylor Wimpey allotments

Immediately north of the Hagbourne Fields site, Taylor Wimpey wish to move ahead with plans to turn the end of the field (by the Bloor Homes development) into 42 allotments. The site will be raised to almost 2m high, with a surrounding fence on top and 30 car parking spaces provided. The reason for raising the level of the site is to provide a dump for spoil from GWP. Again an incredible number of objections were lodged but this plan has received the green light. Many objections raised the issues of flooding and drainage and it remains to be seen whether the village suffers adversely once the site has been developed and also whether the footpaths are maintained – something that was unclear in the original application.

Application Withdrawn!



Parish Council

In March 2019 work will commence on an extension of the footpath along Main Street. This will be on the same side of the road as the existing new footpath, and will run from the other side of the driveway of Green Thatch, towards the bend. The work will last about two weeks and this portion of Main Street will be closed. Fortunately the Harwell Link Road is now operational and will provide a viable diversion, although

there is bound to be additional traffic along York Road. We are investigating the possibility of a 20 mph limit for York Road. As a first step, traffic surveys need to be carried out by the County Council, normally at the expense of the Parish Council. Fortunately our County Councillor Simon Clarke has kindly offered to pay for the surveys from funds that he has available.

Your Parish Council needs YOU



Have you ever thought about what a parish councillor does? Managing the budget for spending on projects in the village, organising grass cutting and considering local planning applications are

some of their important roles. West Hagbourne needs five parish councillors, chosen every 4 years, and these can be elected (if there are more than 5 candidates) or nominated. Communities that fail to produce a parish council may have all local decision-making placed in the hands of their local district council. The next elections will be in May, so perhaps you would consider putting your name forward.

other news

Village Association

There is a busy schedule for 2019. If you can help with any of the events, please get in touch with the Association Secretary, Margaret Leishman, tel: 01235 851707 or email mjleishman707@gmail.com



- St George's Day events: April 2019. It's not too early to

start planning your display for the annual St George and the Dragon competition which will run from 14th - 28th April with the usual spring village walk & teas event, both taking place on Sunday 28th. More details to follow nearer the time.

- Madge Trophy: the front gardens competition will be judged during May. A more precise date will be publicised in the April 2019 newsletter.

- Summer event: The possibility of holding an event in June was discussed. A

Police protection

Thames Valley Police are keen to designate a Smartwater Village. They need a member of the community to step forward and ensure 80% of their community register Smartwater packs. With a nail varnish bottle sized pot you can mark up to 80 items of property with a substance that has its own DNA allowing any property stolen to be returned to their owner if it is recovered. The sight of a Smartarter street sign or window sticker deters offenders who know any items they steal are traceable. If you would like more details on this please contact TVP.

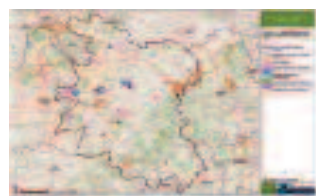
family treasure hunt combined with a picnic and/or cream tea was suggested. More details to follow later in the year.

- Summer walk : July (date to be finalised). Sheila Taylor has very kindly offered to lead a history trail around the village with an excursion to St Andrew's church to tell us about the influences West Hagbourne inhabitants have had, over the centuries, on its history.

- Macmillan Coffee morning: September. We will be pleased to host this event once again following the amazing support we received this year. Date to follow later in the year.



South Oxfordshire Local Plan



The final version of SODC's local plan covering the period until 2034 has been published and can be viewed on their website (search newlocalplan). The consultation period runs until 18 February and given the usefulness of this plan in holding off development of Hagbourne Fields, you might like to comment favourably on the decision not to expand Didcot's southern boundary.

Winter Walk

In the absence of our organiser, Margaret, due to ill health, and without any canine inspiration, it was a very small group who set out from the bus shelter on Sunday 13 January for the Village winter walk. We set off down to the pond and then past Manor Farm, across the bridge and up the field towards Upton. Climbing up onto the disused railway track we made our way towards Didcot but as we reached the off ramp at Church Path, one of us had to retire hurt, returning directly to the village. Undeterred, the remaining walkers enjoyed the views across the fields to Wittenham Clumps and the majestic soaring red kites before turning off the cycle path at Mowbray Road Fields nature reserve. From there



they skirted the back of Loyd Road, realising just how badly these properties, many of them single storey, would have been affected by the proposed Loyd Road Fields development, losing their magnificent views towards the south. After crossing Park Road, the route took us along the footpath that skirts the edge of the Hagbourne Field where we came across notices announcing that there will be some footpath closures in 2019, presumably related to the allotments that will be developed south of Bloor Homes. Finally, we arrived back in West Hagbourne into York Road. A total of about 3 miles in just over an hour.

Carol Singing

On a particularly wet December night, a dedicated band of singers revived the ancient West Hagbourne custom of serenading villagers with traditional carols. Despite the poor weather, about a dozen people arrived with torches and waterproofs, setting out first along Main Street towards Foxglove Lane and then back to the centre of the village. As the carol sheets became increasingly soggy and singing was restricted to the first verses of carols that everyone knew by heart, the singers made their way along York Road and



finally into Manor Close, where Bridget Pickup revived them with hot chocolate.

The final leg of the village, along York Road, into Main Street and around by the pond brought us to Chapel Hayes where Ian and Margaret had laid on mulled wine and hot snacks.

Despite, or perhaps because of the terrible weather, donations were particularly generous and a sum of around £200 was sent to Crisis UK a charity which helps the homeless.

Thanks to Margaret Leishman for organising the necessary documentation, to the generous hosts who provided refreshments, to all the villagers who paid good money to hear us sing (or to persuade us to stop) and the brave souls who battled the elements to revive this tradition.

Didcot Volunteers

This is a car scheme serving Didcot and surrounding villages providing transport for medical appointments and shopping. The service is intended for adults, older people and people with physical disabilities. This is a door to door personal transport service operated by volunteers. Drivers use their own vehicles to take each client to and from the venue and will accompany the client throughout the hospital appointment if required.

Drivers with larger vehicles can take folding wheelchairs and walking aids.

Costs: a £5 donation is requested each year and 45p a mile travelled.

Didcot Volunteers is always interested in recruiting new drivers so if you think you might be able to help, please contact them.

Telephone: 01235 816709

Email: didcotvolunteercentre@talktalk.net

Winter warning

In Oxfordshire the fire brigade have attended over 266 chimney fires in the last three years. Nearly 50% of these fires happen during January, February and March. Most people will get their chimney swept ready for the winter season but they may not realise about the other steps they could be taking to avoid a chimney fire.

If you enjoy cosying up in front of a log fire, make sure the sparks don't fly at home this winter.

Have a cosy home not a fire zone

- Get your chimney swept at least once a year, if you regularly have log fires get it swept more frequently
- If you have a 1st floor fireplace check that it is clear of debris



- Store logs away from the fireplace

Health updates

GP access hubs in Oxfordshire can offer you a routine appointment to see a doctor or practice nurse at weekends. You can book a hub appointment at a time to suit you by contacting your own surgery.

Seeing a doctor at the weekend or evening could prevent a cough or cold from getting worse, and frees up your own GP to see more vulnerable patients.

A late-night safe space for people experiencing mental health crisis has opened off the Cowley Road in Oxford. Oxford Safe Haven (OSH) offers additional out-of-hours support for adults living with mental illness in Oxfordshire. People must call ahead to hold a place at the drop-in in Manzil Way, Oxford, for immediate mental health support in a non-medical environment.

To self-refer to Oxford Safe Haven ring 01865 903037 or 07710 092849.

Parish Council

Clerk

Andrew Wise
parishclerk@westhagbourne.org

Councillors

Mike Butler (Chair) 850523
mike.butler@westhagbourne.org

Valerie Brownsword 850668
valerie.brownsword@westhagbourne.org

Hugh Lewis 851113
hugh.lewis@westhagbourne.org

Mike Telford 851236
mike.telford@westhagbourne.org

Oliver Doogue 851156
oliver.doogue@westhagbourne.org

District Councillors

Pat Dawe and Jane Murphy
pat.dawe@southoxon.gov.uk
jane.murphy@southoxon.gov.uk

County Councillor

Simon Clarke
simon.clarke@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Council Meetings

These are held in Hagbourne Village Hall - see website for future dates. Minutes of meetings of the Parish Council are available online. If you cannot find them, contact the clerk. If you do not have access to the internet, call the clerk and a printed copy will be sent to you.
www.westhagbourne.org/pc_minutes.htm

From now on, shortly before the meeting of the Parish Council, the agenda will be circulated to all those on the list. To comply with legal requirements, a copy of the agenda will also be posted on the PC noticeboard.

Planning updates

If you wish to be notified about planning applications that affect West Hagbourne you can sign up for email alerts.

Contact Andrew Wise:
parishclerk@westhagbourne.org

Parish email list

If you wish to be placed on this list, or wish to check that your entry is correct, please send an email to the Clerk at parishclerk@westhagbourne.org

HGVs and Potholes

HGVs and potholes are a persistent issue on the roads in the village and beyond. If you can supply a photograph that gives some idea of the extent of a pothole this will help assess the urgency for its repair.

You can do this online at:
fixmystreet.com

Or:
highwaysenquiries@oxfordshire.gov.uk
Telephone: 08453101111

Web site:
www.westhagbourne.org/noticeboard.htm#potholes

HGVs not delivering to an address in the village should be reported to Trading Standards. If possible, you should take a photograph but definitely write down a description and registration number as soon as possible. Reports can be made to:

<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/trading-standards/weight-restriction-enforcement>

Keep up to date

www.westhagbourne.org

The website carries information, news and contact details as well as copies of the minutes of all village organisations

notices

Marquee Hire

The Village Association has recently reviewed the charges and conditions for the hire of the marquees, tables and chairs.

The charge for the hire of either one of the marquees will be £50.00, plus a returnable deposit of £75.00; tables and/or chairs will be £50.00, plus a returnable deposit of £75.00.

All charges must be paid before the commencement date of hiring and the deposit shall be returned after an inspection of the hired equipment has been carried out.

We sometimes receive requests for the hire of the equipment from people who live outside the West Hagbourne Parish. In these cases we will now require a sponsor, who must be a village resident and is willing to act as guarantor for the safe return of the hired equipment.

Please contact Rob Griffiths, tel: 01235 851241 for more information and to obtain a hire of equipment application form.

Didcot Film Club

Cold War (Poland 2018)
Wednesday 6th March at 8pm

Edie (UK 2017)

Wednesday 27th March at 8pm

Tickets and membership:

Membership (£5) and tickets (£6 members, £8 guests) are available from the Cornerstone Box Office. Films are shown on Wednesdays and are advertised in the Cornerstone programme and online.

For more details see www.didcotfilmclub.org.uk.

can you help?

We are always keen to hear from you about news you have or events you think might interest other residents.

If you would like to contribute, help to distribute the newsletter or if you could find other advertisers, we would love to hear from you.

editors@westhagbourne.org

local events

Didcot's Farmers' Market

This is held every second Saturday of the month from 8.30 am to 1.30pm.

www.westhagbourne.org



Little Acorns Nursery
Happy, family run day nursery
and out of school care.

Including drop off & pick up to some local schools.
Flexible sessions – am, pm, termtime, school day.
For further information, to request a brochure
or to arrange a visit please contact us
01235 851423 or email
littleacornsnursery@gmail.com
Main Street, West Hagbourne, Didcot

Scotland's Ash Garage

MOI testing from Govt
Diagnostic Fault Finding and
Servicing on all types of vehicles
Air Conditioning Exhausts
Body Repairs Courtesy Cars

HUGE SAVINGS ON TYRES

 **01235 850 707**
www.scotlandsashgarage.co.uk
Main Street, West Hagbourne OX11 0NA

*For the garden of your dreams -
consult a professional*

MARY ANN LE MAY
• GARDEN DESIGNS •

Blissetts West Hagbourne OX11 0ND
Tel: 01235 850523 Fax: 08700 516043
www.maryanndesign.co.uk



**AED
Emergency
defibrillator**

The West Hagbourne Emergency Defibrillator
is located in the Telephone Box in the Square
In the event of an emergency call 999

Marquees


The Village Association has two Marquees.
250 plus a returnable deposit of £75
The Association will not be responsible for any claims
for accidents that may occur during the rental.
33 x 5 metre and 33 x 4 metre
Tables and chairs are also available.
£75 plus a returnable deposit of £75

For advanced booking and details
please contact **Robert Griffiths** (Woodley)
rob.griff@yaho.co.uk
All donations go towards our village funds.



Pure Essentials

Call Robby 01235 850 707 www.scotlandsashgarage.co.uk

Next Edition 

This newsletter is written and edited by Sue Totterdell and Marion Judd every two months. Contributions are especially welcomed for local events. The deadline is the 15th of the month before publication. Please submit any contributions on line if possible.

If you have items you are prepared to give away, send us the details for inclusion (free of charge) in the next edition of the newsletter.

house to rent in France

Noirmoutier Island, west of Nantes - sleeps 7

Just minutes from quiet family beach,
great biking and sailing, two bedrooms,
washing machine, dishwasher, TV

£600/week June - Sept
750€/week July
for more information
and photos

contact: totterdells@btinternet.com 01235 850080