

# **REPORT FROM VALE OF WHITE HORSE DISTRICT COUNCILLORS (WATCHFIELD & SHRIVENHAM WARD) TO PARISH COUNCIL ASSEMBLIES 2018**

## **Introduction**

Another busy year to report on representing the 12 Parishes of the ward and covering a wide range of views of the Parishes that we serve.

Simon continued as Chair of Audit & Governance Committee and the Faringdon Area Grants Committee. Elaine continued as a Cabinet Member but with an expanded area of responsibility for Housing and Environment, including waste, licensing, community safety and technical services.

This report covers the main updates for the whole of the Watchfield & Shrivenham Ward that we represent.

## **Planning**

Planning issues have again been top of the agenda and we continue to do our best in representing the views of residents across the 12 Parishes.

The Local Plan is now in place and has an 8.4-year land supply in this area.

**Local Plan Part 2** was submitted to the Secretary of State for independent examination inspection on 23 February. David Reed has been nominated by the Planning Inspectorate to independently examine the Plan and we await confirmation of the dates and venue when this will take place. No strategic sites have been identified in the Western Vale.

**NPPF** – The revised National Planning Policy Framework has been published and is currently being consulted on. The consultation deadline is 10 May.

**Appeals** Five appeals in the Ward were registered to be considered by the Planning Inspectorate. Four of these have been dismissed, including the Gypsy and Traveller site on Compton Road, Shrivenham. The appeal for the Badbury Hill (Great Coxwell) site will be held in due course.

**Legal & General** – Shrivenham residents were invited to attend a public exhibition held on Tuesday 20 February from 1500hrs to 1900hrs. The exhibition gave residents the opportunity to discuss the type and design of dwellings with representatives from the company. Initially L & G propose to build 240 homes on the Phase 1 allocated site which is located directly behind the Blue Cedar development to the east of Highworth Road. This Phase also includes land for a new primary school. It is anticipated that a Reserved Matters application will be submitted within the next couple of weeks. The Phase 2 Reserved Matters application for 265 dwellings is expected to be submitted before the end of this year. Concerns were expressed regarding access to the Phase 1 site during construction and L & G indicated that they may build a temporary access road from the A420. This is to be confirmed with the County Council.

**Bovis – Townsend Road** – Bovis has submitted a revised Reserved Matters application which addresses many issues that have been raised by the Parish Council and local residents. The consultation for the revised plan ended on 12 April.

**Gladman – Townsend Road – Phase 2** – We wrote to Gladman explaining that the Vale has more than a five year land supply and that the site is not included in either Local Plan Part 1 or in the draft Local Plan Part 2 which clearly states that there will be no additional allocated sites in the western vale. Needless to say there has been no acknowledgement of receipt of our letter which was sent by both Email and post.

**Taylor Wimpey - Longcot Road** – The Vale Enforcement Team and OCC Highways are dealing with numerous issues and breaches of planning conditions that have been raised by us, as well as the Parish Council and local residents. The application for additional dwellings was considered by the Vale Planning Committee on Wednesday 7 March and permission granted. There will now be 63 dwellings rather than the 59 that were approved at appeal.

**Land South of Steeds Farm Gt. Coxwell** – An Outline application for a further 125 dwellings has been submitted to the Vale. This application is in addition to the 200 that are already being constructed on part of this strategic site. Concerns have been raised by both Gt. Coxwell Parish Council and Faringdon Town Council as well as local residents. The deadline for comments passed on 15 March and the decision target date is scheduled for 2 May 2018. This application will be considered by the full Planning Committee.

**Growth Deal** – The Chancellor announced funding of £215m over a five year period for the County in his November 2017 budget. All six Oxfordshire Councils have now approved the deal. The deal would also see the establishment of a Joint Statutory Spatial Plan (JSSP) for the County to improve a joined up approach to planning. The Vale has made it clear that the plan must not allocate housing sites and will put no pressure on the Vale before 2031. The Government formally signed off the Growth Deal early April. The next stage will be to create the Statutory Spatial Plan (JSSP) by 31 July 2018 for the County to improve a joined up approach to planning. Further consultation on this plan will follow in due course.

**Swindon Eastern Villages** - The impact of the start of the new “Eastern Villages” in Swindon are starting to take shape and will have a significant impact on our villages. A total of 8000 dwellings will be built in 8 villages and South Marston will expand. Currently 2 main developments are in the pipeline – Rowborough (2380) and Great Stall (1800). A new application is to be considered by SBC for 370 homes on the Redland Airfield Site.

## **Unitary Authority**

A year ago, a proposal for a new Unitary Authority was submitted to Central Government. This was a combined three authority (Oxfordshire County Council, South Oxfordshire District Council and the Vale of White Horse District Council) proposal entitled "A new council for a Better Oxfordshire". The Vale has written to Sajid Javid renewing the call for a Unitary Council. Unitary Councils have been in the news recently with both Dorset and Buckinghamshire receiving approval for reorganisation and Northamptonshire is expected to follow.

We are awaiting further information

## **Recycling**

The Vale has slipped from No.2 to No.4 in the whole of the country for the % of recycling material. It is unfortunate that the Vale has been unable to maintain its level of performance. This has been primarily due to contamination of recycling material. There has been an improvement since the introduction of NO Black Sacks. Recent efforts have included a campaign to reduce the disposal of food in grey bins and to correctly use the food waste buckets.

## **Fly Tipping**

The Vale has successfully prosecuted a number of individuals for fly-tipping. The latest was for dumping of waste in the same place on three different occasions and caught on camera. The offender was fined and made to pay costs and compensation which amounted to over £1500.

## **Public Realm Team**

Included in the Vale's budget is an allocation of £250,000 per annum over the next three years for delivering improvements throughout the district. The project is in its initial stages and more details will be published shortly.

## **Grants**

The following dates have been confirmed for grant applications:

Capital and New Homes Bonus – Round one – 25 April-6 June Round two (budget permitting) 11 September-22 October

Festival Grants – 1 April-28 February 2019

The Grants Team are always pleased to offer advice and contact details are on the Vale website. In addition the team are holding advice sessions on 18 April in Uffington and 24 April in Letcombe Regis. For more information call 01235 422103. Booking is essential.

## **Appointment of New Chief Executive**

Mark Stone was recently appointed as new Chief Executive after a period in the role as an interim measure.

## **Conclusion**

Along with your local Parish Councillors we work tirelessly for our communities and deal with numerous issues that affect the area.

We attend a variety of meetings and make representation to various Vale Committees, Swindon Borough Council, the County Council and other organisations. We work hard to get our voice heard and our views listened to.

We continue to provide assistance and advice to residents when they have any problems or concerns. We may not advertise what we do on a daily basis but as locals we have our local community at heart and will serve you all as best we can.

Cllrs. Simon Howell and Elaine Ware  
April/May 2018

## **SADS**

Shrivenham Amateur Dramatics Society started 2017 with its traditional Pantomime - Jack And The Beanstalk. A panto with Ian Laurie as Dame, Bekka Hall as Jack and a flying rendition of Mac The Knife. There were four performances including a Sunday Matinee, the last two being sold out.

After the panto and with just enough time to recharge the smoke machine, the group launched into Maria Martin and the Murder In The Old Red Barn fueling the groups routine of original classic pantos and off the wall summer plays, this play was based on an old fashioned traditional bunch of actors portraying a real murder with the addition of a circus performer, fat lady and a highway man. The audience were held between fear and laughter as the fog thickened and the body count rose. There were only two performances but the last was a full house causing the murderer to have to fight his way into the auditorium to pick the gypsy off the stage with his flintlock.

The 2018 panto was Snow White and stuck rigidly to every pantomime trick in the book - the Prince, Joseph Annetts, love lost, effeminate and bullied by his nurse, Snow White, Kym Rose, young beautiful and deeply in love, a dame Colin Thaker-Pugsley clearly very happy to cross dress and over act, dwarfes, a decorating routine from Bruce Forsythe and a rendition of the 12 days of Christmas featuring Attila the Hun. Four performances, three sold out, a classic of the genre.

The group rallied after the panto, proving they need very little prompting to get back in front of an audience - the Church concert in March had them doing 3 sketches including an Irish Jig. They remain keen to stand up and entertain at a level that is above that of many similar companies. The forthcoming summer play of 2018 promises to deliver suspense, romance and mummified with horror.

## **SHRIVENHAM BOWLS CLUB**

Bowling is a sport suitable for all ages, shapes and sizes. Whether you are simply looking for an outdoor hobby or want to become an accomplished bowls player, we will make every effort to help you enjoy your time at Shrivenham Bowls Club.

We offer free guest membership and the opportunity of free sessions with our Coaches. These sessions will help you decide whether or not bowls is for you, and will give you information about membership.

We are fortunate to have such wonderful facilities. The clubhouse is our social centre with a splendidly equipped kitchen and an equally attractive bar, while our green is regarded as being one of the best in Berkshire.

Every Saturday or Sunday throughout the summer, the club plays Friendly Matches against other local clubs. These afternoon games are social occasions that provide an opportunity for you to play on other greens, meet new people and enjoy a drink and refreshments afterwards.

During the past year, one of our 12 year olds was chosen to play for the Berkshire Team, one of our under 25s played in the National Mens Finals, our Ladies team reached the Berkshire Quarter Finals and 3 of our Ladies represented Berkshire. We are looking for another successful season in 2018.

We have an introductory Open Day on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> May.  
We invite you to have a go at bowling. Just come along to Martens Road with either flat-soled shoes or trainers.

## **SHRIVENHAM CRICKET CLUB**

### **ANNUAL REPORT 2017**

As reported in 2016 Shrivenham Cricket Club expected the 2017 season to be a particularly challenging one following the departure of the majority of its first team squad over the winter. Some players had left to join other clubs playing at a higher standard and others had moved away for employment reasons. Our playing strength was much reduced and for the first time in many many seasons the Club would only be able to field one team in the OCA

The challenges began even before the 2017 playing season commenced with the OCA's Committee initially insisting that, even with our depleted squad made up largely of the Division six second team players, the Club should field our remaining single team in the top division of the league, clearly not a realistic or appetising proposition. Fortunately after some lengthy exchanges of e mails the Club successfully challenged the Committee's decision and obtained agreement to retain its single team in Division six. So the real challenges on the pitch could begin. The season proved a very enjoyable and hard contested one with the Club eventually claiming the league title in a nervous final match against our closest rivals Faringdon. The reward for the Club's success has been a promotion by two Divisions. So 2018 will be a strong test for the players as they pit themselves against division four teams for the first time. One or two new players have joined the Club so the process of rebuilding has begun, and we look forward to an interesting summer of senior cricket.

At junior level it was still not possible to attract sufficient young players to field teams for junior league cricket, but the Club successfully participated in the ECB's "All Stars Cricket" programme with 26 youngsters between the ages of five and nine taking part. The Club has signed up to run the programme again this summer and the sessions will begin in May. Our Committee is hoping that investing in junior cricket at this level eventually will see interest in cricket rekindled and young players attracted into the game.

Off the field the Club is working with the Barrington Trust in an exciting project to see the development of a new sports pavilion on the Memorial Field. The project is at an early stage and if successful, would become the new home for the Club, providing facilities to match any in the league. This would be a significant step forward for Shrivenham cricket helping us to attract new players and build on what is already a strong Club spirit.

## **Shrivenham FC report 2017/18**

In April 2017 the Club elected a new Chairman (Matt Hirst) and Vice Chairman (Neil Sutton) who quickly went about forming a new Committee which consisted of some new and existing members. A new Club Secretary (Chris Rawle) was instated along with a new Club Operations Manager (Steve Allen) and Press Officer (Mike Wray). These new members joined our existing committee members and together we have made a huge difference.

In September we replaced our 1st Team Management and Gareth Davies, Ady Roper and Chris Robinson took over. This has proved to be a good move with the 1st Team currently sitting 2nd in the league with a real chance of progressing up to the Hellenic Premier League next season. Our Reserve Team have grown from strength to strength and finished the season strongly. Our u16s need two points from their three remaining games to win the League, Bradley Hirst scoring 39 goals in the process. Bradley has also broke into the Senior set up and scored seven goals in nine appearances. With the promise of five or six more u16s progressing to the Reserves next season things look really positive. This further demonstrates the Clubs intention to develop young Village talent for the Senior teams of tomorrow. Youth training has started again for the little ones (age 4-10). It's been well attended by the village and surrounding area with over 35 different children attending. We are hoping to start u7s, u8s, u9s teams to compete in the North Wilts league in September.

## **Shrivenham Neighbourhood Development Plan**

The Steering Group of the Shrivenham Neighbourhood Development Plan have continued their work. Regular meetings have taken place and during the last 12 months a Housing Needs Survey, Village Character Assessment and Landscape Character Assessment have been commissioned and completed. The extensive evidence base has been analysed and collated and the Pre-submission document is currently being drafted in consultation with the appointed VoWHDC officer. It is expected to be with the printers before the end of May 2018.

The pre-submission document is a consultation document required for the mandatory consultation period of 6 weeks. During that time it will be available, together with feedback forms, for residents to consider and give their opinions and comments. This feedback will then be incorporated into the final version of Shrivenham Neighbourhood Development Plan for submission to the Vale of the White Horse district Council.



## **Shrivenham and District Gardeners Club**

### **VICE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2017**

#### **MEMBERSHIP**

We had 79 members (2016 -17). The club is only successful with your support and we hope this will continue.

#### **PROGRAMME IN 2017**

We have enjoyed a varied and interesting programme of speakers which started the year with a talk on alpines and rock gardens. We had an excellent talk on Oxford Botanical Gardens. Di and Peter Boor returned to provide an enjoyable evening talking about Fuchsias. July brought a visit from Paul Green an enthusiastic speaker on Grasses. The autumn we were given three excellent talks on diverse subjects of Healing plants, Oxfordshire trees and the hugely popular talk about the much loved hedgehog. All of the speakers we have had have been extremely knowledgeable in their chosen topic and presented the talk in an interesting and enjoyable manner and all for the princely sum of £1 per visit, certainly good value for money so my Scottish wife tells me, so it must be!

#### **ANNUAL DINNER**

Was a success with an enjoyable meal at Cross Keys in Wanborough which 16 attended.

#### **HOLIDAY**

This year the club holiday was in Derbyshire Dales and 32 members and non members went on the trip and thoroughly enjoyed the weekend.

#### **ANNUAL PLANT SALE**

We used Valley Roundabout Nurseries and they didn't let us down. This is our main fund-raiser and helps cover the cost of our speakers, and again this year we did extremely well. Thanks to all the help we managed to raise **£314** and nursery gave us **£135** as a 10% of their takings, so total for the club of **£449**. So again a big thank you for your continued support of this important event for the Gardeners Club and Shrivenham.

#### **OTHER OUTINGS**

Members enjoyed a trip to Malvern Spring show in May. The visit hopefully inspired all gardeners for the rest of the season. We also had a trip to Blewbury Manor those members that went thoroughly enjoyed the visit on a lovely day in June

## **LOCAL COMMUNITY**

The club offers an important social event for the local community. This autumn the Memorial Hall had a day for all clubs to advertise to the local community and the new villagers and thanks to Steph, Don and Hazel we proudly advertise the Gardener's Club. We have continued to enjoy our oak tree in Coppidthorne Meadow. The Club also looked after the maintenance of the pump flowerbed. Thanks to all those that supported and to Steph for organising the rota. It has looked amazing this year. We also dressed a window in St Andrews Church for Harvest Festival. We have once again planted purple crocuses on the grass area at the junction of Townsend Road and Station Road in the aid to eradicate Polio across the world in conjunction with the Rotary Club.

## **2018 PROGRAMME**

This year is our 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and the fact that the club is still going now is a fine tribute to Don Allen who as a founder member and assisted in setting it up all those years ago. To celebrate this important milestone we had a special speaker in the famous radio and TV presenter Chris Beardshaw who came to talk to us in March in the main hall in the Memorial Hall. This was be a wonderful evening enjoyed by all who attended! This next year promises to be another enjoyable year with speakers talking about, science in the garden, vegetables, clematis, wildflowers, hosta, hellebores and extending the season aptly in the autumn. Also a trip to RHS Wisley, the club dinner and plant sale are just some of the items to look forward to in 2018.



**VISCOUNTESS BARRINGTON'S HOMES FOR DISABLED EX-SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN (Charity 205219)**

This Charitable Trust, administered under the auspices of the Charity Commission and managed under Almshouse Association guidelines, currently owns 13 homes (7 houses and 6 apartments, housing 17 adult residents).

The Trust was established in the early 1920's to promote well-being in the village and to provide homes for veterans returning from the 1<sup>st</sup> World War. Most of the homes were built in the 1920's and included workrooms to encourage occupants to provide for a living for themselves. The newest block of 4 apartments, closest to the Fairthorne Rd. roundabout on the High Street, was completed in 2005.

The criteria to be a resident of one of the homes include a strong Military Service link, a local connection, a physical disability, and the financial need for charitable housing. There is no waiting list per se for residency, rather a list of interested persons. When a vacancy arises it is advertised in various local and Service publications and the most deserving case within the criteria is selected.

The properties are all self-contained homes and are easily visible from the Recreation Ground which is managed by our 'sister' Trust – The Viscountess Barrington Memorial Hall and Recreation Ground Trust.

Residents are charged a 'below market rate' weekly maintenance contribution in line with Almshouse Association guidelines, which the Charitable Trust relies on to fund ongoing cyclical and emergency maintenance. Major refurbishment is usually undertaken when a property becomes vacant, within financial limitations.

Demand for existing properties upon vacancies occurring encouraged the Trustees to explore the possibility of enlarging the property portfolio. Planning permission has been obtained to build additional properties on Trust owned land adjacent to the Football Club. Funding this development is an ongoing challenge but it is still hoped to make a start later in 2018.

Although the Trust is not responsible for the welfare of the residents, occasional help is provided in dealing with agencies such as the local council and care centers as and when appropriate.

Further information is available from the Clerk to the Trust, Graham Vizer, on 783684.

## **Fete Committee - Annual Parish Assembly 2018**

The Shrivenham Village Fete Committee organises several events throughout the year, the largest being the August Bank Holiday Summer Fete. Each year we purchase and put up the village Christmas Tree; and organise the Village Christmas Carol service, accompanied by a Silver Band, where villagers can congregate for some festive fun and a visit from Santa! Each Boxing Day we hold Shrivenham's very own and unique "Woozel Hunt" where we get together to walk off any Christmas Day excesses, ending up at the Memorial Hall for more mulled wine and mince pies! We organise a free "Party on the Recreation Ground", usually in May, with live music, food and drink, and fun events for the children like pony rides and inflatables so that they can let off steam in a safe environment. This is just our way of saying thank-you to the village for supporting all of our events (as well as having an excuse for a party!)

Any monies collected through public donations during the year are topped up from any profits generated at the Fete; and distributed at the February AGM to local good causes in the Shrivenham area. To-date we have supported many deserving causes including our local school, church, guides and scouts wanting to travel to international events, our junior football team, the local canal association, a local charity providing woodworking lessons for people with learning difficulties, our village choir and multiple nursery/pre-school activity groups just to mention a few.

## **Shrivenham & District WI**

### **Annual Report 2017 – 2018**

#### **Presented at the AGM on 15 March 2018**

This report covers the period from April 2017 to March 2018 and is written on behalf of the whole committee. We currently have 46 full members and 6 dual members. We have had 9 new members join us: Freda Dawes, Mary Hitchings, Celia Johnson, Janet Jones, Linda Kinder, Vivien Moss, Tricia Oates, Val Pettefar, Carol Reed and Liz Trowbridge. We hope they have felt warmly welcomed and are enjoying our meetings.

It has been a year of interesting speakers/performers on a wide range of topics: Airline Command, Hats Whiskers, Evidence based Medicines, Short Drag Roger and Pandemonium – musical evenings, Chatsworth and the Cavendish Family, Christmas Craft Demonstration, Journey to the South Pole and a most enjoyable Quiz. Our traditional Christmas lunch was held at the Eagle pub in Watchfield in early December – cosy and delicious.

2017 started with the sad news of the death of our 100 year old member, Joyce Walters. Many WI friends attended her funeral and as a WI sent in a donation for the Oxfordshire WI Memorial Bursary Fund in her memory. Speaking of which, Sue Reade won a bursary from this fund awarded at the OFWI Annual Meeting in March.

We continued to raise funds for Denman by holding a bumper raffle at our Cream Tea and Quiz in August and by selling household goods made by the Craft Group from the spare hexagonals from Joyce's quilt at the Shrivenham Village Fete. Joyce's family donated her quilt to us and we raffled it off at our own WI and group meetings in October. Three of our members did a sponsored walk in September. In total we raised approximately £750 for Denman.

The Shrivenham Village Fete WI stall raised £277 – more than ever before.

Mary attended the NFWI meeting in Liverpool in June and Sandy became our 'Campaign' Representative to further promote the two resolutions of 'plastic soup' and 'alleviating loneliness'. On World Kindness Day in November we made and delivered 48 bouquets to parishioners. We have also started 'WI Coffee mornings' the first of which was held in January this year.

Our bursary winner at our December meeting was Gail Sudlow.

As always a very big thank you goes to Jean for the exemplary efficiency with which she regulates our financial affairs, to Sandy and Mary Witherow, who are the welcoming faces of our WI, as well as being our raffle queens. Gail Sudlow and Barbara Goodland were warmly welcomed to the Committee in April 2017 and Alison Reffold and Barbara Hornsby agreed to join the Committee in January 2018. Huge thanks to all our committee members who work hard to ensure that we have fun as a WI.

It has been another successful year for Shrivenham and District WI with Mary as our President who works tirelessly ensuring that all runs smoothly for us. A big thank you to her.

