



Public Enquiry - David Wilson Homes / Land off Faringdon Road

As many of you will know from previous updates on this matter, the decision against the application by David Wilson Homes (to erect 73 houses on land adjacent to the Horse & Jockey) by Vale's Planning Committee in May was appealed and the Public Enquiry dates were set for 19-22 November.

Your Parish Council applied for, and was granted, 'Rule 6 Status', enabling us to present evidence to Her Majesty's Inspector of Planning as well as to cross examine the appellant's witnesses on their evidence presented to the Inspector. This was no small undertaking, with the appellant's witnesses submitting some 150 pages of Evidence Proof, along with associated Appendices - up to 30 per witness and the majority of these tens of pages in length. In addition to which our own witness evidence had to be prepared and submitted.

In the end, the appeal was condensed to just 3 days, this was due to the rapid pace at which matters progressed, rather than any loss in the detail of the evidence presented. David Wilson Homes (DWH) had appointed an award winning barrister (he is ranked number one in the Royal Town Planning Institute's survey of the Junior Planning Bar) & so our work was cut out for us!

Day 1 - The Inspector gave all present an overview of the process before us, before advising that he accepted the position that the Vale did not have a 5 year land supply policy, but did not wish to examine whether the Vale's current position on Housing Land Supply had been correctly calculated as it would not be a material consideration. Vale's witnesses (2 of them) were called to give evidence and were cross examined by the barrister for DWH in a fairly vociferous manner.

Day 2 - Saw the completion of the cross examination of Vale's 'landscape' witness, at which point Vale's barrister was able to clarify some points with their own witness in order to try and reinstate the credibility of the information before the Inspector. After which, we were called to present our case.

Each witness had the opportunity to put to the Inspector the key points from their Proof of Evidence. After which, I was able to question each witness, in order to try and ensure that we had covered the key points, and that the significance of them was made clear to the Inspector. Following this, DWH's barrister again had the opportunity to cross-examine each witness - keeping us on our toes (to say the least), although we were taken by surprise when he chose not to cross examine our Sustainability Assessment. The Enquiry then moved on to hear the evidence of DWH's landscape consultant, who put a very eloquent and somewhat convincing case. Vale's barrister was then able to cross examine, followed by a brief cross-examination by ourselves.

The Enquiry then progressed to hearing evidence from DWH's planning consultant. He put to the Inspector that Vale's failed Draft Interim Housing Supply Policy (which suggested that the village should be looking to accommodate another 74 dwellings in the next 15 years) should be a material concern in this case, despite even its opening pages stating that this is not the case! He also attempted to present the benefits that he believed the scheme would bring to the village. Vale's barrister began cross examination of the witness exploring policy issues.

Day 3 - Vale's barrister concluded his cross examination, and we were then able to undertake the same. Highlighting issues with Sustainable Transport, and access to employment opportunities, which appeared to open a somewhat gaping hole in their case.

DWH's barrister then proceeded to 'table a note' from their Transport Consultants designed to allay the issues we had raised in evidence the day before & consequently we submitted our own traffic flow calculations to the Inspector for him to make an informed decision. DWH's barrister then produced another note designed to allay all our concerns with regards foul & surface water issues. Armed with the great knowledge of our witness, we were able to disprove and highlight to the Inspector Thames

Water's insistence on a Grampian Condition, which the barrister had been asserting was unnecessary.

The Inspector then conducted his site visit, which included a fairly comprehensive tour of the appeal site itself, seeing first-hand the current issues with foul water near the site boundary (which Thames Water are also aware of) as well as walking from there along the High Street, checking the bus stop locations, school, supermarket/Post Office.

The Enquiry itself resumed with a lively discussion surrounding the S106 contributions, with DWH pulling a last minute stunt to try and have the Inspector examine the contribution requests and remove any which he did not believe were fair. Matters were eventually resolved, with DWH accepting 'further information' from Vale; the Inspector did not appear to be very impressed by DWH's antics in this regard! We moved onto Closing - which incorporated a brief synopsis from ourselves, closing statements from Vale's barrister followed by 21 pages of closing remarks by the barrister for DWH, who continued to add/remove sentences as we read! The Enquiry was brought to a close just after 17:00.

We were somewhat surprised to be congratulated on our case outside of the Enquiry by one of the appellant's witnesses, and separately by the Inspector himself. Unfortunately, we will not know the outcome of the Inspector's decision for several weeks, possibly months, but we will of course update you in due course.

I would like to extend my own personal thank you to everyone who gave up their time to attend the Enquiry, especially to the team that not only gave evidence, but actively assisted with locating the various iterations of documents, maps and the like from the vast quantity before us, as well as attending the site visit.

Whilst I have lead this process on behalf of the Parish Council, it would have been impossible to do so, without the assistance and personal knowledge of a significant number of residents, most notably the AGSR Action Group. Additionally, the support of other Councillors, whether that has been in addressing specific areas (such as 106 Contributions) or dealing with the necessary duplication and posting of evidence to ensure everything was with

the Planning Inspectorate to meet their demanding pre-appeal deadlines.
Peter Lewis.

Chair's Report December 13

This November meeting we initially discussed the Budget for 2014/15. Probable final decision to be taken at our January 2014 meeting but at present it would seem the precept will be the same as last year.

Planning- The Public Enquiry re the Faringdon Road Development has come to a conclusion, the result of which may not be known for weeks or months. Councillor Peter Lewis has admirably led the team of Amanda Bailey, Sue Murrin, Geoffrey Somerset, Malcolm Wise, Anna Gaunt and Sue Galsworthy who gave evidence and were cross-examined by the DWH's barrister which was quite demanding. Our position has been quite clear from the beginning that a development of 73 houses on the other side of the A417 was never acceptable for many reasons. The objections have been placed and we now wait. If the decision goes against then we will have to embrace this development to ensure it becomes very much part of our village and ensure we welcome all who come to live there.

Taylor Wimpy Homes have not formally replied as yet to share any proposals but the Land Agents for The Old Nursery Site have indicated they are waiting for other outcomes to be forthcoming.

Now **Blue Cedar Homes** have expressed an interest in a development at Horsecroft. Again they have asked for a meeting with the PC prior to consultation with the Village. Included in this newsletter is an invitation to their exhibition and consultation on Wednesday December 4th , 4.30pm-7 pm in the Small Village Hall.

After a well-attended Village Meeting (over 200 parishioners) re **A Neighbourhood Plan** we were given a clear mandate to start such a process. Your Parish Council have now formally resolved to set in motion. We will invite those who have offered to form a steering group to meet on 9th December-time and venue to be decided.

Play Area Projects- Thanks to a grant of £3575 from the Public Purposes Charity we have added some new equipment and safety surfacing to the

Children's Play Area off Huntersfield. Other items need replacing and this will happen shortly.

Next Parish Council Meeting- Wed. 15th January 2014

Peter Gill- December 2013

District Council Report

Planning continues to dominate at the Vale with the local plan progressing and many applications for housing coming in.

Of course the appeal inquiry into the Faringdon Road application has been to the forefront this week and I would like to thank and praise the Parish Council, in particular Peter Lewis, and to all those from the 'A Group of Stanford Residents' for their hard work, time and effort in presenting the case against this development.

We still await the SHMA (strategic housing market assessment) so that we can go on to the second consultation of the local plan. This will tell us how many houses we need to build by 2029 or even a little later than this. It is being done by independent consultants and covers the whole of Oxfordshire. We should have the SHMA in January and the aim to submit the local plan 2029 to the inspector by July after the second consultation.

In the last year or so we have given permission for over 2000 dwellings and on Dec 4th we have the Grove Airfield application for 2500 houses to consider. This is in an effort to catch up on the amount of houses that should have been built in the Vale since 2006, of course not all these will be built straight away, indeed the Grove Airfield application is for them to be built over the next 15 years, but we have to have a 5 year land supply of houses, 578 per year should be completed, plus a further year.

There is also a plan to move some of the staff over to the South Oxon District Council offices, but these will only be what may be termed backroom staff or those that met members of the public rarely. Members of the public will still be able to go to Abbey House in Abingdon to meet members of staff of the Vale District Council. Oxfordshire County Council will be using the top 2 floors at Abbey, so making it more convenient for the public and the Citizens Advice Bureau may also move in. This plan

will make for more efficient running of the Council and save more than £200,000.

Robert Sharp VWH District Councillor, The Old Stables, Shellingford, Faringdon, Oxon SN7 7PU

Tel. 01367 710549

E-mail Robert.Sharp@whitehorsedc.gov.uk

P.S. Rotary will be coming around Stanford with Thomas and Father Christmas, Monday 16th & Tuesday 17th Dec.

Public Purposes Charity Report

The Trustees held their AGM and a normal Trustees Meeting on Thursday 17th October in the Village Hall Committee Room. It began with a presentation from a representative of CCLA who explained the current economic situation and provided advice as to some further actions that could be made to protect and improve the current portfolio.

Julia Grinsted was welcomed as a new Trustee, nominated by the Parish Council. The Trustees also noted that Caroline Somerset had decided to retire as a Trustee. The Trustees regretted her leaving and felt that she had made a valuable contribution to the charity over the past eight years.

At the AGM, which has been re-instated at its proper time in October, the remaining eleven Trustees agreed to continue to serve from October 2013 to October 2014. The Chairman and Clerk/Correspondent were re-elected unanimously.

Approved Grant Applications paid and outstanding include:

* The original grant to the SitV Relief in Need Charity for support for the repair of the Church Charity Board has now been cancelled. In its place a new grant application for the cost of the site visit was approved and has been paid (£575.00).

* A new grant application by the SitV Relief in Need Charity for the revised cost of the restoration work (£3,000.00) was considered and approved. Payment will await completion of the work.

* A grant application to support the SitV Primary School with further equipment was discussed and the Trustees decided to approve the proposal for Area 1 (Quiet Area) in the sum of £2,840.00 and for Area 2 (Middle of the Old Trail) (£5,722.00). They

also noted that the Village School Association is hoping to raise around £5,000 towards the other items which are part of this project.

* The SitV Parish Council made a grant application for a balance beam (£395); stepping mushrooms (£600), Step Logs (£600) and 'softmulch' safety surfacing (£1980) - a total of £3,575.00 - to be added to the equipment in the young people's recreation area next to the village hall. The Trustees approved this request.

* The Parochial Church Council (PCC) asked for support for a grant to open part of the church wall on to Church Green in order to make the memorial more inclusive for the village as a whole, with particular reference to the coming 1914 memorial ceremonies for the First World War. The Trustees discussed the plans presented and asked the PCC to provide a more detailed, costed proposal for their next meeting in January 2014.

Villagers are reminded that Grant Applications are made to the Trustees through the Hon. Clerk/Correspondent who can supply Grant Application Forms on request either by e-mail or hard copy. (Tel: 01367 718 480)

Allotments:

* The waiting list currently stands at eight parishioners. It was noted that the current allotment fees do not cover the costs of water and hedging now owing to the increased costs of these services. It was proposed and agreed that all fees should be raised by £2 per allotment in 2014.

* Any parishioner who wishes his or her name to be added to the allotment waiting list should please contact Paul Gooding on 01367 710 656.

David N. Axford Hon. Clerk/Correspondent,
SitV Public Purposes Charity

Invitation to a Public Exhibition - land at Penstones Farm, Horsecroft, SIV

Blue Cedar Homes is proposing a development of 18 homes which consist of 8 retirement cottages, 3 houses for general sale and 7 affordable dwellings. These homes will consist of a range of 2, 3 and 4 bedroom properties. This development will contribute towards the Vale's 5 year land supply as well as addressing the Parish Council's Housing Needs Survey 2012.

Blue Cedar Homes is inviting residents to come along to view our proposals and to discuss thoughts and ideas with members of the project team. There will be an opportunity to leave feedback which will be used to help shape the proposals.

The exhibition will take place at The Village Hall, Hunters Field, Stanford in the Vale, SN7 8LX on Wednesday 4 December 2013 at 4.30pm - 7pm.

If you are unable to attend the exhibition but would like to receive information about the proposals, please do not hesitate to contact Simon Tannahill of Blue Cedar Homes at slt@bluecedarhomes.co.uk or call 0117 9237070.

Blue Cedar Homes intend to submit a full planning application following the public exhibition when the feedback has been considered.

Police Report

We are now half way through the financial year and I thought I would give you a brief update as to how we are progressing so far this year.

As a police area our three priorities this year are dwelling burglary, offences of violence and rural crime.

You may recall back in April I outlined how we had reduced dwelling burglary by over 57% in the last ten years, I suspected that further reducing this level of offending would be a real challenge for us but I am really pleased to tell you that we have now further reduced the number of dwelling burglaries by 23%. We now have amongst the lowest percentage of houses burgled per 1000 population in the country and the lowest in Thames Valley police. This is a tremendous success for the district and I would like to pay particular thanks to the contribution of the Community Safety Partnership, the Neighbourhood Action Groups and our Neighbourhood Watch schemes who have all played a key part in achieving these results.

A particular factor in our reduction of dwelling burglaries has been our success at catching the offenders for these burglaries. Quite simply if we can catch those offenders and get them locked up they cannot commit crime. I am extremely proud of our staffs that work in our Local CID Office and believe we have some of the best detectives within Thames Valley Police. We are set a Force objective of achieving an 18% detection rate for dwelling

burglary and we are currently achieving a 77% detection rate, this is by far the best within Thames Valley police and more than twice the detection rate of the next best performing police area.

Tackling violence continues to be a significant challenge for us and we are currently experiencing a 4% rise in offending. These offences comprise largely of offences that are alcohol related and occur within the night time economy or offences that are related to incidents of domestic violence. As such, a particular focus of our activity to reduce violence has been centred on the night time economy.

Pubs and clubs across South Oxfordshire and the Vale of White Horse now stay open longer than ever before and we are therefore seeing an ever increasing development of the night time economy and consequently increased levels of intoxication. Managing this night time economy and ensuring people are able to enjoy themselves sensibly is an increasing challenge for the police but something we are committed to undertake. We have increased the number of officers that are deployed across the district on a Friday and Saturday night and together with local licensees and partners we have further enhanced our 'Nightsafe' strategy ensuring the small number of individuals who think they can behave in a disorderly manner are challenged appropriately and made to recognise their behaviour will not be tolerated.

It is widely acknowledged that for many years, offences of domestic violence were under-reported and often hidden within the home. We have worked hard now for a number of years with our partners to encourage victims to come forward and report these crimes. We have had considerable success in increasing the confidence of victims to come forward and report these crimes and whilst we are keen to reduce our levels of recorded crime it is important that we continue this work and ensure our focus remains on supporting victims and ensuring their safety.

As with dwelling burglary a key factor in reducing violence is to arrest and convict those responsible for these offences. Our Force objective is to achieve a detection rate of 45% for offences of violence with injury. We are currently achieving a 56% detection rate and have the highest detection rate within Thames Valley Police.

Reducing rural crime is a priority for Thames Valley Police, as the largest rural police area within the Force this is something we have committed significant resources and energy into tackling. A key element of our activity has been around engaging with the rural community and ensuring we are aware of their concerns and the issues they are facing. We have developed a number of new initiatives to enable us to develop our means of communication such as rural text alerts to ensure land owners and farmers are quickly made aware of vehicles that are acting suspiciously in their local area. We have this year committed more resources to the rural community and undertaken a number of high profile operations, through this work we have identified and arrested a number of offenders, many from areas as far away as Wales and Kent who are travelling to this area just to commit crime.

The protection of vulnerable people is a priority for Thames Valley Police and something we work hard with our partners to deliver on a daily basis. We have for a number of years now across the district developed our own support network for vulnerable elderly residents who have an otherwise limited support network. This is a piece of work that we are extremely proud of and has been recently promoted nationally as an example of innovative best practice for supporting the elderly. We have this year looked to further enhance this network through enhancing the links between our Neighbourhood Teams, Age UK, Neighbourhood Watch and local voluntary groups. This network provides reassurance for some of our most vulnerable people and whilst working to prevent them becoming victims of crime it also offers valuable support, prevents isolation and hopefully contributes to their general well being.

As I always point out we do not reduce crime on our own, we are reliant on support from our partners and local communities. I am extremely grateful for the continuing help and support we receive from South Oxfordshire and the Vale of White Horse District Councils, the Town and Parish Councils, the Community Safety Partnership, and the volunteers who support us through the Special Constabulary, Neighbourhood Watch and the Neighbourhood Action Groups. Thank you, your help and support is very much appreciated.

A cleaner, better Vale for all

Just days after their last prosecution, Vale of White Horse District Council scores a hat-trick with three

fly-tipping prosecutions in one day. Reinforcing the message that fly-tipping is not acceptable in the Vale, the prosecutions show that action can, and will, be taken against anyone who dumps their rubbish illegally or fails in their duty of care.

Prosecuted for not having a commercial waste carriers licence, Steve McMahon of Faringdon was also found guilty of failing in his duty of care for building waste, including concrete drains and other rubble. The waste, which should have been taken to a recycling and waste disposal centre, was left in a lay-by on Denchworth Road, near Grove. He was ordered to pay £1356 in total.

Also prosecuted was David Collison from Headington who was ordered to pay £1220. He also failed in his duty of care and did not have a commercial waste carriers licence. A one tonne builder's bag belonging to him, was found full of rubbish on Upper Road in Kennington.

And finally, reported by an observant cyclist who saw him dump black bin bags from his vehicle, Gunntis Baumains of Swindon, was prosecuted for a fly-tip along Park Lane at Stanford in the Vale. He was ordered to pay a total of £831.

These prosecutions, all on 7 October 2013, were carried out under various sections of the Environmental Protection Act (1990) and the Control of Pollution Action (1989) which, among other things, are designed to ensure that waste is disposed of properly.

Councillor Roger Cox said: 'I am delighted that we are able to reassure our residents that action is being taken to help keep the Vale a beautiful and clean place to live and visit. Ideally, we'd like fly-tipping to stop altogether, but until that time, it will continue to be taken seriously and acted upon.' Fly-tipping can be reported by visiting www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/flytipping or by calling 03000 610610 (local rate).

Thank You

Our thanks to the members of Stanford in the Vale School Gardening for revamping and planting up the two flower boxes at the entrances to the Village on the A417 in the Summer. They looked so much better. They are now planning how to improve the garden space by the toddlers play area in the Huntersfield recreation field. Watch this space!

Dogs again

There were several comments made to the Clerk regarding the article on dog mess in the last newsletter, saying that not all dog walkers are leaving mess and not picking up and that the article intimated that all dog walkers should be blamed. The PC does not blame all dog owners, just those who are anti-social.

Your Councillors:

Peter Gill <i>Chairman</i>	
5 Chapel Road	718224
Stuart Bambury	
6 Horsecroft	710260
Mark Isaacs	
48 High Street	718719
Simon Jackson	
59 Van Diemens	718460
Nona Lewis	
40 Joyces Road	710779
Peter Lewis	
8 Manor Green	718670
Derek Monahan- Smith	
22 Ock Meadow	718781
Janet Warren	
32 Huntersfield	710789
Karin Williams-Cuss	
Burn Orchard, Chapel Road . . .	718637
Mike Dew <i>Clerk</i>	
9 Glebe Road	710387

Merry
Christmas
to

all our readers