

The Parish Times

Keeping Hinton Parva, Bishopstone and Russley Park informed.

Volume 8. Number 3.

April 2009

East of the A419

By: Charles Lochrane Chairman, Compton
Beauchamp Parish Meeting

As you will know, the Parish has been part of a consortium (the Western Vale Villages Consortium or WVV) for some three years now. This consortium was formed to try and fight the decision by the government (in the form of the Regional Spatial Strategy, the RSS, announced by the South Western Regional Assembly) and Swindon Borough Council to promote the large scale expansion of Swindon onto the floodplain to the east of the A419 (between the A420 and the Common Head junction), and as far East as Bourton; described as the EDA. Since the last Parish meeting much has happened and in advance of this year's meeting I thought it wise to update everybody.

THE FACTS SO FAR:

Swindon Borough Council, the South West Regional Assembly and The Secretary of State have already approved the location and scale of the proposed development. They plan to develop about 12,000 homes within an area of some 2,200 acres, of which only some 740 acres is developable due to flood risks and other restrictions. This will include district centres, office and industrial areas and a huge amount of infrastructure (roads, schools etc). How closely they develop to the Vale villages will impact upon whether the villages closest to the development are able to retain a separate identity and to what extent the actual construction will affect all our lives. Beyond the immediate boundaries of the development there are currently no plans to ensure that this development will have minimal effect on the Vale. You can imagine what effect it will have, at the very least in terms of increased traffic. There has also been no indication as to how they propose to deal with the very real threat of flooding.

THE REALITY NOW:

We need to accept that if Swindon Borough Council (SBC) and the developers are determined to proceed we cannot stop them completely. What we can do is influence, by powerful reasoned argument where they do develop within the EDA boundary and identify what areas we are determined to protect. We may also be able to show that they are seeking to build too many homes in a flood risk area, which also contains many scheduled archaeological sites. The position currently is as follows:

1. The RSS remains to be finalised, months after this was supposed to have been done by the Secretary of State.
2. For this reason, and for all the obvious national and international financial reasons, SBC plans for the development of the EDA are very much on "hold" but, nevertheless, there is some activity as SBC presses on in anticipation of full financial and other support in due course from the final RSS.



Wiltshire Wildlife Trust

Spring Flowers Walk on Saturday 2nd May from 1400 to 1700. This walk will take you through the picturesque Clouts Wood and Markham Banks reserve near Wroughton, and will focus on the various spring flowers abundant at this time of year. The walk will be led by the Reserve Warden Richard Aisbitt, who will show you the hidden corners of the site and explain how management of the habitat allows these species to continue to thrive.

Hedgerow Survey training on Sunday 24th May - timings tbc. Hedgerows are a key habitat in the promotion and development of biodiversity, but have suffered a rapid decrease in coverage over the past half century due to increases in intensive farming and development. The Wroughton Hedgerow Project is therefore an important local initiative in mapping and understanding this habitat and associated wildlife. The training session will be led by Graham O'Mahoney, Voluntary Project Officer, and will give participants the opportunity to conduct their own mini survey on the day following instruction. This is the seventh in a series of events funded by the North Wessex Downs AONB.

Places are strictly limited so if you would like to book, please email or telephone me (details below) providing the names of those wishing to attend and a contact telephone no. for my records.

EAST of the A419 continued from page 1

3. In early April, SBC will publish a "Supplementary Planning Document- an "SPD" - which is due to come before the SBC planning committee on 7th April. There will be a 6 week consultation period during which WVV and its constituent Parishes must be very active. It is anticipated that the SPD will spell out in detail the plans for the proposed 12,000 homes to be built in the EDA.

4. On 29th April in Bourton Village Hall and on 1st May in Wanborough Village Hall, SBC will exhibit with models and other graphic material the urban development plans - the "floor plan" - for the development - to villagers; from noon to 8pm. It is very much hoped that there will be a good turnout. Please make an effort to go and look at the proposals.

5. Thereafter, on 6th May, WVV will have a meeting to discuss these plans with SBC planners. We hope at the exhibitions to see the Buffer zones or "Strategic Gaps" we have been promised, and to get a good understanding of how the flood risk free part (some 740 acres of the 2200 acre total) of the EDA will be developed.

6. There are no currently published plans for development or improvement of the A420. While we are currently assured there will be no road link from Acorn Bridge to Commonhead, we remain sceptical. This may become a critical issue.

7. The Local Democracy, Economic Development, and Contracting Bill currently before Parliament incorporates provisions for the making of petitions to local authorities in cases where officials take no or no adequate account of local sentiment otherwise expressed. This may be a useful tool in the future and we currently have adequate funds in hand to help secure the necessary support if a petition becomes necessary.

Finally, after 3 full years of WVV, the steering group needs 2 or 3 new and energetic members. In particular, we seek one or two professionals, solicitors, surveyors, or others with planning and local government experience with one in particular to replace Peter Martin, who will stand down on 9th May as general coordinator. It is vital that any such persons be computer literate and email enabled as all of the investigation and communication is done on the Internet. If anybody thinks he or she has the time and determination to take over from Peter please let me know.

We will have an opportunity to fully discuss the situation at the Parish meeting in June. I will send out a notice of this nearer the date.

Can I please urge as many of you as possible to go to one of the two exhibitions. The SBC planning officers will be there and will gauge the attendance as a measure of the interest of the local communities in the project. If nobody turns up they will conclude that the WVV has little support and that they can get away with whatever they like!

The Festival of Sport

is a community focused event taking place on Saturday 30th May and Sunday 31st May 2009.

Packed full of sports tournaments and free fun activities for everyone to enjoy.

Saturday 30th May

- Lydiard Park - It's a Knockout, Tag Rugby, Men's Football, Women's Football, Volleyball and Archery taster sessions
- Dorcan - Netball, Boccia and Hockey
- Croft - Badminton and Squash
- Peatmoor Lake - Angling
- St Marks - Tennis

Sunday 31st May

Coate Water Country Park will host an array of FREE fun taster activities which will include canoeing, kayaking, sailing, croquet and pitch 'n' putt.

Call: (01793) 511033

E-mail: info@challengeswindon.org.uk

Visit: www.challengeswindon.org.uk

Anyone for Croquet?

Free 6 week beginners course at Moredon Playing fields Tuesday 12th May - 16th June 2009
Understand and learn to play Golf and Association Croquet.

For further information on any of the above or to book please contact: Carole Jones, Physical Activity Development Officer, Leisure Services, Swindon Borough Council, County Ground Lifestyle Centre, Arkells Stand, County Road Swindon, SN1 2EE:

Tel: 01793 514401,

email: cjones@swindon.gov.uk

SMALL PRINT

Welcome

The Parish Council always extends a warm welcome to all new and prospective residents of the Parish. We are very pleased that you've chosen to live in our community. The Parish contains two conservation areas and everything south of the Ickneild Way is also in the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Many houses are also listed.

Naturally this brings with it all sorts of problems when it comes to tree felling, house alterations, etc. There are also other regulations aimed at preserving the

character and beauty of the parish. If in doubt, please check, we are only a phone call away.

The Parish Council is therefore always available to answer any questions you may have on any particular aspect of living in a conservation area, the area of outstanding natural beauty or in listed buildings. Please do not hesitate to contact either the Clerk, the Chair or any member of the council - the numbers appear on the next page.

We do hope you will be very happy here.

Parish Parking

The Parish has many narrow lanes and these need to be accessible to residents, utility and emergency vehicles at all times. Cars are now being parked along some of the narrowest sections of road (e.g. Cues Lane in Bishopstone, High Street, Bishopstone, etc.) often blocking these routes to even small vehicles. Please remember that emergency vehicles need to be able to move freely down all the roads and lanes of the parish at all times. Could we therefore ask that owners of vehicles park them responsibly and avoid the narrowest sections.

THE Village Hall car park in Bishopstone is a private space available only for those using the village hall. It is not somewhere for parishioners to park on a long term basis;

whatever the circumstances might be. This is clearly signed on the wall of the hall.

Cars parked here make it very difficult for legitimate car park users to find space for their vehicles. It is also incredibly inconvenient for those users having to load and unload items, or for the infirm or disabled who wish to make use of the hall. Provided the hall is not in use, loading and unloading of vehicles is permitted, as is visitor parking for short periods. By prior arrangement with the committee the siting of skips can also be accommodated.

The committee very much regret that it cannot offer parking for those in need, however, hall users must come first and from the complaints received these are frequently finding it difficult to park.

Protected Trees

Trees are vital to the quality of our lives for a number of reasons:-

- They help make our two villages more pleasant and attractive places in which to live and work.
- They are often a familiar and cherished feature and so provide a sense of place.
- They provide a valuable habitat for wildlife.

They are often older than many of the buildings amongst which they stand and so contribute to our local history.

Because they are so important to our environment all trees within a Conservation Area are protected by law*. The **whole** of Bishopstone is within a Conservation Area. The **whole** of Hinton Parva centred around the church is also within a Conservation Area.

Anyone planning to cut down or carry out work to a tree here must give the Borough Council six weeks written notice of their

intention to do so.

*Whilst there are one or two exemptions, such as trees with a diameter of less than 3 inches (measured 1.5m from the ground) or when a tree is in a dangerous condition, you are strongly advised to check first with the Council's Tree Officer since any unauthorised works can be a criminal offence which could lead to prosecution and heavy fines of up to £20,000. Better to be safe than sorry!

The Council's Tree Officer can be contacted on 01793 466318.

Individual trees or groups of trees that make a particularly important contribution to either of our villages may be worthy of special protection by way of a Tree Preservation Order. If you know of any such trees then please do not hesitate to contact any Member of the Parish Council or the Borough Council's Tree Officer who will be happy to make an inspection.

NEWS IN BRIEF

SWINDON RURAL SOUTH NPT POLICE SURGERY

You are invited to meet your local Neighbourhood Policing Team on these dates. Feel free to come along and discuss any issues you wish to raise with us.

BISHOPSTONE VILLAGE HALL

Wednesday 22nd April - 1pm to 2pm
Thursday 30th April - 5pm to 6pm
Tuesday 12th May - 5pm to 6pm
Monday 18th May - 1pm to 2pm

Contact the team on:

08454087000

or email:

swindonruralsouthnpt@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk

CHANGE TO DATE OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Please note that the May Parish Council meeting has been postponed until the 13th May. This is because councillors are attending the East of the A419 meeting in Bourton on the evening of the original meeting.

Council Meetings 2008/9

4th June 2008 - Hinton Parva
2nd July 2008 - Bishopstone
6th August 2008 - Hinton Parva
3rd September 2008 - Bishopstone
1st October 2008 - Hinton Parva
5th November 2008 - Bishopstone
3rd December 2008 - Hinton Parva
7th January 2009 - Bishopstone
4th February 2009 - Hinton Parva
4th March 2009 - HP (Parish Assembly)
1st April 2009 - Bishopstone
13th May 2009 - Hinton Parva (AGM)

All meetings begin at 7.30pm and members of the public are always welcome. Late changes are shown on the website <http://parish.bishopstone.net> and on the notice boards in Hinton Parva and Bishopstone.

BISHOPSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

Lesley Drewett (Clerk)
Brigadoon
Hockerbench
Bishopstone Wilts
SN6 8PW

Phone: 01793 791355
Fax: 01793 791355
Email: lesley@tynash.com
E-mail: lesley@tynash.com
website: <http://parish.bishopstone.net>

Mr Richard Alcock

Orchard House, Hinton Parva, SN4 0DW. 790808.

Mr Julian Cooke

Church Farm, Hinton Parva. SN4 0DW. 790278.

Mr Simon Jenkins

The Old Vicarage, Bishopstone. SN6 8PY. 790545.

Mr Stuart McGuigan

Greenoak, Newtown Lane, Bishopstone. SN6 8QA. 790219.

Mr Rob Selbourne

Prebendal Farm, Bishopstone, Wilts. SN6 8PT. 790485.

Mr Doug Stevens

Church View, Church Lane, Bishopstone. SN6 8PY. 791107.

Mrs Karolyn Tapper (Vice Chair)

Orchard Cottage, Bishopstone, Wilts. SN6 8PL. 790658.

Mr Ian Thomas

Littlecot, High Street, Bishopstone, Wilts. SN6 8PH. 790106.

Mr Ian Thompson

Snowberry House, Hinton Parva. SN4 0DW. 790970.

Useful Information

Highworth Police Station

01793 762251
Mon-Fri. 09-12.30 & 17:30-21.00

Police Headquarters

0845 408 7000
24hrs, 7 days a week

SBC Reception Premier House

01793 465055/465056

Civic Offices

01793 463668

Wat Tyler House

01793 463725

Borough Councillor

Andrew Bennett 01793 790563

Fly Tipping and other similar problems

Swindon Commercial Services 01793 463463

Keeping Swindon Safe

SBC 01793 445500
Police 0845 408 7000

Planning Update

All planning applications, their history and all supporting documents can now be viewed online by visiting:
www.swindon.gov.uk/planning.

Planning issues are discussed at the monthly Parish Council meetings. All plans for that month are laid out on display prior to the meetings and councillors and members of the public are invited to take a look. Public representations are heard prior to the start of the meeting.

Parish Council meetings alternate between Hinton Parva Village Hall and Bishopstone Village Hall and usually take place on the first Wednesday of the month.

Members of the public are always welcome.

Planning:

S/CAC/09/0295ROBI - Demolition of existing rear Extension - 4 West End, Bishopstone Mr Roland Billington - 466365 Before 25/3/09

S/09/0294ROBI - Erection of two storey rear extension To existing garage - 4 West End Bishopstone. Mr Roland Billington - 466365 Before 26/3/09

S/09/0326/CLMC - Erection of a garage - One Acre, High Street, Bishopstone, Miss Clare McMurray - 466062 Before 3/4/09

S/09/0294ROBI - Erection of two storey rear extension Side conservatory & erection of garage - 4 West End, Bishopstone - REVISED. Mr Roland Billington - 466365 Before 26/3/09

S/LBC/08/2277RM - GRANTED - Erection of a rear extension, internal Alterations and structural improvements Hinton Manor, Church Row, Hinton Parva.

S/08/2276RM - GRANTED - Erection of a rear extension, internal Alterations and structural improvements Hinton Manor, Church Row, Hinton Parva

S/09/0439CLMC - Erection of an agricultural building For the storage of implements and Feeds - Manor Down Farm, Bishopstone. Miss Clare McMurray - 466062 Before 15/4/09

Don't forget that all important information is displayed on the notice-boards in both villages and on the website at <http://parish.bishopstone.net>.

The Parish Times will always be available on the website. It is added there as soon as it is ready to go to the printers.

INFORMATION	INTEGRITY	PERSPECTIVE	ISSUES	INFORMATION
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