

# The Parish Times

Keeping Hinton Parva, Bishopstone and Russley Park informed.

Volume 8. Number 4.

May 2009

## East of the A419 (EDA)

Those who have read the Parish Times for April 2009 will recall the article on the proposed Eastern Development Area (EDA); this is the proposal by Government and Swindon Borough Council (SBC) to develop about 12,000 homes within an area of some 2,200 acres of land east of the A419, much of which is prone to flooding. The public meeting in Bishopstone on 23rd April 2008 generated much interest and strong feeling. Since then, the Parish Council has kept a close watch on this item.

Now, SBC has published its draft "Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) entitled - A Greenprint for East Swindon" and opened a public consultation period which ends on 14 June 2009. Any comments on the SPD must be made in time for this deadline. This is a major issue for Swindon and its surrounding villages, including Bishopstone and Hinton Parva. The view of the Parish Council is that this development, as proposed, would have a substantial detrimental effect on the designated land east of the A419 and on all local communities. It is the Parish Council's view that there is no realistic prospect of stopping this development. However, the council believes that a strong and concerted response from parishioners could make a substantial difference to the proposals and the negative impact the development would have on our villages.

The Parish Council has, since its inception, been a member of the Consortium of Western Vale Villages which was set up to monitor the proposed Eastern Development. The Consortium represents the interests of Bishopstone with Hinton Parva, Wanborough, Ashbury, Longcot, Watchfield, Shrivensham, Bourton and Compton Beauchamp. The consortium has made a formal response to the draft SPD and a copy of this response is on the Parish Council website. The Parish Council endorses the main thrust of the Consortium's response and will be drawing on it to produce its own response. In outline, some of our principal objections to the draft SPD are:



### AONB Events

**BAT WALK** (Chiseldon area) Friday 5th June at 9.30pm - This is an opportunity to find out more about the natural history of bats. This evening walk will be led by Paul Darby of Wiltshire Wildlife Trust. Come and learn about where bats live, what they eat and how they interact with their environment and also how to use a bat detector. This is the eighth in a series of events funded by the North Wessex Downs AONB.

**BEETLE AND BUGS ID** (Wroughton area) Sunday 28th June 11am to 4.30pm - This event will show prospective beetle and bug hunters how to get started. You will learn where and how to look for them, what equipment you need and how it is used. You will also gain knowledge of how to work through identification keys to find out what your bug is! Michael New of Wiltshire Wildlife Trust will be your guide on this walk through Clouts Wood near Wroughton. This is the ninth in a series of events funded by the North Wessex Downs AONB.

All events are FREE but numbers are strictly limited so please book by calling Eva Thomas on (01380) 725670 or email [evat@wiltshirewildlife.org](mailto:evat@wiltshirewildlife.org)

For those of you with an internet connection you can read the Parish Magazine produced by Community First. Simply enter this link into your chosen browser:

<http://www.communityfirst.org.uk/parish-magazines-nw.html>

THE Parish Council have received notification that Marie Curie Cancer Care are once again asking people across the country to organise a tea party. All monies raised will help those with terminal cancer.

For more information see the Notice Boards, call 08700 340 040 or visit [www.mariecurie.org.uk/teaparty](http://www.mariecurie.org.uk/teaparty).

The name of this event is the Blooming GREAT Tea Party and it will run from June 12 to July 12 2009.

continued on page 2

# East of the A419 Update

continued from Page 1

- The proposal to build 12,000 homes, with jobs and infrastructure for the new communities, on 500 ha (c1250 acres) of open and unspoilt countryside to the east of Swindon is fundamentally misconceived. Large areas have, of necessity, been excluded from the development because they present a high flood risk. The proposed development thus represents a gross extravagance in the use of greenfield land. There are alternative areas for expansion around Swindon which could be developed with much less intrusion into rural land.

- The title "Greenprint" is misleading; in reality SBC are proposing a satellite town which would be cut off from the rest of Swindon by a major trunk road, the A 419.

- Aspirations to improve the White Hart junction and other crossings of the A419, to promote the integration of the EDA with Swindon would be extremely costly and the SPD gives no indication where the funds might come from.

- There is no indication of the costs or source of finance for the other significant infrastructure projects contemplated in the development.

- There are no proposals to improve capacity on the A420, which is already severely congested at times. This would inevitably increase "rat-running" on country roads and scant provision has been made to combat this. The current transport proposals do not come remotely close to providing a 'sustainable travel plan' which is stated as a 'requirement' in the SPD.

- There is minimal provision for screening the development from the surrounding countryside. The EDA should be screened by planting woodland, which would also have amenity

benefit in itself, both for the inhabitants of the EDA and the surrounding rural areas.

- The SPD states that the EDA should be structured around the "Green Infrastructure", including strategic gaps or buffers to protect the character of the villages. These have not been included and the plans show development almost contiguous to Lower Wanborough and Bourton.

- The SPD has been published in advance of receipt of key Environment Agency reports on flood risks in the area.

Enclosed with the Newsletter are copies of the Summary of the draft SPD, the Response Form and some guidelines suggested by the Parish Council to the thirteen questions on the Response Form. The entire suite of documents is also available on line at [www.swindon.gov.uk/spd](http://www.swindon.gov.uk/spd).

The Parish Council will make its own response to the SPD. However, it is important that this is supported by a strong response from a large number of parishioners. In the situation we now face, experience shows that the greater the number and unanimity of the responses Swindon Borough Council receives, the better are the prospects of influencing the planning of the EDA. The Parish Council therefore strongly encourages ALL parishioners to make a response to the draft SPD on the form provided. If we do not say what we think NOW, we will only have ourselves to blame later if we do not like what we see.

If you have any queries about this, please speak to a member of the Parish Council.

# 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

## FOXHILL MOTOCROSS

The organisers have three events planned at present, these are as follows:

- 6/7 June - Amateur Motor Cycle Association Meeting
- 25/26 July - Maxxis, ACU British Motocross Championships
- 12/13 Sept ACU - BYMX Meeting

It is envisaged that the June and September meetings will attract smaller crowds, however for the Maxxis British Championship in July the organisers anticipate there will be several thousand spectators. Indeed, they hope that many local people will attend and enjoy this prestigious event.

The organisers stress that they make every effort to ensure that each event causes as little disruption to residents in villages surrounding Foxhill and measures will be taken to direct traffic to those routes which do not pass directly through populated areas, specifically lower Wanborough. They also note that there may be an opportunity for some of the local businesses to become involved in some way which would be wonderful.

For more information contact:

Nick Prescott  
Code Events/Foxhill Promotions

[www.codewebsite.co.uk](http://www.codewebsite.co.uk)

Tel: 01793 858285

Mob: 07549 163177

## 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](http://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/09/0538RM - Erection of a Conservatory - 2 Poveys Place, Bishopstone Rhian Morris - 466285 Before 6/5/09.

S/09/0488CLMC - Erection of a single storey rear Extension - Cannons Cottage, Hinton Parva Clare McMurray - 466062 Before 5/5/09

S/CAC/09/0295/ROBI GRANTED Demolition odd existing rear Extension - 4 West Ends, Bishopstone

S/09/0326CLMC GRANTED Erection of a garage - One Acre, High Street, Bishopstone

S/09/0294/ROBI REFUSAL Erection of two storey rear extension Side conservatory & erection of Garage - 4 West End, Bishopstone

**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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