

The Parish Times

Keeping Hinton Parva, Bishopstone and Russley Park informed.

Volume 8. Number 7. October 2009

EAST OF A419 UPDATE

Councillor Simon Jenkins and Councillor Stuart McGuigan recently attended a meeting in Wanborough. The meeting was called by Gary Sumner and Borough Councillor Rod Bluh was in attendance to answer questions raised. A number of key points arose:

- Borough Councillor Rod Bluh claimed that SBC had consistently questioned the fundamental principal and practical feasibility of the EDA. This was however challenged.
- He reiterated his view that it would be unlikely that the whole 12,000 dwellings would be built and that he would prefer to see the area left undeveloped.
- He also confirmed that no-one really knows where the funding for the EDA infrastructure will come from.
- He went on to suggest that SBC had learnt lessons from past mistakes such as siting Covingham on the flood plain of the River Cole.
- He also added that none of the EDA would be built on a flood plain.
- He stated that neither of the Town's MPs had been helpful.
- He advised that concerned members of the public should continue to write to the town's MPs.

The Parish Council have responded to the Core Strategy, which feeds into the Regional Spatial Strategy. Our feedback was as follows:

The "Core Strategy" summary leaflet states that the council is seeking representations on the 'soundness' of the strategy. It goes on to state that "for something to be sound it must also be *deliverable*".

At the very simplest level, there is no evidence that the council has undertaken any outline, let alone detailed, costing of the infrastructure requirements associated with the strategy despite a bald statement to the effect that somehow by 2026 these needs will have been "provided in a timely and co-ordinated manner" (whatever that means) and "adequately funded" (whatever that means, although the terms 'adequate' and 'funded' are singularly unambiguous).

In the absence of robust detailed costings and the identification of appropriate funding sources, it is simply not possible for the council to claim that the strategy is "deliverable". Therefore, by definition, the strategy fails the basic test of "soundness". It follows that the strategy both in its entirety and in relation to points of detail is not fit for purpose. The consortium also responded to the Core Strategy.

Relevant documents have been added to the website for Parishioners information.



DIGITAL SWITCH OVER

The traditional TV signal in our region is being switched off between the 24th March 2010 and the 7th April 2010. After this time, only those with a digital box will be able to receive TV pictures. The switch over help scheme run by the BBC can offer help and support to older and disabled people. If you are:

- 75 or over.
- Get certain disability benefits.
- Are registered blind or partially sighted.

Then you may qualify for help.

Information packs should already have been sent to eligible homes. However, for more information you can call: 0800 40 85 900

Love Food Hate Waste

SBC has teamed up with other local authorities to create a month long campaign designed to make people think differently about food and win some outstanding prizes. Families in Swindon throw away up to £50 of good food per month on average. Most of this food could have been eaten. 40% of wasted food is fresh fruit & veg and by making simple changes to how we shop, cook and plan meals, every household could waste less and save more.

Visit the website at:

www.lovefoodhatewaste.com/southwest
And make a pledge to reduce food waste and you will be eligible to enter the competition.

Love food Hate Waste launches on 12th October 2009.

CONNECTING PEOPLE CONNECTING PLACES

Cllr. Brian Mattock introduced a new SBC initiative recently. Called "Connecting People, Connecting Places" it forms part of the Swindon Strategic Partnership and is built on three guiding principles:

1. More meaningful engagement with people and communities - developing meaningful conversations.
2. Delivering public services that are more locally sensitive - local communities become increasingly involved in setting and delivering priorities.
3. Building on a 'sense of community' - supporting and helping communities to help themselves.

SBC are planning to work to change current policy, practice and organisational models to ensure that they support people in their local neighbourhoods to build better, more independent lives and stronger more sustainable communities.

The Borough have identified seven 'cluster' areas. These are built around ward boundaries and is a way of supporting elected members as representatives of their communities and as local leaders and decision makers. Elected members will convene cluster forums with interested community champions and local people and will discuss local issues and develop local solutions.

Each cluster will have a Cluster Lead. Cluster Leads are existing senior managers within Swindon Borough Council, including the Head of Libraries, the Director of Law, and the Policy and Regeneration Manager. The cluster leads will act as facilitators, listening to people, gathering stories and brokering local solutions. A full description of the role of the Cluster Lead is available at:
<http://www.swindonsp.org.uk/ssp-index/connectingpeopleconnectingplaces.htm>.

Without additional resources SBC are changing the way they work in the Council and with partners to provide the organisational flexibility required to deliver local improvements. They will be sharing service expertise and developing local expertise within the Council, between partners, and across the Borough allowing us to identify opportunities, links, organisational efficiencies and new solutions to improve outcomes.

The Parish Council is currently negotiating distribution of "The Swindon News" to all households within the Parish. This monthly newsletter contains some useful snippets.

M4 J15

As a result of a number of injury accidents on the A346, northbound approach to J15, SBC Highways Officers are proposing a number of improvements to improve road safety. These improvements include:

1. formalising the approach to J15 to 2 lanes only to match the circulatory carriageway and prevent accidents occurring where 3 cars are 'pinched' into 2 lanes;
2. provide advance signing advising drivers of which lane to be in depending, on their desired destination;
3. provide a vehicle activated sign (VAS) on Plough Hill to warn drivers of queuing traffic extending back from J15.

(This sign will be positioned uphill from the Plough Inn but activated by vehicle detection loops downhill from the Plough Inn thus warning drivers to slow down as they pass over the brow of the hill to reduce the occurrence of rear-end shunt accidents.)

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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 Documents

The Parish has an archive room in the village hall in Bishopstone. This is not accessible to members of the public, however, with advanced warning any document stored there may be viewed by contacting a member of the council.

Documents of particular importance are also stored on the parish website and may be viewed

by anyone with a PC. Members of the parish without a PC can ask the clerk to provide them with a hard copy.

Documents on the website include the precept, the accounts, standing orders, annual Returns, etc.

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.

USEFUL INFORMATION

Crimestoppers: 0800 555 111
(Call anonymously with information about crime)

Domestic Violence 24hr National Helpline: 0808 2000 247

FRANK: 0800 77 66 00
(drug related)

Anti Social Behaviour: 01793 445500

Noise Nuisance: 01793 445500

NHS Direct: 0845 4647

Swindon Community Safety Partnership: 01793 466506

Wiltshire Bobby Van Trust 01225 794652 provides home security services to people aged 60+ or with special needs. (NB: the WBVT is a charity - donations are welcome).

Beat the Burglar

If you see anyone acting suspiciously, take their description and vehicle registration details and call the police on: 0845 408 7000. In an emergency call 999.

For a free home security pack and information about offers on home security call the Home Office:

0800 456 1213

(Packs are subject to availability).

Council Meetings 2008/9

Wednesday 2/9/09 Hinton Parva
Wednesday 7/10/09 Bishopstone
Wednesday 4/11/09 Hinton Parva
Wednesday 2/12/09 Bishopstone
Wednesday 6/1/10 Hinton Parva
Wednesday 3/2/10 Bishopstone
Wednesday 3/3/10 Bishopstone (Parish Assembly)
Wednesday 7/4/10 Hinton Parva
Wednesday 5/5/10 Bishopstone (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/09/1263JABU - Erection of a detached double garage with studio over - Thatchers View, 2 Cues Lane, Bishopstone - Mrs Janet Bushby - 466291 Before 16/9/09

S/LBC/09/1125CLMC - Installation of a replacement bay Window – The Grove, Hinton Parva Lane, Swindon - Miss Clare McMurray – 466062 Before 16/9/09

S/09/1337RM - Construction of a ménage - Land to the North-East of Chauffeurs Cottage, Russley Park, Baydon SN8 2JY - Mrs Rhian Morris - 466285 Before 30/9/09

S/09/1483/RM - Erection of a single storey front extension & 2 no Dormers windows to front & 4 no dormer windows to rear - Berkleys, 7 Whatleys Orchard, Bishopstone - Mrs Rhian Morris - 466285 Before 6/10/09

S/09/1675NIRO - Erection of a conservatory – Walnut Lodge, Mount Pleasant, Bishopstone - Miss Nicola Rogers - 466517 Before 15/10/09

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.

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