

# District Councillors' Report to Parish Councils and Parish Meetings: Botley and Sunningwell Ward



May 2018

- 1. Vale Leadership:** It's 'all change!' at Vale right now. Emily has stepped up to the Leader of Opposition role. Debby is Deputy Leader and remains Scrutiny Chairman. The Leader of the council Matthew Barber announced he is stepping down as leader, and taking on a full-time position as Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner with Thames Valley Police. The Tory group will select a new leader, and that person will most likely become leader of the council at the annual council meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> May. I hear a lot of people are nominated for that job; we wonder if they can unite behind one person. Matthew has been group leader for many years, and it's really Matthew's group. So whoever is to follow will have a big pair of strategic and political boots to fill.
- 2. Botley Leisure Facilities:** with the change in leadership at Vale comes a vulnerability to strategies and plans currently under development, to some extent. Debby has been working closely with Matthew Barber on behalf of the North Hinksey Parish Council about funding for the refurbishment of the leisure facilities (including the pavilion) at Louie Memorial Fields. There is agreement amongst Cabinet members, in principle, that some of the capital receipts from the sale of West Way would be used to increase leisure provision here. Vale formally identified Botley as a priority for improved facilities, and provided funding last year for the initial planning phases of the refurbishment process. Exciting plans had the final consultation at the end of April, and the parish council are nearly ready to move ahead. So Debby met with Matthew to discuss how we can keep this intention going in the face of new leadership. Matthew has spoken to his colleagues on Cabinet and all are in agreement that this is still what they want to do. It will be coming forward to a private Cabinet briefing in early May. We will keep on it.
- 3. West Way, What's Next?** The West Way litterate vandal was caught on CCTV, and it has been turned over to the police for investigation. We think the defacing has stopped for now.

As you can see when you drive by, work has started to turn the Grant Thornton corner into temporary facilities for the parish hall, Baptist church, Coop, Tesco and Lloyds Pharmacy. That should be done by early July. After that, the main development is to begin. Mace's plans in 2018 dropped the ramps, which meant more traffic in Arthray Road. We thought this was an unacceptable change, and after discussions and support from the Vale planners, Mace have put back in the ramps. Some minor but important issues around the number of car parking spaces and cycle parking are still being worked out. We think this plan is likely to be granted permission. The latest West Way changed plans are due to come to Planning Committee on the 30<sup>th</sup> of May.

Anyone who wants to receive the email updates please contact [dan@spbroadway.com](mailto:dan@spbroadway.com) and ask him to add you to the email list. The developer's newsletters and minutes from the Community Liaison Meetings can also be accessed at [www.westwayconsultation.co.uk/construction-updates](http://www.westwayconsultation.co.uk/construction-updates)

4. **Bayworth Park:** The owners of Bayworth Mobile Home Park appealed the Vale's decision to refuse permission for a mobile home on part of the site allocated for car parking. The planning inspector supported the Vale's position, ordering the park owners to remove the mobile home by 15<sup>th</sup> August 2018 and to pay all court costs incurred by the Council.
5. **Expressway:** Vale are adamant that they want to protect residents alongside the A34, our ancient woodlands and Green Belt. After considering Vale Scrutiny committee's recommendations, Vale are against a corridor that increases traffic (ergo congestion and pollution) on the A34 through Botley and Sunningwell. Your Vale Liberal Democrats take it a step further and are against the whole plan. You can access both opinions via Debby's blog here: <http://cllrdebbyhallett.com/2018/04/24/ox-cambs-expressway-vales-position/>
6. **Abingdon Reservoir:** Vale have responded to the Thames Water consultation on the reservoir. You can see it on Debby's blog, here: <http://cllrdebbyhallett.com/2018/04/24/twr-vales-position/>. It was a pleasant surprise when Vale essentially agreed with the Vale Lib Dems opinion that the case for the need for the reservoir has not been made.
7. **North Abingdon Development (in Sunningwell):** The Community Liaison meeting, postponed to early June, will be focused on the two community buildings in the North Abingdon Development; what they should be used for and what form they should take. If you have any thoughts about community need or know of local groups looking for indoor and outdoor space for activities, please talk to Emily.
8. **Waste Collections:** With two bank holidays in May, waste collections will be different days. Residents can use the Binzone app or check collection dates on line at <http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/services-and-advice/recycling-rubbish-and-waste/your-recycling-and-waste-collections/bank-holiday-co>

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