

# WEST WIND

Established 1962 ★ Representing over 1000 households in West Windsor

Website at [WWW.WWRA.ORG.UK](http://WWW.WWRA.ORG.UK)

January 2019



To promote the interests & well-being of West Windsor Residents



**Dear fellow residents, neighbours and friends, Happy New Year!** Welcome to the latest newsletter from the West Windsor Residents Association, I hope you enjoy reading this? If you have any issues you would like to raise, please do not hesitate to contact us via the website or by contacting a member of the committee.

## **Cost of replacing lost community facilities set at £600,000.00**

Richard Endacott

In one of the oldest political tricks in the world ahead of the May elections, the ruling administration intends to replace the community facilities lost by the closure of the garden centres, at a cost of £600k. Both offerings have merit, improvement of the facilities at Clewer Recreation Ground is necessary and to be supported, growing up I played football daily on those fields and used the facilities which are still in place, an upgrade is timely, the cost of £350k does seem excessive mind and it will be interesting to see if taxpayers are getting value for their money. A community café on the other hand does appear like a panicked approach in the face of growing concern at the loss of the facilities offered at the garden centres, Tesco are considering an application for a café on site there, which would make this application somewhat redundant.

**In September 2018, your independent Cllr Wisdom Da Costa, proposed the following to the budget**

- Crossing on A308 to Squires which also joins the path from Ruddlesway to the crossing at Willows path. This will facilitate access to both Willows and vice versa on a fast stretch of road and, also calm traffic
- Dedworth Accessibility: Survey and install drop kerbs to improving the accessibility around Dedworth and to and from key loci of Dedworth Medical centre; Tesco; Churches, Library; Shopping Area at St. Andrews Way. Currently, people in wheel chairs, push chair users, mobility scooters have to co-use the roads in areas or risk a fall from a kerb
- Air pollution monitoring at key locations

- Outdoor gym at Dedworth Manor to help improve social integration and health and fitness

Knowing that there is such a large pot of money available, it would be interesting to hear your views as to how you would like this money to be spent? Ideas already received include more covered bus shelters and a community transport for the elderly. It is after all your money, please do share your thoughts either in person or by visiting our website [www.wwra.org.uk](http://www.wwra.org.uk) and social media pages.

## **Planning Application for Squires site submitted**

Mark Allum

The flawed Borough Local Plan (had earmarked this site for development despite the land being within our Green Belt and within Flood Zone 2). Bewley Homes have now purchased the site and has submitted a planning application (Number 18/03754) to build 39 dwellings with a total of 95 bedrooms, a potential increase of 189 cars on our congested roads. We are of the opinion that the planning application has inadequate parking and we are concerned that vehicles will spill over onto the surrounding roads. In addition, there will be a significant impact on our already stretched doctors' surgeries. Disruption, noise, traffic congestion and an increase in pollution will, if the development goes ahead, impact all of us. Bewley Homes will have to make a special case to be allowed to build on the site as it is within our green belt. The concern is that with the BLP in complete disarray, developers will now build sections on the site in an uncoordinated manner. The WWRA strongly recommends that you view the planning application on the Council's website or visit their offices and if you wish to comment write to the Head of Planning at the Town Hall in Maidenhead. Alternatively, if you email me, I can forward you the planning application—[markiandp@gmail.com](mailto:markiandp@gmail.com)

## **Planning inspector rules on Shirley Avenue and the Queen Pub developments**

Richard Endacott

Medina Dairy has lost their appeal to build 89 homes on the site as the inspector ruled that the loss of a facility (in this case the prayer room used by approx. 200 people each Friday) would negatively impact the community. The inspector has however allowed the building of up to 10 flats on the old Queen Pub site. This decision is alarming for a number of reasons not least the lack of provision for sufficient parking, your WWRA volunteers are keeping a very close eye on how that situation develops, we expect a planning application soon.

## **Your Borough Councillor Wisdom Da Costa**

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## **Borough Local Plan Shelved until after the elections**

**Richard Endacott**

To save the council further embarrassment ahead of May's election, the decision has been taken to suspend the inspection process of the flawed Borough Local Plan (BLP). As you know the plan includes the creation of 450 houses on the garden centre sites as well as 100s of new houses along the congested A308 route. The inspector wrote to RBWM in November to express her serious concerns over their due process and diligence, especially over flooding concerns, housing numbers and employment provisions. The most damning verdict is the failure of the council to consult with the community over its plans. The cost of the BLP is already set at £600k of taxpayer's money to replace the lost facilities and will grow as more work is needed. The WWRA continue to work with other community groups and resident's associations to demand a review of this flawed plan.

### **Windsor Neighbourhood Plan**

A Neighbourhood Plan (NP) allows local people to develop a shared vision for their neighbourhood and to decide where new developments should go and what they might look like. NPs are a statutory planning document made possible through the Localism Act 2011 and the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012. The broad purpose of the NP is to plan for sustainable development on three dimensions; economic, social, and environmental, and to make planning policies that will be used to help determine future planning applications in the area. Once approved, the NP becomes a legal planning document which must be taken into account when making planning decisions. In addition, the NP can act as a prospectus and tool to bring together local stakeholders to help deliver change. In early January the steering group, including WWRA committee members held a public consultation at Dedworth Green Baptist Church. The plan if approved hopes to complete the following objectives:

- Protect the environment and enhance the green and blue infrastructure network and the safe access to it.
- Conserve local character and encourage high quality design
- Encourage sustainable modes of transportation
- Support the delivery of new housing and Community facilities
- Grow the local economy and enhance commercial areas for the benefit of business; workers; shoppers and tourists
- Grow the local economy and enhance commercial areas for the benefit of businesses, workers, shoppers and tourists
- To improve the appearance vitality, viability and utility of Dedworth Road for shoppers, businesses, pedestrians, cyclists and motorists.
- To enable redevelopment in an area (Imperial House, Alma Road) which includes a stalled major site in accordance with the vision and objectives of the plan
- Support continued investment at the LEGOLAND resort, and which protects the amenity of local residents, landscape and neighbouring Special Area of Conservation
- Support development which enables Windsor Racecourse to retain its status as a key local employer and which protects the amenity of local residents

### **Election News**

**Richard Endacott**

It probably hasn't escaped your attention that there is the small matter of an election looming, the big banners that have appeared (without planning permission) on the main roads, the electoral districts have been redrawn and polling stations re-sited all at taxpayers expense, to give the ruling party a competitive advantage. Clewer and Dedworth East and West are one of the few competitive seats across the Borough thanks to the work of our brilliant neighbours and friends who are willing to support and challenge decisions in a fully independent manner, free from the constraints of national party influence. We will of course contest the election as normal, with the candidates chosen by you at our AGM on Thursday 7th March. Windsor as a whole is at a crossroads, with poor strategic planning leading to the closure of major retail stores, increased homelessness problems and the reduction of key services such as buses and parking. The West Windsor Residents Association will continue to work with you to listen to ideas and to contribute to the ongoing debate and return our local area to its resplendent best.

#### **Postal Ballots**

Electors may apply to vote by post where they know that they are going to be absent from their home and can't visit their polling station on the date of a poll. Electors who wish to vote by post for any election or referendum are now required to provide personal identifiers (i.e. their date of birth and a specimen of their signature) on their postal vote application form. If you wish to receive a postal ballot form wither alert your WWRA collector or contact any of the committee members.

#### **Beware of Canvassers**

As is common for major national political parties, our streets will soon be littered with people from across the UK, wanting to support their party candidate as a return favour from previous elections. Remember these people do not know our area and are reading from a script delivered to them from central office. Please be respectful these are ordinary people trying to curry favour for a safe parliamentary seat themselves, it is all part of their training for higher office, they will not know anything about the Queen Pub or the disastrous BLP so may not be worth entertaining them for too long.

## Heathrow Consultation Launched

John Holdstock

Heathrow Airport is to hold two consultations on its expansion plans. The first, on Airspace Change and Future Operations, has started and goes on to 4th March. Developments in the use of satellite navigation will permit much tighter control of flight paths and this allows flight paths to become more busy, as airspace is used by more planes, more frequently. It appears that the town of Windsor may benefit from having longer periods of respite in the short term but the close proximity of the Third Runway and the existing North Runway, just 1 kilometre apart, may mean that, in the future, respite from one of these is replaced by noise from the other. The consultation proposals reveal that up to 25,000 additional flight movements per annum will be able to use the existing two runways, as a result of these changes. The Third runway will bring 260,000 more flight movements than at present, bringing the total number each year to 740,000. Little is being said about increased pollution. Harmful emissions from air transport now account for 22% of all transport emissions, according to Government statistics. Air pollution causes the premature death of 40,000 people each year in the UK. The noise from aircraft movements is very evident. Air pollution is the silent killer and has been shown to exceed safe limits at three locations in Windsor & Maidenhead. During this consultation, Heathrow is seeking feedback on:

1. How airspace should be used and where flight paths should be located for the current two-runway airport.
2. How airspace should be used and where flight paths should be located for an expanded, three runway Heathrow.
3. How they should operate a three runway airport: Operating three runways will be different to operating two runways, and they are seeking feedback on a number of elements such as directional preference, night flights, and runway alternation. (Runway alternation means planes do not use the same runway all the time, giving relief to those under the flight path) For further information you can take a look at the Heathrow website: <https://www.heathrowconsultation.com/>

You can submit your comments on these proposals by: 1. Using the response form that is available on the website

2. By post to: FREEPOST LHR AFO CONSULTATION
3. By visiting one of the public exhibitions listed on the Heathrow website. There will be an exhibition of relevant documents at the Youth Centre that is located at Alma Road, Windsor SL4 4HD.

## Street Parking Consultations

Richard Endacott

There have been a flurry of parking consultations lately in Black Horse Close, Martin Close, St Andrews Crescent and College Crescent. The results have been published and Martin Close have voted in favour of implementing parking permits, proposals in the other areas have been rejected. We are concerned that planners are not considering the impact of a lack of available parking spaces for each new property, hence the continuing issue. For example Willows, Maidenhead Road and Ruddlesway residents should be concerned with the new Squires development. There appears a lack of strategic planning by RBWM which is exacerbating the problem.

## From the Secretary's Chair

Carole Da Costa

### Spring Bulbs in Whiteley

Thanks to the support of the officers at the council we have obtained four bags of daffodils for us to use. The newly landscaped mounds around Whiteleys have provided an opportunity for us to plant some of the bulbs there, hopefully there will be a small but bright show of yellow in the spring. Next year we will be able to plant more, all offers of help are welcome.

### Plastic Free Windsor event raises £350

December saw the Plastic Free Windsor Christmas Fayre, the WWRA was fully supportive of this event. The fayre focused on spreading the message on how we can reduce single use plastic in our homes and community; as well as the amazing plastic free gifts and products for sale. The fayre successfully raised over £350 for Suffers Against Sewage. Anyone interested in getting involved or wanting to know how to start your own journey in reducing plastic, please let me know.

**The Great British Spring Clean** planned for the weekend 22<sup>nd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> March 2019, led by Keep Britain Tidy and Plastic Free Windsor, we aim to collect and safely dispose of single-use plastic from our streets and parks, recycling as much as possible. Therefore if you have a couple hours to help over the above dates, please get in touch. Together we can make Dedworth an even better place to live!

## Cycle Lane initiative to be launched

Richard Endacott

Great news, if like me you cycle or want cycle into and around town - The Borough has proposed a new cycling scheme between West Windsor and Windsor Town Centre. This is essentially a wayfinding scheme which provides an alternative to going through the Clarence Road roundabout. Key physical improvements along the route include:

- Rationalising bollards and signage at the Green Lane entrance to the subway under the A308 Goslar Way
- Creating 'filtered permeability' for cyclists at the northern end of Trinity Place.

There's only a few modifications so no need for a full consultation, but if you have any comments or questions please do let us know and we will pass them on to the Principal Transport Officer who is leading the initiative along with the Cycle Forum.



## Special Feature

### THE SWAN PUB IS ALMOST OURS!

**Anna Tebbatt**

The Swan Clewer Community Interest Company, are excited to announce that contracts were exchanged on the purchase of The Swan pub on 9<sup>th</sup> January. We expect the sale to complete within three weeks, giving us the keys to the door at end of January – maybe before you read this!

The first phase of refurbishment will be starting soon and there will be plenty of opportunities to get involved by donating your time and skills. Anyone who is interested can contact us by email ([info@theswanwindsor.co.uk](mailto:info@theswanwindsor.co.uk)), join our email distribution list ([www.theswanwindsor.co.uk](http://www.theswanwindsor.co.uk)) or look out for announcements on Facebook (The Swan – Clewer Village) and twitter (@saveswan).

So far, we have raised an amazing 80% of our initial target of £200,000 for refurbishments – most of which has come from you, the community! It is not too late to get involved though – check out our website for more information!

This is a major milestone in our efforts to create an exciting new social enterprise, but it would not have been possible without the support of the community. A huge thank you must go to everyone involved in contributing funding and/or time so far – it would not have been possible without you. We look forward to welcoming you to The Swan soon!



### Windsor Winter Homeless Night Shelter Pilot Project

All Saints Church, Dedworth—Thursday 24th January 2019

Dedworth Green Baptist Church—Friday 25th January 2019

Caritas, Churches Together in Windsor, Windsor Homeless Project and Foodshare are working together to provide night shelter during the coldest months of the year for the Homeless in Windsor. 21 January to 02 March 2019 7pm to 8am The Churches in Windsor will come together and take responsibility to open a building one or more nights a week to accommodate the homeless. There are a range of activities to include:

- helping with the shelter shifts (evening, overnight and morning shifts)
- helping with the preparation of evening meals and breakfasts
- helping with general administration tasks
- minibus drivers and driver assistant

No previous experience is required as training will be provided. All volunteers will be required to complete a DBS check and attend a mandatory training course for safeguarding, first aid and volunteer training. If you are interested in volunteering please contact The Team at [wwhnspp@outlook.com](mailto:wwhnspp@outlook.com) or look out for the volunteer sign up sheets at the back of All Saints Church.

### Windsor Food Academy ready for new course

**Carole Da Costa**

The “Food Academy has been set up in Windsor to supports children’s personal, social and emotional development by giving them opportunities to develop their self confidence and self awareness. This is a great free course and demonstrates how young people can develop through the project. WWRA member, Nausicaa Di Angeli administrator for the Facebook group ‘Windsor Parents’ says “My son just completed the course and loved it so much he has been asked to become a mentor”. Cllr Samantha Rayner added “I have been involved since the beginning and have helped. It is an amazing course, Windsor police, the army and council are all great in helping”. The next course starts at the end of January, if you have a child aged 13-16 who would benefit from this please contact Carole Da Costa directly and I will send out the referral forms.

### Annual General Meeting and Cheese and Wine event

Thursday 7th March 2019, Homer First School, Testwood Road, 7.30pm.

Just a reminder that all WWRA members are invited to the annual general meeting on Thursday 7th March at Homer First School, followed by our usual cheese and wine social. It is an opportunity to set the priorities for the forthcoming year which of course not only includes the local elections in May but also will see the start of the many changes to the face and look of our local area. If you wish to have a vote at the meeting and you are not a member please complete the form on the accompanying supplement and return to one of committee members, alternatively visit our website and register via PayPal. It is an opportunity for you to have your say and we look forward to welcoming you at this event.