

TOWN COUNCIL NEWSLETTER Autumn 2018



From the Town Mayor, Cllr Peter Jay

Woodstock is at a fork in the road. The town needs to decide which fork to take. To do that it needs the fullest possible consultation and engagement with everyone who lives here. Please make your voices heard.

For at least 14 years your Town Council has maintained a principled opposition to large scale development changing the character of our community. I have personally played my part in that. It seems now that the planning authorities (WODC and Cherwell DC) are finally about to adopt revised local plans which will impose hundreds of houses and thousands of new citizens on our community.

We are of course still opposed to large-scale development here wherever the question is still open and we are still fighting Cherwell's plans to engulf the whole Wolvercote-Woodstock greenbelt in a sprawling suburb of Oxford - 'Wolverstock'. Brian Yoxall is, with Council blessing, steering a group working on a possible 'Community Plan'. However, in relation to the four large sites around Woodstock which are already included in the emerging local plans do we now:

EITHER maintain our 'opposition – even while the houses are being built, even after they are being lived in by fellow citizens, tax payers and voters

OR swallow our principles and accept Blenheim's invitation at our September Council meeting to send a representative or two to sit with them and 'other stake-holders' to hammer out the details of what contributions Blenheim will make to our future infrastructure and community needs – things like a new doctors' surgery on the old police station site, numbers of affordable houses, extra parking spaces, school expansion, football facilities and protection of green spaces such as the Recreation Ground.

At the September Council meeting, Blenheim made the point that in this area, uniquely, there is a single land-owner so that comprehensive solutions for the town's longer-term future can be discussed. Councillors are deeply divided whether or not the Council should thus 'sup with the Devil' and accept his 'thirty pieces of silver' or maintain its posture of total opposition. The approach to the matter will be discussed at a Town Meeting on November 26th in the Community Centre at 7.30pm. Come and let us know your views – LOUD and CLEAR

Town Council Meeting October 9th 2018

WTC also debated working with Blenheim at its October meeting. It was agreed that Cllrs Jay, Collingwood and Trish Redpath would meet with the developer highlighting the need for affordable homes; construction of the doctors' surgery on a new site; school development maintaining the link with WUFA facilities; infrastructure such as road development to support increased traffic; parking; sewerage etc.. At the same time Council reconfirmed its principled position against further large development in the town and agreed to seek residents' views.

TOWN MEETING

to discuss possible consultation with Blenheim over community needs

Monday 26th November 7.30pm

Community Centre, New Road

All residents welcome

Come and give us your views

OCC - Oxfordshire County Council
WODC - West Oxfordshire District Council
WTC - Woodstock Town Council

WODC Survey of Parking in Woodstock

Plans for WODC's Woodstock parking survey involve:

Stage 1 - October/November 2018

Stage 2 – January 2019

Stage 3 – February/March 2019

Stage 4 – timing depends on Stage 3 outcomes.

Stage 1 is discussion with community representative groups: HOW (Heart of Woodstock), Woodstock Traffic Advisory Group, Woodstock Town Council, over key issues and potential solutions.

Stage 2 is a web based public consultation with paper copies available from the Town Hall. The public survey will have a number of tick box questions and also room for residents to express themselves freely.

Stage 3 will collate findings and consider changes and solutions.

Stage 4 is dependent on the findings of Stage 3. Further consultation may be required. Any real action will involve OCC as only they can change TROs (Traffic Regulation Orders) which set out parking restrictions. WODC has set aside £35,000 for parking reviews in critical sites such as Woodstock to help the communities. No public meetings will take place with this review as it is seen as essential that all members of the public have opportunity to have their say and that their views are accurately recorded and incorporated into the consultation.

WODC & Cherwell Local Plans

On September 27th, WODC's Local Plan was finally approved at the full Council meeting. Sites listed in the Plan will almost certainly be subject to development over the next 12 years. For Woodstock these sites are the two fields in West Oxfordshire on the Woodstock East site (300 homes), the site on Banbury Road (180 homes) and that on land North of Hill Rise (120 homes). The Woodstock East site will see work already begun increasing in intensity later this year. The other two sites, where there are no specific plans yet, will probably not be developed until 2023 -2025. The Plan is disappointing in that it offers no supportive infrastructure which should surely precede, rather than follow, development. However, with a Local Plan in place, WODC can claim adequate land supply for the next five years as defence against speculative applications for development, such as those besieging Hanborough, being granted on appeal.

Cherwell's Revised Local Plan is currently in the hands of an inspector. We do not know when he or she will hold the hearings. The 'Woodstock' site in this Plan is at great risk of approval as it is the only site introduced into the Revised Plan which is not in the Green Belt. Your Council continues the fight for removal of this site – 500 homes on Woodstock East along Shipton Road – from Cherwell's Plan. It will be extremely difficult to incorporate this development and its residents into the community of Woodstock.

Planning: Permission in Principle (PIP)

The government has recently introduced a new means of trying to speed up planning and house building. Developers of between one and nine houses can apply for PIP and Technical Details Consent. For PIP applications, the District Council has five weeks to approve the application - or not. Parishes must submit their views within 14 days with no extensions. (Currently we have 21 days for comment and short extensions are usually allowed when applications come in over three weeks before a Council meeting). WTC has set up an Urgent Planning Committee to deal with PIP applications (which may be rare...it is not clear how popular the process will be). If you know of a development coming up which concerns you, please check on the yellow notices near the site, the town noticeboards or in the Town Hall Office, about when WTC will discuss the matter.

Winter Weather



Last year, when it snowed, a wonderful team of volunteers mobilised to clear and salt town centre pavements. WTC has ordered extra salt (stored at the Community Centre along with the snow shovels and salt spreaders) in anticipation of need. We are very grateful to all those volunteers who braved the elements last winter thus enabling residents to move safely around town but we would welcome more volunteers. If you think you might like to join our Winter Weather Group or want to know more about what is involved, please contact The Town Clerk Janine Saxton Phone **01993 811 216** or e-mail info@woodstock-tc.gov.uk

Mock Mayor 2018



Celebrating impressive charitable takings

The Old Woodstock Mock Mayor Event held on Saturday 21st July was a great success. The organising committee worked hard to fill the day with fun for all, independent of the election of the new Mock Mayor, thus raising a large sum of money for this year's chosen charities: Oxfordshire Mind and Woodstock Youth Club. On Sunday, 23rd September, representatives of both charities joined the Mock Mayor Committee at the Black Prince for the presentation of £750 cheques to both charities. These were gratefully received from the newly elected Mock Mayor, Rachel Thompson.

Christmas Lights 2018

This Christmas, Woodstock's lights will be different. The old lights seemed small and sparse for the size of the trees they decorated. After considering various possibilities, WTC agreed to columns of lights hanging down from the trees in a style similar to the lighting used in Witney Town Centre last year - something which was very popular. Our lights will be provided by Gala Lights who will put up the lights, deal with any faults, ensure the safety of the connections and at the end of the season, remove and store the lights for use next year. We hope the lights will live up to expectations and would be interested to hear your views. The Market Place Christmas tree will have its traditional lighting. Come and see the lights at the Mayor's Carols: 5pm Saturday 8th December.

Dogs v. Postmen

Some of you have received dog bites when delivering to local letterboxes. Our County Cllr, Ian Hudspeth, was bitten quite severely by a dog behind a letterbox when leafleting in May. WTC requests that if you have a dog, however sweet and friendly, please consider erecting a wall post box if you have not already done this.

How about sponsoring a fruit tree?

Have you walked up to the top of the Community Woodland alongside the A44 north of the town to see the fruit trees planted earlier this year? Over 50% of these trees were planted through sponsorship but further donations are still welcome. Each tree needs a lot of care when young and MANY thanks to those who kept the trees watered throughout the hot, very dry, summer. Tree sponsors are not allotted specific trees - it would be too unfortunate if a sponsor's tree died at an early stage - but each £30 donation nurtures a young tree.

You and your family might also enjoy joining the all-ages tree management events in this lovely community resource. Contact Hilary & Graham Brown Email: gr_he_brown@hotmail.co.uk

Visit of Japanese Women Councillors



Ichikawa Fusae Centre members with Cllr Maxine Crossland, WODC, and WTC Councillors

In July the Town Hall hosted 20 Japanese women councillors from the Ichikawa Fusae Centre named after a Japanese woman who dedicated her life to fighting for women's rights. (Japanese women achieved nationwide suffrage in 1945). These Councillors were visiting exhibitions in Manchester and London celebrating the centenary of votes for some British women and wanted to meet British women local councillors. We were honoured to be joined by the WODC Chairman, Cllr Maxine Crossland. After her impressively informative speech, her chain of office provided diversion as a focus for Japanese photo shots. In the photo above the group hold Ichikawa Fusae's words: *Deeds not words: Women's Suffrage is the Key*. We thank Dr Helen Parker for her superb work interpreting both English and Japanese.

**PLANNING AN EVENT IN WOODSTOCK?
LOOKING FOR A HERITAGE SITE FOR
YOUR MARRIAGE OR FAMILY
CELEBRATION?**

WOODSTOCK TOWN HALL

THE MAYOR'S PARLOUR

Ground Floor. Newly refurbished. →
A popular wedding venue.

THE ASSEMBLY ROOM

Upstairs. Stairlift. Large room for
lectures, meetings and events with
flexible layout, adjacent kitchen →

Or, there is the larger, slightly less
magnificent

COMMUNITY CENTRE

in New Road. A flexible space with
adjacent kitchen. Popular for parties,
meetings, formal events ↘

For further information about any of these venues,
please contact: Town Hall 01993 811 216 or
info@woodstock-tc.gov or Christine Inker,
the Town Clerk's Assistant, in the Town Clerk's Office.

CALENDAR

ACT OF REMEMBRANCE

Sunday November 11th. War Memorial from 10.50 am
Followed by service in St Mary Magdalene Church
(Yarnton Band playing from about 10.30am)

WOODSTOCK REMEMBERS WWI:

**6th – 11th November St Mary Magdalene's and
SOFO Museum.** What happened to our local
soldiers in WW1? Display of research done by two
Marlborough School students

WOODSTOCK POETRY FESTIVAL

Friday 9th to Sunday 11th November. Various venues
For further details see www.woodstockbookshop.com

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Woodstock OX20 1SL
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Norton, Oxfordshire, OX15 5LS



TOWN MEETING:

Monday 26th November 7.30pm Community Centre, New
Road. Give us your views on Woodstock's future

NIGHT OF A THOUSAND CANDLES

Saturday November 24th Market Place Woodstock. Music;
entertainment; Christmas lights switch on 6.30.

MAYOR'S CAROLS

Saturday December 8th Market Place 5pm. Carols
around the Christmas tree with Witney Town Band.
Special visitor expected at the end. Bring your family,
friends, voices. Collection for the Mayor's charities.