

Eynsham Annual Parish Meeting 26 April 2016

DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORT – 2015/16

YOUR COUNCILLORS

You are represented on the West Oxfordshire District Council by Peter Emery, Peter Kelland and by Edward James. Edward will be standing for re-election in May 2016. We no longer run the monthly 'drop in' surgeries owing to a lack of demand but we are available on the telephone or by email. Much of our work is helping you with individual issues, and we have the ear of the Council Officers in getting quick and clear answers, so please use us. As ever we make a plug for the 'My WestOxon' email service. It is a very efficient way of keeping in touch with changes to District services and village planning matters and it is spam free, promise! It is good to see the progress that the Eynsham Neighbourhood Plan group are making. Once the 'Eynsham Futures' plan has been accepted by the Inspector it will become part of the overall WODC Local Development Plan, please continue to give this group the support it needs and deserves. Later this year a number of exciting proposals will emerge aiming at simplifying the local government scene. Please don't hesitate to contact us to discuss these proposals as and when they are published.

DISTRICT COUNCIL TAX

Yet again WODC had to cope with even more cuts from Central Government and we have finally had to make a very small increase in Council Tax. We continue to protect front line services and grants to voluntary organisations remain at previous levels. This is thanks in part to the expansion of joint working with other local councils, creating more savings, helping to hold down costs and hold up service levels. We remain in the lowest charging group of local councils. The WODC share of your council tax provides these services amongst others: planning, waste and recycling collections, street cleansing, leisure centres, environmental health, building control, housing services, administration of benefits.

PETER EMERY: 01865 731199 / email peter.emery@westoxon.gov.uk

As one of your three District Councillors I have had the pleasure of meeting a number of residents in the ward and discussing the issues that concern them. I have been able to resolve a number of issues and look forward to doing so in the coming year. The variety never fails to impress me from inappropriate signage in the conservation area to planning enforcement with new developments. I currently serve as Vice Chairman of the WODC Environment Committee, we are looking at a busy year evaluating the waste and recycling operation in the district with contract renewal only a year away. West Oxfordshire continues to be among the national leaders in recycling rates but we are looking at ways to make recycling simpler for the residents. Sadly, the fly tipping in the Back Lane car park 'Bring Site' continues to be a problem. If you see anyone dropping off trade waste or fly tipping, please call WODC and report it and then let me know so that I can follow up.

I also serve on WODC Audit and General Purposes and Human Resources Committees as well as the AOLC executive and the Local Government Ombudsman standards committee. I attend as many of the other Committee and Cabinet meetings in WODC as I can. I continue to serve on the Eynsham Parish Council on Communications, Planning and Minerals committees.

If I can help in any way do call or email me, I will do my utmost to help.

PETER KELLAND: 01865 880028 / email peter.kelland@westoxon.gov.uk

Existing Applications, update. The future of Planning in the Eynsham area.

GLADMANS, Application at Station Lane: Appeal has been heard, awaiting decision.

GARDEN CENTRE: Appeal to be heard.

FRUITLANDS: Appeal postponed, new date has been set.

THORNBURY CLOSE: In abeyance, Owner of surrounding land to the west of Thornbury Close has put his land forward to be included in the land supply. This land stretches south from the A40 towards the fire station and could, if approved in due course contain access to the above sites with an access road/bypass to Eynsham. The capacity would be approximately 800 to 1200 homes for this site.

THE GABLES, Newlands: Has spoken with the Planners after site refused planning permission last time and has gone to appeal on existing refused site. No commitment yet for houses gable on to the road overlooking the apple orchard.

Chemist Shop: New window, the existing window is a 1960's front with no architectural merit so recommendation will be for permission to be given for the new window.

The land to the North of Eynsham will along with many others form part of an Oxford Growth Board review in August. The Government is asking the West Oxon District Council to raise its own delivery from the current 5,500 in the adopted Local plan to between approximately 10500 and 13,500 houses in the foreseeable future. Oxford City Council has additionally been given a figure of approximately 15,000 it will need to export as its land supply is very restricted. Eynsham is one of a series of potential growth areas and, dependent on what decision the growth board makes as to where they should go, a percentage of these Oxford homes could be built here.

I think I can say that with the above sites and future applications no matter what size, the best interest of the people of Eynsham and the views of the Parish council will be pushed forward in the strongest terms during planning application discussions. As the village grows I will put forward a strong case for the village centre to be protected, that the needs of the people of Eynsham and surrounding area are supported in the way of shops, schools, doctors and infrastructure required of a growing community.

EDWARD JAMES: 01865 731009 / email edward.james@westoxon.gov.uk

Edward James has sat on Licensing and the Finance and Management Overview and Scrutiny committees. WODC continues to have a well managed and diversified asset base which contributes towards solid capital reserves. The Council seeks to reduce waste and improve services at every turn and keeps a close eye on costs and possible waste in each Council department, aiming to provide value for money and careful financial management.

Edward, along with all of Eynsham's representatives on WODC, has aimed to help individuals deal with issues relating to WODC, its services and staff. We continue to be accessible for any queries and to help people in the ward in any way we can.