

From the Clerk's Desk

I'd like to update you on a few ongoing projects:

New Burial Ground – The land is 'tied up' in financial negotiations regarding West Eynsham Strategic Development Area, which represents a disappointing position with Oxfordshire County Council as landowner. It is likely that the land will become available to us when legal matters progress, but this will take some time. I am thankful to Annie at Greens Funeral Services and Rev Duncan at St Leonards Church for investigating options that would extend the use of the churchyard; this is ongoing.

Neighbourhood Plan – The Council's Planning Committee continue to work with Community First Oxfordshire (CFO) and they are now finalising the Design Code and firming up on policies. (We have been paying for CFO's services using a Government grant.) The Design Code is particularly important for the new developments because it will help shape site layouts and appearance of new homes. The final version will be subject to a Parish referendum.

Village Hall – We have received a substantial grant from FCC Community Action Fund to replace all the lights with low energy fittings, helping to reduce energy costs and usage. I hope to have a contractor secured and a date set for the work before my departure.

Unfortunately, yes, I am leaving the Council this month, after seven years supporting this vibrant community and busy Council. I am preparing to take on a larger Clerk role (a Town Council) and my last working day in Eynsham is Friday 26 July. Please continue to use the existing contact details and email address (epc.clerk@eynsham-pc.gov.uk) as messages will be picked up by the team. It's been a pleasure working with everyone and I shall miss being part of this wonderful Parish and community.