



The Village News

Old Windsor Parish Council Newsletter

Issue 14

Dec 2015

It's that time of year again!

When the nights get longer, a chill lingers in the air, you know Christmas is right around the corner! Building on last year's successful Christmas Fayre, the Old Windsor Parish Council are delighted to announce that this year's Christmas Fayre will be held on Sunday 13th December from 3.30pm-6.30pm along Wheatsheaf Parade/ St Luke's Rd. There will be multiple stalls, street entertainment and a pop-up kitchen run by the Thames Valley Police. It will be such a good time that I hear even Father Christmas may be dropping by! See you there.

*Old Windsor
Christmas Fayre*

*3.30pm - 6.30pm
Sunday 13th December 2015*

*Outside the shops in the
St Lukes Road Shopping Area*

- Kiddies Ride**
- Brass Band**
- Fun for All**
- Street Entertainer**
- Santa's Grotto**
- TVP Popup Kitchen**
- Stalls**

Supported by the Old Windsor Club



There may still be time to Oppose the Threat of Heathrow Expansion

Parliament is due to decide on the location of a new runway before Christmas You ..and your neighbours.. have a chance to influence their decision (see contact details below).

Heathrow will NOT close and jobs will NOT be lost if it does not expand. The real concerns should be the local consequences which affect us all – noise, pollution, traffic congestion and standard of living. Yes, of course there will be more jobs, more flights and some businesses will profit – but at what cost.

A recent item in The Times newspaper showed that an air pollution check in Old Windsor was approaching 75% above EU limits.

Recent instances of traffic congestion on Straight Road and St Lukes Road will become commonplace with a 3rd runway. Plans include twice as many passenger movements and a doubling of freight capacity. The M25 is already at standstill and this is a major cause of 'through' traffic in Old Windsor, adding to our pollution levels. Heathrow's reliance on public transport is not working, a private car surcharge would create rogue parking and the astronomical costs of road, motorway and rail improvements would be have to be paid for by the tax payer as Heathrow does not believe it is down to them. It is almost impossible to see how local roads can cope with the fallout from the traffic that will overwhelm our major road infrastructure.

If Heathrow expands the extra employees would need in excess of 500 houses and flats within our Borough every year, for 10 years. This is on top of the estimated 712 per year needed to cope with current growth. These numbers would necessitate high rise buildings, high density developments without green space and a real threat to the Greenbelt.

There are 25+ daily flights to Paris and New York and more than 25% of empty seats. Without this type of overprovision there would be no need for airport expansion.

Contact Details

Adam Afriyie, MP for Windsor, The House of Commons, London, SW1A OAA
Email adam.afriyie.mp@parliament.uk (giving your postal address for a reply)

Rt Hon Patrick McLoughlin, Secretary of State for Transport. The House of Commons, London, SW1A OAA
Email patrick.mcloughlin.mp@parliament.uk

Malcolm Beer.

Seeking solutions for village traffic issues

We are very aware of the continuing traffic congestion, especially at peak times, that is affecting our village. We have expressed our concern to officers at RBWM who are working with us to try to alleviate these concerns. We have also instructed a firm of highway consultants to gain an independent view of the overall size and scale of the issue.

The A308 poses particular challenges that are broadly out of our remit to significantly influence. However mitigation for congestion and safety along Burfield Road and St Lukes Road is being investigated. As a result a 'build-out' on Burfield Road is being trialled. The build-out is temporarily located between Newton Court Surgery and Newton Green and will give priority to South bound traffic. This is designed to reduce speed and there is evidence that a sequence of priority sections should disrupt the north bound traffic stream to allow southbound traffic to safely manoeuvre around the parked cars near the Crimp Hill/St Lukes Junction, as an added advantage it may deter some 'through' traffic from using this route try and avoid a section of the A308.

Another situation that seems to be getting worse is the through traffic transiting St Lukes shopping precinct. With the advice of the Borough and our independent consultants we are exploring what possibilities could be available to alleviate this problem. Obviously with anything requiring major changes we will be consulting with the village as it is important that everyone's voice is heard, not just those who shout the loudest.

Lynne Jones



Coming to a garden near you... The Old Windsor Garden Watch.



Building on the work we have already carried out in identifying and mapping the biodiversity of the parish we would like to run a Garden Wildlife Survey.

Gardens provide important sources of food and shelter for wildlife and our aim is to map the various species that are resident in or visit our gardens and at what time of year.



We hope as many people as possible sign up to get involved, adults and children alike. If it's difficult for you to get out and about the record sheet could be filled in without even having to leave the house, you could just look out of your window!



More information will be available on the website and on posters in the noticeboards in the New Year.



If you would like to express an interest in helping to organise the project please get in touch via the 'contact us' page or drop into the Hub and leave your details.

The Parish Biodiversity Report is available to view on the Neighbourhood Plan Blog in the Latest News box on the website.

Neighbourhood Plan Update

The parish council neighbourhood planning team have been busy compiling the views we have received from residents and other interested parties about any future development in the village. We have also been commissioning reports on biodiversity, heritage & archaeology and sewerage capacity. All of this data is required to provide the evidence base for the emerging policies. Working with our neighbourhood planning consultant we will be in a position to circulate a 1st draft of the plan for consultation and comment early in 2016.

Planning an extension?

If you are considering an extension and to help things go as smoothly as possible there are a couple of Government Acts that you may find helpful.



One is the Neighbouring Land Act 1992. Under this Act you are only allowed access to your neighbour's land to maintain and otherwise repair your property. **NOT TO DEVELOP OR CARRY OUT BUILDING WORKS.** For new building work you must seek permission from your neighbour even though you may have been granted planning permission.

The other is the Party Wall Act 1996. If you are working on a wall that divides your property from your neighbour's property, or building a new wall on or near the boundary you may need to give your neighbours a party wall notice. The combination of giving notice and receiving permission from your neighbours is often known as a party wall agreement.

The vast majority of access and party wall issues can be settled by just talking to your neighbour about what you are planning on doing, agreeing timescales, levels of disruption and any mitigation measures that may be required. If this is not possible knowing your rights is the first step to resolving the problem.

This item is for information only and is not meant as legal advice.

Around and about the village

Dog fouling....again!

With boring predictability the subject of dogs fouling on the recreation ground has come to our attention, again. It appears that the situation seems to get worse over the winter months when offending dog owners are protected by the cover of darkness.

As a last resort Parish and Town Councils up and down the country plagued with the same issue have introduced Dog Control Orders to help solve the problem. These Orders mean that dogs are either forbidden on recreation grounds or have to be kept on leads at all times.

Obviously we do not want to be forced into taking such drastic action but neither can residents be expected to put up with the disgusting consequences of stepping into dog mess or even worse being covered in it when playing sport or, in the case of a child, crawling into it and getting it into their eyes and mouths.

As usual it is the case of the few antisocial dog owners spoiling it for the considerate and law abiding many.

Scaling the heights

When adventurer George Mallory was asked why he climbed Mount Everest, his response was quite simple, "Because it's there." It was a beautifully simple response to such a dizzying, complex feat. However, this shouldn't be used as justification for climbing onto the roof of the Youth Club. In this case, the risk of falling off, or through, is not worth the effort of getting a better vantage point of the recreation grounds. So, the Old Windsor Parish Council will putting measures in place to discourage those wishing to recreate Mr Malloy's expedition. There will be warning signs going up as well as Prikka Strips (spikes) and anti-climbing paint.

News from the Old Windsor Day Centre

General Assistant required from 9 am till 2pm
Tuesday, Thursday and Friday
If you are interested then please call Lisa on 01753 497889 or Lisa.prentice@ageconcernsabe.org.uk

The Day Centre will be closing for the holidays after the Christmas party on Dec 18th and re-opens on Jan 4th 2016.

Plotting future growth



Fancy growing your own sprouts for next year's Christmas dinner?

Unusually there are some vacant allotment plots so grab one now before they are snapped up.

If interested get in touch with John at the Hub and give him your details and he'll pass them onto the Allotment Association.

New stuff for the Rec

Unfortunately the hanging carousel has failed our annual safety inspection so will be removed. It will however be replaced with a much requested outdoor table tennis table. We plan to install this early in the New Year.

Ever thought about joining us on the Parish Council?

Although there aren't any vacancies at the moment we are always looking for people who may be interested in joining us should the situation change.

- * As a Councillor you would be expected to
- * Attend our regular meetings (about 17 a year) whenever possible
- * Have some involvement in existing or future projects to enhance the village
- * Engage with the community and keep up to date with issues of local concern
- * To maintain proper standards of behaviour as an elected representative of the people.
- * Represent the council at meetings or on outside bodies (if undertaken)

HOW TO CONTACT US

John Lee - Clerk

01753 868842 or email

Clerk@owpc.co.uk

You can also contact us via the Parish Council website www.owpc.co.uk

Or at the Hub 8:30 - 2pm