

## East Hagbourne Parish Council Meeting – 24<sup>th</sup> February, 2011.

A meeting of the East Hagbourne Parish Council was held at Hagbourne School on Thursday, 24<sup>th</sup> February, 2011 when the following members were present:-

Mr D Rickeard (Chairman)  
Mr C Alberry  
Mr D Button  
Mr R Dawson  
Mr R Emery  
Mr D Harding  
Mr R Parsley (Clerk).

Five members of the public attended.

### 1.Apologies.

Apologies were received from Mr I Duff and Mr P Greene, District and County Councillor, due to other commitments.

### 2.Minutes.

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> January, 2011 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### 3.Actions and Matters Arising.

See Action List and the appropriate agenda items for full details.

2009-10-02. Registration of the Recreation Ground, Car Park and Hopfields with the Land Registry. Material has been provided to the solicitors; no response so far.

2010-09-14. Arrange a survey of the Upper Cross. Awaiting input from the stone mason.

2010-10-13. Overhanging hedge, Wilcher Close. SOHA have said they will do it, but not actioned so far.

2010-11-08. Investigate man hole covers in Great Mead: Awaiting response from OCC.

2010-11-09. Update of Car Park lights. New controller is installed, we may need to check timer settings

2010-11-10. Follow up Car Park drainage. Agenda item 9(a)

2011-01-03/04. Letters of thanks have been received from the school and St Andrew's Church for our donations to changing rooms and church clock.

2011-01-05. Contacts with Didcot TC. Mr Rickeard had responded to the original request, no further formal contact, however Mr Emery had talked to Mrs Davies about our responses to Didcot development plans. It was agreed we should keep them informed as appropriate of actions of interest to Didcot.

2011-01-06. Allotments actions completed. Mr Button reported that a further committee meeting had been held. Next task would be to renew the leases, which he was working on. See also item 9(c)(ii).

4. District and County Councillor.

No Report.

5. Items for Decision.

(a) Small Donations

(i). CPRE. It was proposed by Mr Button, seconded by Mr Emery and agreed unanimously to renew the subscription for 2011.

(ii). Oxfordshire Playing Field Association. After discussion of the benefits for the parish, it was proposed by Mr Rickeard, seconded by Mr Button and agreed on a majority decision to renew the subscription for 2011.

(iii). Home-Start Southern Oxfordshire. It was proposed by Mr Rickeard to donate £40.00, seconded by Mr Alberry and agreed unanimously.

(iv). Ryder- Cheshire Volunteers. It was proposed by Mr Rickeard to donate £50.00, seconded by Mr Button and agreed unanimously.

*Actions – R.Parsley.*

(b). Maintenance of Footpaths.

Deliberations in the context of the Parish Plan and also comments from residents had highlighted the condition of two footpaths considered important for intra-village traffic, namely the path along by the Bowls Club, and the unadopted path behind the Village Hall.

Mr Parsley had approached two contractors and obtained quotes from £5000 to over £8000 +VAT. Although the scale of work recommended is not identical, both contractors proposed installation of a firm hardcore base before applying gravel.

Councillors considered that this was a large amount in consideration of the benefits and preferred the approach of simply applying and compacting a layer of gravel. It was recognised that this would not give such a durable solution, but would be much cheaper. Mr Emery proposed that this could be a job for a volunteer work team, and this received general support. A third quote is awaited, and a decision will be made when this is available.

(c). Litter Blitz 2011. Mrs Duff and Mrs Rickeard have again agreed to organise the annual Litter Blitz and proposed Saturday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2011. Members expressed their appreciation for the offer. Mr Parsley has already ordered the pickers, bags etc. from SODC.

*Action: Support the litter blitz on 2nd April - All*

(d). Parish Council Elections. The Parish Council Election is on May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2011. The nomination papers will be issued shortly to existing Councillors and new candidates for the two wards in the East Hagbourne Parish .

Mr Rickeard introduced Mr Price who along with Mr Dakin-Norris and Mrs Knipe had expressed his intention to stand for the Council. He was also aware of a fourth candidate who he believed would stand. If the total exceeds nine, as seems likely, there will be an election.

(e). Annual Parish Meeting – Thursday, 14<sup>th</sup> April, 2011.

The main item of business for this year's meeting is the formal adoption of the Parish Plan. This is not expected to take a great amount of time, since the full draft has been available for public

consultation since November, however a brief résumé should be given as a prelude to discussion.

Mr Rickeard did not feel there was a need to invite a senior council representative this year, however Mr Greene should be invited to attend and make a brief report.

The Chairman's Address will, as usual, report on Parish Council activities over the year, and since this is an election year, all candidates for the Parish Council should introduce themselves.

We have a new local police officer (PC Bromwich) who has said she would be willing to introduce herself and her team

It was suggested that other village groups might like to speak or perhaps have a table to show their activities - if the formalities can be completed early there is an opportunity for informal discussion.

Mr Alberry kindly agreed to arrange a screen and projection equipment.

Details to be finalised at the next meeting.

## 6.Planning Applications.

(a).P10/W1959 Bloor Homes Ltd, Great Western Park.

Mr Emery reviewed the comments he had prepared with assistance from Mr Townsend in response to this planning application (see Attachment 2). The application is for 159 houses exiting onto Park Road. This area is expected to be developed as part of GWP, however GWP is being developed in a progressive way from north to south and this application is out of step. It appears opportunistic and would impose new housing before the infrastructure associated with GWP is in place. There are also features which appear to indicate a wish to increase the number of houses exiting onto Park Road above what is approved in the GWP plan. Following discussion and questions, the proposed submission was approved unanimously.

*Action: Submit comments on behalf of EHPC - Mr Emery.*

(b).The following planning applications have also been received since the last meeting. The Parish Council's comments are indicated :-

P10/W1953LB	2 Main Road	No strong views
P11/W0046	Great Western Park (1c)	Under Discussion
P11/W0189	3 Windsor Crescent	-ditto-
P11/W1627	Manor Farm. Manor Farm Lane	-ditto-

## 7.Parish Plan.

(i).Village Archive Storage.

Mr Rickeard reported that a group of villagers had met to discuss the future of the village archives. These contain material dating back to previous centuries, but also a large amount of more recent material which was collected and collated largely through the efforts of Monica Lawson. There is a strong sense within the village that this is a valuable resource that should be preserved and developed into the future. Beth Riley is co-ordinating the gathering of new material, and the group has been thinking about a long term home for the files, which are currently stored in John Lawson's office. There are currently 3-4 requests per year to use the archives for research, which Mr Lawson has so far supervised, so the material needs both to be protected and made available under controlled conditions when it is needed.

The Village Hall has kindly offered space in their new small meeting room as a permanent home for the archives, and the group would like to install a cupboard for this purpose. The existing archive covers 5.25 metres of shelf length, and if we use the full 1300mm width available we can cover this with a reasonable margin for future expansion. Unfortunately, no ready-made cupboards of this width are available, so a custom-built solution will be needed. Three quotes have been received from £1500 down to about £705. After a visit to the lowest bidder, the group recommends accepting the offer (the price may increase slightly once requirements for good quality locks etc are included).

Mr Rickeard proposed that this was an appropriate item for Parish Council funding, and that the council should accept a responsibility to ensure that the archive was preserved for the benefit of the whole community. There was general agreement, and it was unanimously agreed to allocate £800.00 to the project.

*Action: Progress supply and installation of new cupboard in conjunction with the archive group and VH - Mr Rickeard*

(ii).Footpath Map.

Mr Rickeard introduced a further small project arising out of the Parish Plan discussions. There had been a request for a good updated map of footpaths and other footways within the village. Such a map would respond to the requests of residents and encourage more pedestrian traffic. In discussion with John Jones it became apparent that there were two needs: the first, to be met by this map, would cover houses from Millbrook, through the village and to Coscote. At a later date, we should consider a wider range map suitable for walkers outside the village, and this could perhaps make use of the web-site facilities.

Mr Rickeard presented a rough mock-up of a one page leaflet that would include a map on one side, and on the other an explanation of rights of way plus brief notes on points of interest (playground, church, shop etc). He expected artwork to cost about £300 plus a similar amount for printing 1000 copies - an amount that could be recouped by selling for a small fee if required.

Councillors were supportive and endorsed proceeding on this basis. A comment from the floor noted the need to avoid copyright problems and pointed to a web-site where maps were freely available.

*Action: Progress map leaflet - Mr Rickeard*

### 8. Monica Lawson Memorial.

Mr Rickeard reported on this topic having first discussed with Mr Duff. West Hagbourne Parish Council have obtained quotes for the winning bench design, but these total several thousand pounds, so seem to be out of our budget. It is likely that the second choice design might be adopted, which should provide a suitable memory at a lower cost. West Hagbourne Parish Council have stated that they have limited resources and were under the impression that East Hagbourne would contribute a major share of the cost. However, the contributions made by EHPC in Monica's memory to the playground and school gates had been explained to them, and they had asked for clarification of the amount EHPC would be able to contribute.

Mr Rickeard proposed that in view of the previous expenditures, a donation of up to £1000 would be appropriate. Mr Alberry asked that there also be a limit on the percentage of the total paid by East Hagbourne. Mr Parsley suggested not more than 75% of the total cost, and these figures were duly agreed.

*Action: Convey this information to Mr Duff who is our representative*

*in these discussions - Mr Rickeard*

## 9.Reports.

### (a).Flooding.

Mr Rickeard reported on discussions with the authorities (see Attachment 3). With respect to action item 2010-11-10, OCC would shortly be carrying out a further survey of the road drains around the Village Hall, and this should help understand the cause of standing water in the car park.

In response to a request for someone to attend the Community Day planned by the Environment Agency, Mr Price from the floor agreed to attend and report back

*Note: Mr Price subsequently found that he would not be available, an alternative to be sought.*

### (b).Didcot Development.

Refer to item 6(a) and Attachment 2.

### (c). Butt's Piece

(i).Progress on the Wild Area. There had been excellent support for the weekend working parties and 200 new trees have been planted. The clearance programme for this year is now completed.

(ii).Allotments. Mr Button reported on the progress of the Allotment committee.

- He stated there were three vacant plots but there were possible new members in the pipe line.
- The introduction of sheds, an additional water trough, a notice board and the storage of wood from Butts Piece had been agreed with the Parish Council.
- He will coordinate the Allotment Lease renewals which will be revised for 2011.
- Due to the unauthorised access of children the lock combination will be changed.
- Members had been reminded of the village show and shared seasonal tips.

Mr Rickeard suggested that a simple contract form with details included in a separate set of rules might be a good approach. Mr Button confirmed he would consider this.

*Action: Progress renewal of allotment leases in conjunction with RP, DR - Mr Button*

(d).East Hagbourne Website. Mr Alberry reported that the website migration is progressing well. The site look, feel and key features have been agreed. The next stage is to map the existing site pages to the new site system. Work was proceeding rapidly, and the initial payment to the site provided would be needed soon, but not clear if it would be in the current financial year to the end of March.

(e).Standing Orders. Mr Button continues to work on a draft.

## 10.Correspondence.

(a).Publicising expenditure over £500.00. It was agreed that as the Parish Council minutes were displayed on the website our expenditure was satisfactorily publicised.

(b).Britain in Bloom. Mr Rickeard stated we had received an invitation to the Britain in Bloom competition 2011. He proposed that we do not enter as requests for an organising team had produced no response, and the motion was formally agreed.

(c).Grass Cutting Contract. Mr Parsley had requested three quotes for the 2011 contract.

(d).Neighbourhood Watch. Our Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators, Mrs Duff and Mrs Hardiman have organised an 'Open Meeting' on 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2011.

It was agreed that the Parish Council will cover any expenses for this event and ongoing activities as in the past.

*Action: Support the meeting on 31st March - All*

(e).Didcot Car Volunteer Service. OCC had asked our view on whether we supported them giving financial support to this group. It was unanimously agreed this was a good scheme.

*Action: responded to OCC giving our support for the volunteer scheme*

#### 11.Finance.

(a).Payments since the last meeting :-		£
St Andrews Hagbourne PCC.	(Parish Magazine)	43.12
St Andrews Church	(Donation)	400.00
Millhill Tools	(Brush)	7.92
SODC	(Emptying Dog Bins)	91.34
Kingdon Signs Ltd.	(Signs)	516.60
Hargreaves Newberry & Gyngell Ltd.	(Copying)	100.00
Oxford Conservation Volunteers	(Hedging)	100.00

(b). The receipts were :-

J.Lawson	(Donation)	5.00
PCC	(Donation)	4.00

(c).The account balances are :-

Community A/C	650.97
Business Base Rate Tracker A/C	51043.56
Savings Bond	80688.11

(d).East and West Hagbourne Cemetery :-

Community A/C	558.62
Business Saver A/C	1339.77

(e).Project balances :-

Play Area	553.87
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Butts Piece	12855.27
Butts Piece Wild Area	2000.00
Parish Plan	465.48
Sports Facilities	85140.46

(f).Overview of expenditure

Mr Parsley presented a summary of expenditure to date, showing that after expected regular expenditure to the end of the financial year, the expenditures agreed above could be covered from this year's budget.

12. Any Other Business.

(a) For information, Mr Rickeard reported that some concerns had been expressed to him about a new hedge had been planted outside 18 Fieldside along the line earlier followed by the footpath. He had discussed this with the residents of no18, who advised that this had been done with the permission of the land owner, and that the hedge simply reinstated the boundary of their land as indicated by the Land Registry. Mr Rickeard had also checked with the Footpaths Officer who advised that no action was needed for the de facto repositioning of the footpath to the top of the field bank which has been used for some time.

(b) Mr Rickeard reported on a discussion with PC Steph Bromwich on the parking issues discussed at previous meetings, and also about a case of deliberately broken glass at the playground the previous weekend. On this latter item, PC Bromwich had responded quickly and issued leaflets in the area soliciting information. Notes from the discussion are in Attachment 4

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.00pm.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Thursday, 24<sup>th</sup> March, 2011 at the Village Hall at 7.30pm.

Chairman :-

Date:

## ATTACHMENT 1 - ACTION LIST

Action No	Action	Who	Status
2009-10-02	Register Recreation Ground, Car Park and Hopfields with Land Registry	RR/DB	Solicitors instructed
2010-02-04	Review new model standing order and make a recommendation for EHPC	DB	To be done
2010-09-14	Arrange survey of Upper Cross	RP	Awaiting input
2010-10-13	Talk to Windsor Crescent house about overhanging hedge at rear.	RP	SOHA will action
2010-11-08	Investigate man hole covers in Great Mead	RP	In progress
2010-11-09	Progress lights in car park	RP	Done
2010-11-10	Follow up car park drainage	RP/DR	Agenda Item 9(a)
2011-01-01	Provisionally book VH for meetings through to December	RP	Done
2011-01-02	Keep potential new Councillors informed of Council activities.	RP,DR	Continuing
2011-01-03	Inform School of grant for changing rooms	DR,RP	Done
2011-01-04	Make donation to Church clock funds	RP	Done
2011-01-05	Maintain contacts with Didcot Town Council	DR	Done
2011-01-06	Implement actions on allotments in conjunction with the Allotments Committee	DB	Done
2011-01-07	Submit EHPC comments on Core Strategy	DR	Done
2011-01-08	Discuss record keeping for finances of wild area with Mrs Napper	DR	Done
2011-01-09	Determine action on muddy footpaths	DR/RP	Agenda Item 5(b)
2011-01-10	Seek guidance of police on parking problems	RP/DR	Agenda Item 12
2011-02-01	Progress renewal of allotment leases	DB	
2011-02-02	Progress payment of small donations in 5(a)	RP	
2011-02-03	Support litter blitz in 2nd April	All	

2011-02-04	Submit EHPC comments on P10/W1959	RE	
2011-02-05	Progress new cupboard for archives	DR	
2011-02-06	Progress footpath map	DR	
2011-02-07	Report discussion on memorial bench to Mr Duff and ask him to follow up with WHPC	DR	
2011-02-08	Encourage attendance at the NHW meeting on 31st march	All	
2011-02-09	Respond to OCC regarding Didcot Car Volunteer Service	RP	

## **ATTACHMENT 2**

### **Response from East Hagbourne Parish Council on**

### **Planning Application P10/W1959 : Construction of 159 dwellings - Land at Park Road, Didcot.**

**17/02/2011**

#### **General:**

This planning application forms part of the very much larger Great Western Park (GWP) development, but is now proposed to start many years earlier than originally planned and is presented very much in isolation to the overall GWP development. If this approach was taken to its logical conclusion, the whole of the 3,200 houses planned for GWP could be presented as a collection of small units, each with a 'negligible' demand on the surrounding infrastructure. The infrastructure that should be implemented within this selected part of the overall development is not specified, so it is not possible to judge if it is making a satisfactory contribution. This application therefore cannot be approved.

#### **Schedule of construction:**

We object to this development being taken out of the sequence originally proposed for GWP, starting in the north and working sequentially to the south. The logic of the original scheduling allowed all the development and building traffic to gain access to their sites using the new GWP road infrastructure as it progresses sequentially from the north to the south. The building work for this application would need to use the existing narrow residential road network for access to the site, causing massive disruption and this is not acceptable.

#### **Surface water runoff and foul water drainage:**

We consider the supporting documentation and analysis for surface water runoff and for foul water to be inadequate. This infrastructure needs to be scoped in relation to the whole GWP site, Didcot and the adjacent parishes and planned accordingly.

- There are still a number of details that need to be specified before the functions of the two storage basins in line with Park Road can be agreed, including the high level overflow into the offsite surface water drainage system.
- What figure has been used for the existing green field runoff calculations to specify the high level overflow of the infiltration basins into the culvert ditch system?
  - o Note, two very different discharge figures are given for the green field runoff (i.e. for the 1 in 100 years flood event, page 5 of the report [Flood Risk Assessment and Drainage Statement] gives a figure of 100.5 l/sec, whereas page 6 gives a figure of 6.21 l/sec).
- How does the estimated ground infiltration capacity of the site, with block paving, soakaways etc., compare with the existing green field site?

#### **Overall layout:**

Drawing TE092-01J for the overall layout shows a 25metre wide strip labelled "Possible Future Development" along the southern edge of the proposed development site. We ask that the application should be complete for the site, allowing all the relevant criteria to be considered that are required for a development of this size and as a constituent part of the overall specifications for GWP.

- This 25 metre wide strip looks like a possible road giving access to the west of the site, further loading the existing residential roads, and such a road would be outside the current traffic analysis. Given the widely held concern about the traffic impact of GWP, the opportunity should be taken in deciding this application to securely restrict this strip of land to provide enhancement to the screening at the southern end of GWP, or if it is to be houses, to have these properly included in the application and meeting all the access and planning requirements.
  - If the 25 metre wide strip is to be for housing, how does this affect the limit of housing having access directly onto Park Road specified in this application or as originally set out as part of the overall GWP housing plan?

#### **Number of houses and traffic restrictions:**

How does the proposed number of houses (159) compare with the total number of dwellings debated to be the only dwellings having direct access onto Park Road? The restriction on the number of households having vehicular access onto Park Road has been an important feature of the discussions with local groups about the traffic implications of GWP.

- The Access and Design Statement (page 20) says "the only vehicular access into the site will be achieved via a ..... new T-junction with Park Road". However, the documentation also makes reference (MJA Transportation Assessment, Appendix V) to a potential future link to GWP to the north. All the data, analysis and justification in the 'Transportation Assessment' assumes that no additional traffic feeds down from the rest of GWP. Hence, for this Transportation Analysis to be valid, a clear statement needs to be made in this application about the vehicular restrictions that must be applied to any links from this application site to the rest of GWP. These restrictions must then be securely applied to the development application responsible for installing them.
- How does the road and pathway infrastructure of this site link to the rest of GWP when completed? How are the traffic restrictions originally proposed to limit the number of cars from this site having direct access onto Park Road (e.g. two bus gates shown in the RPS Transport Strategy Plan drawing number 95107/2004/JD/007, ref B) going to be securely imposed on the future development?

#### **Traffic Analysis:**

The analysis presented in the Transport Assessment document is inadequate and misdirected. The present analysis only really addresses the impact of this application as an isolated site. It should be presented as a constituent part of the traffic analysis of the whole of GWP when completed and populated. As such, it should include the effects of any new road infrastructure that can be confidently expected to be funded, changes to traffic flow and density due to the new employment that underpins the development of Didcot as a whole, modelled 'rat running' that avoids congested junctions, and properly linked into the surrounding road infrastructure.

**Amenity and infrastructure:**

The application shows no amenity or community facilities, over and above a play area. Bringing forward the schedule for the development of this site by nine years means that for many years the residents of the site will not have access to their local GWP infrastructure. The documentation sets out a general scheme for assigning a proportion of the overall GWP S106 agreement costs to this specific development, but lacks information about the actual access to important community and child facilities that the households will need to have, particularly with regards to distance and also the extent to which these facilities can provide a focus for the growth of an active local community.

- For example, what has happened to the Playing Fields originally proposed for the western side of the site (RPS drawing #JLD0130\_95107\_2004\_CPU\_008)? Where have these fields been reallocated?

**Strategic Gap:**

The southern edge of the proposed site forms an important edge to the Strategic Gap between the development of Didcot and West Hagbourne / Coscote. The response to this application therefore needs to be made in conjunction with a clear and enduring specification for this Strategic Gap.

- No permanent building of any kind, including sheds, should be permitted to the south of the housing line shown on the application and the planting to the south should provide screening enhancement such that the strategic gap between Didcot and West Hagbourne and Coscote is reinforced.

## ATTACHMENT 3

### Flood Prevention in East Hagbourne: Update 16 Feb 2011

Notes from telephone discussions 16 Feb 2011:

#### Dave Baldwin, Monson

SODC/Monson still plan further work on the stream in the area around Blewbury Road and upstream through the houses. The stream will be surveyed with a view to identifying any areas that may need to be dredged. It is likely that work will focus on the Blewbury Road bridge and just downstream, where silting and covering of the road drain outlet into the upper channel occurs. Dave has discussed with John Cox who has written to SODC with further suggestions to improved effectiveness of the concrete ducting. £10000 has been allocated by SODC out of this year's budget. Dave is committed to continuing a yearly cut of vegetation along the lower channel in the autumn.

#### David Keable, OCC Highways

I thanked David for the work carried out at Parsonage Lane which should significantly improve the road drainage at that point and hopefully prevent water collecting on the road after heavy rain. We also discussed the situation at the Village Car Park. OCC have installed a gully trap at the west end of the entrance, which Reg Dawson has been keeping clear, however there are still signs that water is not flowing freely. OCC will be carrying out a survey of the drains at this point in the next couple of weeks, following which they should be able to advise us on the causes of water lying in the car park after rain.

#### Keith Lead, Environment Agency

I asked Keith for advice on keeping vegetation in check during the summer months. His advice was 'little and often' - last year we delayed activities until July-August and were faced with a huge task.

EA have organised a Community Day on Saturday 12th March, to provide information and demonstrations of how to respond if a flood situation occurs. This will provide valuable input to our own Flood Plan which is currently being prepared

– However, East Hagbourne do not currently have a delegate identified; we need a volunteer to attend and report back

#### East Hagbourne Flood Group Activities

As noted above, a flood plan is in preparation (by D Rickeard initially). This will cover what to do in an emergency, contacts, warnings etc, but also contain our maintenance and management plan.

The stream is currently in good condition following the clearance of the upper channel by the group last summer, and SODC's cut of the lower channel in November. The grid at the lower channel culvert at the transverse footpath (FP16) has been cleared at least twice, mainly to remove debris from the November cut which has washed downstream. This needs regular attention and walkers are asked to keep it under observation and remove debris if they can.

A schedule for working parties to clear vegetation downstream from Blewbury Road will be set up soon. Hopefully by starting early we can keep the work manageable. Additional helpers would be appreciated!

We also still need a couple of volunteers to look after the areas upstream, particularly Parsonage Lane.

djr 110216

## ATTACHMENT 4

### Discussion with PC Steph Bromwich 17 Feb 2011

PC Bromwich is our new neighbourhood police officer, following the retirement of PC Walker:

Although the law and order issues we have in the parish are of a fairly low order, I wanted to discuss two issues that have come up recently.

#### Great Mead

Last Sunday morning I was alerted by Crispin Topping to litter and broken glass at the recreation ground. Crispin removed as much as he could to the litter bin and I went round better equipped to complete the clean-up.

It appears to be a case of young people congregating: there were cider and vodka drinks bottles. More worrying, a vodka drink bottle had been deliberately smashed over one of the benches.

PC Bromwich said she would keep an eye on the area as far as possible, particularly on weekend evenings, and also plans to do a mail drop to local houses asking them to be alert and report any information they have. She will also speak to her colleagues in Didcot, since we have previously been told that people have come from south Didcot to congregate.

We will review status in about a month.

#### Parking

The Parish Council has had a number of comments and complaints over the past few months relating to parking

- Parking around the school at the start and end of the day is congested, with Harwood Road and The Croft being used as well as Main Road. Steph will mention this when she visits the school, to remind parents to be conscious of safety.
- Grass verges in Harwood Road and other areas. Care of the verges depends on who owns them. Cars parked on the road at the top end of Harwood Road are causing the refuse trucks to go onto the verge on the other side of the road, damaging the grass. We have in the past asked OCC if they could provide a firmer surface in selected places so that vehicles could park without damage to the verge, but they had no funds to help. Steph commented that it would be possible to ask for yellow lines, but we agreed that it would be better for residents to find an acceptable solution themselves.
- Cars parking on pavements. There are several places, especially on New Road and Blewbury Road where cars regularly park half on the pavement. Steph said that the road was wide enough for two lanes of traffic, there were no marked parking restrictions, and there was no problem for cars to park on the road. Vehicle drivers would have to be patient, and any resultant slowing of the traffic could be a benefit. She suggested that for New Road, residents could agree, where road parking was necessary, to park just on one side of the road. She was sympathetic to the situation around the Blewbury Road bridge, where parking fully in the road on bends could be more of a problem.
- There is no problem for the Parish Council to ticket cars felt to be parked inconsiderately, provided any note was non-confrontational, clearly came from the Parish Council and not an individual, and provided a contact number for responses. Steph is willing to review any notice we may prepare.

djr 110217