

## **PARISH COUNCIL NEWS**

### **No Elections this Year in the Vale of White Horse**

The Vale of White Horse District Council has been approached by some people making enquiries about elections in May. Unlike other parts of the county, there is no election here on 3<sup>rd</sup> May. No poll cards or postal votes will be sent out. The next elections which are due in this area will be in 2019. These will be Parish and District Council elections.

### **Oxford Cambridge Expressway**

Highways England has given a briefing to the County Council on the Oxford Cambridge expressway proposals. The Parish Council has had sight of the slides shown. Not surprisingly, as the route is to link the science areas, whichever corridor is eventually selected, it seems that the area in the vicinity of Sutton Courtenay will be common to all proposals. The Parish Council is disappointed at the poor consultation, and the fact that it has not been formally consulted. It finds it impossible to form any opinion on what is currently available in view of the lack of evidence based information. The Council has requested that all route options be presented fully to the local councils whose parishes are affected, and that the matter is progressed by way of public inquiry, so that all interested parties can have an opportunity to be heard.

### **7.5 tonne weight limit**

The Parish Council has been notified that Trading Standards will be placing an "A" frame notice on the verge in Church Street, on the approach to start of the High Street, to remind drivers of heavy vehicles, that there is a 7.5 tonne weight limit southwards from the triangle. Trading Standards is committed to helping protect Sutton Courtenay's road environment, in so far as is possible with limited resources, through enforcement of the HGV weight restriction orders which apply in the village. Please note that it is a criminal offence to cause or permit a prohibited vehicle to travel on a restricted road except in limited circumstances (e.g. to make a delivery within the weight restriction area).

### **Road Works**

The Clerk has received enquiries as to whether the Parish Council was aware of certain road works in and around the area. The Council is notified by the County Council when a formal Traffic Regulation Order has been made, but for minor road works often involving utility companies no advance notice is given to the Parish Council. Information as to current roadworks can be found at <https://roadworks.org>. Just zoom into the map and click the symbols to learn what is happening on the roads.

### **Abingdon Flood Alleviation Scheme**

Modelling of the rivers Ock, Stert and Thames are still ongoing, as well as studies to use Abingdon Common as a flood storage area. The results of studies will update the flood map. The Council has asked the Environment Agency if they could give a presentation to the Parish Council in due course as local people need to be consulted and made aware of any impact that there might be for the village. The Environment Agency's newsletter about the whole project including the Oxford Scheme is available from them. To contact the project team or to request to be added to the newsletter mailing list, email [enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk)

### **The following planning applications have been considered :**

P18/V0491/HH Erection of new ancillary annexe within curtilage at 48 Milton Road. The Council objected as the unit appeared to be completely self contained and there were no indications as to who would occupy it. It was unclear whether additional parking was required.

P18/V0319/HH Demolish existing garage, rebuild extending footprint by 1m in length to create new garage with annexe over at Ashburnham, Churchmere Road. Council stated that If the application were approved, then conditions should be imposed that it should remain strictly ancillary to the main dwelling, and obscure glass should be used together with restricted window openings in elevations which had views into neighbouring properties and gardens.

P18/V0568/FUL Demolition of garage and erection of attached 2 bed house with parking at 39 Tyrrells Way. Council noted that the Vale of White Horse District Council had refused permission for a house in Hobbyhorse Lane owing to impact on traffic and asked that they be consistent in their decision making.

P17/V1154/LB Demolition of listed railway overbridge and provision of replacement bridge (additional information) at Steventon Overbridge, High Street, Steventon. The Council did not support demolition, and preferred the bridge to be retained if an engineering solution could be found.

**Date of Next Meeting: The next meeting will follow the Annual Meeting for Electors on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> May, 2018 at 7.15 p.m. in the village hall, Frilsham Street. Clerk: Mrs. L. Martin 90 Howard Cornish Road, Marcham Tel: 01865 391833 or email:info@suttoncourtenay-pc.gov.uk.**