

Yarnton Parish Council Chairman's Report

March 2024

As for the last few years, the new housing and road developments within the Parish and in neighbouring parishes (OU Football Stadium, Oxford North and Airport developments) continue to absorb much of the Council's time.

Sandy Lane

The Parish Council has continued its campaign against this closure in support of residents who routinely cite concerns that the closure will have negative affect on the environment and connectivity. The Council has worked closely with Begbroke, Kidlington and Gosford and Water Eaton parishes to campaign to keep the road open to vehicles. In particular, I would like to thank Councillor David Brown for his persistence in keeping Sandy Lane on the County and District Councils' agenda.

Housing development

The Parish Council is also working closely with our three neighbouring parishes to plan for the large developments in our area. We are in contact with the two main developers in Yarnton: Merton College and Oxford University Development. The Parish Council was involved in the PR9 developer's appeal and lobbied that the development's drainage infrastructure must be sufficient to mitigate against further flooding to the existing village. The Government Inspector found in favour of the developer and so the developer is not required to put in a more enhanced infrastructure.

Flooding

Flooding is the primary risk noted on the Councils Emergency Plan and it has been working alongside members of the Yarnton Flood Defence Group to challenge our local authorities and new developers on village drainage. The village is indebted to Yarnton Flood Defence Group for its work to protect the village from future flooding through its thorough mapping of watercourses and lobbying Thames Water, District and County Councils and the housing developers for improved infrastructure. The council has supported the Group to construct a shed in Rutten Lane Park to hold recently purchased equipment. The Defence Group has been especially busy this year with a number of flooding issues as a result of a very wet winter.

Solar Industrial site

The proposed solar industrial site stretching 10 miles from Botley in the south to Wootton in the north crosses the fields to the west of Yarnton. Merton College has withdrawn its application which means the fields immediately adjacent to Yarnton will no longer be affected. The Council, however, is continuing to liaise with the Stop Botley West Campaign to promote awareness amongst Yarnton residents.

Thank you

The Council is ably supported by the Playing Field and Village Hall Committees and I should like to thank them as well as the many other volunteers who contribute to our work. We owe

a debt of gratitude to these volunteers including the Care Committee, Yarnton Flood Defence Group and litter pickers.

Finally, none of this can be done without the work undertaken by our councillors and the dedication of our clerk, Lynne and our staff who help with maintenance and tidying jobs around the village. It is with sadness that I report that Alan Fursden our village tidier passed away in February and on behalf of the Council I would like to take the opportunity to recognise him for his contribution to keeping the village tidy over the years and we send our condolences to his family.

Without the volunteer councillors, the burial ground and verges would not be maintained; planning applications would not be scrutinised; playing fields would not be maintained to the required safety standards; and there wouldn't be a coordinated voice to promote residents' interests.

In particular, I would like to thank Lynne who is stepping down from the role of clerk after over 11 years for dedication to the role.

Jackie Hoyle,
Chairman, Yarnton Parish Council