

The Parish Times

Keeping Hinton Parva, Bishopstone and Russley Park informed.

Volume 11. Number 12

SWINDON LOCAL PLAN

Source: Parish Council

Please note that there will be a Public Meeting in Wanborough Village Hall at 7.00 pm on Monday January 14th 2013, to discuss Swindon Borough Council's new Local Plan.

(Local Plan is the new terminology for what used to be called the Core Strategy)

By the time you receive this Parish Times the new 'Swindon Local Plan' should have been published for public consultation for a 9 week period. Assuming that is the case, it will be available on SBC website and will be on the agenda for the Parish Council meeting on Monday 7 January; we would welcome your attendance and discussion.

Does this affect you? Yes - a lot!

The Local Plan includes a development of some 8,000 homes, described as the 'Eastern Villages' stretching from Wanborough to South Marston, from Covingham to Bourton. It includes schools, a 'District Centre', industrial areas and as you can imagine a road network to match, including a 'link' to the Commonhead junction. As presently envisaged, the boundary for the new development is contiguous with the boundary for Bishopstone Parish, but does not spill over into our Parish. However:

1. We understand that the Local Plan does suggest that Bishopstone itself could potentially be suitable for some further development on an as yet undefined scale.
2. We should be wary of the fact that whilst Bishopstone is not included in the housing boundary neither was Tadpole Farm. That is now being developed for some 2,000 homes beyond the Northern housing boundary limit and the same applied to the new Pry Farm development to the West of Swindon - again just beyond the existing housing boundary.

Can you help? Yes!

By turning up to the meeting you can find out more - questions should include why Councillor Dale Heenan (Councillor for Covingham) has 'used' his position at Swindon Borough Council as Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning & Sustainability to move the housing boundary to within a few hundred feet of Wanborough in order to shut down the legal skydiving operation at Redlands by allowing it to be developed for homes. And what makes SBC believe that Bishopstone Parish can sustain further growth?

As well as turning up you will need to comment to make a difference!

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2013

The Parish Council would like to offer its best wishes for 2013 to all residents of the Parish.

COMMUNITY GRANTS

Swindon Borough Council has kept the same level of community grants budget from April 2012 – March 2013 as the previous year. This budget covers Grassroots Grants, Administration Grants and Community Grants which will now be called Neighbourhood Grants. Some changes have been made to the process and these are set out below.

Grassroots Grants. These can be for up to £1000 and can be used to help support events or projects in Swindon.

Administration Grants. These are available of up to £500 and can be used on things like helping small groups with their running expenses, printing newsletters etc.

Neighbourhood Grants. Applications are invited from community groups who fit into one or more of the following categories:

- Network Fund: this is to make payments of up to £500 for groups to collaborate on projects which add value to the community, develop group skills or membership or extend the links and connections between communities and groups.
- Volunteering Fund: to support local organisations with the development and formal training of volunteers where significant skills are required, payment could be up to £1000 per volunteer.
- Project Fund: for any proposal which involves increasing community involvement or provides local services. The criteria for assessing projects will be sustainability ie: how the money will develop people in the community to continue the project in some form, value for money and community benefit.

The SBC closing date for the next round of grants is 5th January 2013, so any applications should be sent to the Parish Council by 1 January 2013.

Further information is available at:
<http://www.swindon.gov.uk/cm/cm-grants/cm-grants-community/Pages/cm-grants-community-2012-13.aspx>

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Local Plan Continued...

At the meeting we will explain how to comment. We will ensure wider coverage as more than just Wanborough and South Marston will be affected by the homes; increased traffic will be brought much closer to where you live. Residents of Bishopstone Parish may be on the edge of the new housing estates - which will be close to the North Swindon estates in size - although quite considerably smaller than the development envisaged 3 or 4 years ago in what became known as the Eastern Development Area.

The background:

This huge expansion of Swindon is planned against an unprecedented economic slowdown with house-builders struggling to sell homes, no government money for infrastructure and climate change which threatens homes built in flood plains so there are a great many serious and unresolved issues which will affect this plan - however once the plan is in place it will dictate the growth of the Town until 2026. Wichelstowe has planning consent for 4,500 homes - these are not all built.

What has the Parish Council done?

The Parish Council has been involved in a working party with SBC and Wanborough Parish Council for over a year to improve the original plans and this has generally been a positive collaboration; successes include the relocation of the planned industrial area from just north of Wanborough to a more sustainable location within the development. We have also pressed for protection for the existing rural villages, including the rural roads that serve these villages, as well as trying to get a 'Rural Buffer' recognised which would protect us in the future. We have achieved the latter, although this has now been made meaningless by the last minute boundary change to include Redlands within the development area.

Although the economy will not support the growth yet, there is a legal duty on SBC to have a plan in place, otherwise developers will take advantage of a planning vacuum to build what they want and where they want.

Whether you think that the rural setting of our villages is important, or building roads and homes next to historic parts of our villages is important - please turn up on 14th January. Building homes infields we all know flood and with apparently no government money for infrastructure may lead to housing developments as badly planned and built as some of those to the North of Swindon.

The Parish Council is not anti-development in principle; however it is against badly planned housing sprawl which will ruin the countryside without any great benefit to the areas affected. And we believe that any further development in our own villages should be demonstrably sustainable and in proportion to the level of existing services (school, bus service etc).

There will be updates on notice boards but we would be grateful for your show of support on the night of 14th January 2013 in the Wanborough Village Hall. Planning officers and members of Swindon Borough Council should be in attendance.

CLEAN UP DAYS

Source: Parish Council

The Parish Council would like to thank all those who turned out on 25 November for the clean-up day. We covered the majority of all the roads and footpaths around Bishopstone and Hinton Parva and collected about 35 bags of rubbish, various bits of cars and a surprising amount of dumped bicycle tyres. Last year it was 30 bags, so this was well worth while and we suggest that it should become an annual event.

Secondly, a small and select group of local residents started a clean-up of the pond on the corner of West End Lane and Church Lane on 1 December, organised by Doug Stevens and Andy Greenhalgh. Advice was obtained from Wiltshire Wildlife Trust and Rob Selbourne gave his approval. The area had become overgrown with weed and bramble etc in recent years and the idea is to return it to its former status as a feature in the village. The intention now is to leave it to settle for a month or so; please contact Andy or Doug if you have any feedback or comment.

And lastly, a big thank you to all those that helped at the Coombe in Hinton Parva on Saturday December 1st. This event was organised by the National Trust, who also supplied tea and delicious homemade flapjacks. The team widened the bridleway at the muddiest points by clearing large amounts of hawthorn and elder. If you fancy a bit of a workout after Christmas, the next event will be on 5th January, meet behind the HP village hall at 10am. Cake and tools provided. Good opportunity to meet others in our villages. All welcome, no experience necessary.

Prospect Hospice is urging people with just a small amount of free time to support its box collection scheme for a few hours twice a year.

The box scheme, which is supported by almost 10,000 households and businesses, has been in place for almost as long as the charity has provided dedicated end-of-life care to the people of Swindon and beyond. Its success is largely dependent on the involvement of box collectors who, in spring and autumn, call at the homes of friends and neighbours to collect the money they have accumulated in their boxes.

If you are interested in becoming a box collector for Prospect Hospice, email Gifty at giftyawiah@prospect-hospice.net or call her on 01793 816161.

Source: Prospect Press Release

SMALL PRINT

Welcome

The Parish Council always extends a warm welcome to all new and prospective residents of the Parish. We are very pleased that you've chosen to live in our community.

The Parish contains two conservation areas and everything south of the Icknield Way is also in the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Many houses are also listed.

Naturally this brings with it all sorts of problems when it comes to tree felling, house alterations, etc. There are also other regulations aimed at preserving the character

and beauty of the parish. If in doubt, please check, we are only a phone call away.

The Parish Council is therefore always available to answer any questions you may have on any particular aspect of living in a conservation area, the area of outstanding natural beauty or in listed buildings. Please do not hesitate to contact either the Clerk, the Chair or any member of the council - the numbers appear on the next page.

We do hope you will be very happy here.

Parish Documents

The Parish has an archive room in the village hall in Bishopstone. This is not accessible to members of the public, however, with advanced warning any document stored there may be viewed by contacting a member of the council.

Documents of particular importance are also stored on

the parish website and may be viewed by anyone with a PC. Members of the parish without a PC can ask the clerk to provide them with a hard copy.

Documents on the website include the precept, the accounts, standing orders, annual Returns, etc.

Parish Parking

The Parish has many narrow lanes and these need to be accessible to residents, utility and emergency vehicles at all times. Cars are now being parked along some of the narrowest sections of road (e.g. Cues Lane in Bishopstone, High Street, Bishopstone, etc.) often blocking these routes to even small vehicles. Please remember that emergency vehicles need to be able to move freely down all the roads and lanes of the parish at all times. Could we therefore ask that owners of vehicles park them responsibly and avoid the narrowest sections.

THE Village Hall car park in Bishopstone is a private space available only for those using the village hall. It is not somewhere for parishioners to park on a long term basis; whatever the circumstances might be. This is

clearly signed on the wall of the hall.

Cars parked here make it very difficult for legitimate car park users to find space for their vehicles. It is also incredibly inconvenient for those users having to load and unload items, or for the infirm or disabled who wish to make use of the hall.

Provided the hall is not in use, loading and unloading of vehicles is permitted, as is visitor parking for short periods. By prior arrangement with the committee the siting of skips can also be accommodated.

The committee very much regret that it cannot offer parking for those in need, however, hall users must come first and from the complaints received these are frequently finding it difficult to park.

Protected Trees

Trees are vital to the quality of our lives for a number of reasons:-

- They help make our two villages more pleasant and attractive places in which to live and work.
- They are often a familiar and cherished feature and so provide a sense of place.
- They provide a valuable habitat for wildlife.

They are often older than many of the buildings amongst which they stand and so contribute to our local history. Because they are so important to our environment all trees within a Conservation Area are protected by law*. The **whole** of Bishopstone is within a Conservation Area. The **whole** of Hinton Parva centred around the church is also within a Conservation Area.

Anyone planning to cut down or carry out work to a tree here must give the Borough Council six weeks written notice of their intention to do so.

*Whilst there are one or two exemptions, such as trees with a diameter of less than 3 inches (measured 1.5m from the ground) or when a tree is in a dangerous condition, you are strongly advised to check first with the Council's Tree Officer since any unauthorised works can be a criminal offence which could lead to prosecution and heavy fines of up to £20,000. Better to be safe than sorry!

The Council's Tree Officer can be contacted on 01793 466318.

Individual trees or groups of trees that make a particularly important contribution to either of our villages may be worthy of special protection by way of a Tree Preservation Order. If you know of any such trees then please do not hesitate to contact any Member of the Parish Council or the Borough Council's Tree Officer who will be happy to make an inspection.

Outside Lights

One of the things that makes the Parish so unique and wonderful is the lack of street lighting to blight the villages. Sadly more and more people are now erecting high wattage outside lights and leaving them on permanently. Please consider your neighbours who may not wish their rooms lit throughout the night especially bedrooms where sleep can be seriously disturbed.

Emma Marrington, CPRE's Rural Policy Campaigner said:

'Many lives are affected by light pollution. It can disturb sleep, disfigure the countryside and make the stars at night invisible to huge numbers of people.'

Discrete and considerate outside lighting that only comes on when needed is the best type to mount if lighting is considered necessary.

Everyone is becoming more aware how energy wastage is resulting in the earth's resources being diminished. Every light that is on when no one needs to use the light it casts is adding to this wastage.

So please look at your lighting needs and think of your neighbours as well as the planet and only light when needed.

USEFUL INFORMATION

Crimestoppers: 0800 555 111

(Call anonymously with information about crime)

Domestic Violence 24hr National Helpline: 0808 2000 247

FRANK: 0800 77 66 00
(drug related)

Anti Social Behaviour: 01793 445500

Noise Nuisance: 01793 445500

NHS Direct: 0845 4647

Swindon Community Safety Partnership: 01793 466506

Wiltshire Bobby Van Trust 01225 794652 provides home security services to people aged 60+ or with special needs.

(NB: the WBVT is a charity - donations are welcome).

Beat the Burglar

If you see anyone acting suspiciously, take their description and vehicle registration details and call the police on: 0845 408 7000. In an emergency call 999.

For a free home security pack and information about offers on home security call the Home Office:

0800 456 1213

(Packs are subject to availability).

Police search website.

<http://www.police.uk/>

Parish Website:

parish.bishopstone.net (no www in front)

Meetings for the year

2012/13 Meeting Dates

7 January 2013 B
4 February 2013 HP
4 March 2013 HP
1 April 2013 B
13 May 2013 HP (Changed from 1st Monday due to Bank Holiday).

All meetings begin at 7.30pm and members of the public are always welcome. Late changes are shown on the website <http://parish.bishopstone.net> and on the notice boards in Hinton Parva and Bishopstone.

BISHOPSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

Lesley Drewett (Clerk)
2 Downs Close
Eastbury
Hungerford
RG17 7JW

Phone: 01488 71828
Fax: None
Email: lesley@tynash.com
website: <http://parish.bishopstone.net>

Mr Julian Cooke

Church Farm, Hinton Parva. SN4 0DW. 790278.

Mr Nigel Crisp

Willow House, Church Row, Hinton Parva. SN4 0DW. 790035.

Mr Andrew Greenhalgh

Old Farm House, West End Lane, Bishopstone. SN6 8PX. 791469.

Mr Simon Jenkins (Chair)

The Old Vicarage, Bishopstone. SN6 8PY. 790545.

Dr Stuart McGuigan

Greenoak, Newtown Lane, Bishopstone. SN6 8QA. 790219.

Mr Doug Stevens

Church View, Church Lane, Bishopstone. SN6 8PY. 791107.

Mrs Karolyn Tapper (Vice Chair)

Orchard Cottage, Bishopstone, Wilts. SN6 8PL. 790658.

Mr Ian Thomas

Littlecot, High Street, Bishopstone, Wilts. SN6 8PH. 790106.

Mr Ian Thompson

Snowberry House, Hinton Parva. SN4 0DW. 790970.

Useful Information

101 new non Emergency Police Number

Police Headquarters
0845 408 7000
24hrs, 7 days a week

SBC Reception Premier House

01793 465055/465056

Civic Offices

01793 463668

Wat Tyler House

01793 463725

Borough Councillor

Andrew Bennett 01793 790563

Fly Tipping and other similar problems

Swindon Commercial Services
01793 463463

Keeping Swindon Safe

SBC 01793 445500
Police 0845 408 7000

Refurbiz - the Domestic Appliance Re-cycling Charity.

Refurbished appliances at affordable prices with warranty

Replacing your washing machine, dryer, fridge or electric cooker? Please donate your old machines to us so we can refurbish them for families in need. Wiltshire-wide collection and delivery service. Call us on (01380) 720200. Or visit our showroom at Hopton Park, Devizes www.refurbiz.org. Registered Charity Number 1107150.

| Committee | Representative (Hinton Parva) | Representative (Bishopstone) |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| Finance (sub committee) | Ian Thompson (Chair) Julian Cooke | Karolyn Tapper Simon Jenkins |
| Footpaths & Highways | Julian Cooke | Stuart McGuigan Ian Thomas |
| Pond & Island Management Committee | | Doug Stevens Andrew Greenhalgh |
| Hinton Village Hall | Ian Thompson | |
| Bishopstone Village Hall | | Karolyn Tapper |
| Police & Media | Nigel Crisp (Media) | Simon Jenkins (Police) |
| Hinton Parva Charities | Peter Cooke | |
| Bishopstone United Charities | | Karolyn Tapper Lesley Drewett Laurie Manktelow (Ex Cllr) |
| Tree Warden | Julian Cooke | Ian Thomas |
| Russley Park Liaison | Andrew Greenhalgh | |
| Responsible Financial Officer | | Lesley Drewett |

Planning Update

All planning applications, their history and all supporting documents can now be viewed online by visiting: www.swindon.gov.uk/planning.

Planning issues are discussed at the monthly Parish Council meetings. All plans for that month are laid out on display prior to the meetings and councilors and members of the public are invited to take a look. Public representations are heard prior to the start of the meeting.

Parish Council meetings alternate between Hinton Parva Village Hall and Bishopstone Village Hall.

Members of the public are always welcome.

Foxhill Motocross 2012 Calendar

No more racing in 2012 is scheduled.

Planning:

APPLICATIONS

S/12/1585RM - Erection of 1 no dwelling – Land to the North of Fortys Cottage – High Street, Bishopstone - Rhian Morris – 01793 466285 Before 28/11/12

S/12/1678RO - Erection of a front porch – 5 Poveys Place, Bishopstone - Rob O'Carroll – 01793 466280 Before 13/12/12

Section 211 Notices:

None.

GRANTED

S/TIME/12/1462RM - Extension of time to planning permission S/09/1483 for the erection of a single storey front extension & 2 No dormers windows to front and 4 no dormer windows to rear – Berkleys, 7 Whatleys Orchard, Bishopstone.

REFUSED

None.

Don't forget that all important information is displayed on the notice-boards in both villages and on the website at <http://parish.bishopstone.net>.

The Parish Times will always be available on the website. It is added there as soon as it is ready to go to the printers.

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