

Dear Editor

This is a letter I sent to The Rt Hon Alistair Darling MP, Secretary of State for Transport on 10 November.

Dear Alistair

Marcham Bypass, Oxfordshire

The proposal to bypass the village of Marcham in Oxfordshire, as part of the wider objective of improving the A415 between Witney and Abingdon, has been identified as a key recommendation from the County Council's Transport Networks Review study. The scheme, which has reached an advanced stage of planning, would significantly improve the quality of life for those living in the village, as well as cutting journey times and congestion along the route. Environmental conditions on the route are very poor with HGVs in particular causing noise, vibration and perceived danger to pedestrians.

However, despite this strong case having been made for the scheme, along with all major scheme proposals in the South East region, it is now at the mercy of the funding availability and prioritisation for the region as a whole. This, as you will know, amounts to £135m p.a. for the coming 5 years and is wholly inadequate to deliver the transport infrastructure needs for the region in the context of the historic under investment in the South East and the huge growth demands placed on the region by the Government. Inevitably, relatively small but locally important schemes such as Marcham Bypass are liable to fall. These schemes are too large to be delivered through the Integrated Transport block of Local Transport Plan funding but too small in their own right to be of regional significance to achieve the priority they need for major scheme funding within the next LTP period. Marcham Bypass itself has achieved a ranking of 3 in the regional prioritisation methodology for the South East and therefore just misses out on being included in the funding allocation determined by the Regional Transport Board.

Given the strong case made for the scheme I cannot believe the methodology for allocating regional funding priorities would not enable it to happen, but if this is the case I would urge you to consider how the overall funding allocation for regional transport infrastructure in the South East could be increased to enable this and other locally important schemes to be delivered within a reasonable time frame.

Yours sincerely

Ed Vaizey

If anyone needs my assistance, please contact me at the House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA, e-mail me on vaizeye@parliament.uk or telephone 0207 219 3000

Forthcoming surgery dates are:

Sat 10th Dec, 9.30 – 11am, Didcot, King Alfred Drive Community Centre

Fri 23rd Dec, 5.30 – 7pm, Faringdon Corn Exchange

ED VAIZEY MP for Wantage (Con)

Dear Editor

Become a Trustee for Root & Branch

I have been involved as a Trustee with Root & Branch horticultural therapy project at Watchfield since it began in 2001 and it has been so exciting to see it develop and open its doors to gardeners, staff and volunteers. Every meeting we come to we seem to see a new development in the building, garden or team of people involved. It is very rewarding to come along when the project is working and meet everyone and help with activities. I have done bread making, willow lanterns and felt making and people are always happy to try new things out or show you around. Being a Trustee has taught me all sorts of things about what is involved in running a charity of this kind and it is wonderful to hear from gardeners how much coming to Root & Branch has meant to them. It really can make a difference to people's lives and by being a Trustee you know you are part of making that difference. If you would like to find out more about Root & Branch and how to become a trustee come along to our Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 17 January 2006 at 7pm at Coleshill Café (Coleshill Village Shop, the Old Carpenter's Yard, Coleshill, Swindon). If you would like further information, please call Root & Branch on 01793 780380.

LIZ ROTHSCHILD

Dear Editor

I refer to Janet Frere's letter to the possibility of the Village Hall being at Sherrards Farm and making use of the existing Barn. This "New Hall" would then be about 100 yards from my bedroom window! She will not be surprised at my hostility to this proposal. The obvious noise at weekends from Weddings, Discos etc. Perhaps she has missed a trick here. What if the hall was to be built on the Millennium Field thus putting it in her back yard!!! Plenty of parking available and perhaps it would bring some life into Church Road with such a lots of empty houses fewer people to disturb. In the past planning permission was refused for a small development of six houses at Sherrards farm due to access. No such problems for the Millennium Field.

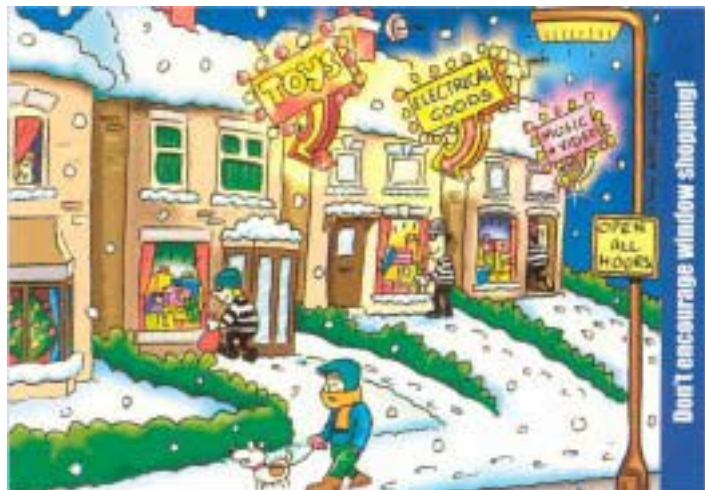
Sorry Janet

BRIAN GOWER

FOR SALE

Cevennes, S. France € 245,000
Comfortable, family house, Built 1980s. 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, study, modern kitchen, large salon with wood stove. Terrace having splendid views. AC CH Mature garden, garage, cellar, woodstore. 5 minutes from Le Vigan. Further details from Jean or Donald Creasy 01865 391348.

Ruth and Ray Barrett wish to thank everyone for their good wishes for their diamond wedding Anniversary.



Don't let them do their Christmas shopping in your street !!!

For more information about Neighbourhood Watch, please contact Anne Barber at Abingdon Police station on 01235 556938.

Write to MADNews and let others know what you think about current events