

settled upon.

14. *Access to Howard Cornish Road is proposed from the new facilities on to a bend on a very busy road. What arrangements are in place to ensure that the concerns of the villagers regarding the loss of the copse and the dangers on the road have been taken into account?*

The answer to question 8 is equally applicable. The planning process will deal with any effects upon traffic. It is likely that the Trust will only obtain a small area of the copse to provide access to the new facilities, so the maintenance or otherwise of the copse will probably be a question for the landowner.

15. *How will the increase in road traffic envisaged through relocation be compensated. Will an adequately sized CO₂ sink be provided? What environmental technologies will be used in any new proposals?*

Please refer to the answer to question 9.

Financial

16. *Will the Anson Trust provide a fully detailed business plan which covers all the financial implications of the proposed new development and recreational facilities at the earliest opportunity?*

The questions raised by the public to the Council include reference to the sale figures expected for the field, the cost for the new land, the profits to be made. The Trust does have a high level business plan which it is confident will provide a basis for a sustainable Community building and ancillary recreational facilities. Some details are confidential and therefore the Trust would summarise the plan in the following equation:- Sale of part of the Anson field + sale of Institute site = Cost of acquiring site and provision of building and facilities + substantial endowment (to provide an income sufficient to underpin the running of the community centre).

General

17. *Can you confirm that all alternative plans have been explored and presented for open debate?*

Alternatives have been considered by the Trust (see MADNews November 2006).

18. *Why have all the other options been disregarded?*

See MADNews November 2006.

19. *There has been criticism that the Trust is too secretive, and that there should be an open village forum/committee to discuss the way forward. Would the Trust consider this?*

The Trust has felt constrained by the threat of court proceedings about how open it can be about its affairs. The Trust is now seeking to redress this e.g. by presenting its outline plans at a very early stage, by creating a website and by publishing information in MAD News. Ultimately, the Trust is answerable to its charitable scheme and the Charity Commissioners.

20. *The Parish Council has been asked to consider ways in which interested groups could be helped to provide suitable facilities on the present field, would the Trust consider this?*

The opportunities afforded by the present scheme are way beyond anything which is likely to be achieved in any other way. If the current plans do not come to fruition, then other avenues would be explored.

If you have any comments or wish to contact the Anson Trust, their email address is directors@ansontrust.co.uk or call Samantha Donaldson on



ED VAIZEY WRITES...

As you read this, with any luck I will be shivering cold and sleeping outside - no doubt exactly what I deserve, some of you might say. Along with a Labour and Tory MP and two Lib Dems, I am going on a six day trek across the Arctic, accompanied only by husky dogs. Between us we hope to raise £30,000 for various local and national charities.

For my part, I will be raising money for Crimestoppers and the Oxfordshire Community Foundation. Crimestoppers is a completely independent charity, which plays a crucial role in solving a great many serious crimes. With some of its Government funding under threat, it is more important than ever to raise money for it. It is also vital to keep it independent, as a lot of the people who ring Crimestoppers with information are, as you might expect, people who do not want to talk to the Police.

The Oxfordshire Community Foundation is the local charity I have decided to support. With so many deserving causes in the constituency, it seemed sensible to back a charity that gives to other local charities and groups all across the area. I already give an annual sum and have raised some other money, but the trek will hopefully increase the funds even more,

A major part of the challenge is to live in the extreme conditions of the Arctic; whilst there we will be building and sleeping in igloos and during the days relying entirely on husky dogs for transport. This should give us a real insight into life in this fascinating and endangered habitat and reinforce, if it were necessary, the need for urgent and major action to stop the Arctic being destroyed by rising temperatures.

If you would like to support my trek, you can donate to me at www.justgiving.com/edvaizey, and remember that the Government adds an extra 20 per cent in Gift Aid.

Can I use this opportunity to thank local companies that have sponsored me - Blackwells, Elsevier, Williams Formula One, Milton Park, Grainger Trust, RM and Oxford Instruments.

On local matters, by the far the biggest issue of the new year has been the train chaos the new First Great Western timetable is causing in Didcot. The number of commuter trains has been slashed and the large fast trains have been replaced by slower and smaller models. All at the same time as fares continue to rise. Along with other MPs in the region I have met the train bosses to demand some answers. Yet instead of promising to go back to the old timetable they passed the buck, made excuses and generally offered no crumbs of comfort to suffering commuters. I have now called for an urgent meeting with the Transport Secretary to try and find a solution to this dire situation.

Up to date news can be found at www.vaizey.com from which you can also go to my blog.

ED VAIZEY, MP Wantage (Con)

MP'S SURGERY WITH ED VAIZEY

5.30-7.00pm, unless stated otherwise

February 2007	
2	Didcot , King Alfred Drive, Community Centre
Contact Ed Vaizey by	
Post	The House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA
E-mail	vaizeye@parliament.uk
Web	www.vaizey.com including blog
Tel	0207 219 6350

JANUARY CROSSWORD ANSWERS

ACROSS: 2 Mac 5 Ago 8 Combs 10 Rift 12 Dimes 15 Realm 6 Elsewhere 18 Resolutions 21 Turntable 22 Photo 23 Steam 25 East 27 Cycle 28 Bee 29 Yew

DOWN: 1 Radley 3 Ace 4 Cos 5 As 6 Or 7 Stamen 9 Bureaucracy 11 Imaginable 13 Mysterious 14 Predict 17 Wootton 19 Supper 20 Denman 23 Sly 24 Tee 26 TB 27 CE

ABINGDON COUNTRY MARKET...

... sells delicious cakes, jam, quiches, etc etc in the Roysse Room, Abingdon (near St Nicholas' church) every Friday from 0930-1100.

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