

**FROM JANE HANNA...**

The last month has seen the fruition of partnership working between local landowners, the parish council and the Vale to increase the number of affordable homes at Longfields. The Data Protection Act protects the confidentiality of individual allocations, but full details of the local connection and housing needs of those bidding for each allocation are shared with me as District Councillor on a confidential basis. I am pleased to report that every one of the houses allocated so far have been to people with a strong local connection to Marcham in need for housing. A significant amount of my case work in the last year has related to families in Marcham with housing needs and whilst I am aware that there are a few who have not been successful in the recent bidding, the new development has ensured that more young people in Marcham have been able to choose to stay in the village.

Many of you will remember that during April I promised to consult with all residents once any application was submitted on the Anson Field or proposals for new village facilities. I do not know the likely date of any application but as any consideration will involve complex and important issues it makes sense to proceed to plan the consultation exercise. As the parish council will also be representing the views of residents they have accepted my proposal to bring together a small working group with the job of gathering information needed to consider any proposal; conducting a consultation with the village and providing information and advice to myself and the parish council. I will chair the group consisting of parish councillors without any connection to the Anson Trust and one independent expert on consultation and planning processes. I hope then when we go out to consultation that as many residents as possible feed back their views.

On health matters I have recently been appointed to the County Council Health Scrutiny Committee and look forward to working with this committee to ensure that any proposals for changes to existing health services are closely scrutinised and, if appropriate, challenged.

**JANE HANNA** District Councillor for Marcham & Shippon  
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**PACKHORSE LANE ACTION GROUP FOR SAFETY**

Thanks to everyone's support Oxfordshire Highways will be conducting an experiment to control traffic around the more dangerous of the two blind bends (the one nearer The Crown) on the A415, in Marcham. Pedestrians will be given a temporary protected walk-way on the north side and lights will control the flow of traffic around this bend. The trial is set to operate from 10 July to 11 August thus testing at non-holiday and holiday times.

Having traffic lights will mean slight delays will occur – we are anxious that this safety measure should not divert traffic around our other roads in Marcham. With this in mind, Oxfordshire Highway's officers will be monitoring and making adjustments during the trial to minimise these delays.

Whatever your stance, we would like to hear from you. If you feel the trial has been a success, you can help make this a permanent feature and improve safety for all users. This is a very positive step forward to resolving the safety issues on this bend so we need to hear your views. Please contact either Oxfordshire Highways via their website or: [www.oxfordshirehighways.org](http://www.oxfordshirehighways.org) or call 0845 3101111 alternatively via the MADNews website: [www.madnews.co.uk/plags](http://www.madnews.co.uk/plags). We will be forwarding all comments to Oxfordshire Highways.

On behalf of PLAGS  
**SALLY TIMBERLAKE** [www.madnews.co.uk/plags](http://www.madnews.co.uk/plags)

**ED VAIZEY WRITES...**

For MPs, the long summer recess is just around the corner. It is the one time of the year when we are not tied to the Westminster village and so I will be able to spend a lot more time in the constituency. I could not be happier about this – not because I dislike the rigour of day to day life in Parliament, but I will have the opportunity to enjoy the beauty and tranquillity of the Oxfordshire countryside.

Oxfordshire, I recently learnt, has over 2,600 miles of footpaths open for the public to enjoy. In fact there is a group called the Countryside Access Forum, who help to improve and extend access to the countryside for residents, visitors and tourists for generations to come. The Ridgeway is now closed to 4x4s, and so there are huge opportunities to enjoy the peace and the spectacular views. I recently met with the Oxfordshire Nature Conservation Trust, who showed me how much work is going on in local farms to ensure that nature has the chance to thrive.

The countryside is the great natural resource of our area. In addition to providing tourist income from day visitors to local attractions such as the Ridgeway and the Didcot Railway Museum (the most popular tourist site in Oxfordshire apart from Blenheim Palace), tourism also supports many independent businesses –from B&Bs to Farms.

However, the countryside is coming under threat from development. I met with the local branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England, who expressed their concerns - shared by many people - about the reservoir, increased housing development and mineral extraction. I am very alive to all these issues. I am committed to ensuring that the countryside is not thrown away, like so much is in the modern world. And I am glad to see that many other MPs are equally concerned. I hope everyone will enjoy the countryside over the summer, but do so with respect.

**ED VAIZEY**, MP Wantage (Con)

<b>MP'S SURGERY WITH ED VAIZEY</b>	
<b>July 2007 5.30-7.00pm, unless stated otherwise</b>	
Fri 6	<b>Wallingford</b> , Town Hall
Fri 20	<b>Faringdon</b> , Corn Exchange
Fri 27	<b>Didcot</b> , King Alfred Drive, Community Centre
<b>Contact Ed Vaizey by</b>	
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**MARCHAM/FRILFORD DIG NEWS 2007**

This is a reminder that this year as before the public are welcome to visit (archaeologists are at work every day except Saturdays for the 4 weeks from Sunday 2nd July) – but the best day to come will be **NATIONAL ARCHAEOLOGY DAY SUNDAY 22nd JULY 10-4** when there will be guided tours and other attractions. Watch out for posters! You can look at [http://www.arch.ox.ac.uk/research/research\\_projects/marcham](http://www.arch.ox.ac.uk/research/research_projects/marcham) to find out more about the dig. It is not too late to apply to dig in the 'People's Trench' – six days a week (Saturday is a rest day) - from Sunday 1st to Friday 27th July - intended to give an ENJOYABLE hands-on archaeological training and experience to local people. Those who do not want to dig all day or at all can sit down and 'pot wash' (wash finds) - pot washing is on offer on the following dates: 5th, 11th, 12th, 15th, 17th, 19th, 24th July. For further information please contact Janey Cumber on 01865-391327/391840 or by email [janey.cumber@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:janey.cumber@tiscali.co.uk).

**JANEY CUMBER**

To get your letter included please write to the editor by 20th month latest