

Dear Editor

Since I last wrote in this space I have got married and enjoyed a wonderful honeymoon, but despite this the return of Parliament has meant that the past few weeks have been especially busy. I have had meetings with a range of groups from Oxfordshire County Council to the local health authority, the Police and local businesses in order to better understand the range of issues that affect us in the constituency.

The big issue that has hit my post bag is the **proposed new flight corridor** which will pass over Marcham. My understanding is that the flights will pass over at some 10,500 feet. I am not clear at this stage how many flights are planned, and I do not want to alarm people by stating a figure. I have contacted the Aviation Minister as a matter of urgency to ask for clarification. Not least, there is huge irritation that the County and District Councils were not consulted in any way.

The **reservoir** continues to be a talking point. Thames Water in my view is determined to press ahead, and I would like people to let me have their views as urgently as possible so that I am informed as possible in the coming battle.

I am delighted that the County seems to be taking **traffic calming** measures seriously in Marcham, responding to my letters with considered thoughts. I will be pressing the Transport Minister again on the **by-pass** – I am led to believe that there is nothing more left to do other than get the Minister's Green Light.

My upcoming surgery dates are

Wallingford Town Hall
Saturday 5 Nov 9.30 – 11am

Old Mill Hall, Grove
Friday 25 November 5.30 – 7pm

King Alfred Community Centre in Didcot
Saturday 10 December 9.30 – 11am

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

ED VAIZEY MP for Wantage (Con)

Dear Editor

Change Management

Change is something that should happen when it is needed. There are some big changes coming to Marcham and the area around and the need for them is unproven. Firstly take the **reservoir**, Thames Water as yet, have to announce if and when a reservoir is going to be built. They are not engaging sufficiently with local people around the division and are sensitive to questioning on specific issues. This is unacceptable and they must state their aims soon, a position which I am actively pursuing. I am meeting with representatives in November and will

press this case to them. We don't want water shortages in future but leakage rates are too high at present. A group has been set up in Steventon called **Fluvius**, with the aim of being neither pro nor anti- reservoir but wishing to pursue maximum involvement for local people and get the maximum planning gain for this area from a reservoir project. *See the advert below.*

Secondly, **housing numbers** are being planned for Oxfordshire 2016-2026. Do we need them in Didcot and Grove, or can we put the allocation from SEERA around the county where it is needed, wanted and is closer to employment centres? I think the latter. Grove has no great employment prospects and Didcot is already overdeveloped. Grove is over six miles from the nearest dual-carriageway - hardly well connected! Extra houses mean extra traffic if built away from employment centres. One positive change, the new pelican crossing will be officially opened in November.

If you need to get in touch with me, please use the following contact details:

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IAIN BROWN

**O X F O R D S H I R E
SCIENCE PROGRAMME**

**Sat 12 November
11.00am-1.00pm**

Vist to Harcourt Aboretum to see the the turning leaves. FREE but parking costs £2. For more information contact Janet Keene at Oxford Urban Wildlife Group 01865 820522

**SCIENCE IN THE CITY
Sat 5 November**

**1-4pm Pitt Rivers Museum
Boats, Outrigger and Dug-Out Canoes**
Make a model boat from the collection and see if it floats Ages 5-12 FREE
For more info call 01865 270944

www.oxtrust.org.uk



KENNINGTON SWIMMING CLUB

Why not get fit and enjoy yourself at the same time. We have 3 family swimming sessions a week at Radley College pool:

Monday and Thursday 8 – 8.30pm
Saturday 9 – 10am

For more information phone 01865 739788

Fluvius.org.uk

Fluvius is a group which believes that Thames Water will be given permission for the reservoir to be built near Abingdon.

We believe that

- If we wait for Thames Water's plans we risk being too late to alter them.
- If the five villages most affected, Steventon, East Hanney, Frilford, Marcham and Drayton act individually they will not gain the maximum benefit in terms of overall planning gain, nor will they minimise disruption during the build.
- Benefits should come from the building of the reservoir.
- A co-ordinated response which accepts that the reservoir is likely to be built is most likely to maximise these benefits.
- The time to start influencing Thames Water is now.

Thames Water have indicated that they no longer intend to seek planning permission for the reservoir from the District Council but have said that instead they will apply next year to the Secretary of State, John Prescott under the Utilities Act for permission to build.

We cannot afford to just wait and see what Thames Water's plans are. We must influence them before they are put forward. It is vital that the plans put to Mr Prescott include compensation for the disruption we face and take full account of our hopes and fears.

If you agree with our aims then register your support by emailing us at

info@fluvius.org.uk

Leave your name, contact details and if you are prepared to help in any way please say so. More information about public meetings and consultations will be sent out as soon as possible.