

Dear Editor

As a resident on Frilford Road, I am well aware of the chaos and pollution caused by the traffic. Yes it was good to be able to walk round the bends in safety, but I agree with correspondent A Reading that Marcham needs the bypass, and how little it would cost compared with the amount of road tax taken from all vehicle owners. I will be very interested to see what happens when the developers, currently working on Packhorse Lane, start to create their "pseudo-footpath". Traffic lights will have to be installed then for that work. What will be the reaction of the emergency services management and how will Ed Vaizey respond on our behalf?

A SMITHSON

OXFORDSHIRE VILLAGES OF THE YEAR COMPETITION

(organised by the Oxfordshire Rural Community Council - ORCC)

The Parish Council is delighted to record that Marcham's entry for the above competition was judged and awarded a highly commended certificate. The judges were particularly impressed with the MAD News and the care for village residents. We wish to record our thanks to the following residents who made detailed contributions as witnesses as to why Marcham was a "good" village in which to live.

- Christine Ricketts
- Christine Whild
- Jessica Brod
- Sonia Edwards
- Meriel Lewis

Look out for the Certificate which will shortly be displayed in the Post Office. The overall winner of the competition was Steeple Aston.

MARJORIE EVANS

Co-ordinator for the Marcham submission

PORTABLE INDUCTION LOOP

ORCC has the facility to loan a portable induction loop free of charge for any event in Oxfordshire. The loop comes in a large size briefcase and serves an area of up to 100 square meters at any one time. Full setting-up instructions are included. If your organisation would be interested in the loan of this equipment for a particular occasion, please contact Lynne Newin for further information phone: 01865 883488 or lynne.newin@oxonrcc.org.uk.

COW LANE PADDOCKS
 Marcham Parish Council has available for rent the two paddocks at the junction of Cow Lane and Sheepstead Road. Please contact Clerk: Mrs. L. Martin, 01865 391833 90 Howard Cornish Rd. Marcham.

REPORT FROM GARD

Some of the GARD Committee will be meeting the Environment Agency at the end of August to discuss the need for a reservoir. Our intention is to present and discuss the reasons we think a new reservoir is unnecessary and it is appropriate to share the argument and the essential details we have with the villages affected.

Reservoir Planned Output The yield of the reservoir is planned at 309 MI/d (million litres per day). Our argument is that this can be met three or four times over by other means. We have researched the alternatives as shown below.

Thames Water Forecast Demand Figures. The total EXTRA demand in 2030 stated by Thames Water is 343 MI/d.

Leakage Details The latest leakage is 862 MI/d (almost 3 times reservoir output). Allowing the very old pipes to continue leaking is thoroughly wasteful.

To replace all London's mains over 100 years old, some 7,750 km, would cost just over £3 Bn and produce a leakage reduction of at least 400 MI/d (more than the output of the reservoir). The work must be done sometime soon anyhow.

Demand Reduction Measures Total saving by compulsory metering of 209 MI/d is quoted. This is two thirds of proposed reservoir output.

Rainwater Harvesting and Grey Water Rainwater and grey water use could reduce new demand by 75MI/d if used in new housing development.

Water Transfer Transfer from Deerhurst to Swindon, assuming a 900mm pipe could supply 60MI/d and cost about £50M to lay. A dual pipe could yield double at 120MI/d .

De-Salination The agreed de-salination plant at Beckton will result in 140MI/d and if a similar plant at Crossness is adopted 280MI/d. This represents almost the whole reservoir output and is a guaranteed on site supply for London.

Effluent Re-circulation The water resources available will be increased if more use is made of effluent re-circulation. This needs quantification and costing.

Aquifer Re-charge Aquifer re-charge considerations have not been quantified in our assessment owing to the complexity of this subject. There must be scope to capture more run-off and add to underground reserves which are natural reservoirs.

Conclusion There are substantial opportunities for the better use of existing resources and the generation of new ones. The 343MI/d estimated additional demand by the year 2030, quoted by Thames Water, can be met three times over within other

projects. Our paper specifies 884 MI/d of savings or additional resources and a further 200MI/d identified as potential additions to water resources.

GARD is sure that Thames Water customers should know these facts and be aware that they will be expected to pay for this huge and unnecessary investment.

A summary of a GARD Committee Paper

ED VAIZEY WRITES...

Following the floods that have devastated our area, I have had a chance to sit down with the Environment Agency to try and work out what can be done now to prevent such devastation in the future. In particular, I want to see:

- more monitoring of rivers and brooks in order to better predict where future floods will happen
- much better drainage systems for any future developments. Present drainage systems are wholly inadequate and not built with any risk of severe flooding in mind
- all new schemes built on flood plains, or against Environment Agency advice, to be called in by central government

In addition, I am supporting the Vale of White Horse's call for grants to be given to homeowners who wish to install flood protection to their homes. I would also like a scheme to be considered to enlist local farmers in the important work of clearing ditches and brooks.

It is quite clear the Environment Agency is stretched to the limit. It even had its maintenance grant cut last year. In the future, resources will be concentrated in urban areas like Oxford, Witney and Abingdon. The villages may end up getting less protection. The Government should urgently consider a scheme to allow farmers, who already get grants for environmental work, to apply for grants to clear ditches and brooks in villages. The prospect of thousands of more homes being built and their impact on flooding could be severe. Despite assurances from the Environment Agency, I still believe the huge developments being planned in Didcot, Grove and east of Swindon could increase flood risk. If these developments are imposed against the wishes of the Environment Agency I hope the Government will call them in. I will be waiting to see the Flood Risk Assessments for each.

ED VAIZEY, MP Wantage (Con).

MP'S SURGERY WITH ED VAIZEY

5.30-7.00pm, unless stated otherwise

There are no surgery dates available at the moment.	
Contact Ed Vaizey by	
Post	The House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA
E-mail	vaizeye@parliament.uk
Web	www.vaizey.com
Tel	0207 219 6350

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