

# DRAYTON CHRONICLE

Issue Editor: Derek Pooley

Volume 38 No. 1

January/February 2015

## JUST ONE LAST HURDLE

Andrew Bax



The Drayton Neighbourhood Development Plan has passed its legal examination and will now be tested in a village referendum on

**Thursday 12 March  
at Drayton Village Hall**

The referendum will be organised by officers of the Vale of White Horse District Council just like a general election. If a majority of those voting vote 'yes', the Neighbourhood Development Plan will come into force soon afterwards.

**The referendum will ask voters the question:**

**'Should the Vale of White Horse District Council use the Drayton Neighbourhood Development Plan when determining planning applications in the Drayton parish area?'**

- A majority yes vote will give Drayton unprecedented control over future planning decisions
- A majority yes vote could lead to over £1 million in community benefits, including a new village centre, new playing fields, a refurbished Hall, a coordinated traffic plan etc.

**Your vote is vital -**

**REFERENDUM  
SPECIAL**

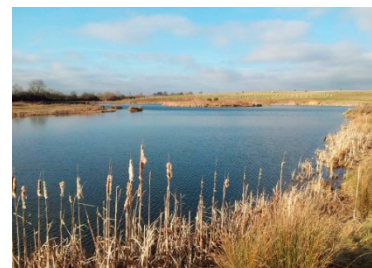
More on the referendum on pages 9 to 15



**-to decide Drayton's future**

**Also in this issue:**

- P3: Global warming; what to do and how fast?
- P4: St Peter's rareidos is back home
- P16: Smartwater to beat burglars is on sale



## DRAYTON'S REFERENDUM

Derek Pooley



As far as we know, the referendum on March 12 will be the first **ever** to be held just for Drayton! However, as of last autumn, 28 neighbourhood planning referenda had been held elsewhere in England. All of them had recorded a 'Yes' majority, as Andrew Bax, chairman of Drayton 2020, hopes from us!

But why does he, the 2020 team and the Parish Council want a yes majority? What if we voted no?

**First**, a no vote would **not stop lots of new houses** being built in Drayton; there could easily be even more than if we support the NDP by voting yes. More significant, they would be where land owners and developers chose to apply for planning permission, with the village having little say in where or how. Nearby residents might well object but, in the present circumstances of a severe housing shortage in this region, their objections would have little effect. Even if the local planning authority (the Vale of White Horse DC) wanted to refuse permission they might well be overruled, as over the proposed south Abingdon development.

**Second**, although our Neighbourhood Development Plan would still exist after a no vote, with its aims of refurbishing our Hall, making new playing fields, cycle tracks and open spaces etc., it would be much harder for the village to find the money and the land needed to do all the things that we have said we want. The Drayton Plan's 'wish list' might stay just that; just wishes.

Voting yes in the referendum effectively endorses Drayton 2020's successful efforts to forge an agreement between villagers (who want the better Hall, more playing fields etc.), landowners (who want to sell some of their land for housing while demand is high), developers (who want to build and sell new houses), residents near new developments (who want the impact of new houses mitigated as much as possible) and the local planning authority (which is obliged to meet national targets for new houses).

The new name for these agreements is Localism!

# CHRONICLE INFORMATION

The next **Chronicle** will be the **March** issue:

Editor: **Tony Holmes, 53 Whitehorns Way (531180).**

Deadline for advertisements: **17.00 on Friday, 13 February 2015**

Deadline for other contributions: **17.00 on Monday, 16 Feb. 2015**

Printed copies available: **Friday, 27 February 2015**

## Key dates for the subsequent three Chronicles:

Issue for	Deadline for contributions: 17.00 on Monday:	Printed Chronicles available on:
April	16 March 2015	27 March 2015
May	13 April 2015	24 April 2015
June	11 May 2015	22 May 2015

## NOTES for CONTRIBUTORS

Please be sure **always to include your name**, address and (in case clarification is necessary) telephone number. Without names we will usually not print an item at all.

**However, please also note** that the editor has to ensure that each Chronicle fits exactly into an even number of printed pages. The editor therefore reserves the right to place, edit, shorten or even reject contributions as required to achieve this.

A contribution or advertising request can be sent to us in one of three ways:

1. The best is by **email** to **editor@draytonchronicle.net**. Your contributions should either be embedded in your email as **plain text** or attached as a **rich-text** or **Microsoft Word** document!

Requests for advertisements should not be emailed to the editor but to **advertising@draytonchronicle.net**. Please note that they eventually need to be in Word format, 9cms wide and, for a single block advert, about 4.5cms high

Make sure that the editor or advertising manager acknowledges your email within a few days.

2. If you cannot send your contribution by email, send us a **good quality paper version**, using fairly large, **simple** black typescript, without underlining on white paper, A4 or smaller.

3. Finally, we do accept **hand-written items**. However, in this case **please write the names of people and places in capital letters**. This does save a lot of mistakes.

Paper contributions should either be placed in the Chronicle letter box (outside Vickery's shop on Drayton Green) or posted to Vickery's at 5 The Green, Drayton, Abingdon, OX14 4JA.

After the deadlines listed at the top of this page, only urgent items will be considered for inclusion and then only if emailed or delivered directly to the **Editor's** house by the Wednesday following the Monday deadline.

## ADVERTISING RATES

### Charge for a Single Block Advert (about 9cms x 4.5cms)

---- Number of Inserts ----

Advertiser Category:	1	3	6	12
Drayton Resident	£6	£16	£31	£60
Non-Drayton Resident	£7	£19	£37	£72

**Double-size** adverts are charged at **twice** the above rates.

**All advertising MUST be paid for up-front, either in cash or via a cheque made payable to 'The Drayton Chronicle' and placed in the box at Vickery's or sent there (address above).**

Requests for advertisements should (preferably) be emailed to **Stephen Fearnley**, the Chronicle's Advertising Manager at **advertising@draytonchronicle.net** or placed in the box at Vickery's. If you wish to discuss your requirements please phone Stephen on 01235 531347

# CHRONICLE LOTTERY

**Carol Arnold, Hon Promoter**

## RESULTS OF THE JANUARY LOTTERY

Prize	Winner	Agent
£25	Ivor Berry, 7 East Way Park	Teresa Burnage
£20	Mrs S Walters, 60 Chiers Drive	Doreen Mason
£15	Richard Webber, Orchard Farm, Sutton Wick Lane	Keith Clough
£10	J Stevens, 44 Abingdon Road	Jenny Stevens
£10	Emma Dury-Dryden, 16 High Street	Liz Bronson
£10	Don Osbourne, 7 Eastway	Teresa Burnage
£10	Norman Kidd, 9 High Street	Ali Bone
£10	John Pozzi, 8 Lesparre Close	Amanda Drysdale
£10	Mrs M Smith, 37 High Street	Michelle Ainscough
£10	Terry Mason, 1 High Street	Ali Bone

We no longer use counterfoils. Instead, winning numbers from the 1774 tickets sold last month were generated randomly using a computer, as for national premium bonds and in the national lottery

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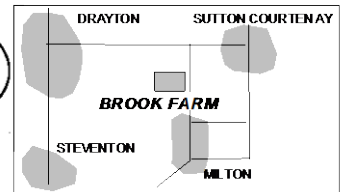


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**DISCLAIMER:** This Journal is published in good faith and great care is taken in its compilation. The organisers of the DRAYTON CHRONICLE, and its Agents, therefore accept no responsibility for OPINIONS EXPRESSED, nor for the validity of any ADVERTISEMENT, nor for any EFFECTS ARISING WHATSOEVER from the publication.

## YOUR LETTERS

Dear Editor

May we send congratulations on their marriage on 12 January to Ben and Ellie at the Red Lion, also best wishes for their future.

*All their staff and customers*

Dear Editor

I would like to thank all those who gave donations in memory of my late husband Graham Lacey, raising the magnificent sum of £706 for the Upper G.I. Centre at the Churchill Hospital

*Pam Lacey and family*

Dear Editor,

We would like to thank the cooks, drivers and helpers who have given us their time in Friday Club through the year. Friday Club could not function without them. Thanks also to the two Sallys and Pam for cooking such a lovely Christmas lunch and to Anton, who entertained us with some wonderful poetry reading. Wishing you all a very happy 2015!

*Sylvia Bond and Beryl Dawson*

**Editor's Note:** Many people in Drayton are grateful to Sylvia and Beryl for all they themselves do at the Friday Club. Indeed the Vale Council has just selected them for Vale Volunteers Awards - pages 17 and 20.



Dear Editor

The question surely is not 'how do we keep the lights on?' but 'how do we keep our planet/ourselves alive?'...Richard Webber is understating the seriousness of the problem for future generations...estimated at 30 years away maximum. It is always disappointing to read these discussions concerning what forms of energy should be readily available to us, even if the discussion asks which is the most 'environmental'. What needs to be urgently addressed is not so much 'what' energy we consume but 'how much' energy we consume. None of the main parties are offering any help for communities to adapt to a world where the lights will NOT be on all the time...where we will all need to walk/cycle, grow our own food, share and most importantly, save resources. The elderly and disabled naturally should always be given preferential treatment in respect to heat, food and medicine, but everyone else needs to learn to live with less. The 'throw away culture' of America is daily being foisted on us and this means more and more consumption of our planet's precious resources. The message surely should be: not 'how will we keep the lights on?' but instead: 'well done those who turn lights off!'

Yours sincerely,

*Anthea Norman-Taylor*

Dear Editor

I was pleased to see Richard Webber raising the issue of reducing greenhouse gas emissions where he has some responsibilities as parish/district/county councillor. However, we should be cautious in welcoming the EU commitment of 40% cuts by 2030 as the UK has adopted a more challenging target under its Climate Change Act. And the target of achieving a zero-carbon economy by 2100 is misleading! What matters is how soon we can make meaningful cuts. Any tonne of carbon saved in 2015 will not cause the problems for the next 85 years that would be caused by the tonnes that might eventually be saved in 2099. There is at least one realistic programme for achieving a Zero Carbon Britain by 2030 and our politicians should be working to ensure that this trajectory is reflected in both neighbourhood, local and national planning.

*Daniel Scharf*

**Editor's Note:** Daniel sent two letters to the Chronicle this month but the other, about the Neighbourhood Development Plan, is placed on page 14, among other Referendum-related material.

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**To Book, please call 01235 798236**

**LIVE SPORTS**

**Letters to the Editor** are accepted on the understanding that opinions expressed are those of the correspondent. The Editor reserves the right to shorten, clarify, position or even reject them. Each letter must bear a legible name and address (and telephone number if possible) so that the correspondent may be contacted if necessary. The correspondent's name will be published unless the Editor is specifically requested in writing not to do so.

# ST PETER'S CHURCH

<b>Priest in Charge</b>	Rev'd Rebecca Peters.....531374
<b>Associate Priest</b>	Rev'd Rosie Bruce .....525284
<b>Churchwardens</b>	Mrs Alison Bone .....202188 Mrs Linda Johnson .....527521
<b>Organist</b>	Vacancy

## REGULAR SERVICES

Sunday	8.00 am	Holy Communion (Common Worship - Traditional)
	10.00 am	Sung Eucharist (CW), except the 3rd Sunday, when there is a non-Eucharistic All-age Service
Thursday	9.15 am	Holy Communion (CW) in Lady Chapel.

## REGULAR ACTIVITIES

Mon.	7.45 pm	Bell Ringing Practice	<i>Bell Tower</i>
Wed	10.30 am	Pebbles (term time only)	<i>Church Room</i>

## CALENDAR FOR FEBRUARY:

Tues	4	3.00 pm	First Tuesday Connections	<i>Church Room</i>
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## CHURCH REGISTER:

### Baptisms:

30th November Marie Rose Allinson

### Funerals:

25th November Daphne Edith Bomford  
18th December Margaret Joan Beames  
9th January Charlie James Kogel  
20th January Pansy Smith



## YOU STAY WE PRAY FEBRUARY:

1st to 14th: Abingdon Road, Oday Hill, Binnings Close, Haywards Road;  
15th to 21st: Sutton Wick Lane, Greenacres, Newman Lane, Conifer Drive;  
22nd to 28th: Hilliat Fields, Lyford Close, Manor Close, The Green



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## Letter from Rev. Rebecca Peters

Dear Friends,

It is indeed a troubled world we live in, with the threat of terrorism and support for extremism within Europe, especially Paris. 'Je suis Charlie' has become a united chorus for believing in freedom and liberty across our countries boundaries.

We live in challenging times.

However, We have some good news to report at the beginning of this new year, the stolen mediaeval reredos panel (stone panel behind the communion table) has been retrieved. We thank God and look forward to it returning home to St Peters. The CCTV is working in church and the church is open during the week for visitors to walk around, for a bit of stillness, peace and quiet and a place to pray. Please do put prayer requests on the board near the Lady Chapel.

After the success of the 'I've lost my Sheep' family service we will continue with 'The Celebration' family service on 1st Feb and 1st March, 3pm at Drayton Primary School. All welcome.

Life is full of ups and downs, loss of loved ones and birth of new life. God is with us as we journey on through life, providing guidance and wisdom, comfort and peace. My prayer is that you would know more of the hope and encouragement that Jesus has to offer. The missionary apostle St. Paul wrote these words to the believers in the city of Rome: 'May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.' (Romans 15: 13) As this year unfolds, may you, too, know this overflowing joy, peace and hope!

God Bless

*Rebecca*



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**Email: [info@cwdpartnerships.co.uk](mailto:info@cwdpartnerships.co.uk)**

## FIRST TUESDAY CONNECTIONS **Jean Hager**

Are you feeling lonely, isolated or in need of some friendly company? Why not come along to our monthly tea and chat afternoons. They are held on the first Tuesday of the month in St Peter's Church Room from 3.00 pm to 4:30 pm and you are invited to drop in during these times. The teapot is always at the ready and you can be sure of a warm welcome. Our next two dates are **03 February** and **03 March**. If you need transport or further information please give me a call on 531558.



## Hamel's Memorials

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# BAPTIST CHURCH

Church Secretary: Mrs Jayne Henderson.....Tel. 522161

## REGULAR SUNDAY SERVICES

11.15 am Presently only one morning service per month.  
A Family service on the first Sunday  
6.00 pm Evening Service. Traditional format.

**EVERYONE IS MOST WELCOME**

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**Local contacts: Geoff or Jean Caudle, 531409**

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[www.thebeautyspot.info](http://www.thebeautyspot.info)

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## NEIGHBOURHOOD NEWS

### MARGARET JOAN BEAMES      Susan Woodward

Sadly, Margaret Beames passed away on 17 November, aged 92. She was born in 6 High Street, Drayton and lived in the same street all of her life. She moved to number 4 for a short while, after marrying Frank Beames, but from there she moved to number 28, where she resided for the rest of her life, another 66 years.

She will be greatly missed by all of us.

Rest in peace Mum!

May we also thank all the people who were involved with Mum; friends and carers, for their help and support during her last, difficult years.



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## ALL AROUND

### 1st DRAYTON BROWNIES

Annette Mitchell

A welcome to our pack to Frankie and Emily, who will have started with us by the time you read this!

We have started the New Year with healthy snacks! Brownies tried celery, pineapple, apple, banana and orange.

Drayton Brownies will be 56 years old this year and we are going to look at the history of our pack as well as the many changes over the years to the uniform! If there are any Drayton Brownies out there who would like to come along and share their Brownie experience with us please get in touch!

We will also be looking at music through the ages and the Brownies will be comparing different types of music, old and modern as well as sharing their favourite music! Along with this we will make our own percussion instruments from recycled materials and hopefully learn how to play the recorder!

We will end the half term with tossing and eating pancakes and learn about Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday!

Meetings are held at Drayton Village Hall, on Wednesdays during school term from 6.15 – 7.45, meetings are open to all girls aged between 7 – 10 years old. You can register your interest on the girl guiding website and click on

“Join Us!” at [www.girlguiding.org.uk/get\\_involved](http://www.girlguiding.org.uk/get_involved) or you can email us on [drayton1stbrownies@live.co.uk](mailto:drayton1stbrownies@live.co.uk)

Further details are available from:

Ruth Hudson (Brown Owl) on 01235 205111

Esther Deabill (Tawny Owl) on 01235 528502

Annette Mitchell (Barn Owl) on 01235 555216

### RAINBOWS FOR DRAYTON? Mary Thompson

Drayton is very lucky to have a thriving Brownie Pack at which girls from 7 – 10 years have great fun as well as benefiting from membership of this world wide movement – but there are no Rainbows!

Rainbows are the youngest members of the Guide Association, for girls from 5 – 7 years. There is a huge need for the village to have its own unit because Steventon Rainbows are already full and have a long waiting list. This situation will mean that Drayton girls could miss out on the Rainbow experience unless Drayton people can start a new unit. ➔



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## W.I.

Brenda Malin

Our last two meetings have been delicious and jolly occasions.

December saw us entertain ourselves with puzzles and quizzes followed by a wonderful self-catering feast of yuletide goodies. The evening finished with a Santa Sack and a round of Carols.

Our January meeting was our annual birthday meal. This was held at the Pack Horse and a lovely meal was had in very comfortable surroundings. It was nice to see that all but two of our members had managed to fight off the very unpleasant fluey cold that seems to have struck so many people down.

Our February meeting will break us in gradually to the New Year with a BEATLE DRIVE, It sounds innocent enough but can become quite frenzied at times. Tea and biscuits, and maybe something stronger, will definitely be needed before we make our way home.

Our Annual meeting will be in March and a new program will be introduced, with varied speakers for the coming year. If anyone is interested in coming along to experience the Women's Institute they would be very welcome, there is no obligation to join, but I do feel you may well be pleasantly surprised. We meet on the second Thursday of the month at The Caudwell Day Centre at 7.30 pm.



## Bee Byes Guest House

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➔ There is lots of support, both practical and financial, for those who start new units – so here's the challenge! Will you give the children this opportunity and start Drayton Rainbows for them?

For further information do look at [www.girlguiding.co.uk](http://www.girlguiding.co.uk) or contact your Brownie Guiders at [drayton1stbrownies@live.co.uk](mailto:drayton1stbrownies@live.co.uk) or me at [steventonrainbows@gmail.com](mailto:steventonrainbows@gmail.com)

## Red Lion Accommodation

All rooms are en suite

For more information

Ring Glenn or Janet on

01235 531457 or visit

[www.theredliondrayton.co.uk](http://www.theredliondrayton.co.uk)

THE RED LION

## BOWLS CLUB

## Roll Up

Finals day was again very successful, with something like 40 members in attendance. Most stayed all day and those that did enjoyed a very nice buffet put on by the ladies, rounding off what was a nice days bowling, with quite a lot of matches going down to the wire.

Winners of the competitions held throughout the year and finals day were as follows: Henry-Bunce handicap pairs; Jack Mitchenson & Carol Smith, The Attwood Cup; Bryn Jones, Wally-Weightman triples; Doug Rich, Avril Holmes & Pam Lacey; The Rose-Bowl triple (league) Jack Mitchenson, Marjorie Strachan & Pat Mitchenson; Don-Alexander two-wood triple. Olive Brown, Barry Davis & Pat Mitchenson; Beryl-James triples Jack Mitchenson, Ian Norris & Barbara Carter, John-Berry fours Bryn Jones, Kathy McCann, Chris Smith & Doreen Jones, Never-Won singles; Olive Brown, Gents singles; Bryn Jones, Ladies singles; Val Locke, Didcot-Windows open singles; Bryn Jones.

The first competition of the new season will be The Wally Weightman triples and will take place on January 26th. 'The Wasps' have made a good start in the afternoon league, winning their first 2 matches and are in top spot with 'The Hammers' in second place, so we hope one or the other will win the title come March.

## TABLE TENNIS CLUB

## John Gould

At the time of writing we have reached the halfway point of the Didcot League season. Our 7 teams have delivered a range of performances within the 5 Divisions. The B team lies second in Division 2, The C team 3rd in Division 3 with matches in hand over the top two and the E team are 2nd in Division 4 although they have played more ties than the rest. Happily mid table are the A team in Division 1 & the F & G teams in Division 5. The D team is second bottom in Division 3 so will need to improve to avoid the dreaded drop. They are a young team that is improving so we hope they will achieve safety.

Club practice / social table tennis sessions continue at the school on Monday nights from 6.30 pm If you are 9 or over (under 16's must be accompanied by a parent) you will be most welcome to come along – there is no upper age limit and our adults and children all mix well.

A reminder that our Annual Quiz will take place on Friday 27th February 2015. Entry is £12 per team. Entry forms for teams (4 persons per team maximum) available by telephoning 01235531328. We hope some villagers will be tempted.

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## SACRIFICE REMEMBERED

### BERT PARKER

John Roberts

Driver Bert Creemer Parker, of the Army Service Corps, with the service number T/34950, died on the 11th January 1915. He was the son of Alfred and Martha Parker of Church Lane, Drayton and only 20 years old when killed. He is buried in the Bois Guillaume Communal Cemetery in France (below).



### HENRY WOODLEY

John Roberts

Lance Corporal Henry John Woodley of the 2nd Battalion, the Royal Sussex Regiment, service number 10321, was killed in action at Givenchy in France on 26th January 2015. He was the son of William and Annie Woodley of Crab Tree Lane, Drayton and was only 19 when he was killed. He is remembered at Le Touret Memorial in the Pas de Calais in France (below).



**Editor's Note:** No soldiers from Drayton died in February 1915, nor in March or April.

### ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

Al Costley

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our members for their continued support. A big thank you must also go out to all at the Steventon Sports and Social Club for their unflinching support. The recent darts night went very well, raising almost £100 for the Poppy Appeal, and the Committee is genuinely appreciative of the continued efforts made by the Club to support us throughout the year.

The next Branch meeting will be at 7.30pm on Monday 16th February at the Cherry Tree pub in Steventon (note change in time and venue). New members are always most welcome, from across the Steventon and District area

Al Costley, 07832 340468, e-mail – al\_costley@hotmail.co.uk.

## NOTICE BOARD

### GRANTS FOR YOUTH WORK

Karen Tinson

Applications are invited from any Youth Organisation in Drayton to apply for financial assistance from the Drayton Youth Centre Charity. To request an application form please send an email to karen.tinson1@ntlworld.com or telephone 01235 531596

Applications must be received by 31st March 2015. All applications will be considered at the Charity's meeting to be held in April (date to be confirmed).

### GARD AGM

Nick Thompson

The GARD AGM will be held at Stocks Lane Farm, Steventon on Tuesday 14th April 2015 at 7pm, followed by a Committee Meeting. All who wish to be updated are welcome to attend.

### ACCESS

Peter Colville

A new educational charity has now been set up and is running at 11 High Street, Drayton. It is called ACCESS (The Abingdon Centre for a Caring, Enlightened and Sustainable Society), is open to all, is free of ideological or religious bias and will hold workshops, stock resources and carry out research on a wide range of issues of public concern, from the state of the economy through what kinds of energy we will need to keep the lights on to whether our political system needs reform. Our objective is to enable people to get informed about critical issues facing society, and to gain the confidence to get engaged in the life of our democracy.

Our first workshop was held on 24th January, and included a potted history of the NHS from Prof John Stewart, an impassioned presentation from Prof Allyson Pollock on the present state of the NHS, questions to the experts, and lively discussions about the future of this treasured national institution.

The next event will be entitled "Climate change: how serious is it, and what can be done?" and will take place (provisionally) on Saturday 28th February. If you are interested in attending please email [accessindrayton@gmail.com](mailto:accessindrayton@gmail.com).

### LOGS FOR LABOUR

Riki Therivel

Would you like free firewood, or do you have a woodland that needs managing? The Trust for Oxfordshire's Environment's "Logs for Labour" programme aims to promote sustainable use of woodfuel by running events where volunteers help to manage woodlands in return for logs. The events are 2-3 hours long and could involve coppicing hazel, thinning trees, or piling up brash. Bring sturdy gloves, shoes and a saw (hand tools only allowed)... or let us know if your woodland needs the help of volunteers. Forthcoming events are listed at [www.oxonwoodfuel.org.uk](http://www.oxonwoodfuel.org.uk), or 'like' us at [www.facebook.com/oxonwood](http://www.facebook.com/oxonwood)



**As your local MP, I can be contacted:**

by email at [vaizeye@parliament.uk](mailto:vaizeye@parliament.uk),

by telephone at **01491 838816** or

by post at **Ed Vaizey MP, Wallingford Town Hall,  
Wallingford OX10 0EG.**

The quickest way to get in touch with me is by email. All these details, surgery times and locations and other information can be found at [www.vaizey.com](http://www.vaizey.com).

**Ed Vaizey MP**



# DRAYTON CHRONICLE REFERENDUM SPECIAL

**Drayton2020**  
OUR CHANCE TO PLAN OUR OWN FUTURE

## 9 THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW BEFORE VOTING IN DRAYTON'S FIRST EVER REFERENDUM\*



1

### WHY SHOULD I BOTHER VOTING?

Because your vote directly affects the place that we all call home and puts us in control of what happens in our village; this has never happened before. Over the next 15 years your vote should make Drayton an even better place in which to live and work.

2

### ISN'T THE REALITY THAT THERE WILL BE MORE HOUSES WHICH WE CAN'T AFFORD AND MORE TRAFFIC NONE OF US WANT?

We know from a Parish survey conducted in 2011 that there is a big demand for smaller flats and houses with three bedrooms or less. Many of the new homes envisaged in our plan will be like that.

The rise in traffic arising from building in South Abingdon, Steventon, Sutton Courtenay, Milton and Drayton is of course everyone's major concern. It almost inevitably follows that:

- Traffic in the morning and evening rush will get worse; redesigned junctions such as that at the Milton interchange may improve things a little.
- The only way to make a big improvement is to build a new Thames crossing and Abingdon by-pass, and to widen the A34 and add more slip-roads. This will not happen anytime soon.
- We should all make an effort to drive less and walk and cycle more.

\* unless the Romans had one - which we don't think they did.

3

### **WILL MY KIDS EVER BE ABLE TO AFFORD TO LIVE HERE – THESE NEW HOUSES WILL BE MUCH TOO EXPENSIVE?**

We hope that won't be the case because most will be smaller homes and at least 35% of the smaller flats and houses will be also be 'affordable' – the term used for homes for rent or sale at below market rates.

And dont forget some of this new housing will be very attractive for people who want to downsize.

4

### **YOU SAY THAT DRAYTON PEOPLE HAVE HAD AN INFLUENCE. IS THERE REALLY ANY EVIDENCE OF THIS?**

The Parish Council and Drayton 2020 began working up this Plan in June 2012 (the year when it rained all summer). Over 29 months they have held four large public meetings, two weekend exhibitions, forty-six meetings of a Steering Group (usually attended by several members of the public) and a Village-wide questionnaire completed by 64% of us. That feels like democracy in action.

All this has given us real influence with the Vale Planners, landowners, developers and builders. All these powerful folk would agree that we are now in the driving seat and that our influence has been a real force for good.

5

### **IF WE VOTE FOR THIS PLAN HOW LONG WILL IT BE BEFORE IT IS OVERTAKEN BY ANOTHER – WITH MORE HOUSES AND MORE TRAFFIC?**

The plan we have developed – available on the Village website - covers the period from 2015 to 2031. Over this 16-year period an estimated 254 new homes-most between 1 and 3 bedrooms (for sale or for rent) will be built on three sites. Its worth remembering that when we started work in 2012 there were ideas for over 600 new houses spread across Drayton. If the evidence of other villages

in Oxfordshire is anything to go by then our village will be expanding much less than most. Our Neighbourhood Plan will be amongst the very first in the Vale and is the very best guarantee that those of us who live here are in control of what happens next.

But just as important the plan will lead to other improvements to the Village – the things everyone hoped for when they completed our Questionnaire in 2013.

### **SO WHEN WILL WE SEE THESE OTHER IMPROVEMENTS?**

We are still negotiating with Developers and the Vale about the sums of money (which will run into many hundreds of thousand of pounds) which new housing will generate for our community. But we already know that when the housing developments happen we will have:

- A new 'Village Green' right opposite Hilliat Fields with open views right across the centre of Drayton. This will become public land owned by the village.
- A major programme of tree planting linking the east and west side of the village
- New playing fields and facilities on land off the Abingdon Rd at the northern entrance to Drayton and directly accessible to Drayton Community School.
- Traffic calming through the village, and the introduction of cycle and pedestrian routes
- Funds will be available for a comprehensive refurbishment of Drayton Hall
- An increase in the facilities and the capacity of our school as the number of households in Drayton rises

We also know that we will also have to get much better at fundraising from public bodies and Trusts as well as securing loans to support all this. Most of the funding for the Millennium Green was secured in this way so we know it can be done.

7

## OK. HOW CAN I VOTE?

The Referendum to be held on 12th March 2015 is the real deal – conducted much like a General Election but only for residents of Drayton over 18 and on the Electoral Roll. Polling takes place in Drayton Hall between 9 o'clock and 10pm. You can get a postal vote application form by putting 'apply for a postal vote' in the search box at [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk) or by calling the VWHDC Election Office via 01235 520202. It must be done at least 11 days before the referendum.

8

## SO WHAT'S THE QUESTION ON THE BALLOT PAPER?

Unlike the general Election there are no parties standing - just one simple question..

Do you want The Vale of White Horse District Council to use the neighbourhood plan for Drayton Parish to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?

To this you answer

# YES or NO

It's that simple.

9

## I KNOW THAT DRAYTON 2020 WANTS PEOPLE TO VOTE YES, BUT WHAT HAPPENS IF THE MAJORITY VOTE NO?

The answer is simply that Drayton will lose all the power and influence over planning decisions and future development in our village. This will be left in the hands of the Vale and the developers as it has always been in the past.

But the greater the turnout the greater our influence will be.

So please be sure to vote either way.

## DRAYTON CHRONICLE REFERENDUM SPECIAL

**Drayton2020**  
OUR CHANCE TO PLAN OUR OWN FUTURE

# MORE REFERENDUM QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Daniel Scharf and the two Richards

**Editors Note:** Daniel Scharf's second letter to the Chronicle this month (the first is printed on page 3) concerns the referendum, to which any reply or answer would certainly have been too late if the referendum had been held on the original date of 26 February and may have been rather late even for the new date of 12 March.

I therefore asked Richard Williams (current chair of the Parish Council - Daniel was the previous chair) and Richard Webber (Drayton's district councillor) to comment on the points made or answer Daniel's questions. I have attempted to interleave the questions with the answers, to make it easier for readers to consider the issues. Daniel's letter is printed in standard type below; *comments/answers are in italics.*

Dear Editor,

It will be seen from elsewhere in this Chronicle that the question of whether the Drayton Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) should be 'made' into the plan that will (mostly) decide what housing will go where in the village, will be answered by the result of the referendum to be held on 26 February. If a majority of those voting decide **not**, then the NDP will remain a material consideration in the determination of planning applications, but the District Council's local plan, when adopted, could be given relatively more weight.

*This is somewhat misleading, implying that there will be little difference in the consequences of yes and no votes at the referendum. Recent advice by parliamentary lawyers to MPs about planning referenda says very clearly that: 'The draft plans MUST pass an independent check (Drayton's has) and, if they do so, they MUST then be put to a local referendum. If the majority of those who vote are in favour the local planning authority MUST adopt the plan'.*

*In contrast, the advice from the Head of Vale Planning is that, whilst it is technically correct that if there is a NO vote, the Plan would still carry **SOME** weight, it is very arguable how much. As a Member of the VWHDC Planning Committee, I have witnessed the current over-riding legislation – the National Planning Policy Framework – "outweigh" issues such as transport congestion, child safety and environmental concerns with the result that many applications have been passed which very few wanted – in Shrivensham, in Watchfield, in Faringdon, in Kingston Bagpuize, in Steventon and in Sutton Courtenay. Everyone in these villages has felt at the mercy of outside authorities. I want the Drayton resident's opinions to carry as much weight as possible; so let's ensure the planners MUST listen to us.*

This new system of 'Localism' would appear to assume that those of us voting at the referendum would be able to understand the differences and respective merits of both the neighbourhood plan and local plan?! As we do not live in an ideal world, I have thought of some of the questions I would like answered before I felt able to cast my referendum vote:

1. Why is the NDP proposing over 250 new dwellings, just on the allocated sites?

*The Neighbourhood Plan itself contains all the planning and community policies for Drayton, but much of the background material explaining the reasons why the policies were arrived at, and why a Plan was necessary in the first place, can be found in the accompanying Sustainability Appraisal (SA for short). Both documents, and much other supporting material besides have been available on the village website since around September last year (Drayton 2020 tab, then 'Consultations' in the drop-down menu). Section 2 of the SA (pps 13-25) explains in detail why the Plan was embarked on, and how we arrived at the figure of 250 houses. Section 3 (pps 26-47) explains the criteria for site selection.*

⇒

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⇒ 2. In a plan extending for the next 16 years, should the three allocated sites be developed within the next 3 to 5 years, as anticipated by the Parish Council in the absence of any phasing policies?

*This misrepresents the Parish Council's position. Phasing has been discussed at length with the Planning Authority and was raised by the independent inspector at the hearing – what is in the plan has been underwritten by them.*

*The Plan itself says (para 138) that 'An extra 250 houses would represent a 25% growth in the size of Drayton over a 15 year period. It is the view of this neighbourhood plan that absorbing such growth would be a significant strain on the village community, and that this should represent a maximum for housing development over the plan period. **Wherever possible housing should be phased within and between sites over the 15 year period, so that the village is given the opportunity to absorb new people and adapt its facilities and society.** No further housing sites are being allocated and no other housing sites are identified as being capable of sustainable development within the plan period.' With a yes vote the Vale MUST take note of this.*

3. What is the mix of housing being proposed on the allocated sites? And will the NDP be requiring all these developments to provide attractive opportunities for elderly residents to downsize within the village?

*We know from a Parish survey conducted in 2011 that there is a big demand for smaller flats and houses with three bedrooms or less. Many of the new homes envisaged in our plan will be like that.*

4. Is there support in the village for the brand new recreation ground and pavilion being proposed as part of the Barrow Road development at the very northern end of the village? And what other sites for playing fields were considered and rejected?

*Daniel has always been of the opinion that the best site for a new recreation ground would be the field at the back of Lockway, due to its proximity to the existing football pitch and Drayton FC clubhouse. This site was seriously considered but only for a short time, over the two years 2010-12, when the landowner offered it as part of a deal in return for Parish Council land on The Green which would have provided access to the Manor Farm development. At the time, the residents of Lockway were vociferously opposed to using this site for playing fields. In any case, in the spring of 2012, with the advent of the Vale's Interim Housing Supply Policy, this offer was withdrawn, presumably because the landowner realised that housing on this site might be a viable option.*

Concluded on page 15 ⇒



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# DRAYTON 2020 REPORT

Richard Williams



## We did it!

Drayton's Neighbourhood Plan has survived the scrutiny of a Public Hearing, held on Dec 12th in the Village Hall, and passed its Independent Examination.

Although the official launch of the NDP took place in September 2012, this followed several months of preliminary work, which means we are finally approaching the end stage of nearly three years' hard work and effort. The last

hurdle is the Referendum, which has been booked for Thurs 12th March, delayed for two weeks thanks to the appalling arson attack on the Vale/South Oxon offices in Crowmarsh which has caused major disruption to both councils' activities.

I should first say a few words about the Public Hearing, because I realise that some readers would like to have attended this but were unable to do so (about 30 Drayton residents were present in the Hall). Unfortunately, it was unavoidable that the hearing should have been held on a weekday and in working hours. This is standard procedure, and it would be unreasonable to expect developers or their representatives, some of whom live very long distances away, to attend for an evening session or at the weekend. The same goes for our Examiner, who was from the North of England. It was also essential that the hearing take place before Christmas, if we were to have any chance of meeting our referendum deadline for Feb/March.

It is the Examiner's decision who should speak and typically this includes, as it did with Drayton, developers, planners from the Local Authority, and members of the NDP Steering Group. The latter was represented at the hearing by the Chairman of the Parish Council and the Parish Clerk. The public act as witnesses, but do not have a right to speak. This does not mean that the public are excluded, but they have had their opportunity to comment via the Consultation process on the various versions of the Plan. Examiners read all of these comments and take them into account when framing their questions. Most important, the Examiner's brief is limited and very specific. He or she is not appointed to judge the merits of particular policies, or for example, the choice of possible housing sites. The Examiner's task is simply to decide whether the Plan as a whole meets the so-called 'Basic Conditions'. This means that our NDP must be compatible with the Vale's own Local Plan, and also with national planning policy and any relevant European legislation.

The Examiner's report indicated that some minor tidying up of the Plan (now being addressed) was required – but the fact is, we passed all the tests! This is a tribute to the care taken in putting the Plan together, and also to the Vale for their invaluable assistance in keeping us on the right track. It should be added that this was a truly local achievement. Drayton 2020 certainly sought and received a lot of professional advice, but our use of external consultants was very sparing. This is not because we preferred to 'go it alone', but we were operating under very tight financial constraints, and could only occasionally afford to employ professional assistance. The great bulk of the work has been done by members of the Steering Group and other Drayton residents, and the village has much to be proud of, including its own astonishing 64% response to the 2013 summer questionnaire.

## But what of the Referendum?

It will be run like a local or general election (usual polling hours), and all adult Drayton residents, based on the electoral register, are entitled to vote. The ballot paper will ask whether or not you support Drayton's NDP, and offer a straight 'Yes' or 'No' choice.

**Please do participate and vote!**



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⇒ Whatever your decision, we want as high a turn-out as possible, as this will give the process maximum credibility. The Plan will be approved if we get 50% + 1 of the votes, so that if only 3 people turn out to vote, and 2 of them vote for the Plan, it will be passed. But obviously we hope for a rather more convincing result!

## What will happen if you vote for the Plan?

It will sit alongside the Vale's own Local Plan as a formal planning document, and carry the same weight as any other part of the Vale Plan.

Developers involved in the three main sites identified in the Plan will almost certainly put in planning applications to build houses in Drayton. One indeed has already 'jumped the gun' and done so, although the Parish Council and the Vale have done their best to ensure that consideration of the application is delayed until after the referendum has taken place.

We do not know if all 3 sites will be given planning permission. These are decisions for the Vale as the local planning authority, but Oxfordshire County Council will have an input as highways authority, and they may determine that traffic issues impose some constraints on development. The impact of the proposed development in South Abingdon is clearly relevant here, so that the future of Drayton's housing sites (or at least the timing at which development occurs) is by no means a foregone conclusion. It remains to be seen how events will unfold.

What is absolutely crucial is that with the NDP in place, we have some protection from any further speculative development on other sites in Drayton. The Plan clearly states that over the Plan period, i.e. between now and the year 2031, the 3 sites identified in the Plan are the only sites which should be developed in Drayton. Regardless of the time scale – i.e. those sites might all be built out within the first 3-5 years of the Plan, or more slowly over a longer period. But the Plan says that the approx. 250 dwellings these sites account for are all the village can or should absorb up until 2031.

Continued opposite ⇒



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⇒ Realistically, a few years into the Plan, it is likely to face challenges from other developers, and we shall probably be obliged to review the Plan every 5 years or so. But the Plan remains a powerful planning consideration and it will enable us to fight off further development before 2031.

**What will happen if you vote against the Plan?**

It will not be formally adopted as a planning document and will therefore not have the same status as the Vale Local Plan. It will still be a planning consideration which the Vale should take into account, but obviously its influence will be diminished. In particular, other material considerations, such as the lack of a 5 year land supply – apparently the deciding factor when the Planning Inspector gave a (qualified) green light to the South Abingdon development – might well override any provisions in the NDP.

The developers on the 3 main sites identified in the Plan will put in their planning applications, come what may.

The big difference is that we will be powerless to prevent other developers coming along and putting in additional planning applications on other sites in and around the village. This is not scare-mongering. We have already had one developer approach us, long after all the consultation on the Plan had finished, with a much-too-late proposal to build on a site which had not been previously considered at any public consultation meeting or at the public exhibition held in June 2014. Despite the fact that Drayton 2020 refused to meet with the developer concerned or to include their site in the Plan, their representative was invited by the Examiner to the Public Hearing in December. The company are hovering in the wings, and should the Plan fail the referendum, they will undoubtedly put in an application to build. Where they lead, others will surely follow.

All Drayton’s residents should know that, were it not for the ongoing consultations we have been having with developers, and their awareness that we were working on an NDP, planning applications would probably have gone in long ago, and houses would already be being built in Drayton. If anyone doubts this, they need only look at Marcham, Kingston Bagpuize, Sutton Courtenay (to name but three examples) to see how communities without a Neighbourhood Development Plan have fared.

**Summing up the situation, let me set out the very clear message that Drayton 2020 would wish to put across to everyone in Drayton. It is this:**

**Our Neighbourhood Plan offers a means by which local residents can ‘manage’ future development in the village**

Drayton is surrounded by potential housing sites. The pressure for new housing will not relax in the near future. On the contrary, it is likely to intensify. Our NDP is the only mechanism available that can provide us with some protection against further speculative development over the remainder of the Plan period, i.e. up until 2031

Many residents will not like everything that is in the Plan. Some will dislike the idea of any new housing in the village at all. Everyone is entitled to their opinion, but no one should imagine that if they vote against the Plan, this will prevent development. Development will take place whether we like it or not, and irrespective of whether a Neighbourhood Plan is in place. The only question is whether we just let housing development happen, or take some control over the process.

The decision how to vote is up to you, but please - do vote. And do consider very carefully the implications of your decision.

Subject to confirmation, the next Steering Group meeting should be on Fri 30th January, the date this Chronicle is due to be published. No further dates have yet been decided. The meetings are open to any Drayton residents, and are normally held on Friday evenings in the Caudwell Centre in Gravel Lane at 7pm. If you wish to receive information about these and other Drayton 2020 meetings and events, please contact the Parish Clerk, David Perrow, by telephone on 07909 176061, via the Drayton 2020 website: draytontwentytwenty@gmail.com or via E-mail at draytonclerk@yahoo.co.uk.

⇒ *The landowners have since refused to discuss their earlier offer, and there is some evidence to suggest they still regard it as a possible housing site, although the Plan firmly rejects it for that purpose on grounds of noise from the A34. The Barrow Road site is a much less noisy environment and its location at the ‘very northern end’ of the village hardly renders it inaccessible. Plans for the Manor Farm site have moved on, and access will now be direct from the Abingdon Road.*

5. Does the NDP provide any or adequate support to those who have responded to village surveys looking for opportunities for ‘local needs housing’, self-building, smallholding and co-housing?

*The Plan addresses local needs housing as determined by the Drayton Housing Needs Survey carried out by ORCC in 2012. However, social housing generally is a Vale responsibility, and future social housing in Drayton will not just serve Drayton residents.*

*Only two people have so far approached the Drayton 2020 Steering Group with an interest in self-build. No one at all has come forward to express any interest either in smallholdings or co-housing, despite invitations to do so at several public consultations and via notices/adverts in the Drayton Chronicle. All three of these issues present practical difficulties in implementation, and it is Drayton 2020’s view that for such projects to succeed, the initiative must come from the interested parties.*

6. What transport measures will the NDP be requiring of developers to ensure that traffic will be reduced?

*A Transport solution for Drayton has been discussed at public meetings and will be discussed further and agreed with residents and with the Transport authorities in the coming weeks.*

Hopefully there will be opportunities before 26 February for the NDP to be explained (including recent amendments carried out the request of the Examiner/District Council) and for interested residents to put their questions.

Yours sincerely Daniel Scharf

*Because of the fire at the Vale council offices in Crowmarsh the referendum date has had to be postponed until 12 March. The (minor) changes asked for by the independent examiner are available in her report to the Vale (on their website) and the modified plan has been sent to them and should be viewable on-line very soon.*

*4 years ago, I was privileged enough to attend a meeting to discuss Localism hosted by the then Minister Greg Clarke. He warned us all of the two main obstacles to Localism. First was overcoming the reluctance of those who, historically, had always had the power, to give it up. I have to commend the Vale’s Planning department for allowing us to lead the Neighbourhood Plan and overcome this first obstacle.*

*The second obstacle was persuading local people that they now had new powers and should exercise them. The referendum overcomes that obstacle.*

***Vote Yes or vote No, but please vote. The larger the turnout, the better for Localism.***



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## The Silver Line

There are many people who go for days without seeing or talking to anyone. They may be bereaved, isolated, house bound or caring for someone else.

Friends or family may not live in the area or are perhaps no longer around. More than half of people over 75 live alone. Many can often feel lonely but are reluctant to ask for help.

The Silver Line is the UK's only free and confidential telephone helpline providing information, friendship and advice to older people. And it's open 24 hours a day, every day of the year. The Silver Line team can offer friendship, someone to talk to and someone who cares. It can be as simple as a call in the morning to talk about the day ahead or a quick call in the evening before bed time. No question is too big nor any problem too small.

Call free on **0800 470 8090** at any time of the day or night on any day of the year.

From a mobile call **0300 47 8090** (charged at local rates).

Or visit the web site at <http://www.thesilverline.org.uk> for more information.

## Cyclists

Pedestrians have reported that some cyclists are continuing to ride on footpaths, at a dangerously fast speed, some of them without any lights while cycling in the dark. The following are some of the legal requirements for cyclists. If a breach is witnessed the police can issue an on-the-spot fine:

- If used before sunrise, after sunset or in poor visibility bicycles must have, and use, fully operational front and rear lights. They must also have a red rear reflector.
- Riding a bicycle on a footpath is not permitted (with the exception of very young children).
- Obey a traffic sign or order (e.g. stop at the line when a traffic light is at red, or contra-flow to permitted traffic direction).
- Obey a signal from a police officer or traffic warden.
- Riding a bicycle under the influence of drink or drugs is not permitted.
- A bike is for one person only - passengers must not be carried by a cyclist.

## Reporting breaches of HGV restrictions

Residents who wish to report a suspected breach of HGV regulations are asked to complete and submit the online form available on Oxfordshire Trading Standards web site by visiting <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/weight-restriction-orders>.

Residents who do not have internet access are requested to write to Trading Standards with details of the date, time and location of the incident, the town or district, the direction in which the vehicle was travelling, vehicle registration number, vehicle make and model, company name or any other distinguishing marks, plus their own name, address and telephone number. Please keep any notes as they may be required as evidence if the matter goes to court.

Send the letter to: Oxfordshire Trading Standards Service, Graham Hill House, Electric Avenue, Ferry Hinksey Road, Oxford OX2 0BY.

It is essential that any report submitted is in writing rather than verbally. Please also note that it is the police, rather than members of the public, who have the jurisdiction to stop vehicles and enquire about their destination.

## Smartwater update

PCSO Sandra Syphas and members of NAG5/Neighbourhood Watch will continue to visit households in Drayton and Sutton



Courtenay in the New Year. If you would like a Smartwater kit, available through Thames Valley Police at a much reduced price of £15, please phone the police on the non-emergency number 101, or contact NAG5 using the contact information below. More information is available on the Smartwater web site at <http://www.smartwater.com/> or call Smartwater on 0800 521 669.

## Thames Valley Alert: Community Messaging

Thames Valley Alerts offer people who live and work in Oxfordshire the opportunity to receive messages with important information, crime alerts and witness appeals relating to their local area. The message alerts are sent by telephone, e-mail or text message. To register or for more information please see the web site at <https://www.thamesvalleyalert.co.uk/> or call 101.

Contact NAG5 at [neighbourhoodactiongroup5@hotmail.com](mailto:neighbourhoodactiongroup5@hotmail.com) or by calling 01235 848694

**ANOTHER SAFETY ISSUE:** Chris Price, the Drayton Parish deputy clerk, has asked the Chronicle to remind all dog owners of the need to clean up all dog poo and take it to one of the many special dog bins placed around the village. Some owners have become careless or irresponsible, even allowing their dogs to defecate in children's play areas from which dogs are specifically excluded. We are therefore reprinting this poem by 'Dogerelle', written 18 years ago!

## A NASTY WORM

The bulk of us have known the curse  
Of aches and pains and, even worse,  
Of coughs and sneezes, sore throats, wheezes,  
Spots, bumps and lumps and dire diseases.  
But few of us, I'm glad to say,  
Have been attacked while out at play  
by **Toxocara Canis**.

## Dogerelle



Now if you care to read some more  
I'll tell of things you will deplore -  
The life-style of this horrid worm,  
Whose nasty habits make one squirm.  
Some owners of our canine friends  
Behave in ways no one defends.  
Their dogs use pavements as a 'loo',  
Which they'd never let their offspring do,  
And sometimes in a doggie turd  
(I hope you'll all excuse the word)  
lives **Toxocara Canis**.

Now active children have the urge  
To play on pavement and on verge.  
And Toxocara is a worm  
More agile than your average germ.  
It isn't fussy where it lands,  
And if it gets on childrens' hands  
It may enter through the mouth  
And find the gut by travelling south.  
And on arrival it will manage  
To do some very serious damage,  
will **Toxocara Canis**.



In lungs and skin it has a ball,  
In liver, brain and eyes and all.  
And left to do its worst it might  
Deprive a child of precious sight.  
Now I'm sure you'll all agree  
That none of us would wish to be  
The cause of so much sad distress  
By soiling paths with doggie mess.  
So if your pooch should ever sin  
Use plastic bags and find a bin.  
Offending objects then would vanish  
And perchance we soon would banish  
**Toxocara Canis**.



## DISTRICT COUNCIL

Richard Webber

### The Drayton Neighbourhood Plan

It has taken more than two years. The work has been done by more than 50 residents at dozens of meetings on Work and Play, Look and Feel, Sustainability, Transport and the all important Housing. It has not been a race, but I am immensely proud to represent a village which will be equal first in the Vale (with Great Coxwell) to hold a Referendum on a Neighbourhood Plan.

Whether or not the Plan is passed, the process has done more to engender interest in the village community than anything else in my 9 years as your District Councillor. Drayton will be under the spotlight for the next few years as others begin Neighbourhood Plans (and there are another 12 already in the pipeline).

However you intend to vote, please make sure you do vote – either on the day or by post or proxy as with any election – if in doubt ring the VWHDC Election Office via 01235 520202.

### Vale Community Awards

Drayton Ward has managed to claim a higher proportion of these awards over recent years than any other in the Vale. One might have thought that we had run out of nominees by now.

Not so, however. This year, for their unstinting service to the Friday Club Sylvia Bond and Beryl Dawson received the award, a certificate and a handshake from the Vale Chairman - and a well deserved lunch on the District Council. Congratulations and thanks to them from all of us who live in this village.

Richard.webber77@ntlworld.com 01235 534001

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## PARISH COUNCIL

Richard Williams

Because of all the material in this issue on the NDP referendum the usual parish council report is being held over until March.

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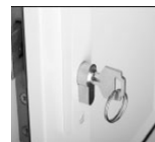
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## COUNTY COUNCIL

**Richard Webber**

### The NPPF and what's left of Localism

The fall-out from the 160-home Taylor-Wimpey application in South Abingdon has had an enormous impact on the way that OCC Transport/Highway officers can argue traffic impact as a reason for refusing an application. The NPPF (National Planning Policy Framework) states that the impact on traffic must be "severe" before traffic can be used to block an application.



Various pieces of case law have demonstrated that unless traffic is at an almost complete and permanent standstill, it will not be deemed "severe" enough. This puts OCC officers, VWHDC officers and planning committee members under enormous pressure to overlook traffic implications in almost all cases. In short, the NPPF trumps almost all traffic considerations.

Much the same situation has now arisen over "safe routes to school" in the same South Abingdon application. After months of wrangling, the OCC Cabinet have agreed that arguments over the safety of proposed pedestrian crossings in Ock St and Marcham Rd in Abingdon are trumped by the NPPF pressure to allow house building. In short, the NPPF trumps child and pedestrian safety.

The VWHDC Planning committee's decision to pass the latest iteration of the giant Warehouse on the edge of Sutton Courtenay because traffic impact is deemed to be "not severe enough", air quality "not bad enough", scale "not large enough" and cumulative impact of 500 odd houses + Didcot B + FCC recycling+ Milton Park not large enough" to warrant refusal, is the latest example of the NPPF's enormous impact on planning. Indeed, one begins to wonder if planning committees have any room for manoeuvre at all. Faced with County and District Officer recommendations to accept applications, it seems that the financial risks are so great that refusal of large scale applications is all but impossible.

A select committee of MPs from all parties made recommendations to the Minister for Local Government broadly in support of the arguments above and that the NPPF was in need of modification. The Minister, in his wisdom, disagreed stating that he felt the NPPF was delivering housing and growth as it was designed to do, and there was no need to modify it.

So there we are. More houses, more jobs, more traffic, more growth, under the NPPF at almost any cost. The problem for our area is the very uneven spread of the population. 90% of population, along with the jobs and the traffic is crammed into about 5% of the available land. Abingdon, Didcot and all the villages in between are on the verge of merging. We may just about get away with our planned numbers and allocations for 2031, but heaven help us if we cannot find a better solution thereafter.

Politicians need to be starting a grown-up conversation on 2031 solutions now – not in 15 years - a conversation which allows the voice of Localism (so drowned by the NPPF) to be heard.

[Richard.webber77@ntlworld.com](mailto:Richard.webber77@ntlworld.com) 01235 534001

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# WESTMINSTER

Ed Vaizey



As you are all probably aware by now, 2015 is the year of a General Election. In my constituency this is being held alongside elections for both South Oxfordshire and The Vale of White Horse District Councils and elections for many towns and parishes. There will also be the opportunity in Drayton to cast your vote in the village referendum on your Neighbourhood Development Plan on Thursday 12 March.

The way people register to vote is changing and it is very important that as many of you as possible have the chance to have your say at the ballot box. Individual Electoral registration (IER) is being implemented which requires each person to register to vote individually rather than by household. Residents who have automatically been re-registered on the electoral roll will have received a confirmation letter from the returning officer, and will not have to do anything more.

To try and increase the number of people registered to vote council staff will be visiting the homes of those who are not registered, or who have not sent back forms asking who lives at the property. These canvassers will always carry identification badges, so please ask to see them, and there is no need for them to enter your homes. You can register securely online by visiting [www.gov.uk/yourvotematters](http://www.gov.uk/yourvotematters) or by contacting the shared elections office on 01235 540310.

Thursday May 7th (the date of the District Council and General Elections) falls in a week with the May Day bank holiday on the Monday, so if you are planning to take this opportunity to go on holiday, please register for a postal vote as soon as possible.

As so many elections are taking place at the same time, counting the votes is being spread over several days. The General Election votes will be counted after polling stations close at 10pm on the night of 7th. District Council counts will take place on the afternoon of 8th and town and parish council counts on 9th. If you are interested in getting involved in any of these counts please contact [elections@southandvale.gov.uk](mailto:elections@southandvale.gov.uk) or telephone the phone number above.

As ever please feel free to contact me on any matter at the House of Commons, SW1A 0AA or on 020 7219 6350 or at [vaizeye@parliament.uk](mailto:vaizeye@parliament.uk). Email is the quickest and most reliable way to get in touch, as I keep a very close eye on my emails and can reply very quickly. I also send out occasional general interest emails about developments in the Wantage and Didcot Constituency. If you would like to be added to the distribution list, please do email me or sign up at [www.vaizey.com](http://www.vaizey.com). Surgery details can be found at [www.vaizey.com](http://www.vaizey.com)



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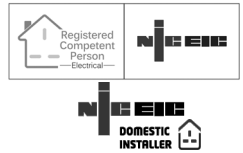
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# DRAYTON DIARY

## FOR FEBRUARY

All events are at Drayton Hall unless stated otherwise  
(To book Drayton Hall call Tony Holmes on 531180)

**Regular Events are not listed this month, but were in November 2014**

Mon	2	7.30 pm	Parish Council	<i>Caudwell Day Centre</i>
Sat	7	9.00 pm	Grant Funding Seminar	
Mon	16	9.15 am	Chronicle Lottery deadline	<i>Vickery's</i>
		5.00 pm	Chronicle copy deadline	<i>Vickery's box</i>
Sat	21	9.00 am	Briard Dog Show	
Sun	22	9.00 am	Short-mat Bowls Club	
			<b>and now moved into March</b>	
Thur	12	all day	Neighbourhood Plan Referendum	

## Boulevard Swing

are coming to town!



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**Saturday 7 February 2015 at 7.30pm**

**All Saints' Church, Sutton Courtenay**

Tickets £10 (Cash Bar) on sale at:

A.L. Vickery & Son (Drayton)

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## The Celebration

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Drayton Primary School, 3-4:30pm

on Sundays 1st Feb & 1st March



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# HEROINES OF THE DRAYTON FRIDAY CLUB



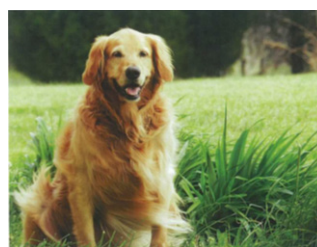
The Chronicle Team is delighted to congratulate Sylvia Bond (on the right in this picture) and Beryl Dawson on winning Vale Volunteer Awards for 2014. Throughout the year they provide twelve of Drayton's frailer old folk with fortnightly care and respite at the Drayton Friday Club, meeting in the Caudwell Day Centre. The actual day consists of a welcoming drink at 11am, then a quiz before a substantial two-course lunch cooked by a team of volunteers. After lunch they play bingo, followed by afternoon tea and cake before they depart at 3.30pm. Some of the people who come have to be transported by another team of volunteers and it's obvious that much work has to be done to organise it all as well as deliver on the day. **Thankyou, Beryl and Sylvia!**



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Printed by Mayfield Press, Oxford