

# DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT

Richard Webber

## The Drayton Village Survey:

A full analysis of some of the issues and results raised by the village survey will be published in the next chronicle. So many replies have already been received, (well done Drayton!), that logging the responses is proving to be a major task. As a taster for what is to come, here are a few general conclusions which can already be drawn:



- There are 945 homes in Drayton. (An increase of nearly 100 over two years ago)
- There are almost as many cars as people.
- There are more bicycles than cars.
- The top issue, in terms of strength of feeling, is probably Bus Services.
- The state of Abingdon's traffic is more of a concern than Drayton's traffic.
- Few people object to the Village growing in numbers.
- Most people who comment on extra housing, would like to see a substantial increase in the amount of affordable housing.
- Most people are unaware of the possibility of an incinerator near Sutton Courtenay/Appleford.

## The Sutton Courtenay Incinerator.

As a result of EU directives, we need to drastically reduce the amount of waste going to landfill over the next 10 years. These directives were agreed by all member countries (UK included) some time ago. To encourage all countries to achieve the reduction targets, it was agreed that hefty fines would be imposed on those that fail. Oxfordshire must therefore reduce landfill waste dramatically. An incinerator is seen by many experts as being the best way of doing this. They say that incinerator technology has improved greatly in recent years, with the result that environmental impact has been much reduced.

At this stage, I would want to see a condition put on its building demanding that the proposed site is given a thorough environmental checkover before commencement (the air in that area is already thick with dust). I would also much prefer that those who have already decided that they do not want it did not fly-post around Drayton!

# WESTMINSTER LETTER

Ed Vaizey

I have had a busy start to the new parliamentary term. Despite the credit crunch there have been a number of debates on issues that fall within my portfolio. The very first session in Parliament was culture questions, and I raised the issue of world heritage sites. We have 27 in this country, and amazingly 7 are threatened with blacklisting by the international cultural organisation, UNESCO, including Westminster itself. Westminster and the Tower of London are at risk from a series of tall buildings that are planned for London, which would wreck London's historic skyline. I am pushing the Government to refuse these applications and have a proper policy to protect world heritage sites.



We also debated the digital switchover recently. This is a huge scheme to convert all our television to digital, so that by 2012 you will have to have a digital television set or a freeview box to watch telly. The scheme won't be coming to our part of the world for a while, but it is important to get it right as it is already underway.

Finally we had a debate on the BBC licence fee. Every so often, an MP suggests it should be abolished, and this provides an opportunity to debate the whole BBC and have fun at its expense. As far as I am concerned, we need the BBC now more than ever, and provided the licence fee is kept at affordable levels, and the BBC does not over-extend its remit, there is no reason why the BBC cannot continue in its present form.

Affordable is a word that is important these days. We are in the middle of the credit crunch, and a looming recession. I have already had constituents contact me concerning their savings in Icelandic banks, and am doing all I can to help. Our part of the world has a concentration of small hi-tech businesses, and I hope that their specialist nature means that they will be able to see through the recession as well as possible.

I am always available to speak to or meet with constituents facing difficulties. As usual I can be contacted by phone on 020 7219 6350; or by email to vaizeye@parliament.uk; or by post to House of Commons London SW1A 0AA. You can see me personally at my surgeries on Fridays at 5.30pm, at the Faringdon Corn Exchange on 7 November and Didcot, King Alfred Drive Community Centre on 21 November.

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