

East Challow Parish Council District Councillor Report June 12th 2024

A417

I have asked OCC Highways and the Vale Drainage officers for assurance that this will be fixed before next winter! So far I have had no response so I have asked our council leader to ask them in an official capacity.

Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF).

This fund is available for a number of projects including tourism. I am planning to submit a proposal to produce a leaflet/online guide/map covering the 7 villages immediately west of Wantage highlighting footpaths, byways and historical and natural assets including pubs and cafes. A map will be on one side and asset details and images on the other. This will be available for parish websites and also distributed to museums. Libraries etc.

HOSC (Oxfordshire Health Scrutiny Committee)

On the 6th HOSC reviewed three substantive items: (i) Integrated Neighbourhood Teams. This is the method for caring for patients at home rather than in hospital using interdisciplinary carers including the GPs. It is a great idea but we have concerns over staff and resources and the complexity of administering the system. The high cost of living here causes a problem in retaining junior staff and we are beginning to firm up a proposal for Oxfordshire Weighting, similar to London Weighting for junior NHS staff. (ii) End of Life Palliative Care. Where will it be done in the Wantage area. (iii) Oxford Health Quality Account. How well have they done in the last year.

The canal – interference

The stream that runs from half way between East and West Challow down to the A417 has been blocked by someone with a “Road Closed” sign. This increased the risk of flooding again of the two bungalows on Cornhill Lane. It has now been removed.

Temporary Traffic Restriction Order

The A338 will be close at The Ark bridge over The Ock on July 21-22 and Sept 8-9 for installation of further roadside barriers.

Speculation on Dandara

There has been speculation that the Dandara development has raised its head once more. This arose from a couple who are moving on to the Crest Nicholson site and they had looked at risks and found the old information. There is no indication that this is true. There is no planning application and the Vale has 6 years land housing supply available. This site is identified by the Vale as a potential site for development but there are many of these – East Challow is surrounded by land which landowners would like to sell for housing!

Road adoption

The County Council always wishing to keep their costs down now do not adopt roads on new housing estates instead employing management companies to do this. Unfortunately, they general do a poor job (see Nalder Estate) and charges can be high so that residents pay twice for the use of highways. Appalling situation.

Farmers and Food

Together with Cllr Val Shaw I visited the NFU in Grove on the 4th to discuss farmers' problems and how the Vale can help in this difficult time. Supermarkets have huge power which is frequently abused – milk prices come to mind. It would also be nice to see more local produce in the supermarkets and also farmers' markets.

Paul Barrow

Vale of White Horse District Council

20240604