

## **BOROUGH COUNCILLORS' REPORT 30<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2010**

This report covers the main activities of Old Windsor's Borough Councillors Malcolm Beer and Eric Wiles in the three weeks since 9<sup>th</sup> June. One or both of us attended and took part in the following Borough related meetings:

Full Council,  
Heathrow Airport Consultative Committee (HACC) Green Event & visit to Control Tower,  
Standards Board,  
Appeals Panel,  
Kings Court School G0vernorss  
Youth Club Management Committee,  
Rural Forum,  
Audit Review & Performance Panel,  
Local Authorities Aircraft Noise Council (LAANC) Exec & Council,  
Parish Conference,  
Borough Flood Group,  
Site Meeting re North Maidenhead Sustrans Permitted Cycleway,  
Crime & Disorder Overview & Scrutiny Panel.

Some examples of our meetings and very recent "casework" are listed below.

Malcolm submitted a motion to Council calling for it to approach the Local Government Association to press the new government to tighten up the Certificate of Lawfulness planning procedure which has been causing Old Windsor and other Parishes so much frustration. The main problem arises from fairly recent relaxation of "Permitted Development" rules intended to simplify the planning process, under which some local planning policies affecting the Green Belt and areas subject to flood risk are subject to a legal process in which Councillors cannot participate. Both the political parties wanted to second the motion and at a pre-Council meeting requested by a former Lead Member for Planning and a senior planning officer, I agreed to a slight amendment which won the unanimous support of the full Council.

The start of the 3 month temporary trial of Straight Road Traffic Lights at the junction with St Peters and Church Roads coincides with the current Parish Council meeting. The generous offer of the Parish Chairman to arrange delivery of over 800 explanatory leaflets to nearby residents and the shops got confused by his holiday arrangements so my wife and I delivered them plus a note about two preview sessions to be held by your two Borough Councillors to show larger plans and answer questions. Over 30 people attended and several constructive comments have been forwarded to Borough highways officers.

Contact with the Youth Services Manager resulted in a special Youth Club Management Committee meeting, involving several Parish Councillors, to try to finalise details of the alterations and improvements to the club which were imminent. I chased and collected final plans last week and after these were discussed with local youth leaders and youth members, I returned the data to the Manager in readiness for a start of the six week contract last Monday.

The visit to the Heathrow Control Tower by a small number of HACC representatives was a rare privilege and the view from the elevated viewing balcony within the uppermost glazed part was breathtaking as one looked down on planes landing and taking off as well as the distant landscape. The 'green' part of the visit was devoted to senior airport environmental executives and NATS air traffic controllers extolling their pollution control initiatives. Some of their statistics looked less impressive after Malcolm and Royal Borough colleague and Deputy Leader Cllr Phillip Bicknell quizzed them on such as what was the total carbon emission remaining after the impressive sounding 100,000 tonne saving under the recent programme – a fleabite of the 2.7 million tonne annual total was the reluctant answer.

The LAANC meetings endorsed my suggestion that it and the Council aviation consortium 2M should keep up the pressure among new Councillors, MPs and others to oppose a future change to Mixed Mode operation to maximise the use of Heathrow as that would not allow any "respite periods" when flights alternate between runways.

A phone call from an irate resident about the reverse tornado-like havoc created by a very low flying helicopter visiting Beaumont House brought about the suggestion that advice of the registration number of the helicopter would have been useful in following up the complaint. Before the phone number of the Head of Environmental Health was located the complainant phoned again with the number of the parked helicopter. The request that an urgent phone complaint be made by a senior officer before a repeat event occurred on take off resulted in an apology and a quiet departure over Runnymede.

The Crime & Disorder Overview & Scrutiny Panel considered a wide range of Police activities including Anti Social Behavior Orders (ASBOs), Stop & Search, Windsor Night Time Economy (clubs, etc), Prolific Offenders, and the Integrated Offender Management (IOM) initiative which brings police, probation and other services together to try to reduce the number of repeat offenders – the latter having connections with the Manor Lodge facility in Old Windsor. Yet again the reluctance of the public to report anti social behaviour or possible crime while it is happening to the 0845 8 505505 or confidential Crimestoppers 0800 555 111 numbers was highlighted as a major handicap in tackling events or targeting police coverage.

Eric arranged a meeting with the Head of Finance to sort out a threat of legal proceedings for arrears against a local resident who had no such problem but had written to the Council for advice on an unrelated matter. The ongoing very distressing and unforgivable mix up was promptly sorted out.

Concerns about the very poor condition of the central parking area on Kingsbury Drive are being taken up with Windsor Housing and RBWM. We have been notified that Lyndwood Drive will not be resurfaced until after Randall Court is rebuilt and the cost of any further deterioration of the road negotiated with the contractors. Enforcement of no parking on the layby before The Tapestries, which causes buses to obstruct both the road and vision from Manor Farm, is being sought.

Malcolm Beer and Eric Wiles.  
29<sup>th</sup> June 2010.

## **MEETINGS ATTENDED ON BEHALF OF OLD WINDSOR PARISH COUNCIL**

### **O.W.P.C. 30<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2010.**

I have not attended any meetings on behalf of the Parish since the last meeting as I had to offer my apologies in regard to the RBWM District Association of Local Councils (DALC) A.G.M. as I escorted my wife to a reception by the Bishop of Oxford in appreciation of the efforts of Christian Aid Week local organisers. I understand that I was re-elected Chairman of DALC in my absence and I am grateful to Old Windsor's other representative Cllr Tony Troughton, who was lumbered with taking the Chair for the meeting. Current activity revolves around sorting out banking arrangements now that problems with the Treasurership have been resolved.

Malcolm Beer.  
29<sup>th</sup> June 2010.