

## **BOROUGH COUNCILLORS' REPORT - OWPC WED 22nd OCTOBER 2008 submitted by Cllr Malcolm Beer.**

A brief verbal Report was given at the last OWPC Meeting, but this one seeks to record Old Windsor's Borough Councillors' activity since the last emailed Report of 24th September.

Cllr Eric Wiles has taken part in a Maidenhead Town Centre Redevelopment Presentation to Councillors (I had previously seen it at Local Development Framework Working Group), Audit & Performance Review Panel (which scrutinises ongoing expenditure and efficiency in detail), Windsor Town Forum (which considered the town parking issues and questions in detail), Maidenhead DCP (substitute) and on Monday 20th will be attending the Licensing Panel (taxis & liquor sales licenses).

We have both attended or taken part in a presentation by the new Chief Executive on Reorganisation of the Council, Members Training on Revised Standards Committee Procedures, a full Council Meeting in which I was deeply involved in two debates, Garden in Bloom Presentations, Windsor DCP (at which one of two items which I Called-In due to concerns with Planners' proposals saw us get their recommendation reversed in favour of the Parish view), Members Training re the Borough-wide Community Partnerships etc., Flood Awareness Event at Wraysbury (with the aim of arranging involvement with forthcoming EA inspection of Old Windsor Floodbank), Parish Conference, and on Tuesday 21st we will be attending the Randall Court Presentation and the Crime & Disorder Forum.

I have also attended and/or participated in meetings re proposed Cycling Circuit, Flood Awareness Event at Eton, and Windsor Parking Consultation Launch (after which I was interviewed by Windsor Express and Slough Radio regarding my opposition to the scrapping of the Relief Road Park & Ride scheme).

The Parish Council Chairman and I have been quoted in high profile local press articles about the vandalised fence of the footpath to the Recreation Ground after I reported it to the Borough and the police on two occasions to each. The press saw the item on the police Ringmaster crime awareness system. I have been involved in a series of email and phone contacts to urge urgent repairs.

I have sought action by Enforcement Officers about ongoing raising of ground level of a considerable area of a field close to the river. The quarry scalplings or gravel infilling has Flood implications and is also in the Green Belt.

I have also again raised the issue of the considerable increase in the number of bedrooms in the Beaumont House complex which have been granted under Listed Building Consent but not covered by any Change of Use application. I have suggested to Licensing and other senior officers that it would not be appropriate to allow licensed bar facilities in bedroom suites which have not been fully authorised under the planning process, while also drawing the attention of the Highways Dept to the tail backs from the security barrier.

I have asked for consideration of parking changes on Ouseley Road, where problems include permanently parked cars near Straight Road which make that junction very hazardous, and for comments on a suggestion put to me about changing the parking sides of Walpole Road in order to increase drivers' visibility around the bends. Any costs relating to Ouseley Road might be met from a previous S.106 payment relating to Beaumont.

Having been informed of the installation of "Real Time Information" displays regarding the Route 71 buses on Straight Road (at Borough expense), I responded to seek a more logical location for the ones proposed at the Harvester, i.e. near Walpole Road / the BP Petrol Station. There has been quite a lot of correspondence and a meeting with a Director of First Buses has been arranged to discuss this and the outstanding issue of the withdrawal of the "village road" bus service.

I was one of the two Borough reps on the Local Access Forum (which deals access to the countryside under the CROW Act), but the new administration at Borough has now replaced us with their own members. This Forum has some influence on Borough policy regarding footpaths, so I applied to rejoin it as an interested party. I was a little surprised to be reappointed, despite a limitation upon number of Councillors who are supposed to be on the LAF and having supported the Ramblers Association when I thought their submissions were justified.

Having recently been appointed a Borough rep on LAANC and re-elected as that body's Chairman, I have spent some while chasing the Technical Director to present his report on the implications of the current consultation on the Airport Operators Future Operational Plans. The Borough Environmental Health Officer has highlighted the continuing use of vague words and phrases in the DEFRA guidance notes which cannot be properly defined and are therefore likely to perpetuate the tensions surrounding the airports. I am trying to get LAANC to publicise the issue so that it and the 2M Group of Councils will work with others to get definitions regarding noise, etc. properly clarified.

Malcolm Beer. 19/10/08.