

Report from Abingdon Vale Councillors to Abingdon Town Council

1) From Cllr Max Thompson

I attended a site visit at Bellways, and I am continuing to monitor silt and mud issues. The Reserved Matters application has been called in by me and will likely come to the next planning meeting if EA objection is resolved.

2) From Cllr Andy Foulsham

We met with the Abbey Fields developer (David Wilson Homes), including their Technical Director, and the Planning Consultant working for CEG (the overall site promoter) on Friday 24th May, and were able to cover many of these issues. They explained that they tend to complete the landscaping as they get to work on each section of the development – they have nearly finished the western parcel (Baileys Crescent and the surrounding streets) and are moving onto the central parcel, which will be developed in an arc, starting from the western area and moving up to Lodge Hill (where the play area will be) and then down to the Oxford Road roundabout and the attenuation pond. That's the point at which the landscaping around the pond will take place. They will also replace the trees that were felled because they were diseased at that point.

3) From Cllr Oliver Forder

I was re-elected Vice Chair of the Vale at the Council's annual meeting. I have also been elected as Chair of the Vale Liberal Democrat Group and appointed as the Vale Champion for Culture and Heritage. In that context, I have made preliminary approaches with a view to identifying funding for the Abbey Buildings project should it proceed. More locally, I was delighted that I finally succeeded in having wrongly sited bicycle stands repositioned at Baileys Close by the County Council. I am also pressing to have a damaged perimeter fence at Long Furlong Primary School repaired by the Vale.

Report from Abingdon members

The Annual Meeting of the Vale of White Horse District Council was held on 22nd May. At this meeting Cllr Kiera Bentley was elected Chair of Council and Cllr Oliver Forder was elected Vice Chair of Council.

Leader of the Council Cllr Bethia Thomas has announced the Cabinet for 2024-25. These are as follows:

- Councillor Bethia Thomas: Council Leader and climate action, nature recovery and strategic partnerships
- Councillor Mark Coleman: Deputy Council Leader and environmental services and waste
- Councillor Sue Caul: Housing, leisure facilities and community buildings

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- Councillor Andy Crawford: Finance and property
- Councillor Lucy Edwards: Communications, customer services, legal and democratic
- Councillor Neil Fawcett: Economic development, workplace and IT
- Councillor Andy Foulsham: Policy and programmes
- Councillor Diana Lugova: Planning
- Councillor Helen Pighills: Community health and wellbeing

Full details of these roles can be found on the Vale of White Horse District Council website.

Oliver Forder
June 2024