

HEDGE END, WEST END AND BOTLEY LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE CHAIR'S REVIEW 2018/19

This has been my first year as the Chair of the Hedge End, West End and Botley Local Area Committee.

I have thoroughly enjoyed being involved in the key decisions for the local area and also meeting and supporting people from local organisations and working with local partners to improve where we live.

I have chosen a few highlights to illustrate the Committee's work in another busy year:-

**HEDGE END**

The Woodhouse Lane application is one of the most significant for Hedge End in many years. The building of a secondary school is desperately needed and subject to final approval from councillors, we look forward to seeing the development of both Deer Park School and the community provision.

Wildern Academy Trust will be managing Deer Park School. The Trust headed up by Marie Lou Litton is already a significant partner for the Borough Council. As the HEWEB representative on the Wildern Community Management Committee, I can testify to the many different community activities which take place on the Wildern School site. Apart from being an outstanding school in the academic sense, there are opportunities to enjoy acting, singing, cooking, arts and crafts and sport to name a few.

The Committee has also approved planning permission for a replacement pool roof and spectator seating which will also result in a "wow" factor as you enter the school site.

We will also refuse planning permission and are prepared to defend this decision at planning inquiries. The former Budgens site is a great example of this. In fact the Borough Council went one step further with this site and purchased it to ensure that its future was secured for the community. Since then we have re-opened the car park, 7 days a week and I was also pleased to re-launch the Park and Stride scheme for Shamblehurst School and Wildern School. I am pleased to see that the car park is being used by shoppers, users of Greta Park and the library along with those attending community events such as Remembrance Sunday.

There have been some significant projects in Hedge End which have been completed this year.

The Sunday Hill's Bypass which is the link between Heath House Lane, Kings Copse Avenue and junction 8 of the M27 has been open for a few months now. These works were part of the planning agreement for Boorley Park.

The Committee has also agreed to projects which will increase parking spaces in Ratcliffe Road; a road widening scheme in Waterbeech Drive; a dropped kerb in Downscroft Gardens

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to assist cyclist and pedestrians and has recently agreed to replace the boardwalk at the back of Berrywood School.

The Committee works in partnership with Hedge End Town Council and we have jointly funded new play equipment at Dowd's Farm and also significant building improvements at the old school house, known locally as HEYCA. We also provide match funding for the Teenage Drop in Centre (TADIC) which is a highly valued service for our local young people.

### WEST END

Hatch Farm has been the largest new housing development in West End this year. The local councillors do appreciate that this has caused disruption to the local residents. It is hoped that this will decrease now and the benefits of the site can start to be realised in terms of much needed affordable housing and community projects.

Our main focus in West End has been at Itchen Valley Country Park. The new signage and rebranding has been well received; in particular the carved entrance signage gives visitors a great first impression. New play trails have been introduced and proved to be an instant hit with children and their parents. In the summer holidays we were pleased to provide a new interactive play area inside the Highwood Barn. The Barn also benefitted from a new kitchen and café. The use of the café and Park has exceeded our expectations and we are now dealing with these "growing pains" before we embark upon the next stages of improvements.

The Country Park also achieved the Green Flag standard for the 10<sup>th</sup> year in a row.

We have completed other major projects in West End such as the Mill Gardens Play area, opposite Haskins and the public toilets near to the Parish Council which were officially opened by the Mayor.

The Ageas Bowl is another major focus of our work. The world class cricket facility hosted a test match this year and I was pleased to hear at the Ageas Bowl Liaison Panel that the traffic management arrangements had worked well and that complaints were at a record low. It is also pleasing to note the continued growth of two groups based at the Ageas Bowl, namely Poseidon Boxing Club and Choi Kwang Do martial arts.

We are also responsible for cleaning and maintaining the large set of stumps at the entrance to the Ageas Bowl site so hopefully you will have seen these looking resplendent during the season!

Further along the road, we have recently given Hilldene Community Centre some funding to improve their car park.

Finally we have been working with West End Parish Council on 2 public art projects. The first is for the former Moorgreen Hospital site and Tim Ward has been commissioned to design a

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piece of art which reflects the site's history. Tim has also been working with the local history society and St. James' School in order to complete the design.

The second project involves replacing the current "Welcome to West End" signage. Again a steering group has been created with the Parish Council to create the brief and select a winning design.

### BOTLEY

The focus of much of the Committee's work has been in Boorley Green. The well - established Working Group has been chaired by Councillor Kyrle and involves representatives from the Borough and Parish Council and the developers.

The site is developing with over 260 homes now occupied. The community centre and sports pavilion will be open later this year. These facilities along with the allotments, sports pitches and the Multi Use Games Area will be managed by Botley Parish Council.

The Boorley Park Primary School is also part of this development. Tamsin Hindley has been appointed as Head teacher and this is another school which will be managed by the Wildern Academy Trust.

The Boorley Green Public Art project is also underway. A public consultation was held in October and the steering group is now working on the themes of nature and history with an overriding aim of linking the sites at Boorley Park and Boorley Gardens.

Other significant planning applications have been the waste water treatment plant at the Boorley Gardens site and the Land North and East of Winchester Street for up to 375 homes. We also had an application from Sparshatts where we sought to improve the regulations for on - site parking, deliveries and landscape improvements on Brook Lane.

We continue to work with the Parish Council on planning matters and most recently this has involved meetings with representatives of the Botley Neighbourhood Plan Committee.

The Committee also works with the Parish Council to provide Friday Night Football for 10 to 19 year olds. These well run and enjoyable sessions attract on average 50 young people.

### ACROSS HEWEB

Decisions about the allocation of Committee resources are based on local need. Larger projects are prioritised and these form part of the Committee's Community Investment Programme.

There is a long list of expenditure for on-going issues approved by the Committee. However you will be relieved to hear that I won't be going into the detail but just to give you a flavour, these include:-

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Litter bins; tree works; flower towers in the village centres; protection of grass verges; fly tipping; traffic regulation orders (usually double yellow lines); speed limit reminders; roundabout landscaping; street name plates and Parksport.

We have also raised issues with the appropriate authorities on behalf of our residents such as the new Maypole Roundabout and we work with other bodies for example, the Environment Agency and Southern Water to help resolve the impact of flooding in Hedge End.

### CONCLUSION

On behalf of the Committee, I would like to acknowledge the support that we receive from our partners, staff, local organisations and volunteers. In particular when I was presenting the Committee's community and youth grants, I was humbled by the dedication of local people to provide services for many different parts of our community.

Looking to the future, our new local area action plan highlights our priorities including maximising the community benefits from the major housing developments. We will shortly commence consultation on the uses of Barnsland Recreation Ground and the skate park project for West End; finalise agreement for Woodhouse Lane to secure community use and ensure with Botley Parish Council that Boorley Park's community facilities are ready for use later this year.

Furthermore we will deliver improvements at Itchen Valley Country Park and continue to strengthen the HEWEB Youth Partnership.

**Councillor Cynthia Garton – Chair of the Hedge End, West End and Botley LAC**

**March 2019**