

OCC Councillor David Bartholomew's work in the community in 2014.....

Representing the residents of the nine parishes close to Henley, he is on the following County Council committees: Audit & Governance; Planning & Regulation and Cabinet Advisory Group on Income Generation. He attends most parish council meetings, providing written and verbal reports for each parish on county matters, together with a report on matters specific to a parish. In that context he works closely with Shiplake Parish Council on many local matters, most recently these include:

Thames Farm housing development, supporting the parish council's objection when the original application was refused and will do so again at December's Appeal Inquiry;

Development at Chelford House, where there is much local concern about the safety implications of a new house being built exiting onto the Reading Road, close to the crossroads and dangerous bends. David has opposed the recommendation to approve by OCC's Highways Dept. and spoke in support of the parish council's recommendation for refusal of the application at the October SODC Planning Committee meeting;

Experimental Traffic Order in Lower Shiplake, progress chasing OCC Highways Dept. to ensure the ETO ratified was ratified. This was necessary to make permanent the parking restrictions introduced the previous year. Ratification finally occurred in March. He is now supporting the parish council in its efforts to make further improvements to the scheme through another ETO, which is now in place;

Re-locating the Speed Camera near The Plowden Arms, the position of which has baffled most residents, as highlighted in the Shiplake Villages Plan (SVP) as being ineffective in reducing traffic speeds within the parish. David was instrumental in coordinating meetings with the OCC Road Safety Officer, SVP team, the parish council and Shiplake College. With the generous support of the college, the camera has been relocated to the other side of the road and proving to be effective in reducing traffic speed;

20 MPH Speed Limit Proposals, supporting recommendations within the SVP Report to meet with OCC road safety and other relevant parties to commission a speed survey, which would form the basis of a public consultation with all residents;

Minerals & Waste Plan Consultation, working with the parish council in response to proposals to extend the area for future extraction of gravel to the southern boundary of Shiplake;

Potential 3rd Bridge over the Thames, which Reading Borough Council and others are very keen to progress. In essence the proposal is to build a new bridge across the Thames linking the A329(M) to Caversham Park Village near the Playhatch roundabout. The current OCC and SODC position, which he and the parish council endorse, is that a bridge without supporting infrastructure will simply move traffic from Reading into South Oxfordshire, with the A4155 and B481 suffering in particular. There have been three summit meetings between John Howell, Rob Wilson and council leaders to discuss the way forward with a fourth summit imminent. David is taking a proactive stance on the issue on behalf of affected parishes;

Budget Support for parish council initiatives, where he has supported OCC grants to cover costs related to the SVP Report, the development of the new parish website and punt restoration for the Wargrave & Shiplake Regatta.