

## **Report to Parish Councils – October, November and part December 2023**

### **Members Bids**

Both bids for Cold Ash (recreation ground improvements) and Chieveley (Speedwatch project) have both been successful. I look forward to seeing things implemented.

### **General Ward Matters**

I have been working hard with a local resident re flooding in their garden, re Thames Water response times to this matter.

Coley Farm, Stoney Lane, has been generating some contact from residents, partly due to the location of the balancing pond outlets, but these are being built as per the plans. There have also been issues with larger vehicles travelling along Stoney Lane itself and doing damage to the trees, as well as the items being delivered!

Fly tipping in Oare – reported and investigations are ongoing to identify the owner of the items. As ever pot holes are being reported, as are blocked drains. Another item that appears regularly now is hedges that need cutting back, causing problems with footways and narrowing roads. There has been some activity around the travellers site in Hermitage – there is still an ongoing planning application, but officers have been waiting on additional information.

### **Wider Area**

#### **Travel**

Festive Free Bus Travel – 2 Saturdays coming up – 16<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> December – start your journey in West Berkshire (if traveling out of district make sure you get a return ticket).

#### **Budget**

We are still working hard to balance the budget for both the current year and the coming one. There is a consultation process now on re the 2024/5 year.

#### **Faraday Road**

Football has now returned to Faraday Road – obviously this is only a small step to having a full football club on the site, but a step in the right direction.

### **Portfolio – Children, Young People, and Education**

As part of my portfolio I have attended various local schools and recently was at the opening of the refurbished Castle @ Theale School. This has currently 12 places, rising to 30 by 2027/28 for children with social, emotional and health needs.

I attended the Learner Achievement Awards, which recognises the success of adult learners, covering apprentices, professional, academic and vocational courses which support families, communities, and health and wellbeing.

Willink School has recently opened an additional building to meet increased pupils.

Badgers Hill, iCollege, officially opened it's new premises in Calcot in October. This school works with young people to get them back into mainstream school.

I've also been dealing with issues around SEND children getting into specialist placements, and the ongoing problems with home to schools transport. No easy answers on this – but working with all agencies to ensure children are offered appropriate places where we can.

I'll take this opportunity to wish you a very Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.

Please feel free to pass on my contact details to any residents who may need to get in touch.

Heather Codling

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Chieveley and Cold Ash Ward, Liberal Democrats

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