



HUNGERFORD MATTERS....

Salisbury Road

At the full council meeting held on 2nd October, a vote by HTC Councillors agreed to stop any further Judicial Review action on West Berkshire Council's Development Plan Document (DPD) with regards to the allocation of Salisbury Rd. High Court Judge Holgate notified the Town Council on 27th September of his judgement not to allow HTC to proceed with its JR action to the hearing stage. This is obviously a disappointing result for the Town but we still have the option of challenging the planning application for Salisbury Rd when it is issued, likely to be later this year.

Post Office

Good News WH Smith will be taking over the former Martins store from 12th October. WH Smiths will also operate the Post Office service 7 days a week (an increase from 5 and half days provided by Martins) from this date. The outreach Post Office will continue in the library building on Tuesdays/Wednesdays and Fridays until Wednesday 11th October.

H'ford Trade Show

Many local businesses will be exhibiting at John O Gaunt School from 3.30pm till 6pm on Friday 13th October. This is an important free event for anyone looking for career or training opportunities. All welcome.

Oakes Bros Site

At a recent (WBC) Western Area Planning Committee meeting to consider a plan to build 30 flats on the former Oakes Bros site near to the towns railway station, WBC voted to reject the planning application mainly on the grounds that it would significantly reduce parking spaces for the users of the towns railway station.

Christmas Lights

The switch on for the Lights will take place on Sunday 3rd December at 5pm. The council has accepted a tender from a new supplier which will make a significant saving to the council's costs. A local VIP Jon Snow has accepted an invitation to switch on the lights.

Pigeons

The council has recently contracted for a 'trap and dispatch' process to reduce the number of pigeons in our town. With the benefits of reducing the amount of Pigeon droppings on our pavements and buildings in our streets. The Town and Manor jointly financed the cost of this undertaking.

Public Toilets

From the start of September HTC has employed a new contractor (after a tendering process) which will save the town approx. £3000 per year in costs. Healthmatic from Calne is the new supplier.

Hungerford Library

Negotiations are at an advanced stage with West Berkshire Council (WBC) regarding the long term lease of the library building. The lease will be at a peppercorn rent of £5 per annum. The building will be run on behalf of HTC by the newly formed Hungerford Library & Community Trust, which has 9 trustees mainly resident in Hungerford. The building will be known as the Hungerford Hub with future plans to open the building for the library, groups, charities and town events for 7 days a week. This compares today with the 3 and half days as a library. The library service will continue to be provided and fully staffed by WBC for the same opening hours as today. We will update you on our opening date and plans going forward once negotiations are completed with WBC.

Keith Knight (Mayor)
and Helen Simpson (Deputy)

