

Lakeside

The whole Lakeside site (between The Green and the bypass) has been sold to Ridgepoint Homes. The site has planning permission for 325 homes.

The new owner was very responsive when I complained that the Herris fencing across the entrance had blown down into the road (for the third time this year). They re-erected it with cross-bracing, which should stop it blowing down. They also told me that they intend to erect a hoarding across the entrance and they appear to have started on that. This should make the site more secure from unauthorised encampments.

Phone Boxes

British Telecom wanted to close the two phone boxes in Theale last year (this was the second time). However, they need permission from the council's chief planning officer. I was consulted and successfully asked to keep them.

The one at the corner of Englefield Rd is close to the centre of the village. The one at the corner of Deadmans Lane is close to the Theale Green School rear entrance and the bus park. Not everyone has a mobile phone and those that have them may not have them with them or the battery may be flat.

Both have been vandalised recently and I have reported them to BT.

Public Right of Way Improvement Plan

West Berks Council have started work on a ten-year improvement plan to make sure they meet local footpath needs, now and in the future.

They are consulting to help inform what their priorities should be in the years ahead. Responses needed by 30th May: <https://info.westberks.gov.uk/wbrowip>

Speed Limits

I have created two online petitions for 20MPH speed limits in Crown Lane/Blossom Lane and in the Meadow Way area in response to residents' concerns. I will present them to the meeting of the West Berks Executive on April 29th.

The following are the links to the petitions:

Crown Lane : <http://theale.org.uk/blossomlane20mph.html>

Meadow Way: <http://theale.org.uk/meadowway20mph.html>

I am also intending to ask for the limit in The Green to be reduced to 30MPH and for the 30MPH limit to be extended out along the Bradfield Road. When the two permitted housing development go ahead there will be two more road junctions, a foot crossing, much more traffic and more pedestrians. This will cause more road safety dangers. Also, 30MPH limits will require shorter visibility spays to be provided at the junctions and thus require less hedging and trees to be removed.

Theale Station

The scheme to provide a new footbridge with lifts, provide extra car parking and bring the new ticket office into use has been officially announced. There will also be accessibility improvements to Station Road and Brunel Road.

The project has been funded from Department for Transport "Access for All" scheme plus £4M from the Thames Valley Local Enterprise Partnership.

The railtrack through the station is being renewed.

Recycling

Plastic pots, tubs and trays are now being collected at the waste and recycling centres as an experiment.

West Berkshire Members' Bids

West Berks councillors can make a capital bid of up to £5,000 for projects within their ward.

Preference is given to projects that have the support of the parish council and match funding is required. Projects must support one or more of the council's strategies. Link to the strategy: <https://info.westberks.gov.uk/strategyandperformance>

Closing date is 22nd June. I would welcome suggestions from Theale Parish Council and have asked the clerk to put this on your next agenda.

Alan Macro

18th April 2021