

District Councillors Report for October 2019.

Over the summer holiday period your three District Councillors have been busy representing Ward interests at Council meetings on planning, climate change, support to parents and constitutional matters.

A contentious planning application was debated at the Eastern Area Planning meeting on September 18th. The application related to a site by Clayhill Road incorporating the southern part of Pondhouse Farm. The site had been designated for up to 100 dwellings, and was included in the current West Berkshire Local Plan. The principle of development had thus been agreed, or rather imposed upon us, and the present application was concerned largely with access, i.e. vehicular access at two points along Clayhill Road plus a footpath from the end of Coltsfoot Close. The two access points onto Clay Hill Road were debated re location, visibility and traffic generation. It was confirmed that there would be no traffic entering the site from Coltsfoot Close and that neither the footpath or the necessary SUDs works would involve the removal of any trees in the 15m boundary zone adjacent to the areas of woodland. The application was approved as recommended by officers.

At a full Council meeting on September 12th WBC voted to support the development of a third runway for Heathrow Airport, despite opposition from the LibDem and Green Party members who were concerned about its implications for the 2030 Climate Change challenge. The Council also approved a policy of supporting single parents should they wish to take a more active role in politics at District level.

There is a District/Parish Meeting scheduled for 22nd October in the WBC offices at 6pm.