

County Council Update
from County Councillor Anne Wight
January 2018

Happy New Year Edlesborough!

I would like to take this opportunity to wish Edlesborough Parish Council a very Happy New Year and hope that 2018 brings much happiness and prosperity to EPC and all the residents of Edlesborough, Northall and Dagnall!

Dagnall Roundabout Lighting Issues

As EPC are already aware, the streetlamp on the Dagnall roundabout is no longer functional.

After the TfB emergency team attended the site today to make safe the streetlamp, which was knocked down and is lying in the road this morning, TfB have told me that they have arranged for arrow boards to be installed on the roundabout as an interim measure.

With regards to the installation of the new equipment, the job is not as simple as it first appears and does require coordinated working from a number of disciplines in order to achieve the desired final outcome.

TfB are looking to install the new column along with the integrated signage on the week commencing 29/1/18 with all works to be finished in that week.

They have further assured me that they completely understand that this needs to be done as soon as possible but do need to do it in a planned manner and with the correct resources in place is the correct course of action rather than with multiple visits for little if any gain.

Station Road Cheddington Diversions

From 10th January for approximately one month, Station Road, Cheddington will be closed completely from the junction of Mentmore Road for 640 meters. Diversion routes are being set up which will include Long Marston Road, Cheddington Lane, Tring Road, Wingrave Road, Lower Icknield Way, Marsworth Road, High Street, Church Road, Station Road, and Horton.

These works are expected to cause minor delays for local residents and restrictions on road parking in that area, but they are necessary due to Anglian Water pipe repair in Cheddington.

I have sent round today to the affected parish councils the temporary changes to the school bus timetable due to the Cheddington road works. These will be the same as were followed during the Horton Road roadworks in October. Parents were also notified by email if they were on the BCC email list. Affected schools were also alerted and told to inform students and bus drivers will be reminding students of the

temporary timetable over the next few days so that all students and their parents should be informed.

Planning Application 15/00374/APP for Marsworth Airfield

As IPC may know, this application is now due to go to Committee at AVDC some time in the next few weeks. BCC is objecting to this application on several grounds, and the officer informs me that the deadline for comments is 31 January.

Children's Centre Changes

As the number of children and families needing support has increased, it became necessary to look again at how BCC was managing to get help to families undergoing domestic difficulties in a way that offered support to the family before their problems got out of control and escalated to the point where children needed to be taken into care. As part of that process, it was discovered that the service provided by children's centres was not really reaching the families most in need, and at an early enough point to provide them with proper assistance. Hence, the service is being restructured to allow for the new Early Help service to target families much more effectively than currently is the case, and to provide assistance early on.

The new Early Help service will have family workers who will operate out of nine proposed team bases, but, and very importantly, in a variety of community locations that are the most appropriate at which to engage with children and families in a way that builds trust and relationships. BCC is happy to work with communities so that buildings currently used as children's centres can be used for other community activities instead. BCC welcomes open discussions with the communities to ensure that there is a tailored solution for all such local communities and the cabinet decision approves officers having those discussions over the next six months.

College Lake

I was very pleased last month to have been invited to see the wonderful nature reserve on our doorstep which is College Lake by the Berks, Bucks & Oxon Wildlife Trust (BBOWT).

As residents may already know the Trust looks after 88 nature reserves across the three counties, covering about 2,500 hectares. Working closely with local communities, decision-makers, landowners and businesses, they work with and for nature.

All three counties have suffered 70 years of habitat destruction, with meadows, hedgerows and woods having disappeared under houses and roads. Consequently, BBOWT is restoring and creating more places for wildlife and people, where even small changes make a big difference.

Their aim is to lead the way for nature's recovery, and connect people with nature, and their vision is for an environment rich in wildlife, valued by all. Everyone can make a positive difference to their local environment.

If anyone is interested in joining the BBOWT, do please have a look at their website for the Highlights of 2017 below:

<https://youtu.be/sYmGL7V9av8>

as well as their website at: bbowt.org.uk

If anyone is interested in supporting the Trust, or would like more information about their work, please use the following email and they will be very happy to help you.

biancarush@bbowt.org.uk

LLACC and Heathrow Expansion consultations

In the next few weeks, many residents in Bucks will receive a Heathrow Airport Expansion and Airspace Principles Consultation Leaflet. This will provide details about the next public consultation, which will start on 17 January and run until 28 March 2018. The leaflet will provide details about the consultation, how to respond, and a list of local consultation exhibition events that will be held during February and March.

There is a short video which explains more about Heathrow's forthcoming consultation below

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?feature=youtu.be&v=TboP3BBiQRY>

The link below provides more information about Heathrow's expansion plans.

<https://www.heathrowexpansion.com>

I am happy to take any resident viewpoints to the next LLACC meeting on 22 January later this month, as the officer working on this at BCC is also working on the Luton airport expansion as well.

According to our BCC aviation planning officer, the next stage of this consultation in late 2018 will have some indication on possible impacts for Luton airport expansion. Luton interim airspace change principles (2018 to 2025) are also likely to be consulted on from summer this year.