

**Report by Cllr Bob Johnston**

1. We are now in the run up to the annual budget. My Group (in common with the other two) has started work on our budget. We are expecting a briefing on Resources by the County Finance Officers on the 17th of November which will further inform our thinking. Matters will only become public in February when all the final figures, including the HM Government settlement are known.
2. The Vale has published its Local Plan Part 2. This impacts on my position as a County Councillor in as much as the Vale is proposing to safeguard some land in Sunningwell for a cycle track/bus lane to connect the proposed housing site at Dalton Barracks and the airfield with the proposed Park and Ride and Lodge Hill. The County Officers are not happy with this as it impinges on Green Belt land of very high visual impact, when the matter could be resolved in other ways. It is my hope that this can be resolved because it would be disastrous if the County were to object to aspects of the Plan at the forthcoming Examination in Public. I will update you as more information becomes available.
3. The prospect of the Oxford to Cambridge Expressway which could start from Lodge Hill has raised the prospect of the park and Ride being built. There is no funding for this at present, it has also resurrected the possibility of the Lorry Park.
4. I can still get no information on the electrification of the Didcot to Abingdon railway line.