

Report by County Councillor Bob Johnston

I fear you will have to accept my apologies. I am chairing a meeting in Eynsham at 6pm and I don't think I will be able to get from there to South Hinksey in good time for your meeting. However, I have set out a report below.

1. The planning application for Lodge Hill will now go to committee later than previously thought. Currently I do not have a date. Meanwhile the works in respect of traffic calming I am assured are going on in parallel, including the weight limit on the A4183.

2. A planning application to replace the bridge over the railway on the Eastern by-pass is also being progressed. It will be built in two parts alongside the current structure and then slid into place to minimise disruption.

It will feature a new bus lane and a shared footpath and cycle track. It will also provide for the passage of the Oxford Relief Channel with part of the work being paid for by the Environment Agency.

3. Tomorrow it is as certain as one can be that the rise in the County Council element of the Council Tax will be 4.99%. As previously explained, this is to shore up the Social Services budgets and start to address the deficit on special needs transport (SEND). Low income households will get a £200 rebate which will operate in parallel with the Vale Council Tax reduction scheme aimed at the same group.