

When considering housing locations was traffic impact on the High Street, Church Street and routes to the M4, A4 and railway considered?

Traffic and travel impacts were a major consideration for all sites and was the most common concern during the consultation, notably the wish to the minimise impact on the High Street. All sites will have some impact both during construction and when occupied. The preferred locations are in part chosen as they are within a reasonable walk to facilities and shops.

How will our streams be protected from pollution?

An environmental assessment has been carried out that will ensure our streams will be protected. The Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) looks at all the protections in detail and comments on the SEA are also welcomed. When a planning application comes forward on either of these sites, planning policy ensures that the development does not pollute rivers.

How many low cost affordable houses will be provided?

We can expect 40% to be affordable which would total about 22 dwellings.

Will there be any extra facilities or recreation areas for the new housing?

Yes, most notably the Smitham Bridge site will mean that the allotments on Marsh Lane will be transferred to the Town Council permanently. As referred above, there will be some more developer funding available that we can spend on local facilities.

How will the current sewage systems cope with extra housing?

Thames Water have been consulted with regard to the number of additional housing and no objection was raised by them. There is likely to be a connection charge per dwelling to help cover the additional demand on the system.

There will be increased traffic from the new housing estates. Will there be any highway improvements such as roundabouts?

A transport assessment or transport statement will have to be submitted with the planning applications. These will assess any detailed impacts. However, given the volumes of additional traffic generated, it is not expected to require major new highway infrastructure.

What happens next?

After this consultation, all representations made will be considered and revisions made where appropriate. The plan will then be sent to West Berkshire District Council which will arrange a further six weeks public consultation. Then there is an Examination undertaken by an independent examiner who will review the plan. Subject to the plan being acceptable, it then goes to a referendum for the parish to say Yes or No. All these things take time, and the public referendum should take place later in 2024 or early in 2025.



ARTS for HUNGERFORD

As we look beyond the chocolate and Easter bunnies, Arts for Hungerford has plenty of late-spring entertainment coming up.

On Friday 19th April, fresh from Oscar glory, we have *Poor Things*. Best Actress Winner Emma Stone plays Bella Baxter, the childlike and mysterious ward of a Victorian anatomist. The film charts Bella's sensual journey of self-discovery with louché lawyer Duncan Wedderburn (Mark Ruffalo) as they travel across continents. *Poor Things* is a gorgeous and smart steampunk parable which also won Academy Awards for Production Design, Make-up and Hairstyling, and Costume Design.



It's time for classic rock hits on Saturday 20th April with Hejira – A Celebration of Joni Mitchell. Accompanied by and experienced 7-piece band, outstanding vocalist/guitarist Hattie Whitehead captures the poise, power and beauty of Joni's vocals, bringing Mitchell's poetic masterpieces thrillingly to life. Alongside renditions of numbers from Joni's 1980 live album *Shadows and Light*, we can expect hits such as 'Woodstock', 'Free Man in Paris', 'Amelia', and of course 'Hejira'.

Anthony Hopkins and Johnny Flynn star as the older and younger Nicholas Winton in biopic *One Life*, showing on Friday 26 April. In the late 1930s, Winton, a British stockbroker and humanitarian, saved hundreds of Jewish children from the Holocaust. Called 'the British Schindler', Winton was later recognised for his life-saving efforts in an appearance on the BBC's 'That's Life', when he met many of those he had rescued 50 years earlier. This film recounts his life-saving achievements and his own reflections on his actions decades later.



Saturday 11 May brings Bugeye to town. Influenced by Bowie and Blondie, and channelling Nineties' acts like The Subways, Ash, Elastica, and Blur, Bugeye fuses post-punk with Noughties' optimism. Hailing from Croydon, this all-female four-piece released their debut album *Don't Stand in the Way of Good*...

