



## IKEA Planning Progress

On 4th April the development of IKEA on Pincents Lane Retail Park was approved. The meeting was well attended by the public and other interested parties, such as Sainsbury's, plus representatives from several local parish councils. Figures were presented relating to expected traffic volumes. The cost of updates to the highways was estimated at £5 million. One point raised during the debate after the application was reviewed was that, should Ikea not progress with development, it would theoretically be possible for an interested party to take over the derelict site next to the Porsche dealership without needing to apply for planning permission and with no need to address any issues such as increasing traffic volumes. The view of some councillors was that because Ikea had needed to apply for planning permission, any potential traffic issues also needed to be addressed. Refusing the planning application, therefore, might lead to worse traffic issues in the future than if it were granted. It is proposed that the no. 26 bus route be extended from outside of Sainsbury's to outside IKEA instead. Buses will stand outside Ikea. The National Express coach stop will move from Junction 12 to Junction 11, which may be an inconvenience for local residents who are currently able to walk to the stop, but is thought by West Berks Council to ease the burden of traffic at the Sainsbury's bus stop in the future. When built, the store will be 22 metres high (equivalent to a 7-storey building) and provide over 39,000 sq. metres (425,000 sq. ft.) of retail floor space over 3 levels. The car park will contain 1,179 spaces. Around 400 jobs will be created, consisting of both full- and part-time roles. The decision was made to approve the application by a vote of 7 votes for to 4 against.

## Jet Black Buses

You may have seen the notices warning that Reading Buses were proposing a change of route for the Jet Black to avoid the east end of the High Street and visit the railway station instead. Thanks to the prompt actions of Alan Macro in organising a petition, with publicity organised and signatures collected by members of Theale's Future, the proposal was dropped and the bus service through the High Street is now safe. Theale's Future will continue to try to publicise any events or changes that affect or may interest the community of Theale. If you have events or concerns let us know (contact details below).

## Theale's Future Public Meeting

There will be a general meeting of Theale's Future in the Red Lion function room at 7:30 on 15<sup>th</sup> May open to all and you are all invited. Please come and hear what we have achieved in the last year (**Station Access, Jet Black**) and tell us what you would like us to do in the next year. As well as publicising various events that affect the Village (IKEA planning application, Jet Black

re-routeing, library activities) we try to organise and take action to improve Theale.

## Library Opening Hours



You might have heard that the opening hours of the library are due to change due to cuts to council budgets. The change reduces the number of hours the library is open to 26 hours per week. In order to have

opening hours that suit the community, West Berkshire Council invited people to vote on their preference of three alternatives by way of an online survey on the West Berkshire Council website. 229 votes were cast, and the Library Services team at the council also received "a number of helpful comments". The most popular choice took 42.8% of the vote, and as a result, the opening hours will change to:

- Monday: 13.00 - 17.00 Tuesday: Closed
- Wednesday: 10.30 - 17.00 Thursday: 13.00 - 19.00
- Friday: 10.30 - 17.00 Saturday: 09.30 - 12.30
- Sunday: Closed

Theale Library will be open during these hours all year round with effect from May 8th 2012.

## Station Access update



First Great Western has been successful in securing £1,250,000 for Theale Station to install a footbridge with lifts to both platforms. This is something that rail users have wanted for some time and fits with the company's stated aim of improving services to customers. The scheme is currently at the design and development phase. Consultants are being appointed following a tendering exercise and First Great Western are carefully reviewing the scheme to see if any further funding is needed. The lift bridge approval comes shortly after First Great Western announced plans for National Station Improvement works to the ticket office. If possible the schemes will be linked to reduce inconvenience during the building works and to maximise the benefits for customers.

## Diamond Jubilee Events

A large number of representatives of clubs and societies have had several meetings under the chairmanship of the Rev. Ann Templeman to discuss the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and the ways in which the community of Theale could celebrate the event. The Jubilee celebrations will cover four days from Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> June to Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> June.



These meetings have concentrated on a Diamond Jubilee Garden Party to be held on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> June. A cricket match is being held on the main field so the event will be held on the Recreation field (behind the pavilion) from 12:20, after the 11 o'clock morning service at Holy Trinity. Various ideas have been put

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forward and many volunteers agreed to organise or investigate them for the event. The ideas include bouncy castle, face painting, tug-of-war, other games, stalls, refreshments, a picnic area, pageant or fancy dress parade.

If you would like to contribute ideas, volunteer to help, or are already setting up your own event, come along to the next meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> April at 4.30 pm or contact either Ann Templeman (0118 9302759) or Theale's Future (contact details below). We would like to hear your suggestions and avoid competing with your events.

### Olympic Torch



The Olympic torch will pass through Theale on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> of July at approximately 10am! There is a planning committee in place representing local businesses, schools and community groups

to organise an event for this very special occasion. More information will be made available shortly, in the meantime check out the website for updates and if you have any suggestions for events for the day please let us know via email on [info@thealevillage.com](mailto:info@thealevillage.com)

### What activities do you want for young people in Theale?

Theale Parish Council is working with the Neighbourhood Wardens to try to provide activities for young people in Theale. This is to help fill the gap left by West Berkshire Council's closure of the youth clubs it used to run. Alan Macro, Councillor for Theale on West Berkshire Council, is carrying out an on-line survey for the parish council to see what kinds of activities are



wanted. We want to hear what all residents want, but particularly want to hear from young people themselves.

To take part in the survey, please go to <http://kwiksurveys.com/?u=ThealeYouthSurvey>

### New Facility Opens its Doors for Recycling Residents!

A new household waste recycling facility is now open for West Berkshire residents. The recycling centre is



located in the new state of the art Waste Management Facility found along Padworth Lane, Lower Padworth managed by Veolia Environmental Services, on

behalf of West Berkshire Council. The site is open: 12.30pm-6.00pm Monday-Friday. On Saturdays, Sundays and Bank Holidays from 8.00am - 6.00pm.

The new facility will allow residents to recycle over 20 different types of waste materials such as soil and rubble, cardboard, drinks cartons (Tetra Paks), garden waste (but no food waste please), wood, fridges and

freezers and much more! However, the site will be unable to accept general household rubbish and furniture. These items can still be taken to Newtown Road Household Waste Recycling Centre, Newbury.

For further information please contact West Berkshire Council's Customer Service Team on 01635 519080 or email [customerservices@westberks.gov.uk](mailto:customerservices@westberks.gov.uk)

### Mini recycling sites around Theale

In addition to the new household waste recycling facility at Padworth, there are a number of mini recycling centres in and around Theale. Please let us know your thoughts on the questions below, either by commenting on the Forum on the Theale's Future website or by email to [environment@thealevillage.com](mailto:environment@thealevillage.com)

Q1 Do you think the range of recycling facilities in and around Theale is sufficient? (If Yes please answer Q3, If No please answer Q2 & Q3)

Q2 Are there any additional items you would like to be able to recycle in and around Theale? If so please let us know which items.

Q3 Are there any other locations surrounding Theale where you would like to see a mini recycling site? If so please let us know where and which items you suggest should be collected/recycled.\*

*\*Please note that there is not necessarily a budget for improving recycling centres in Theale and any additions would require permission from the land owner.*

Theale's Future will summarise the responses and submit the results to West Berks on May 31<sup>st</sup> 2012.

### BERKSHIRE COUNTRY FAYRE; Sunday May 27<sup>th</sup> 2012. Nr Theale/ Pangbourne



Berkshire Country Fayre has all the usual aspects of a major County Show with main ring attractions, craft and food marquees, trade stands, animal/farm corner, vintage machinery, club stands, dog show, attractions and kids entertainment. This year will feature a

major Flyball event, Falconry and Polo displays, local schools and classic cars.

**Berkshire Country Fayre 2012;** hosted by Bradfield & District YFC, by kind permission of the Benyon Trust and Englefield Estate. **Nr Theale/ Pangbourne, Sunday May 27<sup>th</sup> 2012.**

Booking forms NOW available please ask; Mrs Lydia Bendall 07733 325110  
[berkshirecountryfayre2012@gmail.com](mailto:berkshirecountryfayre2012@gmail.com)

### Contact Us

If you would like to contact Theale's Future regarding any of the articles in this newsletter; or be involved with the group, we would love to hear from you:

Email: [tf@thealevillage.com](mailto:tf@thealevillage.com)

Post: **Theale's Future**, c/o TPC, The Pavilion, Englefield Road, Theale RG7 5AS

Did you know Theale has its own Twitter account? Follow @Theale to keep abreast of village affairs, or contact us there also.

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