

Your views

**talk
to us**

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CHRISTIAN Viewpoint

More light for the darkness

WHEN we first moved to the countryside, without any streetlights, I quickly realised how important it was to always carry a torch when I went out without one and walked straight into a ditch. I hope I wouldn't have done that in the daylight.

CS Lewis, author of the Narnia books, once said that he believed in Christianity in much the same way as he believed in the sun – not just because he could see it, but by it he could see everything else.

In other words, the Christian faith enabled him to see things 'as they really are'. It made sense of the world.

As a Christian, I would agree with him. Without it, we're left in the dark, scrambling around for ideas as to what life is really all about and where we fit in.

The Christian faith doesn't just provide good morals for how to act, it provides a way of making sense of the world.

Why the world is as it is, where we fit in, and what God is – and will – do about it.

Without being simplistic and trite, Christian faith is not so much about what you know but who you know.

God sent his Son not to give us easy answers but to lead us to himself, the truth about ourselves and our world.

As Jesus himself said: "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." (John chapter 8 verse 12)

REV JULIAN GADSBY
Thatcham

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Our estate does not need a 20mph limit

I WRITE on the subject of the proposed speed reduction for the estate streets in Thatcham (*Newbury Weekly News*, October 16).

I have lived on the Dunstan Park estate since 2014.

It is a well-designed estate with a wide variety of housing of good architectural quality.

The roads laid out in the 1990s have plenty of traffic-calming features, such as pinch points, raised road platforms and raised roundabouts and there are no straight sections of any length to encourage any speed increase.

So I have lived here for 11 years and never noticed any speed problem.

The estate roads already police themselves by virtue of a quality design and layout.

I hope that those who propose and support this reduction will take the opportunity to visit Dunstan Park and walk and drive around to assess whether there is any problem that needs to be addressed by a speed reduction.

Since reading of the proposals I have driven to and fro as I do each day and noted that in my coming and going I am not exceeding 20mph.

My point is there is no problem that needs a solution. The estate has been so well designed that it self-polices on speed.

What will this proposal cost?

There will be officer time spent on publicising the proposal, legal work in drafting the statutory orders to discharge existing legal orders and complete new ones.

I say to the council, why not save the money in addressing a non problem and divert the cash to filling in the potholes that blight all of our local roads?

RICHARD CRUMLEY
Cowslip Crescent
Dunstan Park, Thatcham

Thanks for Thatcham's poppy display

I JUST wanted to thank the people responsible for the poppy display around Thatcham Broadway.

I walked around today on a lovely sunny morning and it looks fantastic.

Thanks to all who made the poppies and those involved in putting them up.

Lest we forget.

ALAN MCARTHUR
Thatcham



Kennet School pupils make poppies

20mph limit is a waste of time and money

I SAW the article in the October 16 edition about the 20mph speed limit reductions for most roads in Thatcham and I would like to encourage residents to respond to the survey on the West Berkshire Council website.

A 20mph speed limit throughout Thatcham would not be beneficial because:

1. There is no discernible public demand or support for a 20mph speed limit on most roads across Thatcham and since the council is proposing the reduced speed limits "where residents want it", it confirms the council do not have a mandate or agreement from local residents to introduce a 20mph limit.
2. There is a huge cost involved in terms of planning, advising, introducing and enforcing the reduced 20mph speed limit and this money could be better spent improving the road surfaces around Thatcham and perhaps providing more parking close to the shops and services we all use.
3. There will be no additional monitoring or enforcement of the reduced speed limits and so why bother introducing a 20mph limit if it will only be left to road users to

'self-enforce' the reduced speed limit?

MR P GOMM
Hebden Close
Thatcham

Daft driver could have caused head-on crash

I WAS walking up Chestnut Crescent and when I got up to the roundabout a blue car went by and I can't believe what I saw.

The driver didn't go round the roundabout but turned left and went down Dolman Road.

If someone had been coming up there would have been a head-on collision with no fault of the person coming the right way.

How daft can drivers be?

KEITH HAINES
Poplar Place
Newbury

Developers must be held to commitments

I FIND it hard to adequately express in words the disgust I feel for David Wilson Homes and their repeated attempts to wriggle out of their obligations to deliver commitments contractually required of them as a consequence of being awarded housing

development projects.

In the latest case, reported on the front page of last week's *NWN*, DWH are attempting to renege on their obligation to build a new primary school to accommodate the local population increase that their housing development will introduce.

Their reasoning is that a claimed falling birthrate trend in the region no longer supports this need.

Having observed a number of developments awarded to David Wilson Homes in recent years it seems likely that they must enter into these projects with a pre-defined strategy of how and when to back out of future contractual obligations, presumably to increase their profit margins.

Quite what effort DWH spends on this type of strategy is unclear but what is clear is the time, effort and expense that will now be inflicted upon our taxpayer-funded council to review and adjudicate these cynical moves.

Apart from robustly quashing this latest attempt to squirm out of a contractual obligation, I would urge West Berks Council to review how conditional obligations are written into these types of development contracts.

My recommendation would be to replace specific obligations (such as the build of a new primary school) with a proportionate upfront payment from the chosen developer that can be allocated to fund local social and infrastructure development projects of the council's choosing.

I am sure that David Wilson Homes are not alone in their attempted manipulation of contractual commitments, however with such an emphasis on delivering new housing at present, it is vitally important that they and others are not allowed to profit hugely at the expense of the provision of critical public services.

RICHARD STOCKWELL
Eddington

My Newbury



THIS *My Newbury* picture of Hampstead Norreys pond was taken on a beautiful autumnal morning by Tracey Godsmark.

Why not take some inspiration from this and send the *Newbury Weekly News* and *Newburytoday* some of your photographs?

They can be of anything – the weather, events you are attending or what's happening in and around West Berkshire.

If you have a picture that you would like to submit for consideration, please send it to editor@newburynews.co.uk

Or send it to our twitter account @newburytoday using #MyNewbury, but remember to let us know where the picture was taken and by whom.

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