

Chairs of political parties serving Shinfield Parish

26 May 2021

Dear Chair

I am writing to you today to express the views of the members of Shinfield Parish Council who have become concerned by the factual content of various pamphlets and newsletters published by local political parties during 2020 and 2021.

Shinfield Parish Council is a non-political council formed by from a wide range of members of whom some may be affiliated to political parties outside the parish council. Members have been elected or co-opted on the basis of their independence with no members are serving with a political allegiance.

Shinfield Parish encompasses the South of M4 Strategic Development Location and has seen in excess of 3,750 new houses consented with 500 - 700 expected to follow. Shinfield Parish Council is working with developers and the University of Reading to build the best possible community for existing and new residents that can be created with this massive house building programme.

Members are concerned that political parties, who are not directly involved in these discussions, are giving inaccurate and sometimes misleading information.

Members have been concerned by the inclusion of parish council achievements, such as opening the new Spencers Wood Pavilion, in newsletters and pamphlets from which the residents may infer that the council is aligned to one political party or another which, as I have stated, it is not.

Members have been further concerned that newsletters and pamphlets have indicated that detailed work by the parish council to provide safe movement around the area is not happening at all.

One of our councillors has recently submitted an update on finalising producing maps, notice boards and wayfinding signage for cycleways and footpaths which the parish council will implement over the next few months. The council has worked with developers and landowners to plan new routes, join up disparate sections of pathways, create alternatives to using busy roads and improve existing routes.

We are in the last 4 months of completing new community centre at School Green and hope that this will provide the community with an excellent focal point. Members, who are unpaid, have made a tremendous effort to deliver this scheme for residents.

I look forward to working with your organisation and would simply ask that you are careful in your publications and indeed seek information from us to ensure accuracy of content and that they don't imply points which in relation to the activities and achievements of Shinfield Parish Council, are incorrect.

Yours faithfully



Andrew Grimes

Chair, Shinfield Parish Council