

### **RAF Brize Norton Consultation Meeting**

Range of updates on activities at the Base such as Anniversary flypasts etc., and the appointment of the new Station Commander, Group Captain Dan James. The following is an update on Items that might be of particular to our Villagers.

1. The Base website <https://www.raf.mod.uk/our-organisation/stations/raf-brize-norton/> has been updated, and will continue to be so with a new portal area for communications, however are specific details on flying schedules and links regarding flying complaints.
2. No 11 Squadron has joined the base with the addition of 172 personnel who will be covering tasks that had been due to be outsourced to private companies.
3. Personnel numbers have now stabilised at the Base with 5,800 service personnel and 2,000 contractors and is not to increase, contradictory to other suggestions. FYI there were 6,000+ based at Brize in the 1960's.
4. Housing, for the next 2-3 years this will be static. In the 3-5 year time frame it is planned that 300 homes of a blended nature i.e. military and non-military, will be built on the Rema North and Rema Central locations in the centre of Carterton. This will include social and welfare amenities. At this point it is expected the 100 families that are currently housed in Fairford will return to Carterton. It was pointed out that fewer families are requesting MOD housing and that as Brize Norton is a career base for many increasingly personnel choose to purchase property in the local area. Currently only 6 families are in private rental properties which again contradicts suggestions that the Base is driving the shortage of rental property locally.
5. As a result of a detailed inspection report, and contrary to their previous suggestion, the runway has only 2 areas that need resurfacing and this should not impact on the local area. During October there will be no flying on Friday and Saturday nights to allow for runway light upgrade work to be undertaken.
6. Other noise related topics were discussed but related specifically to activities on the Base and not to flying activities i.e. 25m firing range.
7. A general discussion took place regarding the issue of traffic in the area. Whilst it is accepted that the Base does contribute to traffic levels the consensus amongst all those present was the lack of planning with regard to the road network to support the extensive housing development that has taken place in the Carterton area, along with the services such as supermarkets etc., to service this increase. The issue of the currently unsuitable through route of the B4477 both north and south of Carterton was specifically highlighted and supported with photographic evidence highlighting our issues in Filkins & Broughton Poggs. The Base fully supports this and would address it at the Civilian and Military Partnership meeting with WODC.

### **Filkins Transport Group**

A meeting was held in the Village on 23<sup>rd</sup> July to gauge the support from the village regarding the changing dynamics of traffic in and around the village. It was acknowledged by the 25+ attendees there are some key issues to be addressed such as volume and type of traffic, along with speeding. Cllr Peter Handley also attend and gave us his perspective on the development of Carterton/Brize Norton and how this would affect us.

Richard Martin is currently following our concerns up with Susan Halliwell, Director of Planning and Place at OCC.

As a result of the liaison between WODC Councillors and Oxfordshire County Council, Highways Department a 'heat map' survey of various junctions and roads within a 5 miles radius of Carterton was undertaken in July the results of which have now been published and other members of the Transport Group are using this to develop an action proposal. Some key points highlighted by the data:

- Typically around 4,500 vehicles a day travel along the B4477 past the Gassons
- At least 4% of that traffic is HGV's
- Around 39% of the traffic travelling north from Lechlade on the A361 turns right on to the B4477 at Filkins.
- 15% of cars were travelling at 20% or more above the speed limit.

#### Carterton & Broadshires Public Transport Group (64 Bus)

The formalisation of this group is underway so that it may receive funding to pursue the provision of some form of local transport between Carterton and Lechlade, through the Broadshire Parishes. Activity, supported by Cllr Handley/WODC to assess the possibilities of how we could implement some level of bus service is underway including liaison with other communities who have undertaken a similar project. Greater support from local Parishes is needed so please contact [Kym.Ford@filkins.org.uk](mailto:Kym.Ford@filkins.org.uk) if you would like to become more involved.