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| Dear SBW Supporter,Please find below the latest Campaign news as well as a message on Blenheim Estates Natural Health Service.  Also, a reminder that there is a Cumnor community event tonight - more details below.Have a great weekend,The SBW Campaign  |
| **News** |
| **“The SBW Flyers”**The Community Communications Team (the SBW Flyers) met this week to discuss the upcoming Public Consultation. Several concerns were raised with respect to the representation of some affected Parish Councils in the PINS process as well as other matters regarding the role of District Councils in responding to the planning process. |
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| **Black boxes on our footpaths**Black boxes have appeared on some footpaths on land owned by Blenheim Estates. These boxes are reported by Blenheim as having been actioned by the Head of Innovation. Their purpose is to allow better management of footpaths and the data are apparently open source and available to anyone. We believe it is likely that the data will be used in the planning process for Botley West, particularly the Environmental Impact Assessment. We ask residents who are using the affected footpaths not to interfere with these devices or try to spoof them in anyway. |
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| **Cumnor community event tonight!**A community information event will be held at Cumnor Village Hall at 7.00pm on Friday 15th September. Presentations on Botley West and the Cumnor area, the financing of the Botley West project and from Stop Botley West will be made. All welcome. |
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| **Next wave of consultations will be later in Autumn**The SBW Working Group and Parish / Village Action Groups are awaiting confirmation of the timetable for the second round of Parish / Village Public Consultations by the developers Photovolt Development Partners (PVDP). PVDP have stated that the delay is because they are preparing a Preliminary Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) and the consultation should take place mid-October. However, there is still a lack of confirmation of dates for this consultation. This is part of the [Pre-Application Planning Process](https://stopbotleywest.us11.list-manage.com/track/click?u=5cd4d95a1215c83a8826701f1&id=d3bc5b2379&e=bc05eb93cd). We will keep you updated. |
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| **Donations**Many thanks for the donations flowing into the Stop Botley West campaign since August! **Please continue to donate**, we need further support to stop this development.  |
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| **What can I do?** |
| 1. **Making yourself fully aware of the proposal** and how it will affect you: head over to our Learn More page on the SBW campaign website, which provides a good starting point.
2. **Preparing for the second round (the ‘Statutory’ stage) of Community Consultations:** what questions do you have about how the proposal will affect you & the Oxfordshire environment, and whether Botley West Solar Park really is the right solution for renewable energy in the UK?
3. **Volunteering to help the SBW campaign:** do you have specific skills to offer or are you a willing campaigner? We are particularly looking for;
	1. A suitably experienced Fundraiser
	2. A suitably experienced Project Manager
	3. Additional administrative support
	4. An experienced Social Media operator
4. **Helping fundraise:** fundraising is crucial - it helps the campaign to facilitate a collaborative effort to challenge the development, create access to expertise and information, and pool resources to enable an effective, and if necessary, legal challenge.  Perhaps you could organise an event to support the campaign?
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| **Co-Chair Alex Rogers: The Blenheim Estates Natural Health Service Self Destructs** |
| Dear Readers,I was very entertained to read the report in the Oxford Mail of the 24th August titled “Get Out”. This rather ambiguously named article describes comments by Sylvain Richard, the Head Guide at Blenheim Palace saying that “nature and wellbeing walks are making a real difference to vulnerable people”. The article goes on to say that there has been a rise in “social prescribing” connecting citizens to community groups, activities and services that meet the practical, social and emotional needs that affect their health and wellbeing. Blenheim Palace reportedly call this their “Natural Health Service” where their “woodlands, green spaces and fresh air are prescribed as one of the most natural solutions for mental and physical health.” Scientific evidence of the benefits of exposure to green space are accumulating and begun with the concept of Biophilia, a term introduced and popularised by the famous American ecologist and biodiversity scientist Edward O. Wilson. The irony of this article, however, is quite astounding. Think about the residents of Wooton, Cassington, Bladon, Yarnton, Church Hanborough, Long Hanborough, Cumnor and other villages who will have the pleasant fields where many of their footpaths run, covered in solar panels. All of that “Natural Health Service” will be converted from green countryside to an industrialised landscape. So much for our health and wellbeing…. I also wonder at the unquestioning acceptance of such articles generated by the Blenheim Estates communications machine by the Oxford Mail. Time and time again this paper has published the latest pronouncements from Blenheim Estates with no question or comment from the point of view of affected residents. Where is the reporting here? It is a paper’s role to question, probe and take to task organisations and government, at all levels, who are making decisions that may negatively impact local communities. There is little doubt that the Botley West Utility Scale Power Station scheme will have a detrimental impact on the wellbeing of many residents of our communities and is taking advantage of weak national policy on how to implement renewable energy schemes across the country. Come on Editors and journalists, do your job!More details of Blenheim Estate’s “Natural Health Service” can be found on their website [here](https://stopbotleywest.us11.list-manage.com/track/click?u=5cd4d95a1215c83a8826701f1&id=8552bbc5b6&e=bc05eb93cd). |
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| ***The Stop Botley West Campaign is entirely dependent on your generosity, both in time and donations.  If you are able to contribute, please do give whatever you can.******Together, we will Stop Botley West.  Thank you.*** |
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| [Donate](https://stopbotleywest.us11.list-manage.com/track/click?u=5cd4d95a1215c83a8826701f1&id=0612179f50&e=bc05eb93cd) |
| Donate  |

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