

Empowering girls to be the leaders of tomorrow

WHILE superstar Beyoncé released a video encouraging action to fight challenges girls around the world face, a Didcot school welcomed speakers from across the country to share their message of female empowerment.

International Day of the Girl is celebrated annually on October 11 to highlight issues concerning the gender inequality facing young girls.

Speakers from Bristol, London and Birmingham gathered at Great Western Park's Aureus School to talk about how to make more girls the leaders of the future.

Headteacher Hannah Wilson, also a co-founder of #WomenEd, a grassroots gender equality movement, said the event "was

thought-provoking from the start to the finish".

She added: "We were delighted to have a diverse line up of speakers, including students from Didcot Girls' School who reflected on being girl leaders as house captains."

"The themes that were explored and developed throughout the event really resonated with the audience which included teachers, school leaders, governors and parents."

"We know there is a lack of representation in women leaders in the world, we hope that events like this will enable us to break down some of these barriers for the girls in our schools to enable them to be the leaders of tomorrow."

House captains from Didcot Girls' School shared thoughts on leadership culture



InBrief

Jogger assaulted

A WOMAN in her forties was touched inappropriately as she was jogging along the River Ock footpath in Abingdon.

The sexual assault took place on October 8 between 10am and 11am.

Two men walked past the woman and one sexually assaulted her, touching her inappropriately over her clothing. She fell to the ground, and the men then left the scene.

The offender is a white man in his twenties, around 5ft 7ins or 8ins tall, with a slim build and dark hair.

He was wearing a light baseball cap, a light coloured bomber style jacket, with light coloured cargo trousers and light coloured trainers.

The second man is a white man in his twenties with a slim build, around 5ft 10ins tall and short wavy hair. He was wearing blue jeans and a dark long sleeve top.

If you can help, call 101.

Bus improvements

GROVE and Wantage residents will benefit from upgrades to local bus services.

Stagecoach services will have more comfortable seating, improved heating and ventilation systems, complimentary WiFi and USB charging facilities.

From Sunday, the 31 and X30 services in Wantage will be rebranded as Stagecoach Gold S8 and Gold S9.

The Gold S8 will be routed from Wantage Market Place then follow the current route into Oxford.

Stagecoach Gold S9 will replace service X30. For full details and timetables, visit www.stagecoachbus.com.

'There are better sites for quarry'

By Eva Astreinidou

OXFORDSHIRE does not need a new quarry – that's the simple message from campaigners as the proposal is set to undergo further consultation.

Plans for a sand and gravel quarry near Clifton Hampden have been met with numerous objections and been subject to several alterations.

Developer Hills is now asking for views from the public on more changes, which include the removal of a concrete plant.

But campaign group BACHPORT – Burcot and Clifton Hampden for the protection of the River Thames – says

it still strongly objects to the plans.

It said: "The quarry will have an unacceptable impact on a beautiful section of the River Thames within the Oxford Green Belt. It will increase traffic on roads that are already heavily overloaded. Better alternative sites with limited impact on the landscape, and with better access to the road network are available."

The group maintains South Oxfordshire District Council is also strongly objecting, and has safeguarded a substantial part of the site for a new road and river crossing linking Didcot to Oxford.

It added: "[We] note that the concrete

plant has been removed in the most recent consultation proposals. But the fact that the proposed area for the plant site remains on the plans suggests the applicant intends to get around green belt restrictions and reinstate the plant at some point in the future.

"Oxfordshire does not need a new quarry."

The group has previously raised concerns over loss of agricultural land, visually intrusive plans, the removal of trees and species-rich hedgerow, as well as fears over traffic through Abingdon and the A415 through the village.

Long Wittenham Parish Council

has also previously objected to the proposals. In April, members agreed the quarry would have a serious impact on the local environment and the quality of life of hundreds of residents for many years to come.

A spokesperson for Hills said: "All points of concerns raised by the planning authority and statutory consultees in relation to our application have now been addressed and we look forward to confirmation on when it will be considered by the county's planning committee."

To comment on the application by November 2, visit tinyurl.com/yccoe4tg.

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