

THE PUBLIC SAFETY & AMENITY WORKS

The programme for the protective works on the common and woodlands is now completed. The idea emerged from a Public Meeting on 28 April 1982 when this Society was formed.

The work was carried out by volunteers in stages over the past 2 years, and there was public consultation prior to every stage.

The programme was designed for the purpose of:-

- 1) Preventing vehicles from being able to enter the woodlands and thereby dump rubbish and abandon vehicles (both costly to recover and damaging to the flora).
- 2) To contain vehicles to the accepted routes.
- 3) Preventing further encroachment of the commonland. (Both West Wycombe Estates and Wycombe District Council encouraged the proposed works for the above reasons).

The works actually installed at vulnerable points on the perimeter of the woodlands are:-

- 500 TIMBER BOLLARDS: - 3 LOCKED REMOVABLE RAILS: - 14 NOTICE BOARDS listing unlawful behaviour.

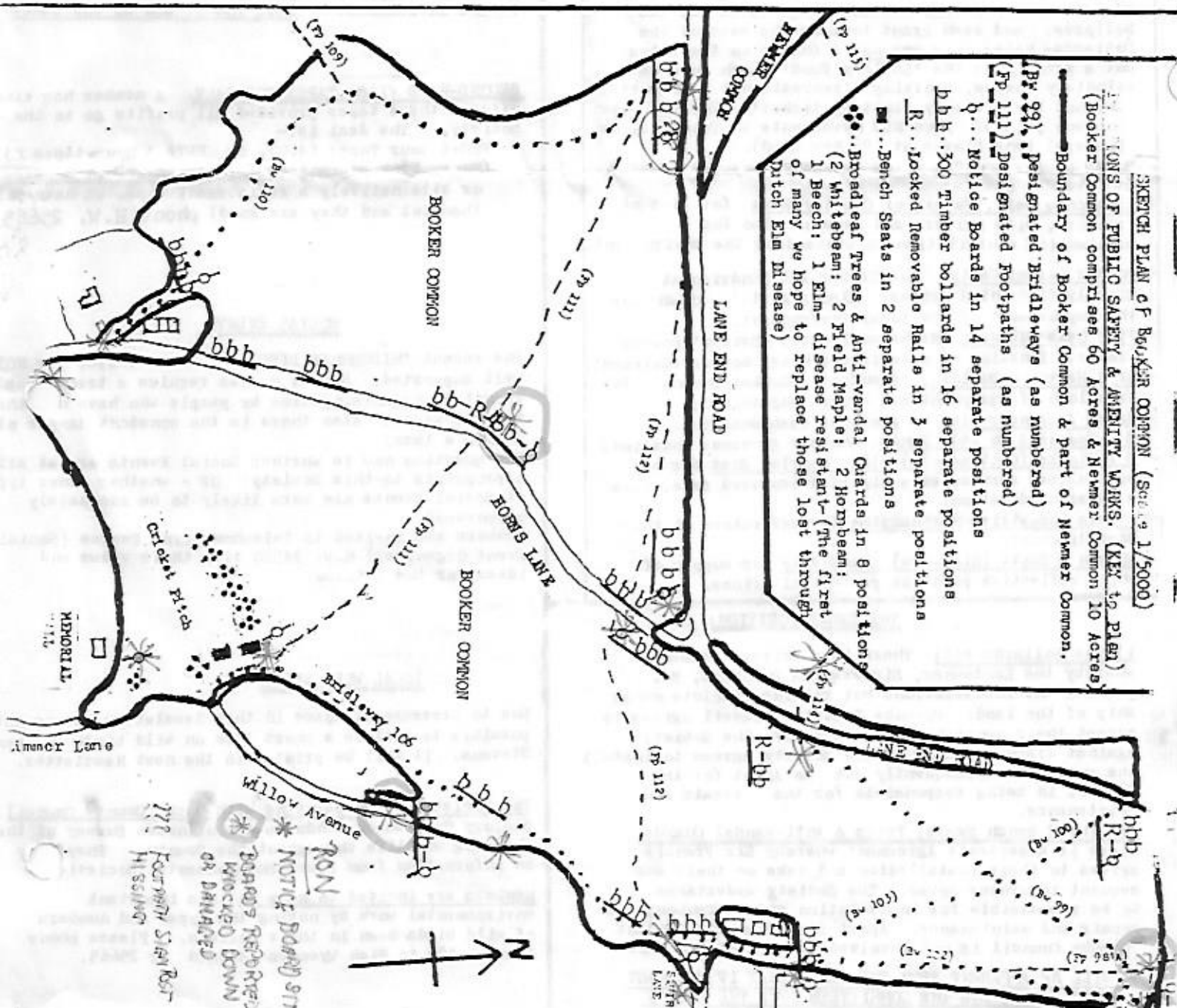
To remain effective it would be necessary to install more bollards if any further unlawful vehicular inroads are made in the future.

IN ADDITION TO THE ABOVE the Society has installed, by the Cricket Pitch, 2 BENCH SEATS: 8 BROADLEAF TREES: and 8 (anti-vandal) TREE GUARDS.

(In view of the continuing vandalism it was necessary to protect the trees with 6ft chain link fencing and heavy timbers).

ORGANISATION METHOD: It was obvious that it was economically impractical for Wycombe Council to carry out non-statutory works of this magnitude and cost unless they increased the rates for that purpose. (If they installed the bollards at the commercial cost for the 1/10th square mile of Booker Common, they would be committed in principle to do the same for the rest of the 125 sq miles of District Area).

The only realistic solution was a VOLUNTARY COMMUNITY EFFORT providing voluntary labour-voluntary donations. (P.T.O.)



THE VENTURE was both SUCCESSFUL and EFFECTIVE - as witnessed by the improved condition of the northern and eastern woodlands following the 1984 installations.

This is entirely due to the strong support given to the venture from across the community.

Special thanks are due to the Society members who served on the annually elected Committee during the past 3 years and who carried the main burden. Also to the 45 Society Members who volunteered their labour and who installed all the works. Also to the 200 Society Member Households who contributed to the cost of the works by way of their annual subscriptions and extra donations.

It would be invidious to name any individuals in particular because every job was crucial to the success of the operation. (The machinery wouldn't have worked without the tiniest cog wheel).

However, it is right and proper to mention some major contributors from among Official Bodies and Commercial Enterprises and without whose support the work could not otherwise have been done at all; these include:-

Sir Francis Dashwood, Bt. for permission to install on his property: for a handsome donation: and for insurance cover, indefinitely, for the 2 Bench Seats. Smith-Woolley (his Landagent) for their continuing liaison and guidance.

Wycombe District Council - to both Elected Councillors and permanent Officers for their encouragement and advice: their indefinite insurance cover for the Bollards: and cash grant towards the cost of the Bollards- Note: This was not a charge on the rates but a grant from the 'Lottery Fund' which donates to voluntary bodies, sporting & recreational bodies etc. (Why not buy a weekly 'lottery ticket' - 25p each for instant prizes? From NSS Newsagents at Tumpike, or Squirrel Lane Stores at 186 New Road).

Bucks County Council - for the grant for the Trees & Anti-vandal Guards:

Mr Archie Bell, Farmer of Chorley Farm for loan of Tractors, Pile Driver, and Auger: Also for a substantial contribution to protecting the environment.

Booker Garden Centre for Timber and Sundries at greatly discounted prices: Also a gift: given for the improvement of the local environment.

Five Oaks Builders (Mr Brian Pearce) 'Brilyn' Booker Common. Donation of materials & heavy moving equipment.

Mr J Harvey - Builder, 'Stamford', Booker Common. for free loan of equipment and expert supervision.

Marks & Spencer Plc. a generous cash donation.

G D Searle & Co Ltd, Sands, another generous donation.

D F Stocks (Contractors), 118, Chorley Road for a specialised service at a highly discounted rate, plus a generous donation.

Norvis Industries-Northampton for reflectors at the best discount.

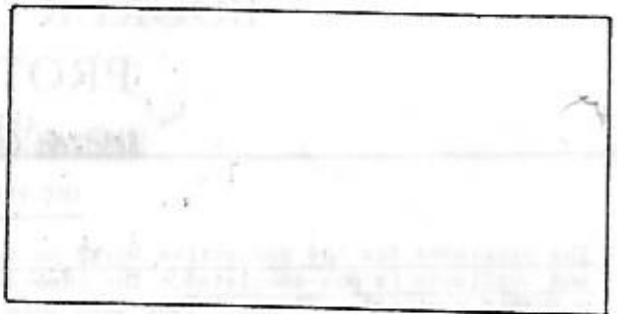
Wilson & Scott (Highways) Ltd-Surrey for supply of white reflective paint at preferential prices.

#### THE LEGAL POSITION:

i) The Bollards etc: There is a written Agreement whereby the Landowner, Sir Francis Dashwood, Bt. permits the installations but retains absolute ownership of the land. Wycombe District Council agrees to accept their ownership and indemnify the Society against claims arising. The Society agrees to install the works and subsequently act as Agent for the Council in being responsible for the repair and maintenance.

ii) The 2 Bench Seats, Trees & Anti-vandal Guards There is a separate Agreement whereby Sir Francis agrees to their installation and take on their subsequent insurance cover. The Society undertakes to be responsible for installation and their subsequent repair and maintenance. Apart from Planning Consent Wycombe Council is not involved in this arrangement.

WILL BE APPARENT FROM THE ABOVE THAT IT WAS MOST CONSUMING FOR THE COMMITTEES OVER THE PAST 3



#### FINANCE

1985/6 ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS are now due

- Those who have already paid their subs. will receive receipt from Hon. Treasurer in a later Newsletter. Others will be called upon in due course as time permits, to renew their membership.

- Members are reminded that the Society has recognition by H.M. Charity Commission. As such it is entitled to reclaim tax rebate. So if a member signs a form of Covenant to pay £2 subscription a year for 4 years, the Society is entitled to reclaim the Tax already paid by the subscriber.

- This means that if a subscriber pays £8.00 over 4 years the Society recovers an additional £3.44 from the Tax Inspector at no extra cost to the donor.

- Many have already adopted this method to the benefit of the Society, but more importantly to the benefit of the Environment - Will you please do the same?

SECOND-HAND VIDEO TAPES FOR SALE. A member has kindly offered these tapes provided all profits go to the Society. The deal is:-

VHS-4 hour Tapes £4.00, or BETA-3 hour tapes £3.00 (Money back guarantee if returned within 2 weeks, or alternatively a replacement tape. We have tried them out and they are good) phone H.W. 25665.

#### SOCIAL EVENTS

The recent 'MIDSUMMER DISCO' on 21 June 1985 was NOT well supported. Social events require a tremendous amount of organising-time by people who have no time to waste. Also there is the constant danger of making a loss.

The question now is whether Social Events are at all appropriate to this Society? Or - whether other types of Social Events are more likely to be adequately supported?

Members are invited to telephone Lynn Pearce (Social Event Organiser) H.W. 34970 with their views and ideas for the future.

#### LOCAL WILD BIRDS

Due to pressure on space in this Newsletter it was not possible to include a short item on wild birds by Jean Stevens. It will be printed in the next Newsletter.

The Society is co-operating with Bucks County Council Biology Unit which conducts a continuous Survey of the changing wildlife throughout the County. They rely on information from Local Environmental Societies.

Members are invited to help in this important environmental work by noting the types and numbers of wild birds seen in their gardens. Please phone for details to High Wycombe 446448 or 25665.