

# BOOKER COMMON AND WOODS PROTECTION SOCIETY

(Registered Charity: No. 289871) NEWSLETTER No. 23. MARCH 1989

If you have paid your annual subscription and/or have donated to the Fighting Fund in 1988/9, and no receipt is attached, please phone H W 25665 or 21994.

RECEIPT for 1988/9 Fighting Fund Donation

RECEIPT for 1988/9 Annual Subs

YOUR LOCAL 'GREEN BELT'  
and  
'AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY'  
are  
INCREASINGLY UNDER ATTACK  
by  
PROPERTY DEVELOPERS

THE MOST SPECTACULAR PROPOSAL SO FAR IS MOBIL'S 80 acre MOTORWAY SERVICE AREA AT BOOKER. THEY PLAN FOR A TRAFFIC FLOW AT THE MSA OF 80,000 vehicles a day!

THIS HORRIFIC PROPOSAL MUST NOW ALARM ALL TO THE PERSISTENT AND LONG TERM DANGER TO THE LOCAL ENVIRONMENT AND TO YOUR HEALTH.

-In the past there have been numerous attempts to breach the Green Belt/AONB. The granting of one would create precedent for more development. We have resisted them all.

-In the future attacks will intensify, by those who, for the sake of immediate profit, would destroy the environment for generations to come.

WE MUST CONTINUE TO RESIST ALL COMERS. WHEN M.40 IS COMPLETED THESE LANDS ALONGSIDE WILL BE EVEN MORE VALUABLE TO DEVELOPERS.

FOR THIS REASON the Society established a Fighting Fund to deal with this menace, at a Special General Meeting last year (11 Jan 1988)

It was then agreed that:-

- The Fund be designated "Green Belt & AONB Fighting Fund"
- Funds to be held in a special No 2 Account (No. 10178047) at Barclays Bank plc, Booker Branch (Details below)
- The fund to be a continuing and permanent feature of the Society's activities, and used only for the purpose of defending the local Green Belt/AONB. But first expenditure priority is against a Booker MSA.

The standing Fighting Fund enabled the Society, last year, to appoint a LEGAL ADVISER who is also experienced in PLANNING and APPEAL PROCEDURES.

## OUR LEGAL ADVISER

OUR LEGAL ADVISER is guiding the Society's overall campaign, and for several months past has been preparing Booker/Sands special case for the forthcoming public inquiry.

He will also be the Society's ADVOCATE at the public inquiry. All we need now is everybody's active support from Booker and Sands.

## MSA PUBLIC INQUIRY - IS DEFINITELY ON!

AT THE PUBLIC INQUIRY this Society's main objective is to convince the Dept of Environment Inspector of the ways in which the detrimental effects of MSA's in general, would diminish the lives of Booker and Sands residents in particular.

Furthermore we can present concrete evidence of the overwhelming opposition by Booker/Sands residents.

IN THIS WAY we shall intensify and strengthen Wycombe District Council's Case in opposing the MSA in so far as it affects residents in this locality.

(It is to be hoped that groups from other localities will support and complement the Council's effort in much the same way).

## THE COUNCIL

THE COUNCIL'S POSITION is that it is committed to be the main objector at the public inquiry by reason of its rejection of planning applications by 3 Oil Companies. i.e. Mobil at Booker; BP at Abbey Barn-Flackwell Heath; Shell at Stokenchurch. Also a report in Bucks Free Press named 'penley Hollies' near Cadmore End as a candidate site.

Realistically, only the Council has the full resources to mount an adequate counter-attack against 3 (possibly 4) multi-national Oil Companies.

Equally realistically this Society has the resources, and the local residents backing, to support the Council with a flank attack expressing the particular problems an MSA brings to Booker/Sands.

## A PUBLIC INQUIRY MAY NOT BE THE END OF IT

Even if the Dept of Environment Inspector dismisses Mobiloil's appeal for an MSA at Booker, it remains open to Dept of Transport itself to select the Booker site for an MSA.

-In this case the fight will begin again.

-IF ALL ELSE FAILS we shall petition the European Parliament. We have already got the procedure sorted out with James Elles, our local member for the European Parliament, in preparation for this eventuality.

-WE WILL FIGHT TO THE LAST DITCH FOR BOOKER/SANDS

## COMPLACENCY

COMPLACENCY IS ANOTHER ENEMY. If you value your environment then don't leave it all to Wycombe Council. They will be conducting the overall battle on a wide front. In our own interests we must support them to ensure the battle is won for Booker and Sands residents - It requires effort from everybody able to help.

### YOU CAN HELP IN THE FOLLOWING WAYS

- i) Offer your special expertise and knowledge. It may be highly relevant. Many have already come forward and provided our Legal Adviser with vital information.
- ii) Give your time to help distribute leaflets and complete the door-to-door petition from Booker & Sands.
- iii) Donate to the Fighting Fund, and encourage others to do the same. (Much has already been donated but overheads such as printing etc are very expensive. Also fees for further professional advice may be necessary).
- iv) Ask your employer to sponsor us by matching donations by our local residents. For example their sponsorship of 5 pence in the £ would add £50 for every £1000 donated by residents.
- v) Give your time to attend the public inquiry on at least one half-day. Attendance in the Public Gallery is taken as a measure of public concern and can influence the final decision. (phone us and add your name to the attendance list).

IT IS NO USE REGRETTING when it's too late. Your contribution can be crucial - SO ACT NOW and phone H W 25665 for further details.

### THE SOCIETY'S FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

- All monies collected by the Society are held at Barclays Bank Plc, 197/9 New Road, Booker, High Wycombe, HP12 4RQ
- Receipts are issued for monies received, and duplicates available for the audit.
- The Society is a Registered Charity operating under Charity Commission Rules - and to whom audited accounts are submitted for scrutiny. This ensures funds are applied for the purpose specified.
- No 1 (General Account) is applied to our conservation and environmental protection activities. To this is paid members annual £2 subscription etc.
- No 2 (Green Belt/AONB Account-No. 10178047) is applied solely to resist attempted breaches. First expenditure priority is against an MSA at Booker.
- Donations to the Fighting Fund may be paid direct into No.2 Account 10178047 but ONLY at the Booker Branch of Barclays Bank. OR phone H W 25665 and your donation will be collected. PLEASE ACT NOW.

### OTHER GREEN BELT/AONB (GOOD) NEWS

The Green Belt Boundary as proposed by "High Wycombe Area Local Plan" for this locality has been endorsed by DOE Inspector. He also dismissed various applications to remove land from the Green Belt. This followed a lengthy public inquiry in May last year. Clinical Incinerator at Booker. This application was refused by both local authorities. But 6 months is allowed for an appeal to DOE.

This Society objected on the following grounds:-

- i) The site is Green Belt/AONB and permission would create precedent for even more development.
- ii) Toxic waste from other areas would create a health hazard at Booker. The County's own clinical waste is already taken care of.
- iii) The two very high chimneys necessary would create even more hazards to residents than already exist from aircraft crashes.

WE MUST KEEP ON FIGHTING THEM OFF

## PROPERTY DEVELOPERS

There were 14 attempted building developments in your local Green Belt/AONB during the past 4 years.

This Society organised forceful opposition against all of them, and Wycombe Council refused planning permission in each case.

But 6 Developers lodged Appeals, and 2 more Appeals are pending. To date Dept. of Environment has dismissed 5 Appeals but exceptionally granted building permission for one new development.

We must all ensure there are no more exceptions. PLEASE DONATE to the Society's Fighting Fund to enable us to fight back.

### WYCOMBE AIR PARK

Following representations from this Society, Wycombe Council have requested Dept of Transport to 'Specify' Booker Airfield in an order made under section 5 of Civil Aviation Act 1982. (This has never yet been implemented). If successful it will impose a duty on the Civil Aviation Authority to have regard to the need to minimise so far as reasonably practicable:-

- a) any adverse effects on the environment, and
- b) any disturbance to the public, from noise etc.,

This would impose controls in this respect by an outside body, and should improve matters. But in any case laws are made to be implemented - not ignored.

### RESTORATION & CONSERVATION PROGRAMMES

Practical field work. This seasons Phase 5 Programme is now completed. Volunteers cleared approx 2 acres of derelict ground at the northeast entrance to the woodlands on the Common. Tonnes of building rubble etc. was removed and diseased scrub burned on-site. 60 Tons of good topsoil was brought in, and the area landscaped. The wildflower seed sown produced a colourful display. 600 indigenous trees were planted bringing the grand total to 1200.

We conserve for the future - our children will reap the benefit

MUCH THANKS ARE DUE TO THE VOLUNTEERS-but we need more. Please ring H W 25665 and offer ½-day labour.

### 'WYCOMBE URBAN WILDLIFE GROUP'

This is a new conservation Group and is most welcome. They aim to promote urban nature conservation throughout High Wycombe and the surrounding area.

The organised activities of the group will include walks, talks, and practical conservation work. (They helped this Society with our tree planting).

The launch will be on Sunday afternoon on 23 April 1989. Keeting at the swimming pool at 2.30pm and then walking round Keep Hill, High Wycombe.

For further details please phone: Matthew Ellis (Bourne End 22455) OR- Maurice Young (Marlow 72000).

### NATIONAL ENVIRONMENT WEEK

#### PLEASE HELP CLEAN-UP THE COMMON WOODLANDS

On Sunday morning 23 April 1989 at 10am to 12.30

Meeting points: i) - On the Green below Squirrel pub in Squirrel Lane.

ii) - At Rydal Way and route along La End Road and Hornes Lane.

Plastic Bags are provided and full bags of litter will be collected. Gloves should be worn.

It is your back-yard. please phone H W 25665 and offer your help to keep it tidy.