

BOOKER COMMON AND WOODS PROTECTION SOCIETY

(Registered Charity: No. 289871)

NOVEMBER 1989
NEWSLETTER No 25

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

MOBILLOIL'S APPEAL for an 80 acre MOTORWAY SERVICE AREA at BOOKER will be heard by the Dept of Environment Inspector in January and February 1990.

The following arrangements are provisional:-
Venue: The old Lady Verney School in Benjamin Road.

Sessions: Normally from 10am to 1pm and 2 to 5pm

Public Inquiry Dates: Provisionally from 24 January to 28 February 1989

This Society's Case for Objection: has been prepared by our Legal Adviser during the past 18 months. He has guided us through the legal mine field. He will also be the Society's 'Advocate' at the Inquiry and has already nominated the required witnesses on behalf of the Society. He is also highly experienced in planning matters and the Society is fortunate in securing his services for this crucial test.

GREEN BELT/AONB FIGHTING FUND: Your donations to this special fund enabled the Society to retain the services of a planning/legal adviser. But more Donations are needed: for this special fund at Barclays Bank, Booker. A/c No. 10178047. (Society funds are disbursed in strict accordance with Charity Commission Rules and to whom we are accountable).

After we have disposed of Mobiloil this special fighting fund will be kept in being to fight off the continuing planning Applications to develop your Green Belt/AONB for commercial use. These we shall continue to oppose in concert with other Environmental Societies.

MORE GREEN BELT INTRUSIONS

Your Local Green Belt/AONB was breached at SANDS in July 1987. This has provided a dangerous precedent for property developers. It is the thin end of the wedge.

The DoE Inspector allowed the football stadium to be erected following their appeal. It was an unexpected decision because it is contrary to accepted Green Belt/AONB Policies.

Clearly the real reason for granting permission was to allow the hospital to expand into the existing football ground. While this may be thought to be a worthy reason it has nevertheless created a dangerous precedent, i.e. if one development is allowed then why not another?

PRE-CHRISTMAS CLEAN-UP
at
BOOKER COMMON WOODLANDS
on
SUNDAY 3 DECEMBER 1989
10am to 12 o'clock

PLEASE HELP keep your environment tidy

MEETING POINTS: i) On the Green below Squirrel Pub in Squirrel Lane.
ii) Junction of Rydal Way & the woodlands & route along Lane End Road and Hornes Lane.

Plastic Bags are provided and your full bags of litter will be collected from the road sides.

It is your backyard, so please give 2 hours to help keep it looking good.

MORE GREEN BELT INTRUSIONS (CONTINUED)

UNSURPRISINGLY A FURTHER PLANNING APPLICATION TO EXTEND INTO THE SANDS GREEN BELT is under consideration now.

If you object to your local Green Belt/AONB being despoiled for commercial development you should write and say so now to:-

Chief Planning & Development Officer
Wycombe District Council, High Wycombe, HP11 1BE
Quote the reference: W/89/7268: for Synthetic Training pitch, Conference and Banqueting Facilities etc, at Sands Green Belt.

There is also a further development application W/89/7588 for a Golf practice Ground, Clubhouse, Bar, Restaurant, etc in Sands Green Belt/AONB and estimated 200 vehicles a day.

At the time of writing it was learned that this application was withdrawn. It is unclear whether this is a temporary or permanent withdrawal. But whatever, the thought is there to develop - and it's the thought which counts.

Four other applications have been made recently at Wycombe Air Park which is also designated Green Belt (but not AONB).

This Society has sent written objection to them all and other Environmental Societies have supported us. Wycombe Council have rejected two and two are still pending. (see below)

WYCOMBE COUNCIL has a proven performance in its protection of the local Green Belt/AONB on our behalf. But they can be overridden at public inquiries conducted by Dept of Environment. To help their case the support of residents is essential. So please write to Chief planning & development officer when these matters arise.

-REMEMBER if you can't be bothered to protect your own patch, you can't expect others to do it for you.

WYCOMBE AIR PARK

AIR TRAFFIC: It has now been authoritatively confirmed that in terms of numbers of aircraft movements Wycombe Air park ranks third after Heathrow and Gatwick National/International Air Ports.

-But multi-engine aircraft operate from these Air Ports which enables them to keep flying in event of an engine failure on take-off or landing.

-This is not the case at this small Booker Airfield from which single-engine aircraft operate.

-This is the second reason, apart from Green Belt issues, that we oppose all Air Park planning applications which potentially could increase further Air Traffic.

AIRCRAFT NOISE POLLUTION: It is incredible, that although procedures exist to control noise and public disturbance caused by 'Model' aircraft, no such procedures exist to control noise and public disturbance caused by operational aircraft at small 'General Airfields' such as at Booker.

SECTION 5 CIVIL AVIATION ACT 1982: For the above reason this Society made representations to Wycombe Council in 1987 for this imbalance to be rectified. Among other things, and on advice from Airfields Environment Federation, we suggested the Council apply to Dept. of Transport for Wycombe Air Park to be 'Designated' under Section 5 of 1982 Act.

- After a full investigation the Council formally applied in 1988. We still await Dept of Transport decision.

COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE: (Your voices can be heard)

-The facility exists to enable residents to complain about aircraft nuisance and unreasonable noise pollution.

-Complaints can now be phoned direct to Airways Aero Associates Ltd at High Wycombe 23426 Mr D Lewry is Operations Manager. At busy times and when 23426 does not answer, a message can be left on the answerphone at High Wycombe 464808. But you must give your name/address/phone No; description of offending aircraft or registration number; time of incident.

-Complainants can also confirm in writing to The Health & Housing Manager, Wycombe District Council, Queen Victoria Road, High Wycombe, or Councillor Ted Collins, your local Councillor.

-This will ensure your complaint is discussed and minuted at the next Joint Consultative Committee Meeting.

BOOKER GLIDING CLUB: The Society was handed the following statement by Martin Breen, Director of the Gliding Club:-

"QUIETER TUGS AT BOOKER - Booker Gliding Club "has been aware for some time that the noise "regulations in some continental countries has "led to developments which have reduced noise "from glider tugs by approx 25%. This involves "changing to a four bladed propeller and improv- "ed exhaust silencer. Although the cost exceed- "ed £4,000 per aircraft, we considered we owed "it to residents near by to be as quiet as "possible and took steps to modify our tugs at "the first opportunity.

" To fit the hush kits we had first to obtain "permission from the Civil Aviation Authority, "so we carried out a test programme at Booker to "achieve certification.

WYCOMBE AIR PARK (CONTINUED)

" The majority of our tugs are now fitted with "these hush kits, and when technical difficulties "have been overcome, all our tugs will be "modified. We hope you've noticed the differen-

We are quick to criticize. We are equally quick to applaud those who have consideration for residents' interests. But it poses the question as to why all other aircraft^{OWNERS} at Booker do not impose the same self-discipline on themselves. The £4,000 cost per aircraft is high, but why should residents pay the price of other individuals pleasure or business interests?

M40 WIDENING

M40 IS TO BE WIDENED from dual 2 lanes to dual 3 lanes between Handy Cross and Stokenchurch.

-The Society has served written objection to Dept of Transport against their proposal for lighting this stretch of Motorway as being an unnecessary disturbance to residents. It is seen that lighting has NOT been installed along other Motorways running through open countryside.

-We have also requested 'Noise Barriers'. Their present proposal is to erect 'Noise Barriers' at Lane End but NOT at Booker.

-Residents who agree with these views should write direct to: The Director, (Transport), Dept of Environment & Transport, Eastern Region Office, 49-51 Goldington Road, Bedford, MK40 3LL.

MOTORCYCLE NUISANCE/DANGER

YOUNG MOTORCYCLISTS have been both a menace to pedestrians on footpaths in the woodlands and a noisy^{WINDS} nuisance to others. Many are unlicensed, uninsured, and under age.

-Following representations by members at our last AGM, the Police took remedial action on the evenings of 17 and 18 July 1989. A strong contingent of officers closed in on Booker Common looking for miscreants

-The Police warned parents that if there were to be any further unlawful activity on the Common would result in legal action.

-The Police cannot take effective action unless residents are prepared to give evidence. So, residents must telephone Wycombe police station with the best possible description of offender and their motorcycles.

ENVIRONMENT CONSERVATION WORK

PRACTICAL CONSERVATION WORK has been continued by our volunteers. But nature never stops and there is always much work to be done on a continuing basis

-We require more residents and users of the woodlands to add their names to the work roster. All that is required is an occasional Sunday morning's work in the woodlands. It is your backyard - so why not help keep it looking good? -Please phone High Wycombe 25665 and add your name to the work roster.

WYCOMBE COUNCIL continue to give financial support to our efforts to improve your local environment.

-It is encouraging to know that the Council itself is committed to conservation as shown by the following letter from Chairman of Wycombe District Council to this Society:

"My theme for the next year as Chairman is "conservation and enhancement of the character "and environment of the District...My best "wishes to your Association for the coming year "and congratulations on your achievements-(SIGNED) "Councillor Mrs Kathleen Peatey, J.P."