

# BOOKER COMMON & WOODS PROTECTION SOCIETY

Registered Charity no. 289871

This is an especially important meeting and all members should attend to hear about the most recent Government and Local Authority plans to combat the increasing pressures to develop the Green Belt (GB) and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).

These pressures will undoubtedly increase now the M40 is open and as the overall economy of the Country improves. For our own protection it is up to each one of us to learn how best to use the latest legislation to protect our own local patch of Green Belt/AONB.

It is not enough to sit back and leave it all to your Local Authority and elected Councillors. We must support them to the best of our ability. If you can't be bothered to protect your own patch don't be surprised if enterprising developers overtake on the blind side and slip through the legislative net.

Members resident in Booker/Sands are also invited to attend if they agree with our Environmental Protection Policies and offer financial support by way of a membership subscription of £2.00 (minimum) p.a. per household.

As this is a critical consultative period for future Environmental Protection your committee have invited three guest speakers expert in various aspects of the subject.

During the first 45 minutes of the Meeting they will present a short outline of the main issues involved and answer questions.

As a consequence the second part of the evening on routine Annual General Meeting business will be condensed into 45 minutes. We expect the meeting to close at 9.30 p.m.

## NATIONAL ENVIRONMENT WEEK 11-19 MAY

The Society has organised a  
**LITTER CLEAN UP OF  
THE COMMON**  
on  
**SUNDAY 19 MAY 1991**  
10 a.m. to 12 o'clock

### Assembly Points:

- i) On the Green below Squirrel Pub in Squirrel Lane
- ii) Junction of Rydal Way and the Woodlands and 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.

PLEASE HELP by giving just 2 hours for your environment AND put a reminder note in your diary NOW.

## NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

on

**WEDNESDAY 22 MAY 1991 at 8:00PM**

at

**THE THEATRE THE CRESSEX SCHOOL**  
Holmer Lane, off Cressex Road, near the Turnpike

### AGENDA & TIMINGS

- 8.00 p.m. -
1. Chairman's Introductions
  2. Three Guest Speakers on:

#### ASPECTS OF "ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION"

**Mr. Paul Ricketts**

Health and Housing Manager  
Wycombe District Council

There are five other Chief Officers at Wycombe District Council which includes the Chief Executive.

Paul Ricketts has worked in Local Government since 1963. He qualified as an Environmental Health Officer from Aston University in 1967 and has been with Wycombe District Council since December 1978, when he was appointed as Deputy Environmental Health Officer. Paul Ricketts has held the post of Health and Housing Manager since July 1987, when both Environmental Health and Housing Departments were merged under one Head.

#### WOODLANDS CONSERVATION

**Mr. Stephen Smith**

District Manager  
Tilhill Economic Forestry Limited  
(Woodland Managers and Estate Contractors)

Stephen Smith is currently managing the clearance operation in Booker woodlands after the damage caused by two hurricanes and two dry summers and will discuss the subsequent restoration programme.

He will also outline the essentials of woodland management by Independent Estate Contractors.

#### WYCOMBE WOODLAND STRATEGY

**Mr. Steve Crosby**

Woodlands Officer  
Wycombe District Council

Steve Crosby will outline the Council's woodland strategy for the next 5 years.

Steve Crosby was recently appointed to the newly created post of Woodlands Officer after several years with a private Forestry Company based in the Welsh Marches. He is also experienced in private Estate Woodland Management and with the Forestry Commission.

WE CAN EXPECT THIS 45 minutes to be very interesting and highly informative

8.45 p.m. **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** opens

#### Agenda

1. Minutes of last AGM 23 May 1990 by Hon Secretary
2. Audited Accounts for 1990/1 by Hon Treasurer
3. Short Review of future practical Conservation work by Ronald Walker
4. Past and future policies for overall Environmental protection by The Chairman
5. Election of new Committee for 1991/2 and the offices of Chairman, Hon Secretary and Hon Treasurer
6. Any other business

9.30 p.m. Close of Meeting

#### NEW COMMITTEE 1991/2

Subscribing members are invited to offer themselves for election to the new year's Committee. Please phone nominations before 15 May 1991 to High Wycombe 25665.

Present list of candidates for the new committee are:-

Mesdames; Rita Luxton, Lyn Pearce, Gaynor Taffurelli (present Hon Secretary), Claire Wylot. Messrs.; Paul Baker, David Crowther (present Hon Treasurer), Allan Duggin (present Chairman), Rodney Forrest, Tony Hall, Ronald Walker, Victor West, Jeff Woodhouse.

## AFFILIATION TO OTHER SOCIETIES

This Society is concerned with all aspects of environmental protection and can only be at maximum effectiveness given expert knowledge on the many facets involved. To this end we are affiliated to the major national environmental bodies to whom we turn for expert advice on a variety of problems and for their national support in our local battles.

The greater resources and long experience of these National Bodies are essential to us. But they in turn require public financial support to enable them to deal with the increasing case load as pressure to develop our open spaces increases.

## THE OPEN SPACES SOCIETY



The Open Spaces Society is a leading National Body. In 1989 they dealt with 330 cases. By the end of August 1990 their case load had increased by 28%. On average each case cost them £250.

The OSS needs more members subscriptions to cope with these battles which we all want to win. You are urged to join OSS and help them fight back.

For a subscription of £15 p.a. (£8 OAP's) you will receive a magazine 3 times a year updating events and free advice if required.

Send your subscriptions now to:

Open Spaces Society,  
25A Bell Street,  
Henley-on-Thames,  
Oxon RG9 2BA.

## PRACTICAL CONSERVATION WORK IN THE WOODLANDS

Some people wonder why Booker/Sands residents bother to help conserve a woodland which is owned by someone else.

The answer is simple. Although we do not own the woodland it is part of our neighbourhood and our English Heritage. In the past few years nature has done a self-culling job by wind and long droughts and destroyed much of the woodland as we knew it.

To ensure that our successors will enjoy the woodlands in the future the Society has offered West Wycombe Estate its help with the replanting. We already hold a store of some 400 indigenous trees in a nursery garden and the Local Authorities as well as some individual members have promised more indigenous trees for us to plant out.

With the Landowners permission we propose to plant the trees this November in the zones near the main residential area. The major part of the replanting work will, of course, be carried out by West Wycombe Estate as they have done already alongside Lane End Road. Founder members of this Society in 1982 will recall that the reason for its inception was the deterioration of Booker Common Woodlands caused by thoughtless people dumping

burned out vehicles, cowboy builders dumping their rubble and individuals dumping their old furniture, used nappies and all other unsavoury rubbish.

This unlawful activity put the Landowner in a no-win situation. If this 'Ancient Woodland' was desecrated to the extent that it became a disaster area it was inevitable it would be developed for other purposes. As a remedy the Society first obtained permission to erect bollards at vulnerable points around the woodland perimeter and Notice Boards listing all unlawful activities.

Next followed a phased yearly programme of clearance along the eastern perimeter adjoining the main residential area which had become derelict. These areas were then replanted with new plantations of indigenous trees (1,300 to date) while the open unwooded areas were restored to their original state with various species of grass and indigenous wildflowers.

This enlightened self-interest by Booker/Sands residents during the past 9 years has proved its value for the future of our local environment. What is now likely to happen to Deangarden Wood at Abbey Barn Lane, High Wycombe, could have happened here.

"Midweek" of 23 April 1991 reports Deangarden Woodland could be developed into a ski slope. It was reported that "...it is a disaster area .... a lot of the woodland impassable .... wrecked cars in there for many years....desperate need for woodland management ..".

Clearly Deangarden Woodland is at high risk. We must ensure that Booker Common Woodlands never gets into a similar state. All that is needed is more residents to add their names to the volunteer roster for 2 hours on an occasional Sunday morning to do a bit of gardening in Booker Woodland instead of their own gardens.

PLEASE PHONE High Wycombe 25665 and add your name of the roster.

## MOTORWAY SERVICE AREAS PUBLIC INQUIRIES on BOOKER & TETSWORTH SITES

A full report was given in the last Newsletter. Although these Inquiries were closed 15 months ago and 10 months respectively Mobiloil made a late bid to make further submissions about Booker. This was first publicly revealed by "Midweek" issue of 9 April 1991.

The Society immediately wrote to Secretary of State for the Environment requesting sight of any further submission and the right to

respond with our own evidence.

Departments of the Environment and Transport replied that Mobil had notified them in February of their intention to make further submissions about Booker, but as a 22 April 1991 they had not done so. DoE confirmed that if and when they do this Society would be consulted.

## WYCOMBE AIR PARK & DEPT. OF TRANSPORT

The last Newsletter fully reported the Society's actions to secure a reduction in aircraft noise pollution. Following the meeting between Department of Transport's Independent Investigator and representatives of this Society on 20 February there was a meeting of all local resident groups at Wycombe Air Park on 18 April 1991.

This Society then delivered our 7 page Report to the DTP Investigator which led to the simple conclusion that the unreasonable increasing levels of aircraft noise could only be abated by introducing statutory controls to replace the existing unsatisfactory voluntary Noise Abatement Procedure. We will report any further progress.

## WYCOMBE AIR PARK & DEPT. OF ENVIRONMENT

Following the Society's letter of 26 January to Secretary of State for the Environment requesting that the "Noise Review Working Party's Recommendations be strengthened to include statutory controls over aerial activity at local general airfields.

A reply was received on 26 April 1991 saying the Report is now subject to detailed consideration. We were assured that the Government was working hard to reduce noise nuisance and that the Society's constructive submissions would be borne in mind. A Government statement would be made this summer on their progress.

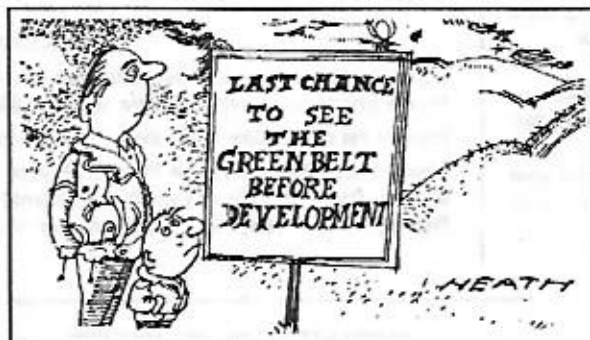
## REPORTING OF DAMAGE TO THE COMMON

It is important that any damage should be reported immediately by phone to High Wycombe 25665, and if possible, with details of who caused the damage (car numbers for example). We are not only able to make immediate essential repairs, but also claim cost of replacement from whoever did it.

Recently a vehicle destroyed a bench seat which was witnessed by a member. The Society was able to recover the full cost of a replacement. Another member reported a locked removable rail destroyed. The rails prevent unauthorised vehicles entering the bridleways and dumping rubbish.

The Society was able to replace the rail within hours and prevent further damage.

Thanks are due to Jeff Harvey who carried out the repair work.



With acknowledgements to Punch Magazine