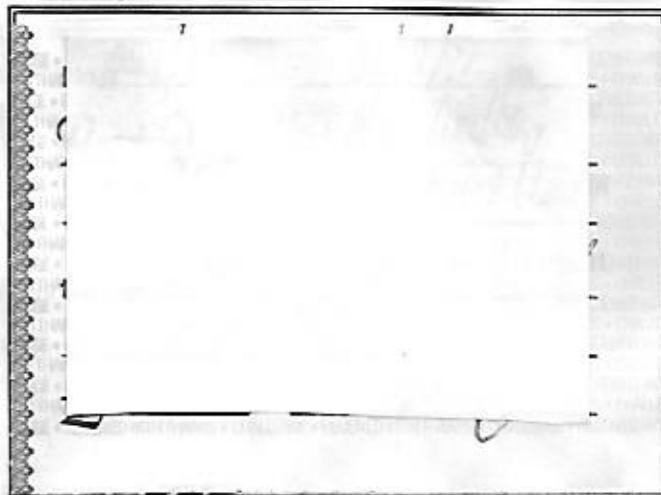


BOOKER COMMON AND WOODS PROTECTION SOCIETY

(Registered Charity : No. 289871)

If you have paid your Annual Subscription and / or have donated to the Fighting Fund in 1990/91 and no receipt is attached please telephone H.W. 525665 or 521994



RECEIPT for 1991/92 fighting fund donation

RECEIPT for 1991/92 Annual Subscription

The Society operates in accordance with the rules of the Charity Commission who scrutinise our audited accounts.

TREE PLANTING RESTORES WOODLAND DEVASTATION

Following the removal of trees destroyed in the hurricanes of 1990, volunteers prepared the ground for a new tree plantation along the eastern perimeter in Autumn 1991. The layers of residual branches and bramble woven together would have taken weeks to remove manually had it not been for two earthmoving contractors resident in Booker who came to the rescue.

We are profoundly grateful to Tony Muddiman and John and Anthony Geggus who quickly removed the debris and refused payment for the use of their expensive heavy machinery with skilled operators – as their donation to protecting the local environment.

Volunteers then re-established a new plantation of 300 indigenous trees. This brings the total planted by the Society to 1,500. In 50 years time there should be stands of Beech trees once again such as we have been privileged to enjoy. We do ask that people ensure the rabbit guards are kept in place otherwise these young trees will become rabbit food.



Continuous maintenance is also essential. The landscape as we know it today was shaped by man with nature providing the materials, trees and wildflowers. It is not enough to restore and replant the derelict areas and leave the rest to nature. They must be seasonally tended and maintained.

Permanent protective works must be kept in good order by repairs and replacement where necessary. Of the 462 bollards originally erected, 64 were replaced in 1991.

Rubbish must be removed immediately. It is axiomatic that rubbish begets more rubbish. On two occasions during the past year 30 volunteers spent 2 hours picking up litter in and

around the woodlands. There was less than in previous years because more people are picking up litter while enjoying their walks through the woods.

But the Cowboy fly tippers remain a problem. Only recently a pile of scrap carpet pieces and fittings appeared one night that had to be removed by the Council. Residents themselves can help put an end to this by recording the number of the offending vehicle and driver's description and phoning H/W 525665. Only with these details is it possible to bring a prosecution as a warning to others.

Volunteers Roster. Will you please ring H/W 525665 for details. All we ask is 3 hrs work on an occasional Sunday morning, and only then if you happen to be free on that particular Sunday morning.

THE COMMUNITY OWES much gratitude to the many volunteers who freely give their time for practical conservation work in the woodland. There are many others who donate goods in kind and many professional people who donate their skills and services to help in the administration work of the Society. There are also 270 local households whose subscriptions finance the work.

To all of these generous people and those whose extra donations make it possible for the Society's campaigns to be highly effective, we offer our deep thanks and look forward to your continued support.

WANDERERS GO A-WANDERING IN GREEN BELT AGAIN

The Club has appealed to Dept. of Environment against the Council's refusal to allow planning permission for a practice pitch alongside their main pitch. The Local Appeal will be heard on 17/18 June 1992.

It is noted that many 1st Division clubs do NOT have a practice pitch adjoining their main pitch. It follows, therefore, that it is not an essential ingredient for getting to the top, but more a matter of convenience. It would seem to be a matter of balancing between the convenience of the few against the detriment of the many.

The club has also Appealed to DoE against the Council's refusal for a SUNDAY MARKET of 136 stalls at the Football Stadium Car park.

Recent newspaper reports indicate that consideration is also being given to increasing the capacity of the Stadium from 6,000 to 8,000 with two sites for car parks for 1,000 cars along Lane End Road. These could only be sited in 'designated' Greenlands.

It will be recalled that an application was made for a golf practice ground to the west side of the Football stadium. It was withdrawn before the Council could give a decision. This application can be resurrected again when the climate seems right.

Taking all these factors together it would be imprudent to assume that there is no intention for more and more development which would swallow up GB/AONB and increase the Community Charge to cover legal costs.

MSA BACK ON AGENDA

Mobil are now considering a revised application for a Motorway Service Area at Booker. This has been triggered by the Department of Transport's February consultation document proposing their abrogation of responsibility for siting MSA'S which in future could be at 10 mile, 10 minute intervals. A 10 mile MSA interval could mean two MSA's in Wycombe District Area.

In addition to destroying the local environment the proposals would incur higher Community Charges. The cost to the council of Mobil Oil Company's last Appeal at the Public Inquiry was £90,000 which we paid for in the Community Charges.

Mr. Allan Duggin, on behalf of the Society, has written a 3 page letter to Dept. of Transport detailing several reasons for objection. On the 16th of March Wycombe District Council resolved to send the strongest objections. On this occasion all political parties were of like mind, and only one elected councillor suggested a softer compromise.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

This Society's AGM will be held on 20th May 1992, 8pm at Booker Memorial Hall, Booker Common.

RADIOACTIVE WASTE AT BOOKER TIP

This Society was the first to investigate; to send written objection and bring the issue into the public debate. More details will follow in a later newsletter.

NOISE POLLUTION

All future meetings of Wycombe Air Park Joint Consultative Committee will be open to the public. At the start of meetings, 30 minutes will be allowed for members of the public to raise questions.

Next meeting - 13 May 1992 at 10:00am in the Lounge at Wycombe Air Park.

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