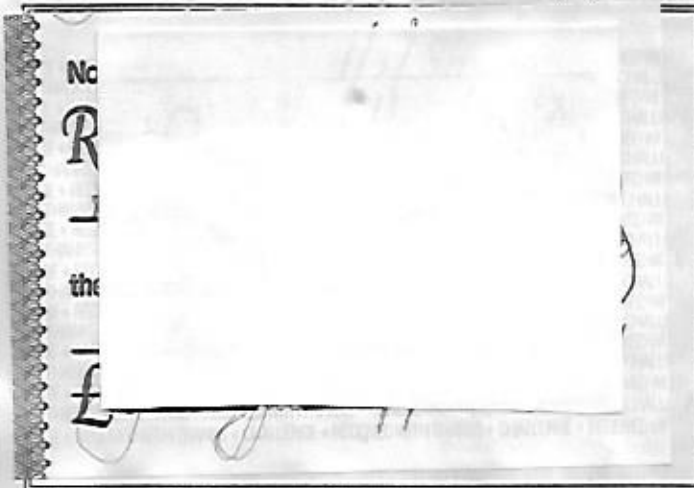
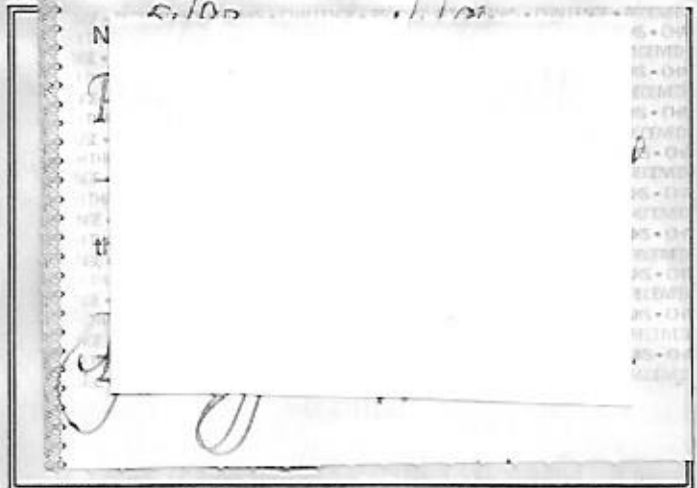


Booker Common & Woods Protection Society

(Registered Charity : No.289871)



Receipt for 1993/4 Fighting Fund donation



Receipt for 1993/4 Annual Subscription

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

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

on
Monday 23rd May 1994
Commencing at 8:00pm until 9:30pm
at
Booker Memorial Hall, Booker Common
(Off Limmer Lane)

GUEST SPEAKER
Inspector George Turner
Thames Valley Police - High Wycombe
and
Officer responsible for Booker & Castlefield

on
The Public's part in the maintenance of law and order
in the local community, and adjoining common land

In addition to his normal operational duties as a shift Inspector (across the 24 hour day), Inspector Turner has specific responsibility for Booker & Castlefield areas. He has 13 years service with Thames Valley Police and has held the rank of Inspector at High Wycombe for the past 18 months. Earlier he was based at various places in the surrounding area and has served with the C.I.D. and the Regional Crime Squad.

AGENDA

8:00pm Guest Speaker

AGM Routine Business - will be condensed to allow maximum possible time to put questions to Inspector Turner

1. Hon. Secretary, Gaynor Taffurelli will present the Minutes of the 1993 AGM for approval.
2. Chairman, Allan Duggin will review the Society efforts to preserve the local Green Belt/A.O.N.B.
3. Hon Treasurer, David Crowther will submit the 1993/4 Audited Accounts for approval.

4. Field Organiser, Ronald Walker will give a short report on the practical conservation work by the Society volunteers in Booker Common Woods.
5. Vote of thanks to the outgoing 1993/4 committee.
6. Election of members to the new 1994/5 Committee and to offices of Chairman, Hon. Secretary and Hon. Treasurer
7. Confirmation of existing basic policies of Society.
8. A.O.B.
9. 9:30pm : Meeting closes.

NEW COMMITTEE 1994/5

Subscribing members are invited to offer themselves for election to the new year's committee. Please phone nominations before 16 May 1994 to High Wycombe 525665. The present list of candidates for the new committee are:

Mesdames: - Heather Curme, Rita Luxton, Gaynor Taffurelli (pres. Hon Secretary), Claire Wylot

Messrs: - Paul Baker, David Crowther (pres. Hon Treasurer) Allan Duggin (pres. Chairman), Rodney Forrest, Tony Hall, Brian Petty, Tim Speechley, Ronald Walker, Vic West, Jeff Woodhouse.

THE OBJECTS OF SOCIETY is the preservation of the local countryside for the benefit of the public. For the past 12 years this has involved:-

- i) practical conservation work by Society volunteers in Booker Common Woodland
- ii) Opposition to any further building development within the adjacent Green Belt and Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) which are not strictly within the terms of exceptions permitted under the agreed planning policies.

CONSERVATION WORK

The bad weather conditions since the summer of 1993 has slowed down this work along the eastern residential side of the woodlands. However in April 1994 volunteers under direction of Ronald Walker began preparing the ground in the wildflower area below Squirrel Lane ready for the coming summer season.

If you are willing to help for an hour or two on an occasional Sunday morning please phone IIW 525665 and add your name to the volunteer list.

PRESERVATION OF GREEN BELT and CHILTERN AREA of OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY (AONB)

Since completion of M40 the pressures to develop the adjoining greenlands have increased. The same thing happened in the 1930's and resulted in ribbon-development along the then new arterial roads. It must not happen again along the M40.

During last summer and Autumn the Society took active part at two public inquiries. The Inquiries were about-

i) Bucks County Council/Grundon Ltd - proposed extension of Booker Tip into Green Belt/AONB. Booker Tip is due to close at the end of its 40 year life but Bucks CC has failed to plan for an alternative site. (Inquiry Report is awaited)

ii) Wycombe District Local Plan to year 2001 - The Society argued the case for raising to Green Belt status the large green fields at Sands on the northern edge of Booker Common and overlooked by members in Rydal Way, Carisbrooke & Warwick Avenue, and Arundel Road.

The Society also objected to loopholes in existing policies which could be exploited by property developers. But the Society supported the Council in its opposition to Mobil's submission that the new Local Plan should designate Booker as a potential MSA site. (The Inquiry Report is still awaited)

MOBIL BOOKER MSA BACK ON AGENDA

After the Local Plan Inquiry Mobil submitted their formal planning application to Wycombe District Council (WDC). The decision is likely to be given at their planning meeting either on 8th or 22 June 1994. Those who object to an MSA at Booker should be in the public gallery of the Council Chamber to hear our elected Councillors debate the issue and, we hope, refuse permission. Mobil have made it clear that if refused they will request a public Inquiry.

This second Mobil application will be more difficult to defeat than their 1990 Appeal because the Government has changed the rules which, among other things, permits an MSA at 15 mile intervals instead of 30 miles. (By the criterion of distance Booker remains vulnerable, but not by other criteria). This means that there could now be three MSA's between the now operational MSA at Ardley (Bicester) and the southern end of M40 at Uxbridge where it joins the M25.

To date this has resulted in planning applications from various commercial interests for nine separate MSA sites between Ardley and near the junction of M40/M25. But there remain five other potential MSA sites not yet applied for. It is likely that there will be one single (Mega) public Inquiry for all applications. Consequently it will last for months and be more costly than the 1990 Mobil MSA Inquiry.

The research and investigation necessary to construct the Society's case is already proceeding and will take much more time to complete. An important part of the Society's evidence will be the survey of local opinion. As was proved at the 1990 Inquiry the voting power of the people carries considerable weight with Governments. The Society's door-to-door survey is

half-way to completion. The remaining local residents will be visited during the coming summer and invited to sign against one of three options: Object to an MSA at Booker; Don't Object; No strong views either way. Returns to date show that 95% of local residents DO OBJECT.

The Society's official representatives are authorised to receive donations to the Society's No. 2 Account Green Belt/AONB Fighting Fund. Although Society members give their time and expertise voluntarily there remains the high cost of professional advice, purchase of technical documents, printing, postage and other administrative costs. The greater the donations received the more the Society can achieve.

Other current & potential Green Belt/AONB problems

Various planning applications for smaller areas of your designated countryside have arisen during past months. All have been opposed by the Society. Permission granted for one such application would provide incentive and precedent for further erosion by other property developers.

WYCOMBE TRANSPORTATION STUDY.

The Society participated at the consultation stage by means of written submissions. It appears that the traffic congestion in and around the Town might be relieved by a ring road passing through the Green Belt/AONB. If this is in fact the case the Society will do all possible to limit damage to the local environment on this western side of Town,

LOCAL GOVERNMENT REVIEW.

In essence the Government's Consultation procedure offered the public a narrow choice between Local Government by an overall County Authority or by a smaller District Area Authority. (i.e. either Bucks County Council or Wycombe District Council but not both as exists at present).

The Society submitted to the Commissioners a 6-page Report detailing reasons for opting for Wycombe District Council, but with the proviso that an overall authority was necessary to deal with the wider strategic issues. In the light of changing conditions it is not possible to say whether it should be at County level or at a wider Regional level.

NOISE POLLUTION

M40 Road-Surface Noise. The Society supports the movement for "porous" asphalt to replace the existing surface because it will reduce the irritating road-surface noise by some 50%.

Shotgun Noise. West Wycombe Shooting Ground at Widdenton Park Wood will soon complete the construction of grassed earth mounds up to 20ft height around the shooting butts. These will deflect and reduce the noise particularly when the wind is from the west.

Aircraft Noise. Extra Noisy Aircraft and those flying off the Noise Abatement tracks should be reported directly to Wycombe Air park (phone. HW 529261). To allow the management to take disciplinary action against pilots it is essential to give time of the incident and a description of the aircraft with its number if possible.

The public are invited to the next meeting of the Joint Consultative Committee meeting at Wycombe Air Park at 3pm on Wednesday 13, July 1994. They will be given opportunity to put questions and complaints directly to the operators if they wish and get answers.