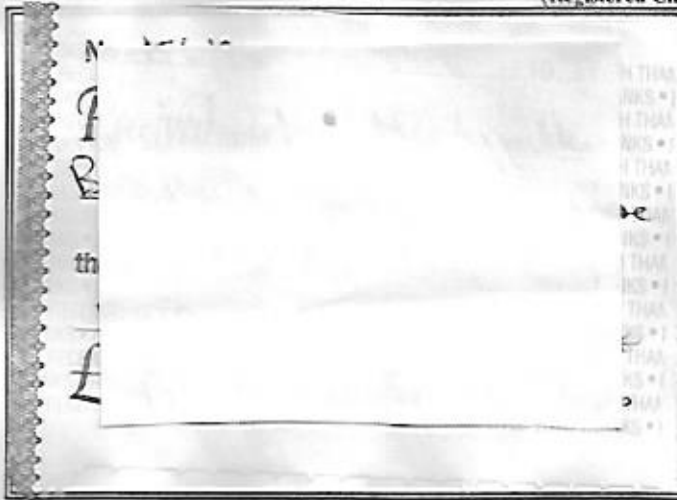
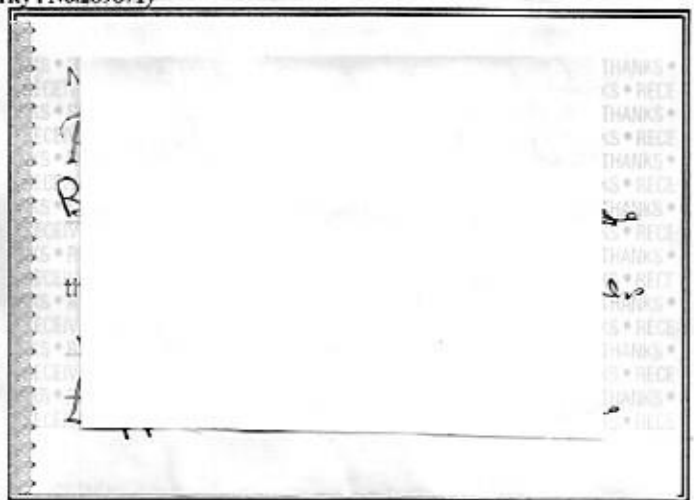


Booker Common & Woods Protection Society

(Registered Charity : No.289871)



Receipt for 1996/7 Fighting Fund donation



Receipt for 1996/7 Annual Subscription

This Society operates in accordance with the rules of the Charity Commission

PROTECTION OF THE LOCAL COUNTRYSIDE

by Allan Duggin

There is a new threat to the Green Belt. Secretary of State for the Environment has just revised the Green Belt Planning Policy Guidance (PPG.7.). This new revision could become the Property Developers Charter to cover your local Green Belt with concrete and brick.

You can mitigate the worst effects by insisting that your elected Councillors and Council Officers apply the strictest interpretations of the Regulations when giving irretrievable decisions on planning applications.

Your Committee gives you opportunity to talk directly to these decision takers who have accepted our invitation to Society Annual General Meeting on 21 May 1997. So don't miss this unique opportunity.

Review of Wycombe District Local Plan. The Strategic Plan/Wycombe District Local Plan is the 'Bible' upon which all planning decisions are based. It is reviewed periodically to meet the changing situations and amended after there has been lengthy 'Public Consultation.'

High Wycombe is surrounded by lands protected from building development by various designations i.e. Green Belt (GB); Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB); Areas of Special Restraint (ASR); Local Landscape Areas (LLA); Areas of Attractive Landscape (AAL); Green Space (GS); Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI); Conservation Areas (CA); Parks and Gardens of Historic Interest (PGHI); Flood Plain (FP) - unsuitable for housing?

There is very little non-designated land suitable for house building around High Wycombe.

Wycombe District Council has been lumbered with statutory obligation of providing 1,700 housing units. It is obvious that the next Local Plan now under review must allow for these additional houses within one or more of these designated lands.

By assured that every community around High Wycombe will have strong reason for objecting to the disappearance of the green fields on their doorsteps.

We strongly advise all members in Booker and Sands Wards to attend the AGM on 21 May 1997 to give good reason why any of the 1,700 new houses should not be sited on this western side of the Town. If you don't try then you will have no cause for complaint if your property value declines during the years ahead. Your committee has arranged for a key Planning Officer (who advises our elected Councillors) to be Guest Speaker at AGM and a number of the decision making Councillors have accepted invitation to attend to hear what you have to say.

Wycombe District Council's Consultation Period leading up to the final shape of the District Plan for the next 15 years begins in May 1997. You can influence how your local countryside will look during the next 15 years.

Annual General Meeting

8.00 p.m. Wednesday 21 May 1997
at Booker Memorial Hall,
Booker Common (off Limmer Lane)

Guest Speaker is Mr. David Turner,
Head of Planning Policy
and Economic Development
for Wycombe District Council

Please make a note in diaries and on kitchen
calenders NOW to ensure you don't forget.

WALKER'S VIEW

by Ronald Walker, Conservation Secretary

The future of Booker Common is in your hands. It is also in your backyard and consequently its attractiveness reflects on the value of your properties.

Yes, I would like your help with the forthcoming LITTER BLITZ, which is our regular attempt to keep the Urban Commons clean and tidy.

We will contact as many of our regular helpers as possible, but if you want to be part of the team and don't want to feel left out, please contact me (Tel. 4448254). If I'm not immediately available please leave a message on 525665.

Assembly points:

- i) On the Green below Squirrel Pub, Squirrel Lane.
- ii) Arundel Road entrance to Booker Woods - routing down to the Lane End Road Party
- iii) At the junction of Rydal Way and Booker Woods and route along Lane End Road and Hornes Lane.

Plastic bags are provided and filled bags of litter will be collected along the way. Strong gardening gloves should be worn as well as strong footwear and rainproofs. It's your backyard so please telephone and offer your help to keep it tidy.

LITTER BLITZ on Sunday Morning 11 May 1997 from 10.00 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.

TRAVELWISE AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

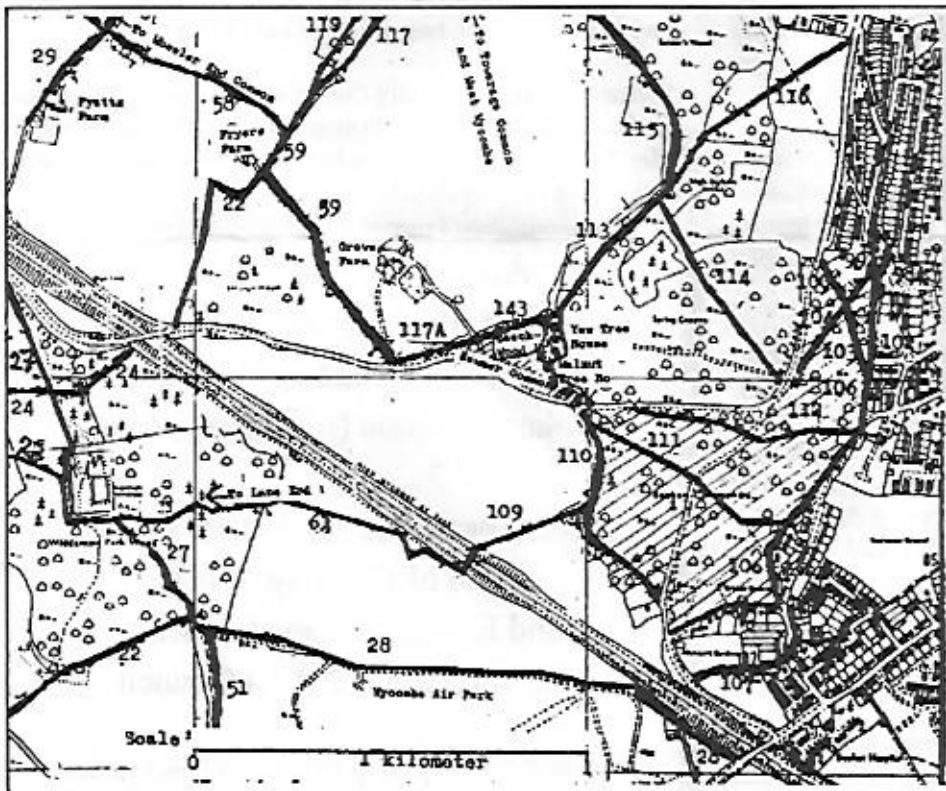
Bucks County Council's initiative is commendable. The Society's contribution to the campaign is the re-issue of the Definitive 'Rights of Way' (ROW) Map across private agricultural lands, including two 'Urban Commons' to which the public have legal Right of Access for 'Air and Exercise', (to Booker and Newmer Commons).

We are especially privileged in having on our doorsteps a countryside so beautiful that it carries the legal protection designation of the 'Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty'. It also carries both legal Rights of Way and Rights of Access.

We don't need to drive on car exhaust polluted roads to walk the open countryside. For example:-

Those wishing a day out in clean air are able to walk from Booker along ROWs 110 or 111 or 112, then cross Newmer Common and turn left at ROW 143 and walk westwards along ROWs on the map below to Wheeler End Common. (A distance of approx 2½ miles each way). At Wheeler End there is a hostelry providing refreshments for all tastes.

Those preferring a short circular walk can turn right at ROW 143 and return via ROWs 113, 114 and 112 with the option of refreshment at two Booker hostelries. (approx 1¼ miles).



We urge our 600 members to keep to the designated footpaths and to treat the Right of Access to Urban Commons responsibly. It is in everybody's interest to avoid treading and destroying the ground flora or picking the wild flowers. Members contributed substantial sums of money in re-introducing indigenous wild flowers which had disappeared, and in replacing diseased trees with new indigenous trees.

Recently the short connecting route between the two ROW networks separated by Newmer Common was obstructed to walkers which meant walking a dangerous road. Mr. Edward Dashwood has now ordered that a pathway be retained on Estate property of Newmer Common between the private properties of Beechwood House and Yew Tree House. This firm action is appreciated by the community.