

# Booker Common and Woods Protection Society

(Registered Charity : No.289871) This Society operates in accordance with the rules of the Charity Commission

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## NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

8.00 p.m. Wednesday 20th May 1998

at

Booker Memorial Hall, Booker Common (off Limmer Lane)

**GUEST SPEAKER is Dr. David Cook,  
who is Water Resources Manager for Thames Water**

He has worked on the hydrology, hydrogeology and water resources of the Thames Valley for over twenty years. This has included work on water use studies, water efficiency and demand forecasting as well as the planning, development and management of water resources. This includes the investigations into a possible new reservoir as well as other key projects. He is also a member of working groups concerned with water resources and water resource planning at a national level.

Dr. Cook is often to be seen dealing with political resource questions on Television.

He will be accompanied by Thames Water Local "Community Partner", Bilquis Mahmood, who is based locally at Mill End Road.

Dr. Cook's presence is particularly valuable at this time in so closely following the recent week-long series on BBC Television and Radio Channels entitled "Water Week". It is also highly relevant to the present Review of the Wycombe District Local Plan which is currently going through the Public Consultation Procedure.

Members are particularly concerned about the effect on the water table by the siting of future building developments arising from building planning applications to the District Council

This is a unique opportunity for members of the public to put questions directly to an authoritative voice on water problems. One such question much in local minds is the effect of building development in the greenfield valley-bottom alongside the Lane End Road. Is the effect on the water table better or worse than a development on higher ground? Put this and other questions directly to Dr. Cook.

Local Residents who are not at present members of this Society are welcome to attend its AGM.

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### AGENDA

AGM routine business needs to be drastically condensed to allow maximum possible time for you to put questions to Dr. Cook  
(The aim is to close the meeting at 9.30 pm)

1. Minutes of AGM 21 May 1997
2. Short reports by Chairman, Hon. Treasurer, Conservation Secretary, Membership Secretary.
3. Annual subscriptions for 1998/9.
4. Election of 1998/9 Committee.
5. Confirmation of existing basic policies.
6. AOB.

### **NEW COMMITTEE 1998/9**

Subscribing members are invited to offer themselves for election to the new committee. Please phone nominations before 18 May.

Members of the existing 1997/8 committee comprise : Mesdames Rita Luxton and Claire Wylot ( pres. Membership Secretary )  
Messrs. Paul Baker, David Crowther ( pres. Hon. Treasurer ), Allan Duggin ( pres. Chairman ), Tony Hall, Brian Petty,  
Tim Speechley, Mike Stevens, Vic West and Ronald Walker ( pres. Conservation Secretary ).

The object of the Society is the preservation of the local countryside for the benefit of the public. For the past 15 years this has involved :

- (i) Practical conservation work by Society volunteers on the local Urban Commons.
- (ii) Active 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.

### **SOCIETY BASIC POLICIES**

- (i) Practical conservation work by volunteers on the Urban Commons within the Society's resources.
- (ii) To campaign against any intrusion or building development within the local Green Belt / AONB boundary on this western side of town.
- (iii) To campaign against any development likely to increase ambient noise or air pollution and, where possible, to campaign to reduce them.

## THE SOCIETY'S MAINTENANCE OF THE PROTECTIVE BOLLARDS IS SUSPENDED

Wycombe District Council is no longer able to continue to indemnify the Society, under the terms of the existing Legal Agreements, against all claims arising from its installations of protective bollards at vulnerable points from the highways through and around Booker Common Woodlands.

Therefore all further maintenance, repair and replacement works have been suspended until a full indemnity is in place to protect the Society and its volunteer workers against all claims arising from the protective bollards.

The Society Committee is currently in discussion with Wycombe District Council seeking means, together, of finding a solution acceptable to both parties.

The primary purpose of installing the protective bollards was to provide the public with greater protection from motor vehicles while exercising their legal right to walk on Booker Common, its bridleways and footpaths for air and exercise. Other benefits include the prevention of dumping carloads of rubbish and dumping abandoned vehicles deep inside the woodlands. Clearly it is less expensive for the Council to remove loads of rubbish from outside the bollard lines than it is from deep inside the woods.

In 1983 the Society requested that the Council accept responsibility for any insurance claims arising from the proposed works once they were completed. At the same time it was stated that it would be irresponsible of the Society, as a voluntary body with all the inherent implications of uncertain life, to assume this responsibility. The Society does not judge itself competent to proceed with this project if potential insurance claims were left with the Society.

The Council agreed to to grant a full indemnity conditionally upon the Society undertaking to be responsible for certain aspects :-

- For carrying out, as agents for the District Council, all future repairs and maintenance.
- For raising the necessary funds to finance both the cost of the initial installations and for the cost of maintaining and replacing them.

The Society has fulfilled its part of the Agreements for the past fourteen years.

As soon as the Society is assured of full indemnity it will recommend that volunteers resume maintenance work.

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## THE FAST GROWING SEASON IS APPROACHING

Public Rights of Way must be kept open at all times. This can only be done by manually cutting back the natural overgrowth which obstructs free passage.

If you would like to join our regular team of Conservation Volunteers please contact Ronald Walker, Conservation Secretary, on 01494 444824

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## BOOKER MEMORIAL HALL

This hall is an essential centre for the encouragement and continuance of several Local Community activities.

All profit from the following evening goes to Booker Memorial Hall funds :

MAC'S COUNTRY ROADSHOW presents : A cheerful and sociable evening of LINE DANCING

Saturday 27 June 1998 8 till 11.30 pm. Tickets £4. Bring your own refreshments. Raffle.  
Dancing under the expert guidance of Mac himself.  
Enquiries and Tickets - ring 01494 447918