



Woodsmen

The Booker Common and Woods Protection Society

Registered Charity No.289871

Newsletter No.53 Autumn 2001

DRAFT

Annual General Meeting

Poorly attended this year, this was probably owing to our inability to attract a guest speaker. The prospective speaker was unable to attend, and we left it too late for a suitable replacement. Over the years we have had representatives from WDC planning, the police, airfield and other environment agencies and representatives. The committee would be interested to know what the members' interests are, to relieve the tedium of financial reports and election of representatives. Who do you want to hear and question? It would have been difficult to follow the enthusiasm of last year's Kite man.

The Chairman and committee were re-elected: Rita Luxton, Claire Wylot (Hon Sec), Paul Baker, Tony Hall, Colin Kennedy (Planning), Hedley Luxton (JCC Airfield, co-opted), Tim Speechley, Mike Stevens, Ron Walker (Chairman), Vic West and Chris Wylot (Hon Treasurer). The chairman expressed the wish that this should be his last year in post.

Policy

A policy statement with a brief history of the society will be distributed by collectors this year, the objective being to stimulate interest in new members, and to remind current members of what we are capable of achieving.

Planning

Many of you are aware of the recent opposition by Banner Homes to the Wycombe District Local Plan 2011, their objective being to establish the right to build on the land on Lane End Road opposite Warwick Avenue, Carisbrooke Avenue and Rydal Way. The area had been designated as "an area of special restraint" by WDC in their plan.

Fortunately we were alerted by Sands Residents Association on Saturday 30th June, (the date the Public Enquiry was scheduled to end). The society rushed out a supplementary news letter which was distributed to those residents who would be most affected, and on Monday 2nd July there was an excellent turn-out at the enquiry to show dissatisfaction at the turn of events. Let us hope that the inspector was suitably impressed by this expression of resentment. The presentation by Banner Homes was ill-conceived and less than persuasive. The Inspector's report is due in the middle of next year. Congratulations to all those who acted so quickly to preserve our environment, and thanks to our informant. There will be little opportunity to present an opinion regarding this threatened area before the next Wycombe Plan, so be alert.

At the opposite end of the Common, another type of inappropriate development was brought to the Society's attention, by residents of The Paddock. This was for the erection of a 15 metre tower with assorted antennae and a radio equipment at the top of Hornes Lane adjacent to M40. The application was rejected by Wycombe District Council as "an alien and intrusive feature in the Chilterns AONB". A further application has now been made for a smaller 12.5 metre mast. This has been opposed by the Society on the same grounds and as a potential health hazard. No further news at this time. Thanks to the local residents who spotted the application attached to an extremely remote lamppost - for all to see and read.

Environment

This is becoming more and more difficult to control. No sooner bollards are replaced than they are knocked down and another vehicle disappears into the woods to be "torched". It is becoming almost impossible to recover these vehicles, despite the excellent co-operation of WDC Environmental Services. All members are invited to report any and all instances of dumping or littering to Wycombe District Council on 421415. Cut out the middle man.

The footpaths have been left pretty much to their own devices after an early clearance, due to the wet and lack of labour.

Most of you are aware of the incursion on to the Common in August of a group of itinerants. Your Society can only make representation to the landowner concerning this. This was done, and an order obtained for eviction and served within hours. Regrettably the period before enforcement is seven days, and an unfortunate amount of fouling, pollution and littering took place before they were moved on. Wycombe District Council again took steps to clear this litter as soon as practicable. The Society is again in discussion with the landlord regarding bollarding off the recreational area to prevent recurrence.

Joint Consultative Committee of Wycombe Air Park.

Again, mainly due to the weather there has been restricted flying this summer. The JCC meeting of the 15th August was over-whelmed, however, by residents of Frieth after a change in the flight paths on the western side led to a massive increase of complaints from that area. The change was revised to an original flight path for Runway 25 which appears to affect the least number of adjacent residents. Fortunately these changes had little significance to most of our members. Please contact this Society with persistent noise offences, or the airfield direct on 529261 on perceived hazardous practices with details of the aircraft identity and time.

Media

This society has been invited to open a page on Wycombe District Council website with details of our objectives and where to find us. This has been done, and can be found on www.wycombe.gov.uk among the Community Groups.

Subscriptions

A collector is required for Booker Common due to the temporary incapacity of Mike Stevens. He looks all right to me!

Litterblitz

Please, please, turn out for a litter collection on 28th October. As you will remember, due to foot-and-mouth we were unable to do a spring collection. Bags will be supplied as usual. Strong footwear and gloves are essential. Meet at the end of Rydal Way, south end of Highwood Avenue (by the pylon), or on the green below the Squirrel pub. To accommodate the late risers, starting time will be 11 a.m. and should take around an hour. Of course, the more who turn out, the shorter it will take.