



BROADHURST

Woodsmen

The Booker Common and Woods Protection Society
Registered Charity No.289871 Newsletter No.63 Autumn 2005

Annual general Meeting

The Chairman, Rita Luxton, welcomed the members attending and thanked all those who have assisted in the Society's activities during the year.

Rita then introduced Julie Hopton from the Wycombe Ranger Service, who awarded on the society's behalf the Alan Duggin Conservation Award to The Focus Group from Amersham and Wycombe College for their work on a number of nature reserves over the past three years.

The Guest speaker, Roger Wilding who is the local co-ordinator for the Wycombe Wildlife Group gave a presentation on the local flora and fauna with special reference to the restoration of the triangle below "The Squirrel" public house.

The accounts were presented by Hedley. Copies of the current statement were distributed. There was a shortfall in subs for the year 2004-5 due to difficulties in collection and a sabbatical had been agreed by the committee.

Tim Speechley reported on the environment, with particular mention of Paul Baker and family whose sterling effort in replacing and tamping the bollards around the common continues to protect the area from vandalism.

The present committee were re-elected en bloc.

The above information does not in any way pretend to be other than a very brief resumee of the business of the AGM.

Planning

Colin Kennedy and Ronald Walker attended a Local Development Framework planning meeting on Thursday 21st July. This mainly addressed the town centre and did not appear to have significant implications for Booker. The results have been produced by WDC in a document in wide circulation entitled *Imagine the Future* and may be accessed on www.wycombe.gov.uk/imaginethefuture.

Briefly:

The Causeway Stadium may be removed from the Green Belt. The implication is that if this happens, and in the event of the football team "folding", the site could be used for any kind of development without protection. Planning agreement was only agreed initially on the understanding that it be used for "sport".

The Lane End Road white belt land currently safeguarded from development to be added to Green Belt. Yes.

Wycombe Air Park to continue much as is - still Green Belt.

Cressex Business Park - major employment.

Cressex Island Site - potential for new sports centre.

Buckmaster Road playing fields to be re-developed for business, with some recreational facility.

Environment

The spring litter collection took place in April - the usual workers turned out. Maybe we are winning, but there's still a lot of education to be done. Still the plastic bags of dog-doo - would you believe it?

A large dump of waste on the triangle was reported to WDC. The culprits have been identified and action is in the hands of WDC, who were quick to react in removing same.

A team turned out to prepare the triangle for planting in accordance with Roger Wilding's plan. Rita is currently squirreling a number of weeds (wild-flowers) for planting. This will be carried out in October after a session of rotovation.

It has been pointed out that a number of bollards round the common continue to be removed. The bollards are the property of this Society and the Dashwood Estate, and their removal is a criminal act. Please inform any society member if this happens and try to identify those doing so. They are there for everyone's protection.

Ronald Walker represented the Society at High Heavens Liaison Committee on 21 Sept. There is some concern about smells emanating from the composting facility - particularly in the Marlow Bottom area. Any complaints of bad odour believed attributable to this facility should be reported to Bucks CC on 01296 382307.

The restoration of the landfill site continues to be drawn out, with a further three years to completion being mooted. Ron expressed concern at the continuing increase of heavy vehicles as the compost facility increases its throughput while the number of landfill vehicles is not reduced.

The new household waste recycling scheme commences in November with restriction on times to no later than 1530 while the temporary facility is in use.

The Society provided a small presentation for The Environmental Centre exhibition from 10th -24th September.

We have been gifted a number of spades and shovels. All members may borrow what tools the Society has for free. Contact Ron on 01494 444824 or rtewalker@aol.com.

Subscriptions.

Collection of subs will commence shortly. We still need help in collectors. Contact Tony Dunford the Membership Sec on 01494 523058. Please give generously.

Bridleway

The society is still in negotiation with Bucks CC and WDC regarding the wording of notices to be added to the "No Entry" signs at both ends of the bridleway. Two suggestions have been submitted. Waiting.

Aims of the Society

To undertake practical conservation work by volunteers on the Urban Commons within the Society's resources.

To act against any intrusion or development within the local Green Belt or AONB which forms a boundary on the western side of the town.

To campaign against developments likely to increase ambient noise or air pollution, and where possible reduce them.

Litterblitz will take place on Sunday 23rd October. Meet below Squirrel pub or at the pylon end of Highwood Avenue at 11am. *Boots and gloves please!* It only takes an hour. Help.

Stop Press: A very large development of "affordable" housing has been approved in the last green bit of Sands. Unfortunately, we have only 3 weeks to appeal this decision by planning committee. What next?