



SEER GREEN PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

www.seergreenparishcouncil.gov.uk

Our Newsletter is delivered twice a year to all Seer Green households. We also regularly post information on our Notice Board, opposite the post box on Chalfont Rd, and on our website.

THE QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE WISH FULFILLED BY THE GENEROUS PEOPLE OF SEER GREEN

*'A seed was sown throughout the realm; a canopy is wanted by her at the helm!
A fitting tribute to the Queen's long reign; the like of which we'll never see again!
So the cry went out in Britain far and wide; a handsome tree or two please provide.
A living reminder of her Platinum Jubilee and a lasting tribute for generations to enjoy and see.'*

Seer Green Parish Council heeded the request and so was born what was to be nearly a year long project to plant a least one mature tree to commemorate the late Queen Elizabeth II's 70th year on the throne.

From the outset it was decided that, whilst the Parish Council would make a substantial donation, a 'Crowdfunder' initiative would be launched giving our whole community the opportunity to be part of this once in a lifetime, living memorial. Our faith in the generosity of many of our residents was rewarded as the target set for one tree was quickly reached and our vision for adding additional trees become an exciting reality. Adding in generous donations from Seer Green Gardeners and Jordans Environment Trust (JET) we reached our target of being able to fund two Platinum Jubilee Trees and one further tree to mark King Charles III's Coronation.



Civic Trees, the company who have supplied all the cherry trees planted around the village were approached and a site visit made. Then in November Janna Holder and Mandy Thomas, who had led the project, visited Deepdale Nursery in Bedfordshire to select the actual trees that would be planted. Quite a difficult task when faced with acres of mature trees as far as they eye could see but, having spent a considerable amount of time there, they left confident they had secured the straightest and shapeliest of each of the three specimens identified.

Following lengthy discussions it was decided to plant a *Tilia cordata* (small-leaved Lime) in Green Meadow in the hope that in years to come its brilliant, bright green display will become a focal point as you come up Bayne Hill towards the village. A '*Fagus sylvatica Atropunicea*' (Copper/Purple Beech) was chosen for the Recreation Ground and this forms a neat triangle between two existing Oak trees on its western boundary. Subsequently an '*Acer freemanii Autumn Blaze*' was added which, as can be gathered from its name, will hopefully provide a wonderful Autumnal display by the main gate into Green Meadow.



PLATINUM JUBILEE TREES continued



Finally, on 30th January our trees arrived in their new home and over the next 2 days were safely installed in Green Meadow and the Recreation Ground. Already showing signs of buds, we are very much looking forward to seeing them in full leaf and hoping that everyone will not only enjoy the magnificent display they produce but also stop and reflect on the 70 years of faithful service Queen Elizabeth II devoted to our country and the living canopy that has sprung up throughout the United Kingdom as a result of her Platinum Jubilee Wish.

PRECEPT – HOW WE SPEND YOUR MONEY

Part of the role of Seer Green Parish Council in helping to make our village such a pleasant and safe place to live, is to decide how to spend the precept (money allocated out of the council tax we all pay) for use in the village. Our budget is carefully set and monitored to cover areas that are considered the most important, to make Seer Green as safe as possible for residents. We use the precept for general day to day expenses such as managing the streetlights in the village, planned tree care and the maintenance of our green areas.



While we can budget for known costs, we cannot plan for unexpected and large costs often caused by the weather. During the last financial year, we needed to find money to deal with the unforeseen work on three large trees.



This year we have applied for a 20% increase, increasing our precept from £50,614 to £60,735. For a band D property this equates to an additional 90p a month, or £10.79 per household increase over the year. We use the precept to manage and maintain Green Meadow Playground, Green Wood, the Recreation Ground, Sports Pavilion, the Cemetery, the Allotments, defibrillators and Jubilee Walk. The extra money from the increase will help to cover additional work required about the village, and for other projects. When we have compared our precept to other local parishes, it is interesting to note that we are still significantly lower.



WOODLAND TRUST TREES

The Parish Council has gratefully received 105 saplings from the Woodland Trust. Planting is underway in Green Wood at the side of the Cemetery and creating a new hedge at the front of the Cemetery. Further planting will take place in Green Meadow and the Recreation Ground. The mixture of species includes hawthorn, rowan, blackthorn, sessile oak and hazel which are especially good to provide food and shelter for wildlife. These free trees are part of two nationwide projects which are the Big Climate Fightback and the Queen's Green Canopy.



ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR SEER GREEN

In order to be able to fund additional project work around the village which cannot be met by existing Parish Council funds, the Parish Council has been active in applying for additional funding from Buckinghamshire Council's Community Board.

In order to address the long-standing parking issues in the centre of the village, we submitted a funding application for additional double yellow lines to be painted along parts of Chalfont Road, at the junction of School Lane & Stable Lane and at the junction of Seer Mead. We are pleased to confirm that the funding has been approved by Bucks Council and we have received the initial design from Transport for Bucks. This will now go out for consultation to residents and businesses affected by the additional lines. If anyone wants to put comments for or against the proposal of the double yellow lines, the deadline is 12th March. You can view the consultation on the following link:

<https://yourvoicebucks.citizenspace.com/roads-parking/seer-green-parking-review-statutory-consultation/>

We expect the work to complete this project will begin shortly after this deadline and hope that as a result of these measures the traffic and safety issues in the middle of the village will be mitigated.

We have also applied for, and been awarded, funding under Bucks Council's "Supporting our Green Spaces" initiative. This program is aimed at finding ways to enhance and improve the green spaces within communities in Buckinghamshire. Whilst Seer Green is blessed with a great deal of natural habitat, it is important that we can continue to manage and enhance our natural environment. In order to do this, we need to understand what habitats and biodiversity we currently have so that any work done will not negatively impact our natural world and can contribute in our own small way to combating climate change. The funding we have received is for the first step of this process to investigate the biodiversity and natural environment in the village and propose what actions are needed to manage and enhance our green spaces. Bucks Council have asked us to "lead the way" in the way we manage our green spaces and will use this project as an example to other villages and towns.

We have applied for funding to replace the footpath in Jubilee Walk. This path was originally built with concrete slabs and overlaid with tarmac. As the trees have grown, the roots have pushed the slabs upwards making the path very uneven. We have presented our funding proposal to the Bucks Council Community Board and are pleased to report that we have secured the funding from them, and the new path will be installed at the end of March.

In total all three projects will provide more than £20,000 additional money for the village which is significant considering that the entire Parish Council precept at present is just over £50,000 per year.

VACANCY FOR PARISH COUNCILLOR

We have a casual vacancy for a new Parish Councillor on Seer Green Parish Council. If you would like further information on the role, please contact the Parish Clerk. If you think you may be interested, we ask that you please come and attend a meeting so that you can meet the Council and understand the position in more detail.

SEER GREEN PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

Seer Green Parish Council meet on the first TUESDAY of each month (except August) at 7.30pm.:

4th April 2nd May 6th June 4th July 5th Sept 3rd Oct 7th Nov

Meetings take place at Seer Green Baptist Church, HP9 2XG. Members of the public are welcome to come and raise any relevant issues at the monthly Parish Council meeting. All are welcome to stay and observe the meeting but may only speak during the 15-minute open session at the beginning.

PARISH COUNCIL COMMUNITY AWARD

Every year the Parish Council ask for residents to nominate a person to receive the Chairman's Community Award. This person is someone who, through their service and commitment, has made a real contribution to our community. Each year we receive a number of nominations, and the Chairman of the Parish Council, Mandy Thomas selects the winner.

It is with grateful thanks for all her hard work over many years, that we congratulate Jenny Owen on receiving our award this year.

Jenny is active in many areas of village life. She has supported work with the youngest in our community by volunteering at SGBC's Toddler Group and helps with the seniors through her involvement with the village lunch club and assisting at the 8'oclock club. Jenny is always willing to help where she can, often driving people to appointments and getting shopping for those in need. Jenny is an extremely pro-active

member of the charity committee of the Jordans and District Rotary Club having instigated many fund-raising events. Many will know Jenny for her work in ensuring that Santa visits the streets of Seer Green and Jordans each Christmas.

A rather surprised Jenny was presented with her certificate and gift token at the monthly Lunch Club at the Baptist Church, where everyone was delighted to witness her receiving this award.



DOG FOULING

The topic of dog fouling continues to be an issue that causes much annoyance and there are still many people who are not clearing up after their dogs, especially at the recreation ground, which is regularly used for football and other activities. There are bins provided around the village for dog poo and should these bins be full you are allowed to use the normal litter bins so there is no excuse for finding dog poo bags in the trees or along the footpaths in the village.



MONDAY 8TH MAY

Watch out for more information via the noticeboards and social media on how you can get involved with 'The Big Help Out' as part of the Coronation Weekend.

WHO TO CALL?

The Parish Council is often approached by residents when issues and problems arise in and around the village. Generally, we are either able to deal with these directly, if the issue is under our control, or to help get matters sorted out by liaising with the appropriate local authority or utility, when we have no powers to deal with the issue ourselves. However, it can be helpful if residents themselves report particular problems directly to the responsible agency as it can save time.

Report potholes/flooding/trees on the highway to Bucks County Council Transport Department on www.fixmystreet.buckcc.gov.uk. Waste, litter, road sweeping, fly-tipping and clearance of paths (e.g. path to Seer Green Station) should be reported online to <https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/bin-collection-recycling-and-waste/>. Village Street lights can be reported to the Parish Clerk, details below.

SEER GREEN PARISH CLERK

Liz Bates Tel 01494 874233 Email: clerk@seergreenparishcouncil.gov.uk
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Or visit our website: www.seergreenparishcouncil.gov.uk