



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 Lamb's Newsagents and on our website.

CHILTERN DISTRICT CORE STRATEGY - A PLANNING BLUEPRINT

The Government recently published the "South East Plan" which sets out how our region will respond to changing needs for housing, the economy, transport and protecting the environment in the period up to 2026. This document places obligations and targets on Local Planning Authorities such as Chiltern District Council (CDC), who are required to prepare Local Development Frameworks to meet the policies in the South East Plan. To this end, CDC has just published the draft "Core Strategy" which shows how our district will achieve these obligations whilst maintaining a robust planning framework.

The document identifies the best locations for new homes in the District in order to meet the target of building 145 new dwellings per year over the next 20 years (2,900 in total) and examines ways of developing employment and upgrading infrastructure for our growing population.

Whilst expansion will be focused in the 3 main towns of Chesham, Amersham and Chalfont St Peter, *Seer Green is required to play its part and deliver 30 new dwellings by 2026*. The good news is that the planners have assessed that 21 of these have already been built or had planning permission approved, so leaving a further 9 properties by 2026. The other important aspect of the Core Strategy which has provoked much discussion is the "rural exceptions policy" which will allow selective development in the Green Belt under strict conditions and only for "affordable housing" - schemes which provide low cost homes to rent or part purchase for local residents only.

The Core Strategy is complex and touches many areas. The document can be found on the CDC website (<http://www.chiltern.gov.uk>) and we have produced an overview describing the possible impact on Seer Green on our website.

AREA 10 SPEED REVIEW

Over the past few years, Bucks County Council has carried out an area by area review of speed limits within the county, the aim being to achieve a consistent approach countywide.

After many delays, public consultation on our area (Area 10) took place between April to June this year. The proposed changes include the extension of the 30 mph limit to the bottom of Bayne Hill, further down Bottom Lane and along Chalfont Road to beyond the former Princess Marina Centre. In addition, 40 mph limits will be introduced on most roads outside the village (Longbottom Lane, Newbarn Lane and part of Potkilm Lane). A final proposal is being prepared currently for implementation in early 2010.

With the imminent speed limit reduction on Bayne Hill, the Parish Council has successfully applied for funds to install two new street lamps

up the hill which we hope will provide improved visibility and safety for all road users. In addition, we are also trialling temporary Speed Indicator Devices around the village, to help reinforce the anti-speeding message.



Temporary Speed Indicator Device on School Lane

UNITING TO REMEMBER

A proposal for a central stone war memorial in Seer Green

In the summer of 2007, the churches in the village undertook a joint community audit asking over 200 residents what they thought about life in Seer Green. One of the ideas from the audit was to have an outside war memorial in the village, which was something both Revd Richard Palmer and I had thought about, as both church buildings were now too small for the amount of people, including all the local uniformed groups, to attend the annual Remembrance Day service.

Currently there are four war memorial plaques in Holy Trinity (2), the Baptist Church (1) and the Jubilee Hall (1) but these are scattered and do not provide a central village focus. Richard and I both felt that Seer Green needed a space that was big enough to accommodate 300+ people, for a *whole village* act of remembrance and we thought that an open-air space would be the most flexible.

So an **outside war memorial stone** placed visibly from the main road through the village was therefore suggested to the Parish Council and the best and most appropriate place we thought of is the land in front of the Seer Green Cemetery. The Parish Council has so far fully supported the idea and have begun to look at the cost to erect such a memorial.

So what next? There are two things that need to happen: firstly, to get a general sense of support from the village for the establishment of a permanent central village memorial and, secondly, to gather a group of interested local people who can move the idea forward. If you are interested in this proposal and/or would like to be involved with the project, please speak to the Parish Clerk or to me, Revd Gaenor Hockey, Priest in Charge, Holy Trinity Church on 01494 675013 or email: rev.gaenor@btinternet.com

BCC ROAD REPAIRS

Bucks County Council has recently carried out a number of highway repairs in Seer Green. They have replanned a large area of Longbottom Lane and patched parts of Bottom Lane. Many more areas have been marked for repair by the BCC Highways Technician e.g. Chalfont Road at the junction with Hearn's Meadow. However these markings are only suggested repairs for consideration under the countywide programme for patching works, which has very limited funds. So it is important that if an area of road is causing you concern you should please report it on the **Transport for Buckinghamshire** helpline **0845 2302882** or email TfB@buckscc.gov.uk. Thank you.

VANDALISM IN GREEN MEADOW

In August, vandals targeted Green Meadow and broke the children's yellow spinning roundabout and two of the recently planted Cherry trees that were just beginning to thrive.

Unfortunately the spinner was damaged beyond repair and so the Parish Council is applying for funds to replace it. The crime was reported to the police but unfortunately there were no witnesses. In October vandals damaged the fence, and daubed graffiti on the play equipment and Youth Shelter in Green Meadow and removed signs within the village. If you see something suspicious please report it to the Police on 0845 8 505 505.

COUNTRYSIDE ON YOUR DOORSTEP

The Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty website has recently launched an interactive new *Walks and Rides* section. Users can now put in a postcode, town or name and the interactive map will bring up details of all the walking and cycling routes in the local area from easy strolls to challenging bike rides. There is a full page of information on each route including length, what you can see on the way, accessibility of the route and photos. The new section can be visited at www.chilternsaonb.org/activities.asp. Get out there and enjoy them!



Vandalised cherry trees in Green Meadow

ALLOTMENTS

With funding support from the Parish Council we have managed to finally clear the land at the far right hand side of the allotments. If you remember we cleared the land of the trees and shrubs last year with a combined effort from the Scouts and allotment holders. Unfortunately this left the roots of the trees in place along with a lot of rubble from the pig sties that were there many years ago. So with the funding we managed to



Seer Green Allotments

hire equipment to dig out all the roots and remove the majority of the rubble and we were then able to rotavate the area. This has now given us 4 new allotments, not full size but adequate for the requirement of most people seeking an allotment. Work is underway on these allotments by the new allotment holders whose primary task is to deter the rabbits who have laid claim to the ground for the last few years!!

The ground looks good and hopefully we will be seeing 4 productive plots by this time next year.

Currently there are 3 people on the waiting list for allotments but we have now placed all the available land into viable allotments so until people release their allotments we cannot allocate further plots. If you wish to register for an allotment please call Barry Richardson on 01494 673407.

Barry Richardson
Chairman - Seer Green Allotment Association

NEW PARISH COUNCILLOR

I have lived in the Seer Green and Chalfont St. Giles area for the past 25 years, now with my two young children and wife Zsuzsi.

I have worked in local property maintenance and refurbishment business for many years, but now I work with young offenders in the Windsor area. This experience should help if and when any anti social behaviour incidents occur in the local area, by encouraging them to respect and appreciate their local community. As I am now involved more with the local community I hope to bring a different point of view to local parish matters.

Councillor Mark Webb

TREE PRESERVATION ORDER REQUESTED

A temporary Tree Preservation Order (TPO) has recently been implemented by Chiltern District Council to protect the belt of trees extending southwards from Green Wood between the houses on the east side of Seer Mead and the open fields beyond (see Google Earth image). This temporary order is valid for 6 months and is being progressed through the legal process to be considered as a permanent TPO. The Parish Council, together with local residents, requested CDC to take this action as a consequence of concerns arising following properties on Seer Mead being advertised for sale with development potential. This stretch of ancient woodland provides important visual amenity value, being visible from several public footpaths, and is a key wildlife corridor.



BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION 2009

Seer Green received very positive judges' comments this year in the Best Kept Village Competition, including a Certificate of Merit for achieving a Highly Commended grade in the DeFraigne Cup. Overall, our score increased to 83 out of 100 (from 79 in 2008).

Judges comments:-

"It was a pleasure to walk around Seer Green in the sunshine which showed the village to best advantage. All elements of the competition achieved good scores.

The judges assumed that the daisies in the churchyard had been left uncut deliberately as the rest of the grass was well maintained.

The play area showed some deterioration of the safety surfacing but the judges were impressed at the absence of graffiti in the Youth Shelter which was well kept.

The cricket and football pitches were in excellent condition.

The recent litter pick advertised in the minutes and on the noticeboard had been successful, indicated by the general absence of litter.

The noticeboards were informative and showed community involvement although it was noticed that no BKV poster was displayed!

As usual, it was difficult to find the Baptist Church and the judges suggest that additional signs

might help visitors. Long Grove Wood was easy to find and is a lovely facility for the village."

The Parish Council has taken these comments on board and are also speaking to Bucks County Council about improving the signage for the Baptist Church.

Repairs have also recently been carried out on the large grass verge on the Chalfont Road including the clearing of the drains and ditches. Bollards have also been installed to prevent a repeat of previous years' dangerous off road antics during the flooding.



Long Grove Wood

SEER GREEN DOG WASTE BINS

One of our councillors, Dennis Scourfield, is a regular dog walker in the village and, together with a number of other councillors, has bemoaned the lack of dog bins, and of the dog waste that is regularly found around the village.

Dennis agreed to undertake a survey by asking a number of other dog walkers for their opinion as



New dog waste bin in Bottom Lane - Please use it!

to the number and location of any additional dog waste bins. The result showed that the village could do with at least two more bins, one near Green Wood, and the other at the start of the footpath at the top of Bottom Lane. These bins have now been ordered and the Bottom Lane bin is already in situ. We hope that all dog walkers will make use of the bins which will be emptied regularly.

We are also conscious of the large amount of horse fouling in the village and here the problem is more difficult to solve. The Parish Council has written to all stables in the area but any other suggestions would be welcome.

SEER GREEN PARISH CLERK

Liz Bates Tel 01494 874233
Gerston, Back Lane,
Chalfont St. Giles, Bucks, HP8 4PB
email: clerk@seergreenparishcouncil.gov.uk

or visit the website at:-

www.seergreenparishcouncil.gov.uk