



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.

SPEED AWARENESS

Your Parish Council continues to be concerned about the speed of traffic through the village and to explore ways to improve the situation. In September last year we carried out a traffic speed survey for one week at 3 points along School Lane and Chalfont Road. It showed that average speeds consistently exceed the 30 mph limit - in fact, on the Chalfont Road, only 1 in 4 cars travels within the speed limit. Speeds up to 60 mph were recorded and, believe it or not, traffic speeds during the day can be as fast as in the middle of the night.

Our simple wish is to avoid a tragedy and we ask that all drivers respect the speed limits and drive appropriately to the conditions. We prefer to use both a carrot and stick approach and have worked with Thames Valley police and other bodies on a variety of initiatives. On the 'stick' side, the Police held several Enforcement Days

on School Lane in 2008 and a number of tickets were issued - yes, mainly to local residents. On the 'carrot' side, we are about to introduce temporary speed indicator signs around the village to warn drivers of their speed and encourage them to drive within the limits.

Please be aware that there will be increased enforcement this year since local officers have now been trained to use laser speed devices and will be carrying out checks at more points around the village.

On a more general note, Bucks County Council is currently reviewing speed limits in our area and we have put forward a number of proposed changes for their consideration. Their final proposals will be going out to public consultation shortly and we encourage you to look at the proposals and to have your say.

PARISH CHURCH HALL REFURBISHMENT

The Parochial Church Council has been fighting a battle to keep the Parish Church Hall in reasonable condition, but the redecoration 15 months ago has already been ruined by damp.

Last year, following over two years of fundraising, and the generous support of residents of both Seer Green and Jordans, the fundraising committee succeeded in raising almost £60,000. They had hoped to receive match funding from the Garfield Weston Foundation Trust but sadly their application was turned down so they were left with a shortfall of £60,000.

A public meeting was held last May and there was a clear consensus that they should spend the money on making good the structural problems and adapting the Hall to the needs of the 21st Century. The prioritised list of work includes; the removal of the columns and the existing toilet, overhauling the roofs, replacing the windows and doors, increasing insulation and installing a new ceiling, installing new heatpumps for heating and cooling, new lighting, upgrading

the external paving and wall. They hope to carry out some of the work such as decorating with voluntary labour. The hall will be closed from the 9th May with completion planned for 4th Sept 2009.

The direct appeal plus the prize draw organised by the Jolly Cricketers raised another £7,500, but they are still short of £22,500, so if you did not respond to the direct appeal and would like to offer a donation or if you are a local contractor willing to carry out some of the work at cost, then please call Matthew Locke on 01494 674989 or email mandjlocke@btinternet.com.



FLOODING ON THE CHALFONT ROAD

Once again the village suffered the flooding and closure of the Chalfont Road in early February as heavy downpours followed the heaviest snowfall in the County for 20 years.

Bucks County Council Highways maintenance programme includes the clearance of drains and gullies. Chalfont Road is scheduled once a year and was last cleaned on 31st July 2008 with the ditches for run off water cleared in June 2008.

Although the drainage system, which includes a deep borehole, had recently handled significant levels of water, the drains and gullies had become blocked over the autumn/winter. In addition to the regular cleaning programme BCC reactively use specialist jetting contractors and were waiting for them to clear the system on an outstanding order raised on 15th January 2009.

BCC is in the process of changing contractors for drain clearance and the new company, Ringway Jacobs does not start until 1st April. Meanwhile there have been issues with the existing company and a backlog of work has built up.

If the Chalfont Road is flooded the Parish Council recommend that you ***do not attempt to drive through the water, which is often deeper than it looks but turn around and find another***

route. UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES SHOULD MOTORISTS DRIVE ON THE GRASS VERGE.

Last year two Arriva buses mounted the verge and got stuck in the mud from which they then had to be rescued. Following this incident the Parish Council requested several bollards to be installed to deter motorists from this route. Unfortunately some motorists still drive on the verge to avoid the flood and this action not only ruins the verges but causes the mud to fill and block the drains. If you notice that drains are blocked and need cleaning or that dangerous potholes have appeared please call **BCC Highways on Call on 0845 2302882**. Thank you.



WARNING - SECURE YOUR HOME

Local Police Officers PC Gavin McVeigh, PCSO's John Webb and Mark Neill are concerned that Seer Green residents protect themselves and their property against burglars. Recent incidents throughout the Chiltern South area indicate that external doors left unlocked and ground floor windows open at night allow thieves easy access. Please secure your home.

Burglary is often taken too lightly both by media and communities. Burglary is invasive; it is a violation of your home, your space and your privacy. Thames Valley Police are anxious to provide support to householders with preventative measures and also encourage residents to form Neighbourhood Watch groups.

They will arrange for the Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator to visit "start up" groups to provide information on the "ringmaster" scheme and how groups can obtain posters & placards. If you are interested please contact PCSO John Webb on 0845 8 505505 or contact the Parish Clerk.

The Crime Prevention Officer based at Amersham would be pleased to visit your home and undertake a survey of your property **FREE OF CHARGE**. They are also able to contact the "HANDYVAN" scheme through Help the Aged to provide home security to older and vulnerable residents **FREE OF CHARGE**.

The Crime Prevention officer has been invited to attend the next Police Surgery at Seer Green Baptist Church on 27th April 2009 from 10.00am to 11.00am.

By supporting each other we can reduce crime. If you feel concerned by suspicious vehicles or persons please report them on

0845 8 505 505

or if you wish to remain anonymous call **CRIMESTOPPERS** on **0800 555111**

Do not hesitate to contact Thames Valley Police. They are pleased to attend any report of suspicious or anti social behaviour.

ALLOTMENTS

Seer Green Allotments at the Recreation Ground are enjoyed and heavily utilised by residents. All plots are currently full and a short waiting list is being held by the Allotments Association.

To keep up with demand for new plots the allotment holders and the Parish Council have been trying to reclaim waste land for use as 3 future allotments. Over the last few years we



have reclaimed 6 plots to meet the demand. The land that is currently being cleared is full of old rubble, metal and tree stumps but it is hoped that this will be ready by the summer.

Early last year the Scout Leaders, Scouts and their parents spent a day cutting down small trees and clearing the site. The work was much appreciated by the Allotments Association and their Chairman, Barry Richardson said "it was great to see the lads and dads having fun clearing the land and feeding the bonfire, we were grateful for their efforts as it spurred us on to then clear the rest of the area and hopefully we will have 3 more productive allotments in a few months."

The little community of allotment holders crosses all social boundaries with great friendship, exchanging produce, plants, seeds and advice! If you wish to register for an allotment please call Barry Richardson on 673407.

GREEN WOOD

Following a recent Woodland Management survey by the Chiltern Woodlands Project on Green Wood in October 2008, 41 trees were marked as dead or in deteriorating condition. Following consultation with the Tree and Landscape Officer at Chiltern District Council it was agreed to order the trees to be felled as they were near heavily used footpaths. The work had to be completed before March when the birds start nesting.

The Chilterns Woodland project also remarked on several of the specimens found in this ancient woodland including "Big Tom" the fine specimen of a large old oak on the boundary bank and also the ancient ash stools on the boundary by the cemetery which are the interesting remnants of an old hedge. The wood will soon be carpeted in blue as the bluebells flower in April and May. Public Footpath maps that include walks through Green Wood can be found on the Parish Council website at www.seergreenparishcouncil.gov.uk. If you experience any problems with footpaths around the village, whether they are overgrown, difficult to walk on, or even covered with litter, please contact the Parish Clerk.

The woodland survey was part of the Parish Council's ongoing assessment of risks. The Council have been actively examining and monitoring potential risks around the village and

have developed a simple process that identifies, assesses and records existing control measures to reduce or contain those risks, which are inspected and then reviewed at Council meetings.

Risks arise from natural causes like falling trees and path deterioration or from vandalism e.g. broken glass, damage to property etc.

Whilst the Council works hard to keep the risk of injury to a minimum we are very dependent upon villagers to help us to spot potential risks and encourage behaviour that prevent risk events occurring unnecessarily.



SEER GREEN PARISH COUNCIL - LONG TERM PLAN 2009

What do we mean by a long term plan? Quite simply, it means making a plan every few years to identify major one off items of expenditure and their order of priority. We are not a rich parish council, and therefore have to plan this expenditure very carefully.

All regular annual expenditure comes out of our revenue budget which this year is about £54,000. This comes from our share of council tax (called the precept) £40,700 in 2009/10, a 3% increase on last year, rentals from our assets (the recreation ground and pavilion) and a small amount of interest. We spend this on administration (parish clerk's salary, insurance, etc), general tidying up within the village, including grass cutting, and maintenance of the playground, Green Wood, Jubilee Walk, the pavilion and recreation ground, cemetery, road traffic calming, allotments and street lighting.

Over the next three years we have identified one off items amounting to £30,000 and as we don't have large reserves, these will have to be paid for either from savings out of our revenue budgets or some form of loan. We have decided not to go down the loan route at present, and therefore our revenue budgets must forecast a surplus of about £8,000 a year for the next three years. In a

commercial environment this may be described as capital expenditure, but this small parish council accounts on a cash basis, and writes off these items as they occur. Our most recent major expenditure of this nature was the £17,000 net we spent last year on resurfacing the car park at the recreation ground, and this depleted our reserves to a minimum. We therefore have to finance future similar expenditure largely from revenue surpluses.

Our latest long term plan was approved at the February council meeting, and includes the items below:-

Cemetery	£3,000
Green Meadow play equipment	£7,000
Older children equipment	£5,000
Street light replacement	£6,000
Pavilion modernisation	£5,000
Traffic calming	£4,000
Total	£30,000

We hope that you will see the benefits of this expenditure over the coming years, but please remember that because of our limited cash flow we can only carry out approximately a third of the above in any one year.

Dennis Scourfield. Treasurer, Parish Council

A MESSAGE FROM CSG LIBRARY

Dear residents of Seer Green,
although the Chalfont St Giles Community Library is run as a charity by local residents, it is fully linked into the Bucks County Library system, so you use it in the same way as any County library.

So if you have a Bucks County Library Card, which you use in, say Beaconsfield Library or the County Mobile you can use it in exactly the same way, free of charge, in the Chalfont St Giles Community Library e.g to order or return a County book (over 500,000 of them) etc.

The library has a great stock of over 6,000 books together with a stock of children's DVDs and a wealth of local information, call 01494 874732.

Opening Hours

Tuesday 10am - 1pm, Wednesday 2pm - 5pm,
Thursday 10am - 5pm, Friday 10am - 5pm,
Saturday 9.30am - 4pm

SEER GREEN RECYCLING CENTRE

As a Parish Council we work closely with CDC to keep the recycling area tidy. However we are still having problems with people leaving black refuse bags at the site which are full of household waste. **To leave any amount of rubbish beside the bins is an offence and considered flytipping.** Often these bags contain food waste which attracts rats and vermin and raise concerns for nearby residents and the school.

If you do have excess waste please take it to the nearest household waste site which is on the A40 London Road towards Beaconsfield. Thank you.

SEER GREEN PARISH CLERK

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