



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.

UPDATE ON HIGHWAYS AND FLOODING

Highways and flooding issues are the responsibility of Buckinghamshire Council and as Seer Green Parish Council we share the frustrations of our residents over the state of our roads, drains and gullies. Thanks to the collective efforts of our residents, our Ward Councillor Carl Jackson and our Parish Clerk, Seer Green's situation has been kept in the forefront of Bucks Council's thinking, and we were delighted that in April Longbottom Lane was finally resurfaced as an initial step to improving our highways and the issues we face.

This year the entrances to the village have been flooded on a number of occasions and this is regularly logged with the Council and our Clerk liaises with our Local Area Technician to seek and order suitable outcomes to stop this as there are multiple factors causing the flooding. Funds are overstretched and many other villages have suffered significantly this year, with Chalfont St Giles and Chalfont St Peter being hit even worse than ourselves by excessive flooding affecting homes and businesses, and sewage overflows respectively. This being said we continue to lobby for our interests and issues to be addressed and hope that in this financial year Seer Green will benefit.

Since our last newsletter the Super Sucker cleared the drains and underground pipes on Bottom Lane and the drains and gullies on Chalfont Road. This has highlighted a need to get the ditches cleared on Bottom Lane which has been ordered through our Local Area Technician. The deep ditch at the bottom of Bayne Hill on Long Bottom Lane has been cleared and orders have been made to have all of the ditches, drains and gullies cleared on Long Bottom Lane.

The Newbarn Lane sharp bend continues to be slow to drain, even though the drains were cleared on 12th December 2023. A new borehole is needed which is in the 5-year project plan for the Bucks Council Capital drains team. We are waiting to hear when this work will be carried out.

If you would like to read a comprehensive report on the flooding situation, please go to our website and read 'flooding update.' If you have a highways or flooding issue, please use Fix My Street to alert Buckinghamshire Council. This can also be used for the following issues:



Report a problem on a street/road

Report a problem on a street/road in Buckinghamshire or track the progress of reported issues.

Enter a Buckinghamshire postcode, street name and area, or report reference number:

e.g. HP19 7QF or 'Walton Road'

[Use my current location](#)

Abandoned vehicles, dead animals on public land, dog fouling, draining/flooding, drug paraphernalia, graffiti, grass, hedges & weeds, highway license applications, parking, potholes, rights of way, road and street signs, roads and pavements, roadworks, salt & gritting, street cleaning and trees.

www.fixmystreet.buckscc.gov.uk

1. Enter a nearby postcode, street name or area.
2. Locate the problem on a map of the area
3. Enter details of the problem, with a photo if possible
4. Issue will be sent to the council

YOUR PARISH COUNCIL & THE PRECEPT

Parish Councils operate at a level below our unitary authority, Buckinghamshire Council. Seer Green Parish Council is made up of 9 councillors, supported by our Parish Clerk. As a full Seer Green Parish Council, we meet once a month to discuss and make decisions on issues that affect the parish, such as health and safety, streetlights, village services, planning, general village upkeep and maintenance, play areas, green and community spaces.

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. Whilst we can budget for many of our expenses, managing a large area of green space often incurs unexpected costs during the year.



At the Seer Green Parish Council meeting on 5th December 2023 the Parish Council agreed and approved a precept increase of 10% for the year 2024/25. This equates to just under 50p more per month for a band D property. This increase would take us from the current £60,735.00 to £66,808.00. Our largest expenditure is on maintenance and replacement of streetlights and managing our trees and green spaces. We use some of the precept to manage and maintain Green Meadow Playground, Green Wood, the Recreation Ground, Sports Pavilion, the Cemetery, the Allotments, defibrillators and Jubilee Walk.

20 YEARS AS SEER GREEN PARISH COUNCIL CLERK



On 8th October 2003 Minutes of the Parish Council meeting were recorded by its newly appointed Clerk. Twenty years later on 3rd October 2023 that same Clerk, but by now no stranger to Seer Green and its much-enlarged community, was not just diligently recording the proceedings of the meeting, but reporting on the many and diverse Council-based activities she proactively manages on a daily basis.

The Clerk in question is, of course, Liz Bates who over the years has truly not only embraced but grown her role and continues to take on additional duties and carry out actions on behalf of the Parish Council well beyond the remit of the original restricted requirements of her role.

Although not resident in the village, Liz has become a much respected and loved member of the Seer Green community. For anyone needing a problem solved or fixed whether it be to do with Parish Council owned properties and open spaces or areas the responsibility of Buckinghamshire County Council such as potholes and flooding, Liz B is the 'go to' point of contact with the Parish Council and can be seen in the village on a daily basis.

Over the last 20 years Liz has shown her very special talent not just for the 'business at hand' but also the value of compassion, sensitivity and understanding when dealing with the public and her associates. This empathy, together with her enthusiasm, hard work, immense organisational ability and dogged determination have made her an almost impossible act to follow so I say, "Liz B on behalf of the Parish Council and residents a big thank you for all the years of loyalty and outstanding service you have devoted to this community".

As well as Liz Bates's dedication to her role as Clerk being celebrated in Seer Green, she also received regional acknowledgement at the Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Association of Local Councils awards, being nominated and winning their 75th Anniversary Excellence award in the long serving clerk category. Well done, Liz.

Mandy Thomas, Chairman

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 Gill Roberts on receiving our award this year.

Gill received a number of nominations, with one of them remarking that "Gill helps so many and is so kind" For many years she has not only been involved with running events for the seniors in the village, through the Baptist Church but is also a familiar face to the children at school through her involvement with school collective worship.

A rather surprised Gill was presented with her certificate and gift token by Parish Council chairman Mandy Thomas at the monthly Lunch Club at the Baptist Church, which is one of the many things she is involved in, where everyone was delighted to witness her receiving this award.



NEW PARISH COUNCILLOR

In February we said goodbye and thank you to Councillor Olwyn Davison Oakley for all her contributions to the Parish Council over the last 12 years.

In April Hilary O'Flanagan was co-opted onto the Parish Council. Hilary writes:

"I am a 'village girl', having been born and raised in Seer Green. As such I have a deep fondness for the village, its surroundings and community. Having moved away in 1975 – I joined the Metropolitan Police-I moved back in 1987 with my husband Sean.

I quickly became involved in village life, principally at the school (both my children attended there – as did generations of my family). I became a school governor, and then Chair of Governors. I also started and ran a Brownie Guide pack for 23 years. At present I am a qualified Teaching Assistant and work in a local school.

I am a committed Christian, worshipping at the Baptist Church, where I am very involved in the music. So music is one of my passions, as is jogging (although a little slower each year).

I hope to be able to do 'my bit' to maintain, and if possible, improve the wonderful quality of life that we enjoy in our beautiful village."



NOTICEBOARDS

There are two Parish Council Noticeboards in the village, one outside the shops and one at the top of the drive to school & the Jubilee Hall. These are there to be a resource to the village, enabling events, activities and information to be shared. These are monitored to ensure relevant and in date information is on them. We are aware that posters are being taken down from these noticeboards for no reason and if anyone has any information on who is doing this, please contact the Parish Council.



BIODIVERSITY & ENVIRONMENT UPDATE

The Parish Council are keen to ensure that the natural environment we all enjoy here in Seer Green is maintained and enhanced and that we improve our village for current and future residents. As mentioned in previous newsletters we have been granted funding by our local



Community Board
Denham, Gerrards Cross
and The Chalfonts

Community Board to carry out a Biodiversity & Environmental survey of Parish Council owned land.

At the end of last year, the finished survey was received from the Berks, Bucks & Oxon Wildlife Trust (BBOWT). The survey was created by a combination of desk research using BBOWT's own resources and publicly available data as well as a number of visits to the village at various times of the year during 2023 by BBOWT's experts.

The report will provide the basis for the next steps and the Parish Council have set up a Steering Group to drive forward the plans. We recognise that the work to increase biodiversity, protect our environment and help address climate change issues is not something that the Parish Council can do alone, and we are delighted that we have heard from a number of residents that they would be interested in getting involved with the programme. We look forward to engaging with interested residents and community groups on this exciting new approach in 2024 and beyond.

TREES & FLOWERS

In January 2023 our three new trees were planted to mark the Queen's Jubilee and the Kings coronation, two in green meadow and one at the recreation ground. To ensure the trees were able to thrive a rota of councillors watered the trees, at least once if not twice a week. For the green meadow trees this involved filling containers of water from the cemetery tap and wheeling them down to the meadow. This was a time-consuming process but one that was vital to ensure the trees survived.



Sadly this year we have had to take action and remove the cherry tree in Jubilee Walk as its roots were damaging the new pathway. Bucks Council removed the dying cherry tree on the corner of Hearn's Meadow which residents had reported on Fix My Street and the logs showed disease in the tree. The Parish Council recognises the importance of trees and planting new trees but has to balance that with the watering implications and ongoing maintenance costs.



As the trees start to come into leaf and blossom the village comes alive with different colours from snowdrop and crocuses to the carpets of bluebells. Thank you to Seer Green Gardeners for the new flowers in Jubilee Walk featuring beautiful daffodils and tulips.

SEER GREEN PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

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

14th May * (2nd Tuesday)

4th June

9th July

3rd Sept

1st Oct

Meetings take place at Seer Green Baptist Church, HP9 2XG. The agenda for each meeting is posted on the Parish Council Noticeboard on the corner of Church Road and Chalfont Road. Members of the public are welcome to come and raise any relevant issues. All are welcome to stay and observe the meeting but may only speak during the 15-minute open session at the beginning.

SEER GREEN PARISH CLERK

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Or visit our website: www.seergreenparishcouncil.gov.uk