

SEER GREEN PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

All council meeting minutes and other notices are displayed on our notice board opposite Lamb's Newsagents. We also aim to deliver a Newsletter to all village households twice a year. We hope that you find it informative and would welcome your feedback

DESIGNATION ORDER FOR SEER GREEN

Many residents have complained to the Parish Council about the unacceptable level of alcohol-related anti-social behaviour in the village. Since early 2005, the Parish Council, Chiltern District Council's Community Safety Team and the Police have been maintaining an Incident Diary of such incidents in Seer Green.

In September 2001 laws came into force which provides Local Authorities with powers to restrict drinking in designated places, which are then enforceable by the Police.

Application has been made for a Designation Order in Seer Green covering the following areas:-

- Green Meadow
- Green Wood and Cemetery
- Jubilee Walk
- Jubilee Hall/School Car Park
- Holy Trinity Church and Grave Yard
- Moss Court
- Car Park/green outside Orchard Road Shops
- Green between Farmers Way/Wood Pond Close

Chiltern District Council is conducting consultation with the local businesses and organisations.

The Parish Council would appreciate any written comments in favour or against having a designation order. If against, please state the reasons why you are against this proposal. Comments received will be discussed at a Parish Council meeting and forwarded to the authorities who decide whether a designation order will be made.



Rubbish recently discarded by Youths drinking in Green Meadow

BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION



Although Seer Green did not win Bucks Best Kept Village this year (Stone and Stewkley were the winners) the village received favourable feedback from the judges:

"The churchyard was well ordered and arranged. The cemetery

was delightful. It must give a great sense of peace and

serenity to those who visit it. The playing field was tidy. The children's playground was well kept.

Areas around public houses and shops and bus stops and telephone kiosks were free of litter and graffiti. The general impression of the village is that its inhabitants take a serious interest in where they live and are keen to look after it."

In a bid to keep the village looking its best please could we remind parishioners not to leave sacks of recycling or general waste at the Recycling Centre. Not only does this cause a health hazard to nearby residents, it is also considered as flytipping and will be dealt with as such by Chiltern District Council.

SPEEDING - PLEASE SLOW DOWN!

In July local police conducted a speed check on vehicles travelling along School Lane at a time when young children would be walking home from school. Of 151 vehicles checked, 47 were exceeding the speed limit. This was the worst record of all local villages.

In September, traffic police conducted an enforcement exercise. As a result, 3 drivers received speeding tickets and 9 were issued with official warnings. All the drivers were local. This is your village, these are our children. Please respect the 30mph speed limit. **You have been warned**.

CONSULTATION ON VILLAGE YOUTH FACILITIES

Seer Green's Community Police Officers continue to build relationships with members of the Wednesday evening Youth Club and other young people who are out and about in the village in the evening. Some of them have completed a questionnaire on youth facilities within the village and there is clear desire for further facilities to be available.

PC McVeigh, PCSO Webb and members of the Youth Club attended an open session of a Parish Council meeting to outline their ideas for a Youth Shelter or perhaps a Sports Facility. It is anticipated that such a facility would provide a focal point for youth activities and go some way to meeting a need that is currently not well catered for within the village. It is hoped that this in turn would lead to less anti-social behaviour.



Sample of Youth Shelter and Ball Wall

The Parish Council supports these initiatives, but identifies some areas of concern, such as identifying a suitable location, financing, and the participation of young people in creating and maintaining the facility.

Provision has been made within the Parish's long-term plan towards funding of a youth facility, on the basis that a suitable scheme would also be part-financed by young people's fund-raising activities. Chiltern District Council has earmarked funds for such a project, but money is only available prior to April 2007.

The Parish Council is keen to hear the views of the wider village community, to understand the support and concerns over such a scheme. If you have views for or against such a proposal, please contact the Parish Clerk or any of your Parish Councillors.

NEWS IN BRIEF

- The Recreation Ground car park has now been resurfaced and we hope much improved.
- A new street light has been installed outside Green Meadow to help residents when attending events in the school or Jubilee Hall on dark evenings.
- The Parish Council has recently received very positive feedback on the Cemetery and a generous £100 donation from Mr and Mrs Sloan, formerly of Long Bottom Lane, whose parents are laid to rest in the Cemetery. They now live in France.
- The next evening Police Surgery is on Tuesday 5th December at Seer Green Baptist Church from 7pm to 8.30 pm.
- The Parish Council have ordered safety barriers for the swings in Green Meadow. Parents/carers have recently raised concerns over children running between play equipment and into the path of the swings. The new barriers will be installed shortly.

PLANNING AHEAD

Seer Green is a small Parish of limited means. It is therefore extremely important for us to budget ahead for large items of expenditure. Recently we set up a sub committee to create a long-term budget plan. They came up with a broad estimate of £45,000 expenditure over the period from 2005 to 2008. Bearing in mind that our present total annual income is about £47,000, and committed running expenses about £40,000, we have to budget very tightly to raise a surplus towards these larger items of expenditure.

This is one of the main reasons why we have requested an above inflation increase in our precept (around 5%) for the last few years, although this is still smaller than the council tax increases from other bodies such as the District Council, County Council and Fire and Police services. We hope that villagers will see the benefit of this expenditure during the coming years, in the form of improvements to the village environment.

We intend to spend £2,000 on the cemetery, mainly on improvements to the entrance area, £20,000 on Green Meadow and equipment/facilities for village children and youth, £1,000 each in Green Wood and Jubilee Walk, £11,000 replacing some of the older street lights in the village, and £9,000 on the pavilion and recreation ground which continues to be well used.

CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT

ABRIDGED VERSION

For those residents who missed this year's AGM here are the main points:-

Councillors. Christine Phillips and David Cartwright resigned during the year and, in February, we welcomed a new Councillor, Tony Wiener. We still have a vacancy for another Councillor.

Traffic and Transport

The Traffic Speed Review conducted by Bucks CC for our area has still to be finalised. We have recommended the following changes for Seer Green:

- 30mph limit to be extended for the full length of School Lane & Bottom Lane with the upper part of Bottom Lane being designated a 'Quiet Lane'.
- 40mph limit for New Barn Lane and Chalfont Rd from the 30mph limit adjacent to Park Place.
- 40mph limit for full length of Long Bottom Lane.

We have been advised that there continues to be a delay in resolving the Speed Review and have told the authorities that we are unhappy about the long delay

Planning

The planning sub-committee, chaired by Cllr. Clarke, discuss the more controversial planning applications in the village. Our views are generally listened to by the Planning Authority (Chiltern District Council) but regrettably not always agreed with. When we write to the Planning Authority we always strive to ensure that trees, hedges and other environmental features are retained to preserve the character of the village.

Sadly, many developments, which receive planning consent, do not then comply with the conditions imposed when consent was granted. This is extremely frustrating, as it has meant that the village has lost trees and hedges, which are so appreciated by parishioners. We are working to persuade the Planning Authority to be more active in ensuring that planning conditions are complied with, though this is not proving easy.

Pavilion and Recreation Ground

The pavilion continues to be hired by the Chilterns Montessori Nursery School with some evening and weekend hire for private parties. The recreation ground and changing facilities are still used by football and cricket teams. I am pleased to report that the football pitches are now used only by teams from Seer Green and their opponents. We are hoping that there will be even more use of the facilities made by parishioners.

Village Services

For the year to March 2006 we were once again runners up in the Bucks Best Kept Village competition.

We still receive many compliments on how well kept the cemetery is. There are only a few burial spaces left and the number of cremation plots remaining is reducing. However, the garden wall has been designed so that memorial plaques can be mounted. More improvement work has taken place to separate the Green Wood access from the cemetery entrance, as well as further hedge planting.

Green Wood continues to be well cared for. Village footpaths are maintained to a good standard, bearing in mind that only modest funds are available from Bucks CC each year for maintenance.



Spring 2006
Bluebells in
Green Wood

The old concrete lamp standards are coming to the end of their life and it was agreed to replace them with new swan neck standards similar to the majority of the lights in the village. It was also agreed that Parish lights would have white lamps. The lights to the railway station belong to Bucks CC.

Green Meadow and the Playground

The playground is very well used and has been much appreciated by children and their parents. A new gate has been provided leading to the car park area by Jubilee Hall, the key to this gate is held by the school and is only opened in mornings before school starts and in afternoons on school leaving and is locked soon after the children leave school. Hedging has been planted on the western side of Green Meadow to both improve the boundary appearance and to also protect the boundary fence.

Youth Club and Village Youth

The Youth Club meets on most Wednesday evenings in Jubilee Hall. Attendance is good and the scheme has been well received. We thank Bucks CC for their help in running and funding the Youth Club.

The Parish Council has also helped with funding of football equipment for one of the local teams that uses the Recreation Ground.

SEER GREEN VILLAGE DESIGN STATEMENT

Following on from our Parish Plan that has informed our thinking on the medium and longer term plans for improvement expenditure, we have decided to produce a Village Design Statement.

What are Village Design Statements (VDS)?

Village Design Statements were introduced by the Countryside Commission in 1996 to promote good design in rural areas.

The VDS analyses the characteristics of a village and describes the qualities valued by its residents. Its purpose is not to prevent development but to inform those involved, thereby suggesting ways of maintaining and enhancing the best qualities of the local environment.

Who is it for?

Building and change comes about through independent development, council activity and domestic alterations to home and gardens.

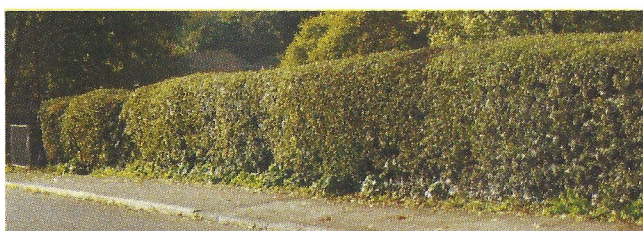
The VDS is intended for sensible and informed consideration by statutory bodies and public authorities, planners, developers, builders, architects, designers and engineers, local community groups, businesses, householders and visitors.

Who produces a VDS?

A Parish Council frequently provides the focus for the statement in consultation with local community groups and villagers.

How was it prepared?

Having decided to produce a VDS the Seer Green Parish Council is preparing a draft document with Councillors contributing sections on their own areas of interest and expertise. It will then be circulated to interested parties for comment and contribution. It will typically include chapters on location and village setting, village history, population, social focus points, open spaces, woodland, trees, hedgerows and wildlife, Parish Council assets, building design features, signs, highways and traffic, and lighting. The final draft will then be sent to Chiltern District Council for adoption.



Native hawthorn hedgerow bordering Green Meadow

THANK YOU

Local resident Natasha Kaeda writes: "I would like to thank everyone who helped me put on my concert in June to raise money for me to study with the National Youth Choir of Great Britain. It was a lovely evening and I really enjoyed the whole experience. Thanks to you all, we raised £850. It was great to work alongside Melissa Alder and she has truly inspired me. Ian McCaskill made everybody laugh with his comments on the night's proceedings. Since June, I have had several requests to perform at further concerts and have also been asked to audition for the National Youth Training choir (the next level), which would allow me to tour in Italy next year. Thank you again."

SEER GREEN PARISH COUNCILLORS

Please find listed below the details of the Councillors. A full list of duties are listed on the noticeboard opposite Lamb's Newsagent. The Parish Council still has one vacancy for a Parish Councillor. If you are interested in applying please either come to one of the monthly Parish Council meetings (first Wednesday of the month) or contact the Chairman or Clerk listed below

David J Matthews (Chairman)
9 Wood Pond Close Tel: (01494) 678890

Dennis H Scourfield (Treasurer)
Grays Cottage, Church Road Tel: (01494) 672167

John Forsaith (Vice-Chairman)
Lantern Cottage, Bottom Lane Tel: (01494) 681818

Philip Clarke (Chairman Planning Sub Committee)
Farthings, Newbarn Lane Tel: (01494) 870512

Carole Hughes (Footpaths, Woodland)
Poplars, 42 Chalfont Road Tel: (01494) 676646

Nigel Rothwell (Planning Sub-Committee)
Blane House, Manor Road Tel: (01494) 676168

Christopher Blackman (Street Lighting)
5 Cherrywood Close Tel: (01494) 676505

Tony Wiener
10 Howard Crescent Tel: (01494) 677739

SEER GREEN PARISH CLERK

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Gerston, Back Lane, Fax 875981
Chalfont St. Giles, Bucks, HP8 4PB
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