

SEER GREEN PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

Whilst our council meeting minutes and other notices are displayed on our notice board opposite Lamb's, we are aware that not all parishioners read them.
We therefore aim to deliver a newsletter to all households in the village at least twice a year.
We hope that it informative and would welcome your feedback.

PARISH COUNCIL BUDGET

You may have noticed in your recent Council Tax statement that the element relating to the Parish Council precept increased by 4% for 2006/7. Whilst this still remains a very small component of your overall Council Tax, we would like to explain the increase.

Firstly, some of our statutory obligations, such as insurance, have continued to place an ever increasing burden on our budget. Secondly, the Parish Council provides services, the costs of which continue to increase above the rate of general inflation. Thirdly, increasing sums continue to be spent on clearing litter and repairing damage due to acts of vandalism. In addition, this year we have developed a robust Long Term Plan for the Parish to try and ensure that funds are available for renewal, replacement and enhancement of the areas of the village which are the responsibility of the Parish Council (Green Meadow, Green Wood, Cemetery, Recreation Ground, Pavilion, most street lights, etc).

This increase will allow us to allocate funds each year for these Long Term projects. Indeed, this Newsletter highlights two important improvements this year made possible from these funds: new seating in Green Meadow and replacement of street lights in the village. We hope you support these plans and our efforts to ensure that the parish is maintained to a high standard.

We have also worked hard in the past two years to identify areas where we can save money without compromising the quality of the services we provide. We have had some significant success in this area and are confident that your precious taxes are being spent in the most efficient way. We welcome suggestions for new projects or improvements from residents.

BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION

Seer Green Parish Council will again be entering the Buckinghamshire Association of Local Councils **Best Kept Village Competition**. The competition is an opportunity for Seer Green residents to demonstrate the pride that they take in their surroundings. The judges will look at features like village halls, community centres, playing fields, cemeteries, bus shelters and notice boards to see how well cared for and free of litter they are. Additional marks are awarded for the overall appearance of the village and evidence of community effort.

The pole in the Churchyard, opposite the Post Office, records our past successes. In 2005 Seer Green were runners up in the DeFraine Cup (for villages with population 1501-3000), missing out by only a few points. Judging takes place between May and July so please make an effort and keep our village looking good.

IMPROVEMENTS IN GREEN MEADOW

The Parish Council was recently contacted by the chair of Seer Green Nursery with a view on how we could improve the road safety into Green Meadow. After several discussions with the school it was agreed that a new path and gate would be positioned into the Meadow from outside the school and Jubilee Hall.

The new gate and path have now been installed. The Parish Council has also approached Bucks County Council to improve the kerbstones and surface/barrier at the main entrance to the meadow.

The Parish Council has also set aside money in the Medium Term plan for new play equipment in Green Meadow. The latest playground manufacturer catalogues are in circulation at the school, if you would like to see a copy please call the parish clerk.

FOOTPATH AND WOODLAND

What village can boast three woods on its doorstep? On a large scale there's Hodgemoor Woods, off Rawlings Lane, Long Grove Wood owned by a Wildlife Trust and Green Wood (next to the cemetery) owned and managed by the Parish Council. It's a lovely place to visit all year round but don't miss the bluebells in the spring.

There are many visitors to the wood, including mums with young children. With this in mind we would ask dog owners/walkers to ensure their dogs do not foul on the paths. If they do, please clean it up.

To improve access through Green Wood the council have recently conducted holly clearance on the paths. The Parish Council has also installed a new mobility gate at the recreation gate to allow easy access on footpath 16.

Several of the parish councillors try to regularly walk the footpaths in Seer Green however, they may not be able to walk them all. If you notice a footpath in need of repair please contact the Parish Clerk.

COMMUNITY GIFT

Bucks County Council instituted an initiative which enables county councillors to make a contribution to local communities.

Cllr Pam Bacon recently allocated £541.85 to Seer Green in recognition of the work that the Parish Council has done to support the community. The money has been put towards a bench for the recreation ground.

The bench can be used by dog walkers, football/cricket supporters and as a meeting place for the youth who currently use the steps of the Pavilion as a seat. We hope that it will be used by all residents who enjoy the recreation ground.



NEWS IN BRIEF

■ The Parish Council extends a warm welcome to our new Councillor Tony Wiener. Cllr Wiener was welcomed onto the Council on February 1st.

■ Invitation to Parish Council Meetings. First Wednesday each month (except August) at 7.30 in Parish Church Hall. First 15 minutes open session for villagers queries/comments. A new vacancy has now become available on the Parish Council please contact the clerk for further information.

■ Horse droppings on the pavement, particularly along Chalfont Road, continue to be a nuisance and raise health concerns. Horse riders and Stable owners have been asked to be more considerate towards pavement users, and to clean up after their horses.

■ The council annually sets aside money in the budget to plant new cherry trees within Seer Green and two new trees have been recently planted in Green Meadow. If you have any suggestions for where you would like to see future trees planted please contact the council.

■ Occasionally the council receives offers from parishioners who are willing to pick litter from around the roads in which they live. The Council has therefore purchased several litter pickers. If you would like one, please contact the clerk.

■ The Parish Council is working with Chiltern District Council to improve the surface of the Recreation Ground car park. Unfortunately the work carried out to date has not been to the level specified by the Parish Council. Hopefully this will be rectified soon and we appreciate your patience whilst this situation is ongoing.

■ The Parish Council would appreciate any help in delivering this newsletter. If you are able to deliver copies to your road please call the Clerk.

■ The sports Pavilion at the recreation ground has been recently refurbished and is available for hire for children's parties at £35 per event. To book please call the clerk.

■ Four new Swan neck street lights have been ordered for the following locations No. 5 Gurnells Road, No. 12 Wynnswick, No. 20 Howard Road and No. 24 Long Grove. These are to replace the older concrete street lights within the village as they are now very old and repairs will not be cost effective.

Be Safe, Be Secure

VANDALISM AND ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

Whilst we are fortunate to live in an environment that all the statistics show is a safe one with a low crime rate, we are exposed to both vandalism and anti-social behaviour from time to time that damages property and which may cause distress and discomfort when it occurs.

The SGPC spends a significant amount of your money (around £2000) in repairs to the assets it holds in trust on your behalf. Simply money wasted when it could be used for many positive activities and improvements

Sadly the council is still experiencing a high level of vandalism around the village. The photograph below is the rubbish collected from one night of drinking in Green Meadow. In the last month serious damage has been made to the playground equipment and to the fence, costing £750 to repair - 2% of our annual budget alone.



The Parish Council is continuing to work with the Police to look at ways to reduce this anti-social behaviour

If you observe or are affected by vandalism or anti-social behaviour, please report it in confidence. Each report adds to the evidence collected by the police helps them to understand patterns of behaviour and can lead to the successful issue of orders, prosecutions and confiscation of the perpetrator's property. You are not required to give your name when making a report.

Police - 0845 8 505 505

This number should be used for all non-emergency calls to Thames Valley Police, which

covers the counties of Buckinghamshire, Berkshire and Oxfordshire. All calls will be charged at local rates.

POLICE SURGERY

PC Gavin McVeigh, Seer Green's beat Officer is trying to establish regular Police Surgeries at the Baptist Church. The next surgeries will be held on 03/04/06 and 15/05/06 at Seer Green Baptist Church from 11.00am until 1.00pm. If you have any ongoing concerns about trouble within the village please come for an informal chat with PC McVeigh at one of these surgeries.

YOUR CONTRIBUTION

Watch out for the security of your neighbours and be sympathetic to the intrusions of garden machinery and party noise.

If you notice fly-tipping or graffiti, please contact the clerk, or Chiltern District Council on 01494 729000 who will remove it.

Watch your speed when driving on Seer Green roads where the elderly, children, horse riders, cyclists and walkers are a common and vulnerable feature. In surveys many of those found to be speeding live in the village!.

HOME PROPERTY SECURITY

Much of the following advice is not new but some elect not to heed it.

Always make sure all outside doors are secure before leaving your home.

Fit good quality locks (if barrel type keep a spare key close by – you may need to get out quickly in the event of a fire).

Draw curtains after dark and if you suspect a prowler is outside – dial 999.

If you see signs of a break in at your property go to a neighbour and call the police.

In an emergency always call 999. It is an emergency if a crime is being committed, or is about to be committed, or there is a risk of serious injury.

Only use surname and initials in telephone directory and on doorplate – a stranger will not know whether a man or woman lives there.

When answering the telephone say 'Hello' but do not give the number.

If you receive an abusive or disturbing call put the receiver down beside the phone and walk away. Then simply replace the receiver after a few minutes. Do not engage in any conversation. Report the matter to the Police if the calls continue. Keep a record of the date and times.

Modern burglar alarms are comparatively cheap, can assist with reducing insurance premiums and are a real deterrent to burglars as many are opportunists. Lock away ladders and tools.

Hedges (prickly ones) are better deterrents than brick walls and wooden fences. Consider planting appropriate bushes close by to prevent entry to the property. Most burglars go for back doors and windows. Make entry to the rear of the property as difficult as possible.

Automatic timers on lights help to make the house look occupied.

Cancel milk and papers when you are away. The Royal Mail will hold your mail for up to two months (small fee).

Relatives, friends and neighbours parking a car in your drive when you are away makes your home look occupied.

PERSONAL & HOME SECURITY
IS A RIGHT FOR EVERY
INDIVIDUAL IN LAW
BUT WE ALL HAVE A COLLECTIVE
RESPONSIBILITY TO MAKE IT HAPPEN.

SGPC can accept no responsibility for the implementation or otherwise of any of the advice given above.

SEER GREEN PARISH CLERK

Liz Bates

Gerston, Back Lane,
Chalfont St. Giles, Bucks, HP8 4PB
email: BatesTJ@AOL.com

Tel 874233
Fax 875981

Parish Councillors details and duties are on the notice board opposite Lamb's Newsagent.

SAFETY ON THE HIGHWAY

If you notice a dangerous pot hole, fallen tree, obstruction or flooding on any pavement or road in Seer Green please contact the Bucks County Council **Highways on Call** department on

0845 230 2882

Monday to Friday 8.30am to 5.00pm or faults can be logged on their website at:-

www.buckscc.gov.uk/hoc

Out of office hours their **Highways emergency number** is **01296 486630**. Their service standards aim to repair 99% of dangerous potholes within 48 hours and complete 85% of other high priority works within seven days.

Adopted footpaths which have a hard surface (this includes the footpath to Seer Green station) can be cleared by **Chiltern District Council's Waste Management Department** who can be contacted on **01494 729000**.

If you have any trouble contacting the correct authority please call the **Parish Clerk** on **01494 874233**. Stay safe!

"IT TAKES A WHOLE VILLAGE TO BRING UP A CHILD"

***Seer Green Nursery: It's where it all starts
for our little villagers!***

Charity based, community run, sessional day
care for 2 ½ to 5 year olds
Secure outdoor playing fields
Linked with local Seer Green School
OFSTED registered
Stimulating and educational play equipment
Funded care for 3 and 4 year olds

As the weather slips into spring watch out for
and take part in our fundraising events!
Indulgence Evening on Friday 31 March 06 and
Annual Pedal Push Sunday 21 May 06.

Remember, we can **only** run with the financial support of the community and the generous time and effort volunteers give us. Thank you. However, it does get harder each year as new regulations come into force. **Please Support Your Local Nursery or Loose It!**

John Orme Room, Jubilee Hall, School Lane,
Seer Green, Beaconsfield, Bucks, HP9 2QJ