

The Cookham Society



Photograph by Barry Weare

Registered Charity No. 257224 | messages@cookhamsociety.org.uk

February 2021 Newsletter

LOCAL PLAN ENQUIRY

The Society made 12 appearances at the Borough Local Plan Examination in Public, which concluded on 15th December after the inspector had called for an additional session, so that the Borough could provide up-to-date evidence to support its housing land supply figures. The new material submitted by the council still demonstrated a very substantial surplus of land to be allocated for development as against the assessed need. This continued to underpin our claim that it is unnecessary for the Borough to allocate large areas of land for house building in Cookham.

We also took issue with the Borough's changes to Green Belt policy which, we said, would down-grade the protection currently afforded to the Dean by allowing infilling on a seemingly ad-hoc basis, at the whim of individual planning officers.

The inspector had already carried out some of her inspections before Christmas and we hope she was able to appreciate the traffic and safety difficulties we



Left to right: Cromwell Cottage and The Swan Uppers. Photos by Barry Weare

experience daily in The Pound and at Cookham Bridge. We now await her report and recommendations.

Tom Denniford

BATTLEMEAD COMMON

The Society were delighted when in 2018, the Borough decided to buy part of White Place Farm to create a new area of Public Open Space. Consequently, we have been active members of Friends of Battlemead Common, the organization set up by the Borough as a forum to discuss how to serve the sometimes, differing priorities of residents and of other local organizations, for the site. The Borough is under pressure to make sure that any decision about the Common strikes the right balance between the need to protect important wildlife and habitats, whilst keeping as much of the space open to ramblers and dog walkers as possible. Even such an apparently simple idea as providing a carpark is difficult because of differing views about the size and siting of the

plan. At present, there is only one, all-year footpath available between the entrance on Sutton Road and the river. We are continuing to press hard for a second path at the south of the site, so that there is an attractive circular route taking in this beautiful section of the Thames Path. Additionally, after a sustained and loud drum beat from the Society, the Borough has been persuaded to prepare a Hydrological Management Plan for the Common to address future flooding issues that directly affect Cookham when water levels are very high.



Eastfield. Photo by Barry Weare

Dick Scarff

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

In June 2020, RBWM designated Cookham a Neighbourhood area and after a number of exploratory meetings, a working party was set up on 7th July 2020. Led by Cllr Bill Perry, the group began the process of scoping the plan and consulting as many local statutory and voluntary organizations, businesses and interested parties, as possible. The Society has been fully involved from the outset.

Cllr Bill Perry said that his key objective was to "To make sure that we consult very widely from the start and that we ensure that the whole process is fully transparent". All the papers can be seen on the Parish Council's website and public consultation starts in February.

Bill Perry

AGM ISSUE

In view of the current pandemic, the Cookham Society AGM will be held on Zoom this year. To join the meeting, which will be held at 7.30pm on Thursday 11th March, please email the Secretary in advance on: messages@cookhamsociety.org.uk and the link will be sent to you the day before the meeting, i.e. on Wednesday 10th March.

A full agenda can be seen on page 3 of this newsletter. The Minutes, Officers' Reports, Trustees' Reports and unaudited Accounts for 2020 can also be seen on the website, www.cookhamsociety.org.uk.

CHAIRMAN RETIRES

The Society is sorry to note that our Chairman, Tom Denniford, is to retire as Chairman at the March AGM. Tom has served on the Committee in various roles since 2004, twice as Chair. Most recently, he has undertaken the task of representing the Society at the Borough Local Plan Enquiry and we have been very grateful for his detailed and extensive research and presentations. However, we are delighted to say, that Tom will stand as President on John Bowley's retirement and so we shall not be saying goodbye to his valued service and expertise just yet.



Tom Denniford

LONG-SERVING PRESIDENT OF THE SOCIETY, JOHN BOWLEY RETIRES

We were disappointed to learn that our President, John Bowley, intends to retire at the AGM. He first joined the Society in 1979, twice serving as Chairman and becoming President in 2011. His involvement with numerous village organisations has been an invaluable link between the Society and the Cookham community. His expertise and advice will be greatly missed.



John Bowley

OFFICERS' REPORTS FOR 2020

CHAIRMAN

Despite all the difficulties caused by Covid-19, the Society had a busy year although, regrettably, we were not able to meet any of our members at public events. I am pleased to report that prudent housekeeping and generous on-going annual contributions from people renewing their memberships, enabled us to report a financial surplus for the year. We are very grateful for your continued support. New technology has enabled us to carry on business almost as normal, with virtual meetings for our committee and its Planning and Environment Sub-committee which, because of changes at the Borough, has been required to meet on a fortnightly basis. I should like to take this opportunity to thank all my colleagues for their support during my Chairmanship.

Tom Denniford

CHAIR OF PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Planning: We continued to monitor all planning applications in our area and meetings of the Planning and Environment committee were held over Zoom. The committee meets every two weeks to keep in step with the timescales set by the Borough for comment and for call-in to Panel. 2020 saw a total of 226 planning applications, which is a small increase on the previous year. We submitted objections to 29 applications and a further objection to one refused application, that subsequently went to appeal. Additionally, we have spoken at two remote Development Management Panels this year.

An especially unwelcome application was submitted for a large development of flats at the Old Station Yard. We have objected strongly to this and are awaiting a Panel hearing. Following last year's application for a new pavilion for the cricket club at Whyteladies Lane, an application for a new football club pavilion has been submitted at a site in Long Lane. If these go ahead, our local sports clubs could enjoy improved facilities.

We continue to be disappointed by the Borough's lack of progress with the revised Conservation Area Appraisal for Cookham Village.

The Society has made initial policy suggestions to the now, live, Cookham Neighbourhood Plan process and expects to make further submissions in due course.

Environment: Following pressure from the Society, the Borough has agreed to develop a Hydrological Management Plan for Battlemead Common.

We are pleased to report that the track and bridge just north of Strand Water that were reopened last year as a Permissive Path, have now been made into a Right of Way. This forms a small, but useful addition to our footpath network.

The beginning of this month saw the worst flooding in Cookham since 2014 with both the Moor and Ferry Road closed to traffic. Thankfully, at the time of writing, water levels appear to be dropping back a little. If all three roads into Cookham village become impassable. RBWM will open the Causeway for cars and light vehicles in line with the procedure agreed with us after the 2014 floods.

Whatever happens in the present flood event, we will continue to monitor and if necessary, challenge the Environment Agency, Thames Water and RBWM in order to protect and improve Cookham's flood resilience.

We continue our involvement with the Marsh Meadow Management Committee, the Cookham Advisory Committee of the National Trust and we maintain our memberships of the Maidenhead and Marlow Passenger Association, the Heathrow Association for the Control of Aircraft Noise and the Open Space Society.

Dick Scarff

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY AND TREASURER

The Membership Secretary and the Treasurer are grateful that the majority of our members are promptly renewing their subscriptions for the coming year, nearly all through generous standing orders. This has been a great help in reducing costs, boosting funds and has helped to reduce the workload of our small, volunteer committee.

Unfortunately, there are still a number of members who have not responded to our reminders. If you have forgotten to renew, why not send a cheque for whatever you can afford this year and we will send you a new subscription form, which will allow you to make all future payments automatically, by standing order.

We are now well on our way to fully automating our renewal processes, which, with a membership well in excess of 1000, has been a Herculean task. The committee is indebted to our members who have helped with this and we are also grateful to our software specialists for their expert assistance.

Ossie Wardell-Yerburgh

COMMUNICATION

The Cookham Society has always worked hard to represent the best interests of Cookham, reporting this back to residents via regular newsletters. We are currently publishing two a year, one in early spring and one in the summer.

The Society is presently rebuilding its website into a more modern format and we hope to go live in 2021. Our Facebook Group continues to attract a regular following of 439 and we urge followers to formalise their relationship with the Society and become fully paid-up members. The poster drum outside Cookham Station has been rejuvenated and the Society is accepting posters from non-profit-making and charitable organizations for display. Notices from local small businesses can also advertise on the drum for a small fee. For further details you can contact Barry Weare on 01628 528682.

Barry Weare

The Cookham Society

(Registered Charity No. 257224)



NOTICE is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Society will be held remotely on Zoom, at 7.30pm on Thursday 11th MARCH 2021

Please contact the Secretary in advance on messages@cookhamsociety.org.uk to obtain the link to join the meeting. The Zoom code will be sent to you the day before the meeting, i.e. on Wednesday 10th March.

A G E N D A

1. Notice convening the meeting
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of the 54th AGM*
4. Matters arising
5. To note the Reports of the Officers for 2020*
6. To note the Trustees' Report and the unaudited Accounts for 2020*
7. To approve the appointment of an Examiner for the 2021 accounts
8. To elect the Officers and Committee for the ensuing year; see notes (a) and (b)
9. To elect a President for the Society for the coming year
10. To transact any business approved for discussion under Rule 13.8.9; see note (c)
11. Any other business

Tom Denniford (Chairman)

*These items can be seen on the Cookham Society website:
www.cookhamsociety.org.uk

Notes

(a) The present Officers and Committee Members are: **Chairman**, Mr T Denniford; **Vice-Chair**, Mrs L Penston; **Secretary**, Mrs L Penston; **Treasurer**, Mr M Chapman; **Membership Secretary**, Mr O Wardell-Yerburgh.
Committee members: Mrs F Beaumont, Mr B Perry, Mrs L Peters, Mr D Scarff, Mr B Weare.

President: Mr J Bowley

(b) Rule 13.4 states: Nominations for election of a member as an Officer or an ordinary member of the Committee must be made by two members of the Charity in writing, consent having been given by the nominee, and must be in the hands of the Secretary of the Committee at least 7 days before the meeting (4th March 2021). Nominees must declare any financial or political interest which is likely to be of concern to the Charity and such information shall be made available to the meeting. Nomination forms can be obtained from the Secretary (Mrs L Penston, 01628 473862, email: messages@cookhamsociety.org.uk).

(c) Members wishing to raise any matter under Rule 13.8.9 are requested to notify the Secretary (Mrs L Penston) not later than 26th February 2021.

ACCOUNTS (unaudited)

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 2020

	Note	General Fund £	Save Poundfield £	Chicken Farm £	Total at 31.12.20 £	Total at 31.12.19 £
INCOMING RESOURCES						
Subscriptions	Annual	1,611	-	-	1,611	1,141
	5 year	-	-	-	-	-
Donations		812	-	-	812	226
Gift Aid - Income Tax refund		-	-	-	-	-
Deposit Account interest		1,267	-	-	1,267	922
Christmas Cards		-	-	-	-	134
Books and Souvenirs		25	-	-	25	240
Other Events		-	-	-	-	-
Total Incoming Resources		3,715	-	-	3,715	2,663
RESOURCES EXPENDED						
Newsletters		1,508	-	-	1,508	805
Promotion and Publicity		98	-	-	98	175
Donations, Subscriptions and Gifts		95	-	-	95	309
Planning	1	-	-	-	-	-
Printing, Postage and Stationery		690	-	-	690	812
Storage, Hall and Room Hire		160	-	-	160	403
Public Liability Insurance		396	-	-	396	368
Christmas card - write off		466	-	-	466	-
Total Resources Expended		3,413	-	-	3,413	2,872
Net Incoming Resources for the Year		302	-	-	302	-209
Resources brought forward as at 1 January 2020		53,272	1,327	37	54,636	52,506
Fund Balances as at 31 December 2020		53,574	1,327	37	54,938	53,272

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2020

	General Fund £	Save Poundfield £	Chicken Farm £	Total at 31.12.20 £	Total at 31.12.19 £
INVESTMENTS AND CASH BALANCES					
Investments					
CCLA Fixed Interest Fund	12,500	-	-	12,500	12,500
Cash Balances					
CAF Bank Gold Account	-	-	-	-	-
NatWest Current Account	12,127	1,327	37	13,491	13,454
United Trust Bank	27,779	-	-	27,779	27,048
	52,406	1,327	37	53,770	53,002
AMOUNTS RECEIVABLE					
Gift Aid	1,168	-	-	1,168	1,168
Christmas Cards	-	-	-	-	466
	1,168	-	-	1,168	1,634
Total Assets	53,574	1,327	37	54,938	54,636
LIABILITIES					
5 Year Subscription Fund					
1 January				0	0
Current Year receipts				0	0
Transfer to General Fund				0	0
				0	0
General Fund					
1 January				54,636	54,845
Net Resources Expended				302	-209
				54,938	54,636
5 Year Subscription Fund write off				0	0
				0	0
				54,938	54,636
Total Liabilities				54,938	54,636