



Bourne End Viaduct (or 'Let the Train take the Strain')

In response to a number of enquiries from our members regarding the state of the railway river crossing at Bourne End, the Cookham Society approached Network Rail and received the following information: "The last detailed examination of the structure was undertaken in 2004 when an underwater examination was also conducted. The structure was found to be adequate for passenger trains. No significant renewal work is planned, however, a proposal has been made for the viaduct to be painted but this is subject to funding approval. Network Rail stressed that its plans for painting such a large structure underline its commitment to keep the viaduct operational whilst accepting it may not be as strong as it once was."



IMPORTANT –

If any part of your name and address as shown on your address label requires correction please let Bill Spicer know:- **01628 525258** or by email on **bill@thespicers.co.uk**.

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(P) = Planning sub-committee (E) = Entertainments sub-committee
(EEG) = Environmental Enhancement sub-committee

AGM Report

The 42nd AGM was held by kind permission of the Chartered Institute of Marketing at Moor Hall on 13th March 2008. David Ashwanden stepped down after 4 years in the chair, thanking all members who served on the committee during his tenure, specifically Bill Spicer and Jim Peck for their contributions and acknowledging 40 years of consistent support from the Strettons as being instrumental in keeping the society going. At the AGM, a new chairman, **Georgina Kilner** was elected and many 2007/08 committee members were re-elected. New committee members who were elected that evening and went on to take up their places were **Jane Davey** and **Vivienne Chaikin**.

The Society's draft response to *The Cookham Plan* dominated the agenda. It was approved (subject to the minor amendments to reflect the comments raised in formal feedback and discussions that evening) and it was agreed that it would be submitted to the Parish Council once completed.

The value of David Ashwanden's work was acknowledged by the new chairman and he was warmly applauded by members and thanked for the contribution he has made and the dedication he has shown towards the preservation and improvement of The Cookhams.

Society's Final Response to The Draft Village Plan

On 9th May the Society wrote to Cookham Parish Council summarising its final response to the draft plan circulated earlier this year. Prior to our AGM, we had circulated a draft of our observations to 1328 of our members residing in Cookham. A significant number took the opportunity to provide us with their

comments which were considered and incorporated by our Plan Response Group. The Society did not comment on every proposal set out but tried to focus on the major areas of interest within the structure of the working group reports.

The full response presented to the Parish Council is available via the web site, click on the blue banner at the following address. <http://www.cookhamsociety.org.uk/>



The Village as seen from Poundfield

Photo John Stretton

Dates for your Diary - 2008

21 st June	Scout Fair, Cookham Moor
29 th June	Tea with Stanley Spencer, Cookham Churchyard 2-5pm.
6 th September	Cookham Regatta
20 th September	Cookham Dean Village Fete
22 nd November	Christmas Fayre, Moor Hall.

White Place Farm

In the summer of 2005, the agents for the owners - Cemex, discussed the reconstruction plan with us. It was submitted to the Borough in late 2006. The application to convert five redundant farm buildings (three of them listed) to residential use was approved by the Borough planners in 2007; subject to the agreement of the Secretary of State. The proposal was the subject of a three day public enquiry that started on the 8th April 2008.



The outcome is yet to be announced.

The Society supported this application since it represented the only realistic way to preserve the historic buildings involved - as well as reducing the area of built land in the flood plain.

Former 2 Whyteladyes Lane

The Society welcomed The Royal Borough's April decision to reject the planning application for the construction of four two bedroomed apartments with access from Bridge Avenue. As a corner site, immediately facing upon turning into Whyteladyes Lane, this development would have changed the character of this area immeasurably.

Remedial Works to South Cookham Flood Protection Scheme

Despite the fact that the Parish Council raised no objection to minor amendments to the February planning application made by the EA, the Borough has yet to approve this application. The point of this application was to restore the risk of flooding in South Cookham to the same level as prior to the creation of the Jubilee River and the Maidenhead Bund. As reported at the AGM, the capacity of the Jubilee River has been increased and the sills in Odney Weir lowered so that surplus water moves away more quickly.

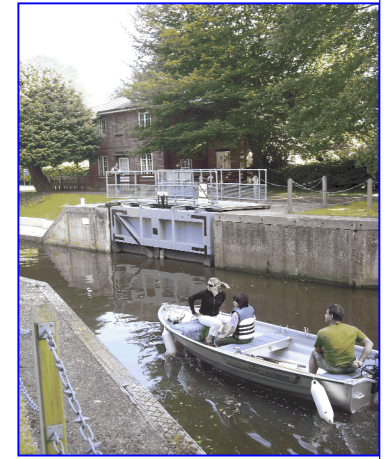


Path from The Pound to Strande Lane

The Society believes that this work should be carried out prior to the autumn of 2008 to achieve the level of the protection needed for the residents in the vicinity of Strande Lane and Lightlands Lane.

Lock Keepers' Cottages

The Society's President wrote a letter strongly objecting to the proposed disposal of 22 Thames Lock houses as part of its efficiency review. The Society feels that where the Environment Agency may simply be cutting its costs, it is failing to recognise the true value of the Lock keepers' work. This appears to contradict the Environment Agencies own guidelines regarding increased risk to residents in known flood plains. Furthermore, in the case of Cookham, there are specific access issues to Cookham Weir and Cookham Lock which cannot easily be addressed if the property is to be tenanted. Having watched the Lock Keeper at work last Sunday in controlling the river traffic it is not a case of simply flicking a switch to 'open' or 'close' the lock gates. Without an experienced employee in charge this could appear to be a recipe for disaster.



Land Adjacent to Hedsordene

In April, the Society lodged its objections to the application for the construction of eight four bedroom townhouses and one four bedroom detached house with garages on this site.

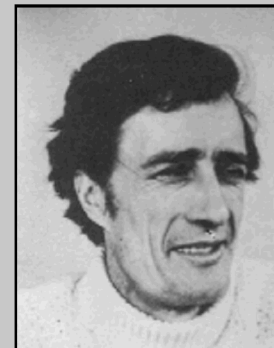
Our principal objections centred on the traffic, access and parking issues; the density and height of the development and unresolved infrastructure issues relating to surface water and foul water drainage. This application was deferred at the April Planning Control Meeting pending further investigation of Network Rail's input and will possibly be considered at the June meeting.

The Society believes that the infrastructure issues must be investigated and satisfactorily addressed prior to any application being considered. The very real safety and access concerns expressed by residents need further investigation. Only then, could minimal minor development be considered.



Entrance to Hedsordene

Sad Loss of Roger Parkes



The Cookham Society was greatly saddened to learn of the death of Roger Parkes on May 12th 2008. Roger, a well known novelist and scriptwriter will be sadly missed. Our sincere condolences to Roger's wife Tessa and his children Brendon and Wanda. Our more mature members will recall "Alice Ray Morton's Cookham", by Roger Parkes. In midsummer 1980, Mike Copland, then Chairman of the Cookham Society approached Roger with a stack of past information about the Village, Rise and Dean and knowing that Roger was involved in writing for his living, thinking he might knock something into shape by way of a local history.

Roger spoke to the publisher and it was full steam ahead.

It was agreed that we were extremely fortunate to team up with Roger and Barracuda Books to produce a publication which is truly worthy of both the Cookham Society and the community of Cookham as a whole.