

Planning Issues

Appeals

The appeals for GKL House have not yet been decided. There is now an appeal against the refusal of two applications to demolish Wedgeways on the corner of High Road and Peace Lane and replace it with two semidetached houses.

Colin Hatch Yard

Having received permission for the redevelopment of the Yard itself, Michael Shanley has now applied for permission to demolish the neighbouring property Manresa and replace it with either four semidetached houses or two semidetached house and one five bedroom house.

White Place Farm

It was recently rumoured that the redevelopment of the derelict/redundant farm buildings on this site will mean an application for a large development.

The agents for the owners Cemex, have confirmed that the reconstruction plan discussed with us in summer 2005 is now almost complete and should be submitted to the Borough for consideration in the next few weeks.

The agents, Cluttons, have now let us have an early view of the completed plans so that we may comment on them.



Artist's impression of the finished site

The proposed works envision the restoration and conversion into residential dwellings of two XV1th century barns a 1920s cow shed and two associated buildings. A number of redundant outbuildings would also be demolished with others being relocated to provide storage or other purposes. Existing stables would be utilised for garages and storage.

The artists impression of the development shows imaginative landscaping which will enhance the setting. A new access will be made to the north of the gate house on Sutton Road, which will be considerably safer than the present access to the south.

Extensive archaeological investigation has been carried out on the site which has found evidence of occupation of the site as early as the late Bronze Age with later occupation in British Roman times. A bund will be built round the site to provide additional flood protection although it was not flooded even in 1947.



The COOKHAM SOCIETY

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Railways – the current status

The Society has maintained its presence on the Maidenhead Marlow Passengers Association committee in the person of Georgina Kilner. Her position enables us to have some input to the discussions of the timetable and other matters affecting our branch line. She makes the point very forcefully that to some extent we will get the service we deserve, if we lobby and comment we can get changes; if we all ignore the December timetable till December - we might have missed making the kind of changes that improve matters.

The December 2006 timetable was finally published on July 28th. The main change is that all trains from Maidenhead will travel only on the relief lines for the foreseeable future and this will limit their speed to 75mph as opposed to the 90mph possible on the express tracks. Trains from Maidenhead stop either 3, 5/6 or 9 times on the journey to Paddington. The MMPA's opinion has been sought on this matter and we have put forward the opinion that it is more important for us to have some comparatively faster trains in the day rather than evenly spaced departures.



The new December timetable has a large number of "near misses" for the branch and we have formally asked for a return to the working timetable on Network Rail's part to eliminate the near misses. The penalty we face for not having vigilant students of each new proposed timetable is that these irritations pass into the timetable and cannot be rectified for then a minimum of six months. One sure fire way to lose the branch is destroy its connectivity. I don't believe this is a deliberate policy on the part of Network Rail - it's simply that its priorities are quite different to ours.

The December timetable has raised an issue of cheap day tickets for Cookham. In theory, the times of trains means that the first possible legal arrival in Paddington is 11:11. We have asked for this to be reviewed and are expecting FGW to permit us to use an earlier train out of Maidenhead which if we get this concession means that we can get to Paddington on an off peak ticket before passengers from Maidenhead can

The message from all this is that we as a community can not sit back and expect the government, network rail or FGW to do the right thing without our support and pressure. Let's give FGW the credit for sitting with the MMPA regularly and fielding quite senior managers to do it. It gives us a voice. The MMPA, it has to be said, does and will collect each comment made to its web site and individually take them up one by one with FGW so this is a direct voice into the decision making process.

In summary, the MMPA is working for the branch on its cheap day returns, connectivity issues with the December timetable and an improved day time service along with some peak time changes and anomalies – some changes may have already been made by the time this newsletter is published.

**25th November
Moor Hall**

**Christmas Family Day
See leaflet inside**

*A Pantomime
Christmas Fayre*

Telecoms Masts Revisited

There are two major concerns about Masts, the potential risk to health, and environmental considerations.

The Health Risks

Health and Safety issues are well managed to reduce risk. International Standards are applied and the legislative and compliance structures are all in place and working. Using concerns about the Health Risk as the reason for objection would not constitute a valid case.

Environmental Considerations

This is a particularly sensitive issue in Cookham, where we as a Community are fiercely protective of its rural character. A forest of masts blighting the landscape would be unthinkable. This is the area where the Community has a voice in terms of the Code of Best Practice on Mobile Phone Network Development. The "Voice" has to be a loud, coordinated and timely one to be heard and acted upon.

If we wish to limit the spread of masts in Cookham the logical alternative would be to push for the construction of one or two large multi-user masts, duly disguised as trees and sited on high lying sites, preferably amongst existing trees. These sites will have to be well away from dwellings, schools and dense population meeting areas in order to limit exposure.

Good planning of the location of the main masts would limit, and in the case of a rural Cookham, may well eliminate the need for booster transmitters to cover gaps.

A mast located on the hill at Cliveden would seem to be a good location. An added benefit would be to give the National Trust additional income from site rental. This would also be the case if masts were located on farming land. The farmers would gain an additional revenue source thus helping to keep them on the land and retaining the rural character of Cookham. This type of approach is, in fact, specifically provided for in the Planning Policy Guidance 8 document.

The Cookham Plan seems to be the appropriate forum in which to build the Community supported case and policy and would be the strongest "voice" we could build for Cookham concerning the Masts.



Society Christmas Cards

We are again delighted to offer two more specially commissioned Christmas Cards to add to your 'Cookham Collection' of previous years. This year the Society has again printed two cards from original paintings by Pam Hammond from Cookham who has been chosen for the fourth time for her painting entitled 'Snowy Morning – Moor Hall, Cookham', and Lyn Rackley from Maidenhead who teams up with Pam for the second year running with her painting entitled 'The Tarrystone in Cookham'. The caption inside each card reads:-

"With all Good Wishes for Christmas and the New Year"

The cards will go on sale at selected shops throughout Cookham and Bourne End from mid October.

Also, both original paintings can be bought through a secret auction held by the Society which closes on December 10th. See details on the enclosed Order Form.

We also have a small quantity of last year's cards available at a sale price £3.90 per pack as well as some of the mixed packs from 2004 at £2.90 per pack. Contact Bill Spicer.

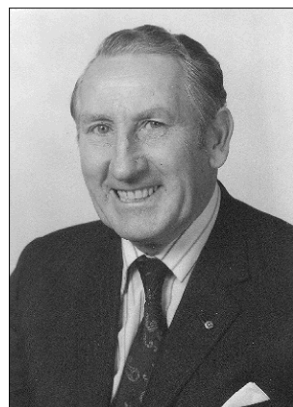
Bob Sands

We note with great sadness the passing of Bob Sands, Vice President of the Society for many years. He was a staunch member of the committee, turning his hand to almost any task.

His involvement in Society affairs ranged from good counsel to financial support and in later years helping to man the bar and sell raffle tickets!

Bob was always a delightful companion and is sorely missed.

We send condolences to his family.



Robert J Sands

A Pantomime Christmas Fayre Sponsored by Moor Hall and the Cookham Society

25th November at Moor Hall 11am - 4pm

It does not seem possible that a whole year has gone by since the *Victorian Christmas Fayre* was held on the 12th November 2005. It was such an innovation not seen in Cookham for many years, when Holy Trinity Church and the Royal British Legion held an annual Christmas Bazaar in the old Church Hall in the Maidenhead Road, now sadly demolished.

One memory is of Stanley Spencer donating a small picture for auction, which raised £11.00 for the Bazaar.

Pantomime is the theme this year and we are inviting the children to don Pantomime Fancy Dress and take part in a competition.

We would hope that as many Society members as possible offer assistance and in particular would welcome your donations for the Tombola.

Please put this date in your diary as the *Fayre* will be a "not to be missed" occasion for the whole family.



Christmas Fayre 2005

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