



The Buckingham Society

Campaigning for a Better Buckingham

Newsletter September 2012

A new book about the Manor House



Rodney Shirley and Ed Grimsdale have just produced a book about The Manor House. It was launched with a guided walk this week and the book is now on sale at The Old Gaol price £3.99p.

Special Interest Group Reports

Green Spaces – Ted Farmer

The sound of chain saws in the general direction of Maids Moreton Avenue recently caused me to think it heralded action on the long awaited restoration of public access to the enclosed section by the school. There have indeed been recent substantial tree works there with the inevitable debris in undergrowth and on the ground but it is the result of a separate planning application last year.

We believe that the project is a matter between the school and the County Council and re-establishing a source of funding. It is now over four years since we learned of and welcomed the plan.

The stormy interludes during the summer have caused some casualties among trees in full leaf, two of which have fallen into the river and required prompt removal before the next torrential rain. The most recent is a willow by the Ford Street Bridge for which the Environment Agency is responsible.

AVDC have plans for planting a few new trees during the winter. Signs are being put up in Partridge Close in Badgers and at the Brackley Road end of Western Avenue as part of public consultation.

Planning – Ian Orton

Irrespective of the alleged woes afflicting the rest of the UK economy Buckingham appears to be a hub of prosperity, at least to prospective speculative housing developers. Indeed it sometimes appears that the town is besieged by developers.

In addition to the recently completed Candleford Close development on the former



White Hart car park, the 700 or so houses that are to be built on Lace Hill opposite Tesco and the contested development on Moreton Road it is very likely that developers will announce “exciting” schemes based on Ford Meadow and a site adjacent to Bridge Street and Well Street. Add to the mix the efforts of smaller speculators to increase capacity to the houses they own by applying for planning permission for extensions and garage conversions and this provides plenty of work for the Planning SIG.

The Buckingham Society will submit an objection to the planning inspector dealing with the appeal on the Moreton Road development (we are against, see P3 below) and this is currently being drafted.

The photograph above was taken at Lace Hill by Ian Orton at this time last year.

Transport – Geoff Shaw

Members will know that there has been some hue and cry over the changes made to the local bus services. Three protest meetings have been held to try to modify the proposals and we have enjoyed the support of John Bercow MP in the attempt to get changes.

We have made some progress, but still less service is being offered with more buses and more drivers. The only logical reason I can think for this is that someone somewhere has insisted that commercial and fully subsidised bus services have to be separated: the previous 32A and 32 used the same bus and the same driver.

The 106 subsidy has been used to extend the use of the 60 bus up to Maids Moreton. Arriva have already pointed out to the County Council that the buses are too large to enter the new estate (there will be a problem in the new Lace Hill estate for the same reason) so they are stopping in the main road. However the change to the 60 bus has brought back a regular service to and from Maids Moreton. There are still problems in meeting the needs of residents (many are elderly or disabled) in the town estates and outlying villages. There is now however a later 32 bus from Milton Keynes to Buckingham. We will of course monitor the situation.

Destination Buckingham Group (DBG) – David Peevers

The traders, town council, university and the Buckingham Society work together in this group to raise the profile of our town and help make it a more attractive place to live, work and visit. You may have noticed the new ‘Welcome to Buckingham’ maps at Waitrose, Cornwalls Meadow and the High Street bus stand; this was DBG’s first initiative. Amongst other things, DBG is also looking at innovative ways of welcoming new residents to Buckingham. The group is now in the early stages of planning events for next year, including a themed shopping weekend and a ‘round the town’ charity walk. David Peevers

Buckingham Neighbourhood Plan – John Wilkins

The first stage of the Neighbourhood Plan – the **Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report** – has been completed. For further information on this document go to <http://www.buckingham-tc.gov.uk/neighbourhood-dp/neighbourhood-dp.html>

A preliminary workshop to discuss ideas and options for the Neighbourhood Plan itself will take place on **12 September**. Several members of the Society’s Executive will represent the Buckingham Society at this ‘stakeholder meeting’.

The likely next step will be a **public meeting later in October**. We shall ensure that members have maximum notice of this event. Our **AGM on Monday 19 November** will focus on the Neighbourhood Plan.

There will be further opportunities for the general public to contribute to the creation of the Plan through the winter. The Council intends to have a draft Neighbourhood Plan available in early spring.

Our **Neighbourhood Plan Working Group** is co-ordinating the Society’s inputs to this process; a substantial written response was made to the draft Scoping Report.

Work is underway on setting out the Society’s position on the twelve broad objectives that will be at the heart of the Neighbourhood Plan (please refer to the Scoping Report available through the link above). This activity has benefited from the renewed contacts that have been established with other local groups and organisations such as the University, the Traders’ Association and Flood Action 4 Buckingham.

The final Neighbourhood Plan will be the subject of a **local referendum**, probably in the latter part of 2013. The Plan will provide the framework for the future development of Buckingham. **We urge all members actively to contribute to the development of the Neighbourhood Plan.**

Building on Moreton Road – David Child

The application for further building on The Moreton Road was lodged 21 December 2011. After a large number of objections being registered AVDC turned down the application. Bellway, the developers, have appealed against this decision and AVDC confirm that they will fight the appeal. It has now been decided that a Public Inquiry will be conducted. Comments should be submitted by 12 September. Contact: -

The Planning Inspectorate case officer Sarah Hardy
teamp1@pins.gsi.gov.uk including the reference APP/J0405/A/12/2177458

Copy: Mark Aughterlony at maughterlony@aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk
For more information contact David Child - moretonhouses@gmail.com

Bid to Make the Vacant Focus Site an ASDA Food Store

Representatives of the ASDA development team have consulted with representatives of the Buckingham Society and the town council to discuss draft plans for the new store.

The plans will go on public display for consultation this week in Buckingham Community Centre from 11am to 6pm on Thursday, September 13, and from 11am to 5pm on Friday, September 14. On Saturday, September 15, the plans will be on display in the Tingewick Suite at the Best Western Hotel on the A421 Buckingham bypass from 10am to 3pm. Representatives of the ASDA development team will be on hand to explain the plans and answer questions.

Below the developers view of how the proposed store will look.



Dates for Your Diary

- 1 Wednesday 12th September. Last day for comments to be submitted on the proposed Moreton Road development.
- 2 Wednesday 12th September 7.00 pm Talk at The Old Gaol by Ed Grimsdale about the Manor House.
- 3 The Next Executive meeting will be held on Wednesday 3rd October at 5.00 pm at The Villiers Hotel.
- 4 Monday 19th November Buckingham Society AGM followed by an event concerning The Buckingham Neighbourhood Plan. Details to follow.

Ways in which you could help the Society

If you would like to become involved in any of our activities or attend a meeting of the executive committee, then please contact us or just come along. Dates of meetings and contact details of committee members are on the website www.buckinghamssociety.org.uk

We can save money by using email rather than printing and posting. Please let Gill Jones gill@e-jones.net know your email address if you still receive your Newsletter by post.