



The Buckingham Society

Campaigning for a Better Buckingham

Newsletter September 2015

A Word from our Chair – Roger Edwards

By now you should all have received your polling cards for the Buckingham Neighbourhood Development Plan referendum on September 17th. The referendum will give us all the chance to show our pride in Buckingham and take a great step towards preserving our lovely market town. Buckingham remains at risk from predatory and unplanned building development; but by voting in favour of the Buckingham Neighbourhood Development Plan we can all help to ensure that we get the development we want and not whatever some developer wants to throw at us.



The Buckingham Society has never objected to carefully thought out building development. We all recognise that there is a clear need for more housing and Buckingham will be better for it provided that it is properly planned, well designed, provides more access to public open spaces and encourages more people into the town to the benefit of local shops and businesses.

However, none of us would want to see a repeat of the problems that have occurred with some of the recent major projects in and around Buckingham. For example; the nightmare roundabout, delayed school building, the health centre that never was and the non-existent new supermarket at Lace Hill. And of course, the Candleford Court car park that flooded because it was built next to a river – who could possibly have foreseen that? And what about the “lagoon” that looks more like a swamp and a footpath that nobody is allowed to use – to say nothing of the mouldy looking concrete that clads the aforementioned car park? And we should not forget the Moreton Road housing developments, opposed by local people living in the area but still built with little infrastructure improvement beyond a small playground for young children.

However, on a more positive note; look at the Heartland area where, admittedly with much prompting from the Buckingham Society, green spaces were opened up for all to enjoy. We also have some good looking new buildings with the new Sainsbury's Local building and the Duke's Court/Royal Court apartments in Chandos Road as well as the older buildings lovingly cared for by the University. And speaking of older buildings, there was the excellent news that the developers working at the rear of Moreton Road are to restore the Victorian summer house “Cobham Cottage”. Good things can happen!

It is because we all wish to see such positive developments and not the repeat of past mistakes that your Executive Committee is urging all Buckingham Society members to vote positively in the forthcoming referendum and to say YES to the Buckingham Neighbourhood Development Plan.

Getting the plan in place would be a major step towards ensuring that new houses will be built only where the people of Buckingham want them; that provision is made for new businesses to be developed thus ensuring that at least some of the people living in the new houses will also be able to work here and that, alongside the new homes, new leisure spaces would be opened up where people can walk and play.

So, please help to make Buckingham an even better place to live. Please vote YES on September 17th. And please influence your friends to vote also: if we miss this opportunity, we will be at the mercy of unscrupulous developers for a long time to come.

The Transport Group – David Child

Railway walk

A meeting took place with Buckingham University to clarify their land ownership and pathway at the old station on Station Road. The University sold some of its land to a developer and the University was very helpful in providing detail plans of their remaining land ownership and assisting in identifying the old platform in the undergrowth. This is still an on-going project to get the rail walk from the A421 to the Tingewick Road registered on the BCC definitive map.

Road safety /crossings

It is clear as reported in the previous newsletter that only by obtaining “Section 106” funds (or other similar sources) from developers will road improvements be gained. In the case of road and pathway improvements this will be via Buckinghamshire County Council Section 106 funding. To that end it is planned to progressively prepare proposals for each possible Section106 project so that from a list of proposals BCC, working with Buckingham Town Council, could ensure these are included in any new developments.

Town Bus Stand

Here is another project needing some serious S106 money. For those of you who use this bus stop I am sure you are aware of the parking problems - the turning circle on the exit from the bus stand and the severe lean to the left when the bus is parked. I had heard that on one occasion the bus door jammed on the pavement! The picture to the right illustrates the problem.



Planning – Ian Orton

Planning-related matters continue to be dominated by the upcoming referendum on the Buckingham Local Neighbourhood Development Plan "the Plan", which is scheduled to take place on 17 September. See the Chairman’s introduction to this newsletter.

It is essential that this plan, which has taken four years to prepare, is approved by the Buckingham electorate. For the past two and a half years Buckingham, along with the rest of Aylesbury Vale, has not been covered by a statutory land-use plan. As such it has been open season for opportunistic developers. So please vote (and preferably vote "Yes").

No-one, especially those involved with its preparation, which includes the Buckingham Society, will claim that the Plan is perfect. As usual it encapsulated a number of compromises. In an ideal world it could have included much more, such as reserving land for a future southern by-pass and a link road between the A421 and A422. But this is probably the best we will get. More significantly it represents the best efforts of the local community rather than those of the anonymous planners at AVDC.

Of course just because a plan is passed does not guarantee its implementation. As readers of the Buckingham Advertiser will be aware AVDC is already attempting to dilute its status even before it is voted on. The good news, however, is that both the courts and the government have tended to take a different view.

One other piece of news. After a protracted period of argument and debate it appears - for once - that common sense will prevail as far as the new public toilets and upgraded Shop Mobility facility are concerned. These will be located in sites selected by Buckingham Town Council, and which reflect local preferences, rather than those by AVDC, which most certainly didn't.

The Summerhouse at Cobham Cottage, West Street

One of our members, Barbara Edmondson, has very kindly given the society access to photographs, a map and other information about the Summerhouse. I hope that this will enable the developers to better and more accurately renovate the building. It is encouraging that they have asked for access to this information.

The Buckingham Society Garden party



The garden party was held on Thursday 30th July 2015 starting with a fascinating talk by David Foster, Chief Executive of Milton Keynes Parks Trust. He described the challenges and excitement of managing such a huge and varied estate. After the talk we moved to the garden at Prebend House for Prosecco and canapés. We were very lucky to have good weather and the event was

enjoyed by 60 members and guests.

Dates for Your Diary

12-13 September Heritage Open Days:

Guided walk by Ed Grimsdale – The 3 Avenues of Buckingham. More information is available at The Tourist Information Office, The Old Gaol.

Free entrance for the Old Gaol, Stowe Gardens and Stowe House on 12th.

Radclive Manor and Church - Jeremy and Sally Howarth, the owners of Radclive Manor, have kindly agreed to lead a tour of the church and the gardens of the 15th/16th century Manor House. Jeremy Howarth will talk about the history of the Manor and its associations with the Parish Church. Tea and Cake will be served in the gardens (inside barn if wet). If arrangements permit, there may be a chance to view the interior of the Great Hall.

Cars can be parked in the Manor grounds, near the house.

This is a free event but you must book a place at the Tourist Information Office at The Old Gaol Museum, Buckingham;
Tel: 01280 823020; Email: buckinghamtic@tourismse.com.
Places are limited to 15 persons.



17 September	Referendum Buckingham Neighbourhood Development Plan
23 September	Buckingham Society Executive Meeting 5.00pm Villiers Hotel
24 th November	Buckingham Society AGM

Executive Committee:

Roger Edwards	Chair
Alistair Alcock	University representative
David Child	Transport and Planning
Carolyn Cumming	Planning
Paul Fello	Transport and Planning
Ed Grimsdale	Planning and society historian
Gill Jones	Membership Secretary
Tony Mayston	Treasurer
Belinda Morley-Fletcher	Secretary
Nigel Morrison	Destination Buckingham
Ian Orton	Planning
Vacant	Green Spaces
Kathy Robins	Newsletter Editor, planning and transport

We would like to hear from you

Please give us some feedback - tell us what activities you would like The Buckingham Society to prioritise. Comments to kathyrobins@walnutyard.co.uk Tel: 07834484762
If you would like to be involved in any of our activities or attend a meeting of the executive committee, then contact us or just come along.

www.buckinghamssociety.org.uk