



# The Buckingham Society

*Campaigning for a better Buckingham*

## Newsletter October 2020

### A word from our Chair

Just down the Moreton Road from where I live, next to the former police station, there once stood a small copse of trees. It wasn't much; there were a couple of nice specimen trees and a lot of self-set saplings and some scrub, but it was populated from time to time by roving roe deer. Badgers and other wildlife lived there and it created a pleasant backdrop to a bench that allowed people to take a break when walking up the hill. Over two days this week the whole lot was destroyed to make way for – I am not sure what. Despite several enquiries nobody seems to know what is going to happen to the site although rumour has it that somebody wants to build 7 or 8 houses on the land.

Two or three years ago something similar happened to a plot of land on the opposite side of the road. That has remained empty and is now completely overgrown and is awaiting final planning permission.



I have not written this just to complain about the loss of some trees although it is sad to see a site that once had life and now looks like the remains of a First World War battlefield. It is to make a point about how quickly things can change with no apparent consultation with anybody local and for no logical reason except that it is a site on which a developer could erect a few houses. It is also to point out that many of the problems that occur in the planning system are not caused by local government but by the developers themselves.

In my view, this example just goes to show how right we all are to be very wary of what could happen to our town if the planning system becomes a developers' charter as proposed by the Government's recent White Paper. Nobody would argue that the planning system could not be more efficient; nobody would disagree that more houses are required, and nobody would suggest that all developers are careless and thoughtless. However, the

authors of the White Paper seem to wish to forget the importance of local knowledge and local input into any planned developments – Government, they seem to think, knows best.

The Buckingham Society does not agree with that and certainly will not allow the local voiced to be silenced. In doing that, the Society will continue to try to ensure that Buckingham remains a great place to live.

## Planning – Carolyn Cumming

**White Paper: Planning for the Future** This radical paper was published on 6<sup>th</sup> August with a 12 week consultation period. The last two months have seen unprecedented “webinar” activity debating the not so many ‘pros’ and the staggering amount of ‘cons’.

Within the White Paper, there is an unjustified attack on Local Planning Authorities for failing to process applications quickly enough, without any attempt at pointing the accusative finger at the big developers themselves. It also fails to recognise that, thanks to constant tweaking of the system and diminishing resources in planning departments, backlogs are inevitable. We can all agree that speeding up the cumbersome process of producing a Local Plan is positive but not at the expense of democratic input. The thrust of the proposals is to reduce and/or eliminate consultation periods on Local Plans, create Zones for ‘Growth, Renewal and Protection’ and generally to bring a ‘One size fits all’ straitjacket to the planning system.

Your Society has sent a succinct letter of objection to the proposals to our MP, Greg Smith (reproduced below). The proposals are being vigorously opposed by all local councils that we have come across, Buckinghamshire Council being one of them. The Society’s planning group is in the middle of formulating our official response to the White Paper.

*Dear Mr Smith,*

### ***The Buckingham Society response to the planning White Paper published on the 6th August 2020.***

*The Society is opposed to the main thrust of the White Paper and the detail contained therein, the reasons being –*

*The White Paper proposes a centralised planning system by removing significant responsibility from Local Planning Authorities and Parish and Town Councils. Whilst we agree that the process can be ‘speeded up’ the time frames proposed mean that local voices, such as ours and individual members of the public, will effectively be silenced. Local Plans do take time to be adopted but they need to be based on local evidence, which can take significant time to gather. Full public consultation is vital at a local level if people are to have confidence in the system; making decisions in Whitehall means there is little or no local accountability.*

*The idea of centralised planning policy for Development Management seems odd as all Council areas differ in housing need, landscape, both rural and urban, architecture, and flood zones etc so a one size fits all will not work.*

*CIL calculations must be based on local need so again this should not be centralised. The throwaway comment in the text that this money could be used to help Local Authorities lower Council Tax is probably unlawful!*

*The time frames proposed for decisions to be made on major planning applications, 13 weeks or applicant gets his/her fee refunded, is quite frankly nonsensical. If outline planning permission is given by land being 'zoned' then as the White Paper stands there would be no conditions attached, so how does the Government suggest LPA's deal with a major housing development, and the detail that involves, in 13 weeks?*

*There is no reference to Lifetime Homes Standards relating to future adaptation of homes for those with restricted mobility and other health needs. These standards are included in paragraph 3.39 of the London Plan, which was originally adopted when the current PM was Mayor of London, and consider this a major oversight within the White Paper.*

*The suggestion of using Prop Tech for a digital planning system is fine in principle but as yet this technology does not exist!*

*The White Paper appears to be proposing the reduced importance of studies such as Environmental Impact Assessments. This is very worrying, particularly at a time of global climate change and continuing habitat loss. The importance of the environment must not be watered down in a quest for speed bearing in mind the Government's commitment to being carbon neutral by 2050.*

*Aside from the above there are factual errors in the forewords assigned to the Prime Minister and Secretary of State. We are in fact reliant for planning law on the 1990 Act and not the 1947 Act as quoted. This is misleading and should be corrected.*

*We have kept this response reasonably short but nevertheless trust you understand the depth of feeling against the proposals within the White Paper. We also hope you will pass forward our concerns to the Secretary of State even though we will be responding more fully as part of the public consultation.*

## **Some Recent Planning Applications**

### **20/02752/12-13 Market Hill (M&Co)**

The previous plans submitted for this site were refused and we now see a new set of plans with proposals to convert the upper storeys into flats. There would be a new entrance to the flats at street level, replacing the left-hand shop window. There is nothing in the new proposals to recommend them. The nine flats themselves would be tiny, without adequate living space or storage, while the proposed faceless street entrance is particularly

inappropriate in a Conservation Area. Given the building's prominence in the centre of the town, it surely merits an approach that enhances the street scene, rather than detracting from it.

### **20/02511/APP Pightle Crescent**

This is an innovative proposal for 8 two-storey flats to replace a redundant line of garages. It would provide much needed affordable housing and the Society has supported the regeneration of this site, which has a great deal more going for it than the accommodation proposals at either Oddfellows Hall or M&Co above. However, we would like to see more detail on what work would have to be done on existing trees.

## **A New Medical Centre in the Town? – Kathy Robins**

You may have seen in the press that Brackley have a new state of the art medical centre near to the centre of the town opening next month. What has happened to the Centre planned for Buckingham?

Deborah Ratunabuabua, Business Manager for the Swan Practice, told me that they are still working with the Buckinghamshire Clinical Commissioning group on the business case and hope to have approval by the end of the year for the Out of Town site. Montpelier Estates have purchased the land, but the Swan Practice is not able to contribute funding until the business case is finalised.

When asked if the Swan Practice would consider a location in the town centre if they were unable to raise the funding to build on the Out of Town site, I was told that they would not address this possibility at this point.

In our June newsletter we reported that the Swan Practice had submitted outline plans for demolishing North End and Verney Close surgeries and replacing them with housing, to raise the necessary funding.

This delay has led to consideration by the Society and others of the suitability of better locations for the medical centre in the centre of the town. A new multistorey car park and medical centre in the Cornwall's Meadow car park has been suggested, as has the land behind the Sorting Office, or the Verney Close site.

Whether or not these ideas come to fruition, the Society is keen to develop ideas that would bring new vitality to the town centre and make medical services more accessible.

## **Transport Report – David Child**

### **Heavy Goods Vehicles**

A web-based HGV meeting took place on 1 September. The points were fully covered and at the end of the meeting an informal vote was taken to assist the Buckinghamshire Council Freight Officer's understanding of the general consensus on the proposals.

My judgement of the sense of the meeting "vote" was:

1. Well Street width restriction needed for reasons made clear by the photograph here.
2. Signage to industrial areas using letters (low cost) to save vehicles (not just HGVs) being driven round in search of the correct delivery location, in conjunction with a Zonal Town Centre Restriction’.
3. Support for Mitre Street and Tingewick Road width restrictions was mixed (worried about running out of money for implementation).
4. Joint 3rd signage on the A422 to “stop” HGV using it as a cross country option.



Also worth noting is the plan to audit across the County the traffic restriction orders (TROs), an issued raised by the Buckingham Society.

The time scale for seeing the Buckinghamshire Council report from the September meeting is unclear but the Buckingham HGV problem is now clearly with Buckinghamshire Council.

### Pathways



On the 30 September I attended a virtual meeting of Buckingham & Villages Community Board Road Safety & Cycleways Sub-Group. This is a forum to discuss any relevant subjects and I was able to present the case for the proposal to extend the pathway through the play area on Moreton Road.

The proposal was accepted and I expect it will go forward to the Buckingham & Villages Community Board next meeting.

This a new arrangement under the Buckinghamshire Council unitary authority - which of course which is still work in progress.

About 100 leaflets were posted in the immediate area round the Moreton Road play area to see how much support there was for this path. Please email [path@buckinghamssociety.org.uk](mailto:path@buckinghamssociety.org.uk) to confirm support for the path way. Detail of the proposal can be found at <http://buckinghamssociety.org.uk/BStrandocs/PathwayMoretonRd.pdf>

### HS2

I attended the HS2 / East west rail (EWR) video meeting on the 6 October. This is a Joint working group covering the Buckingham and Villages, Haddenham and Waddesdon, and Winslow and Villages Community Board areas.

There were a number of presentations and below is a snip showing the approved HGV routes. This indicates that the nearest that HGV should get to Buckingham is the Radclive Road roundabout on the A421.

## Construction Routes

- Red lines are the only Routes EKFB HGV's will use (other than exceptional circumstances)

It was stated at the meeting that HS2 HGVs will have a HS2 insignia on the vehicle. Only HGVs with trackers will be allowed to transport to or from the HS2 sites. Vehicles / contractors / drivers who are do not adhere to the approved routes will be banned from HS2 contracts – the HGV tracking system will be used to enforce the requirement for HGVs to use the approved routes.

**Parking in Cornwall’s Meadow**

New meters have been installed which require you to key in your vehicle registration number - this will stop the handing on of unexpired tickets. Appendix 1 details how payment may be made.

**Historical Feature: The Fall of Icarus – Ed Grimdsdale**



This cartoon mocks the Earl Temple, the exceptionally wealthy Richard Temple-Nugent-Brydges-Chandos-Grenville, whose political career collapsed in March 1807. The satirist, Gillray, draws an analogy with the Greek tale of the Fall of Icarus. You will remember that Daedalus, the father of Icarus, warned his son about the dangers of hubris: “Don’t fly too close to the sun, son.”

James Gillray, the British cartoonist, knew that ‘his’ Icarus owned a plantation in Jamaica, and he depicts Earl Temple, 1776- 1839, who later became the Duke of Buckingham and Chandos, with manufactured wings. In the cartoon, he is attempting to follow his father’s upward trajectory. In the image, George Nugent-Temple-

Grenville, 1st Marquess of Buckingham (1753-1813) has wings labelled with 'Tellership of the Exchequer', the sinecure the father held in the government and which gave him prodigious sums when our country's armed forces were expanded during the Napoleonic Wars. The head of George III, superimposed on the sun, surveys the scene. Unlike his father, who is hidden from the King's angry, hot gaze by a passing cloud, the obese younger Temple receives the King's full, reproving beam, his wax melts releasing quill pen feathers, and, as a result, he is rudderless and falling onto a sharp, pointed stake labelled 'Stake out of Public Hedge'.

Richard's marriage in 1796 to Lady Anna Eliza Brydges (1779-1835), a daughter and heiress of 3rd Duke of Chandos, had left Earl Temple rich beyond measure.



Here a tumbril transports the Marquess's tools of his trade: quill pens and "stationary" to a well-heated Georgian house (looking like the George Inn a.k.a. Brown's Hairdressers in Buckingham but drawn to represent the paymaster's house in Whitehall)

[Do have a peep at the smaller picture detail: Richard's servant in 'Buckingham green' livery is

black [a plantation slave?] and he's receiving boxes labelled 'stationary' [sic] from the man in blue in the cart. That cart is labelled 'stationary' office [sic] and is piled high with similar boxes and quill pens.]

### ***Transcription of the Poem: The FALL of ICARUS***

*In former days, the Poet sings, an artist skill'd and rare,  
Of wax and feathers formed his wings and made a famous pair.  
From which, from precipice or tower, from hill or highest trees  
When worked by his mechanical power, he could descend with ease.  
Why T-p- e [Temple] wants such a store, you surely ask, in vain?  
A moment of reflection more, will make the matter plain.  
With plumes & wax, & such like things, in quantities not small  
He tries to make a pair of wings, to ease his sudden Fall!*

### **Notes on the Poem**

Richard, Earl Temple was reputed to have filched a mass, i.e store, of sealing wax, quills and stationery from the Paymaster's house after leaving office. Why? The poem provide a 'need', at least for the pens and wax! [Newspapers uncovered an order from Earl Temple (Paymaster) to His Majesty's Stationery Office dated March 18, 1897 and marked "Immediate Delivery" for 94 reams of paper; 3000 quill pens; 20 lbs of sealing-wax and etc., total cost over £200. The papers implied that this was robbery as Richard knew that the dissolution of parliament was imminent)

## Notes on Gillray's Cartoon

- Richard was a figure of scorn. Nicknames like Ph D (Phat Duke), and the "gros Marquis" indicate his size and continued unpopularity.
- When he succeeded to his father's Marquessate in 1813, Richard's career as an M.P. was terminated prematurely; after that he led a spendthrift life of leisure and excess and, eventually he retreated from public life into his great library at Stowe. He became the 1st Duke of Buckingham and Chandos in 1822.
- Richard's role as Paymaster lasted only one year from 1806 to March 1807 when his Uncle, William Wyndham Grenville, was forced to resign as Prime Minister.
- Richard had married Anna, the only child of James Brydges, 3rd Duke of Chandos and Anne Eliza Elletson (born Gamon), in 1896. Richard was deceitful and sold some of his wife's huge estate without her knowledge, an act in contravention of her marriage settlement.
- Do note the spelling of "Stationery" on the delivery cart. The first known use of the -ery ending to denote what Stationers sold was in 1727. 80 years later Gillray was happy to use the -ary ending, possibly as a play on words: the tumbril's board was broadcasting the knell to Temple's ministerial career: going nowhere.
- I feel that there is an element of prescience about the image for while the Temples' two 'nice little earners' as Tellers ended in 1807 and 1813, the family continued to, spend with lax extravagance and without heed or fear of debt. Probably only an intervention by his wife, Anna, saved Richard from ruin. The family's ultimate Icarian collapse was delayed until 1847 when the 2nd Duke became the first British noble to be declared bankrupt.

### Image resources linked to the main image above:

1. A detail from a hand-tinted copy of that engraving (above)
2. Gillray's original black and white etching of The Fall of Icarus (below)
3. A cartoon of our first duke (below)





## Historical Feature: Buckingham's Day of Sporting Notoriety – Ian Orton

Buckingham has rarely, if ever, featured in the annals of sporting history, notwithstanding the recent achievements of the cricket and ladies' hockey clubs.

On 22 July 1830, however, Buckingham did achieve a passing notoriety when the Buckinghamshire Assizes, then held in the Town Hall, hosted a trial for manslaughter involving some of the leading sporting names of the era such as Tom Crib, widely considered to be the greatest bare fist fighter of all time\*.

Simon Byrne, an Irish prize fighter, illustrated right, was the man in the dock. And he was accused of the manslaughter of Alexander (Sandy) McKay, another pugilist, who originally hailed from Badenoch, a sparsely populated area in the Scottish Highlands.



The two clashed in a fight held on 2 June 1830 at Salcey Green near Hanslope on the Buckinghamshire and Northamptonshire border. After 53 minutes of brutal fighting the bout ended when McKay was felled by a left-handed blow to the throat that left him unconscious and Byrne as the winner. McKay never regained consciousness and died 30 hours later at the Watts Arms in Hanslope.

Despite prize fighting being illegal, the contest had attracted a vast crowd of many thousands, including landed aristocrats as well as many other members of the great and good. Chief amongst these was one Robert Barclay Allardice, shown here. Captain Barclay as he was more generally known, was a Scottish landowner from Ury near Stonehaven. Considered to be the most pre-eminent sportsman of the era thanks to walking “a thousand miles in a thousand hours for a thousand guineas” in front of enormous crowds on Newmarket racecourse in the summer of 1809 and winning another



£100,000 in side bets in the process, Captain Barclay was intimately connected with the fight in more ways than one.

As a leading member of the so-called London Fancy, he played an important role in not only organising and promoting the event but by also putting up most of the £200 prize money and appointing officials to oversee the event. These included his friend John “Gentleman” Jackson, another prize-fighting great\*\*\*, and Squire Osbaldston, another member of the Fancy and a sometime Master of the Pytchley Hunt in Northamptonshire.

But Captain Barclay was also effectively the manager and trainer of Sandy McKay, pictured left. McKay's defeat and death caused Captain Barclay and his pocket, much angst.

This would no doubt have intensified when a coroner's court recorded a verdict of manslaughter, an event that precipitated the arrest and incarceration of Byrne in Buckingham's Gaol prior to his trial on 22 July 1830. Worse, McKay's cornermen, Tom Crib and George Cooper, were also charged to appear at the Assizes along with those of Byrne.

If the verdict had gone against Byrne it is almost certain that Captain Barclay would have been implicated, with further action to follow, not least because in the days leading up to the trial The Times had started a campaign to put the men really responsible for the "murder" on trial. "...the men of rank and fortune who assisted in this brutal exhibition ought not be allowed to escape", it thundered: "The claims of justice, the blood of the murdered, and the wellbeing of the country alike all call for an example."

Barclay, Crib and Cooper all went to ground, with the latter ignoring the command to appear before the court on 22 July. Captain Barclay, who appears to have been genuinely distraught at the way the events had panned out, did appear in disguise at Buckingham on the day of trial ready to give himself up if the verdict went against Byrne. Although he was never indicted, Captain Barclay may have been taking a risk, however, given the campaign being whipped-up by The Times.

He had lived for several years during the late 1810s at Fritwell Manor just over the border in Oxfordshire before returning to his estate in Scotland via Old in Northamptonshire. So it is not inconceivable that he would have been recognised in the town.

He needn't have worried, however. Whether it was the result of the best KCs the London Fancy could buy, the testimony of expert medical witnesses, the assertion made by George Pacey, a local baker, who claimed he had seen McKay fall on his head after failing to clear a gate just one hour before the start of the fight or the fact that the jury was compliant - Byrne's counsel challenged no fewer than 20 potential jurors - a verdict of Not Guilty was returned.

It took the jury less than two minutes to reach its decision. Whether or not the jury was nobbled is, of course, another story.

*\*The claim is made largely as a consequence of the two sensational fights Crib had against former American slave Tom Molineaux, the "Black Ajax", in 1810 and 1811 and remaining undefeated as English and (effectively) World bare knuckle champion from 1807 until his retirement.*

*\*\* A true athlete who could run a mile in five minutes as well as being incredibly strong, Captain Barclay was also a talented amateur boxer. The training regime he put Tom Crib under prior to his second fight against Molineaux is generally considered to have been of critical importance in securing Crib's second victory.*

*\*\*\*Gentleman Jackson effectively became the English bare-knuckle champion when he defeated Daniel Mendoza, the great Jewish fighter in 1795. He retired immediately thereafter.*

## Update on the Skeletons Found at West End Farm, Brackley Road – Nigel Morrison

The current situation, according to the archaeologists, is that the 40 skeletons have been washed, dried and re-bagged for safe keeping in speciality storage near Lincoln. Brio Retirement Homes Ltd, in conjunction with Buckinghamshire Council seem to be responsible for instructing further research and that this will be done after conclusion of the preplanning conditions re further ground works on the site.

The archaeologists have said that the skeletons will probably be kept in specialist archives in Towcester or Gt Missenden but kindly agreed to keep us posted. Ed Grimsdale has said *"This is potentially the biggest find of executed prisoners in the whole of the South of England in Anglo-Saxon times."*

## Death of Mr Desmond Bonner - 3<sup>rd</sup> July 1925 – 26<sup>th</sup> July 2020



Desmond Bonner was a long-time member of The Buckingham Society.

He was born and grew up in Buckingham. After active service during the war, he trained as an auctioneer and estate agent, later qualifying as a Chartered Surveyor. He was a prolific fund-raiser, helping to raise funds for numerous causes, including Stoke Mandeville Hospital's Spinal Lounge through Buckingham ToCH. Throughout his retirement he operated a ToCH bookstall in the town, so continuing to raise money for good causes.

## Letter to the editor:

*Dear Editor*

*May I through your newsletter enquire as to the interesting exhibit that has been in the road between Prezzo and the Kings Head in Moreton Road for some months. It is a collection of road signs and roadblocks festooned with several sandbags, some of which are split. I assume it to be some sort of pedestrian crossing or perhaps a contemporary art feature.*

*Regards*

*Tony Mayston*

## Response from David Child – Transport Lead

The "structures" in Moreton Road near the Old Gaol have been erected using funding from the Government to allow social distancing during the Covid19 restrictions. In 2015 the Buckingham Society proposed to Buckinghamshire County Council an island refuge (see the link below). The Society was advised it would need S106 funding which did not materialise but with the advent of the new unitary authority (Buckinghamshire Council) and the

Community Boards, these safety projects can be raised again. It is not clear what will happen to the temporary structure when the Covid19 restrictions end.

<http://buckinghamssociety.org.uk/BStransdocs/MoretonRoad2.pdf>

## Dates for your Diary

The Annual General Meeting will take place on 26<sup>th</sup> November via Zoom. Details will be forwarded nearer the time. The planned talk by Bill Robins “*Secrets, Silk and Cyanide – Special Operations and the North Buckinghamshire Area 1939-45*” will take place when Covid restrictions are lifted.

## Executive Committee:

Roger Edwards	Chair
David Child	Treasurer, transport, web site and planning
Carolyn Cumming	Planning
Ed Grimsdale	Planning and society historian
Gill Jones	Membership secretary
Belinda Morley-Fletcher	Secretary
Nigel Morrison	Ent Fest representative
Roger Newall	Planning
Ian Orton	Green and Open Spaces, planning
Anthony Ralph	Planning
Kathy Robins	Newsletter Editor, Planning

## We should like to hear from You

Please give us some feedback - tell us what activities you would like The Buckingham Society to prioritise, any ideas for social events (once they are again allowed) or simply write to us on any Buckingham related matter. If you have any ideas, questions or comments please address them to: [kathyrobins@walnutyard.co.uk](mailto:kathyrobins@walnutyard.co.uk) Tel: 07834 484762. If you would like to become involved in any of our activities or attend a meeting of the executive committee, just contact us and come along. [www.buckinghamssociety.org.uk](http://www.buckinghamssociety.org.uk)

## Appendix 1: A Guide to Paying for Parking at Cornwall's Meadow

There are several ways to pay for the parking ticket – when I tried there did not seem to be an option to pay with coins, only by card – although there are apparently ways to pay by mobile phone.

Make sure you have entered the correct car registration, whatever method you use. At the time of going to print I have not been able find any detail about the different payment options.

You can find out more about using your mobile phone using “Ringgo” on this link <https://www.myringgo.co.uk/howitworks>

**New parking ticket machine**



**Phone payment poster guide is to the side**



**Keyboard for car registration**

