

Dear Residents,

Before we update you with our own CRA news we would like to remind you of the WDC Local Plan and the proposals it contains to annexe Green Belt land and build 500 homes on a number of sites around Bourne End. The proposals are target driven and take little or no account of the effect that over 1000 people and nearly as many cars will have on schools, health services and general traffic circulation. Please look again at the article in *Target* and if you are concerned please write to:

New Local Plan Team, Planning and Sustainability, WDC, Queen Victoria Road, High Wycombe, HP11 1BB

NOTE : Your comments MUST reach the council by AUGUST 8.

Our 100 houses represent 2% of the Bourne End total so our views are significant and your input will help to focus the minds of the council planners on what is important to the residents of Bourne End.

So whatever your views, time is very short - GET WRITING NOW !!

JEAN PEASLEY

We were sad to see our lovely resident, Jean Peasley, leave Chalklands in July. Jean was always a great supporter of the residents association and gave marvellous help with charity and village activities. We are pleased to report that she has now moved to her new home in the McCarthy & Stone development from where she will, no doubt, continue to give her generous support to the Bourne End community.

POND CORNER REPAIRS

Most of you will have noticed that the corner at the bottom of Chalklands – affectionately known as “Pond Corner” - has undergone a dramatic improvement. Over the years the kerb and footpath on this corner had been destroyed by vehicles and had become dangerous. Two years ago we obtained a quote to restore the damage but it was in the order of £8,500 which was clearly unaffordable. However, in the light of further recent damage, the urgency of the repair increased and the Committee therefore prevailed upon a number of skilled and willing residents to form a task team. Ewen drew up the plans, Tim purchased the materials and conjured up a road-digger and John supplied a cement mixer. Other residents who worked on the project were: Tony, Jason, Chris, Richard, Brian G, Roger and Bill. The team spent the weekend of June 18/19 and further evenings widening the road, installing new kerbstones and replacing the concrete pavement. We wish to thank them all for their terrific efforts in what was quite a physical challenge. We would also like to thank Liz who provided water and electricity, and the wives and partners of these workmen who provided a non-stop supply of tea and refreshments and general words of encouragement (or similar!). And the result? A much wider and safer corner, a reinforced section of kerb (fit to withstand a nuclear attack) and a much safer footpath that will stay dry! Well done everyone – a proud result for all that effort.

And best of all, perhaps??? The total cost for the materials and clearance truck....just £900!! This leaves the greater part of our road fund intact which means that the corner plus a longer section of the road can be surfaced with asphalt in the autumn (see below).

And.....Caroline – our local travel writer - has penned an article entitled “ *Community spirit is alive and well in Bourne End* ” which she plans to submit to the Bucks Free Press newspaper along with a number of photographs. Well done Caroline.

POND CORNER FLOODS

Most of you will have encountered the repeated flooding that has occurred over many years. It usually happens after heavy downpours as Chalklands’ soakaway drains cannot cope with the sudden rush of surface water. The excess water flows down to this low point and should drain into a large underground chamber that was clearly designed to absorb the peak run-off. Well, there were three interesting discoveries that came to light during the above repair work:

- In the course of excavating for the road widening a water leak was discovered in the supply pipe to one of the properties. After a few frantic phone calls a team from Thames Water finally appeared and promptly sealed the leak – and at no charge. Well done Thames Water!
- In the course of unblocking the pipes that serve the soakaway drains, a further run-off chamber was

discovered. This large chamber, 3 metres deep x 1.5 metres diameter was previously unknown to all (except Jim Rolfe) but the chamber was completely dry as the connecting pipework from the first chamber was completely blocked. The pipe has now been cleaned out so the larger chamber is now fully functional and this should increase the surge capacity by some 30-40%.

- There was also a problem with the flow of water from the road drain through a partially blocked pipe into the first surge chamber. To increase the drainage capacity we have removed part of the kerb and laid plastic pipes to take water from the road directly into the chamber in addition to the water that feeds in via the road drain. The opening in the kerb has been faced with perforated bricks. All in all quite an elegant solution which looks fine, and works!

These improvements appear to have solved the flooding problem but, naturally, since the work was completed we have had very little rain. We await the next heavy downpour to prove our success!

PARKING

Following completion of these works we have decided to paint double-yellow lines around this section backed up by a NO PARKING sign. This is a blind corner and inconsiderate parking is both dangerous and an inconvenience to residents. It was parked vehicles that caused lorries to mount the kerb and do the damage so we need to minimise the risk of this happening again..

SURFACING

At the AGM we announced that this year we would be surfacing another section of damaged road. In the light of the remodelled corner we have decided to start there in order to further stabilise the area and modify the camber so that water is channelled across the road, through the new perforated bricks and into the drainage chambers. The new surface is likely to stretch as far as house numbers 28/47 thus covering the worst section of the road, but the final distance will depend upon negotiations with the contractor and the amount collected through late payment of subscriptions. *The vast majority of residents now donate to our funds, many by standing order, but we have noticed that a few regular payers have yet to make their contribution. We need all outstanding payments NOW so if you have overlooked yours would you please pass a cheque to any member of the Committee or direct to our Treasurer, Caroline. If you would like advice on subscriptions please contact Brian G. Many thanks.*

The asphalt surfacing will be carried out by the same contractor that gave us a very good deal last time and we will use the same highway specification. Prior to the work some enabling actions are required:

- Final negotiation with the Contractor on price and distance to be surfaced and, importantly, date
- Discussions with affected residents about kerbs and drive entrances
- Cleaning and weed-treatment of the road and kerbs prior to resurfacing
- Cleaning of individual drains in that section (the contractor will raise all ironwork by 40mm).

QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY / TABLE-TOP SALE – JUNE 11th

A small gathering of residents and tables and an even smaller number of visitors somehow, magically, managed to conjure up £80 profit for the CRA funds – well done all those who took part....and purchased. Later that day, after a short shower, a party grew and grew – gazebo, sandwiches, wine and beer, and also, hot-dogs, burgers and music very generously supplied by Kate and Adrian. It was a very enjoyable afternoon and gave an opportunity for some of the newer residents to chat with their more distant neighbours. Everyone present agreed that this should be an annual event and we look forward to more residents joining us next year.

Enjoy the rest of your Summer!!

Your Committee

Chairman:
Bill

Secretary:
Daska

Treasurer:
Caroline

Adrian / Margaret / Richard / Brian J / Spencer / Paul / Brian G

CRA Contract Point: Chalklands@outlook.com