

Little Gaddesden Parish Council  
**LGPC** Newsletter

NOV 2010

From Your Parish Councillors

## THE VILLAGE GREEN

Village Greens are currently under pressure in other parts of the country as residents and developers and even residents who want to be developers clash over whether to use them as potential sites for social housing or not and argue over the legalities of what constitutes a Village Green!

Our aim is to protect the rural nature of the Green and maintain it as an open space. The green is actually ancient grazed meadowland and is currently home to at least sixteen varieties of wild flowers and different grasses. Several members of the Rural Heritage Society have made monthly surveys of the wild flowers growing on the Green and John Leonhardt is keeping detailed records of these and hopes to maintain the survey

for comparison over the years so we can see how things are progressing. No vehicles are allowed on the Green except residents accessing their properties. Dogs "under proper control" are allowed on the Green but we would be grateful if dog owners would either use their poop-scoops to pick up or abide by the 'stick and flick' approach to fouling on the footpath, remembering that the path and verges are popular walking areas!

This year the Green was cut late in July to accommodate the flowers and their seeds and because growth on the green was not as luxuriant as last year when it was cut twice, in May and August. As regards the flowers, the 16 varieties include Lesser Celan-

dine, Meadow Cranebill, Cowslips, Cow Parsley, Eye-bright, Germander Speedwell, Lords and Ladies, Ladies Smock, Meadow Buttercup, Pignut, Common Sorrel, Silverweed, Veronica, Wood Goldilocks, Common Wood-rush, White Violet, Purple Violet as well as the thistles and nettles which also provide valuable habitat. With the support of individuals and village societies the Parish Council is also sponsoring the tree planting program on the Green with the aim of in-

creasing the number of trees to nearer historic levels. In the 1930's over 80 were listed and cattle grazed the green.

The Green defines the character of the modern Village. The Parish Council is the tenant of the land from the County Council granted sole use of it subject to the rights of walkers entitled to use the public footpath.

It is our aim to protect and manage it well.



## POLICING

Crime is a perpetual theme for villagers, especially minor theft and burglary which are upsetting to those who experience them. As we sense a rising trend of outhouse burglaries and the like, policing is increasingly influenced by cost control measures. The Parish Council has been encouraging the Police to keep up their profile up in the village. However, it is a struggle as police resources are reduced and focus is given to more obvious problem areas. Little Gaddesden forms part of the Ashridge/Dacorum recording area that

is 'below average' in its official crime rate. But we have gone back through the reported crime figures and believe we can show that the Village is a 'hot spot' for minor burglary. We are presenting this case to the Police on your behalf. **It is important that all incidents are reported to add weight to our efforts.** Keeping the pressure up on speeding is also a priority and we have been discussing how the Police can increase speed monitoring on the Ringshall straight which we believe is the problem area.

*To be included on The Neighbourhood Watch on-line crime reporting system (OWL) contact Mandy Haynes, Secretary of the Gaddesden Society (842496)*

## TRAFFIC MATTERS

Discussion on the suitability of village speed limits has continued with County Council representatives. They have accepted that the varied speed limits along the Green lack logic and that a uniform 30 m.p.h. makes sense. Some residents continue to lobby for chicanes at key points in the village. The Police do not support this strategy as they consider it can

cause aggressive driving in the vicinity of the chicanes. The Council believes the best solution is the current monitoring and ticketing strategy but applied with increased frequency.

Finally, funding for some new entry signs to the Village is closer to being realized and the curb on the bend of Huddnall Common and Nettleden Rd has been strengthened.

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## VERY CLOSE TO HOME— NEW HIGH SPEED RAIL LINK TO TOUCH THE PARISH?

The formal consultation process for the proposed new High Speed rail link between London, the west midlands and the north is imminent.

HS2 Limited, the company set up by the government to bring forward plans for the new rail link, has announced that it has been asked by the government to plan a public consultation for early 2011. This will be the opportunity for everyone with an interest to find out more about proposals and put forward their views.

For those not quite in the loop, HS2 has proposed three possible routes—a preferred route and two others. The preferred route blazes a path through the heart of the Chilterns via the Missendens, Amersham, Wendover and Quanton then on to the

north. The two alternatives come rather closer. One passes through Kings Langley, via Haresfoot, Shootersway, Pendley Manor and on to Cheddington and the north. Worrying for Berkhamsted.

However the third alternative comes very close to home indeed, driving east of Hemel Hempstead through Gaddesden Row, Pedley Hill and across the Gade Valley to Well Farm, Dagnall and Leighton Buzzard.

Whilst this route is not the preferred option, the Chilterns Society is lobbying hard against the preferred route and recommending the alternatives. The Society argues the alternatives minimize the environmental impact on the Chilterns. The consultation document is divisive for the

Region. Parish Councillors criticized it at recent meetings as it implies Berkhamsted and our part of the world are not part of the Chilterns region and that our interests can be

sacrificed for the sake of the Missendens and the Chalfonts. Funny isn't it, because the map of the new Chilterns Cycleway tells a different story! .



## SMALLER HOUSES? YOUR VIEWS SOUGHT

The Parish Council is considering its policy on housing to serve the needs of younger people (and their families) who wish to live in the Village and older people who wish to downsize within the Village.

Planning policy over recent years has maintained our area of outstanding natural beauty whilst allowing expanding house sizes through redevelopment of property and new building. While policy has met

resident's legitimate aspirations for improving their houses, the number of smaller houses has diminished. Parish Council powers over Planning and Housing are minimal. Previous efforts to develop af-

fordable housing have been frustrated by commercial realities and conflicting views about development proposals. Nevertheless concern remains about the availability of smaller houses. As older homes come up for sale, almost invariably they are sought by people wishing to expand

them. A new Dacorum Core Strategy is about to be prepared. This provides an opportunity for the Parish Council to consider and communicate their attitude to land use and housing policies **Your views will be welcomed.**

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### CROMER CLOSE

Councillors and residents have collaborated to agree priorities for tree work at Cromer Close. A working group has also resolved issues with the play area. Councillors appreciated the help and are keen to encourage more volunteers with an interest in local matters to assist our efforts.