



www.gerrardscross.gov.uk

Lights at Tesco junction

Have your say, we need your support to get changes made

After two years campaigning, the Parish Council is pleased to announce that Bucks County Council [BCC] is taking action on the new road layout and traffic management system introduced when the new Tesco store opened. Our view is that it is fundamentally flawed and potentially unsafe. This view is shared by an overwhelming percentage of the almost 2000 residents of Gerrards Cross who responded to the survey carried out by the Parish Council last summer.

The major concern identified was the safety of pedestrians, particularly the partially sighted and wheelchair users – see the video by Mike Scarlet, broadcaster, presenter and wheelchair user on our

website. We believe that the problems experienced by these groups apply to all pedestrians, especially parents with young children and the elderly. The Parish Council has received reports following meetings with the Royal National Institute for the Blind and with the Leonard Cheshire Homes for the Disabled. These have been submitted to the BCC to ensure the issues identified for partially sighted people and for wheelchair users are addressed. To view these reports, see the article on our website at www.gerrardscross.gov.uk.

The Parish Council presented the issues to BCC's "Overview & Scrutiny Committee" on 4 December. You can see a video of this under "meetings" via the link on our website.

As a result of the Parish Council survey, BCC has undertaken an independent review of the whole layout and traffic light control system outside Tesco and at Station Road.

This is a Consultation and is your opportunity to give your input. We need your support to get changes made. Please make sure you attend the exhibition and give BCC your views or tell us via our website, on twitter @GXparishCouncil or www.facebook.com/GXParishCouncil. We will attend the next BCC Overview and Scrutiny meeting on 26 March 2013 to review the conclusions of the Review and Consultation.

Left: Residents experience the misery of the Tesco Lights



BCC will be presenting their proposed solutions at an exhibition at the Memorial Centre on Tuesday 19 February from 14:00 to 18:30 and on Saturday 23 February from 10:00 to 13:00.

What's happening

Ash dieback disease

South Bucks District Council has set up a new web page with helpful information and links on this disease. Go to www.southbucks.gov.uk and search for ash dieback disease.

Wapseys Wood landfill site

To report bad smells call the site operator Veolia on 0800 0482 704. To stay up to date with current work on the site use the site specific website at www.veoliaenvironmentalservice.co.uk/southbucks



Important dates for your diary

Open Meeting Chiltern Railways
19:00, 14 February
See page 4

Tesco Junction Exhibition
14:00 – 18:30, 19 February
10:00 – 13:00, 23 February
See above

inside...

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Marsham Lane bridge

Traffic on this bridge, which takes 2 lines of traffic only and has no pavement, has increased markedly to avoid the congestion caused by the Tesco Lights. As the bridge is frequently used by children attending the Moreland Drive School, the Parish Council has arranged for a traffic survey, planned for the start of the January term. If this shows, as expected, considerable usage, this will aid the Council's plea for some form of traffic management.

Wexham Park Hospital

Don't hold your breath but the Hospital is considering building a 2 storey car park. The nursery opposite which offered alternative parking, unfortunately on green belt land, has faced a large fine and the parking closed.

Our Commons

Residents will have noticed that Latchmore Pond on West Common is now full again and the ducks and moorhen – plus the occasional heron – have returned. The Council commissioned an expert report on the maintenance of this pond and work will start on implementing the improvements suggested in the Spring. The Council has applied for a grant to control the holly which is spreading throughout the commons. It is also considering a report from the Forestry Commission on the care of the specimen and old trees.

In our schools

Did you think Bucks County Council still run our Grammar Schools? All of them, both boys and girls and whether in Amersham, Burnham, Chesham or High Wycombe, have become Academies under their own control with central Government finance.

Madeley House, Packhorse Rd

An application for change of use from Offices to Restaurant was approved by South Bucks District Council but the very well known and up-market restaurateur withdrew. Now an application has been made for change of use of the ground floor to Retail, with offices on the first floor.

Nos 45 – 49 Station Road

An application has been made for a part change of use of this office block, which has been vacant for some years, to residential use to allow for 10 flats with underground parking.

We have updated our Website

The Council wants you to have a say on what goes on in Gerrards Cross. Therefore for a trial period of three months we are subscribing to Facebook/Twitter so that you can express your views and tell us what you want. We can also keep you up to date on local events, road closures, planning consents and so on.

Additionally the website has much useful information on the history of Gerrards Cross and the locality, details of local clubs and organisations, contact addresses for Councillors and minutes of our meetings.

 @GXparishCouncil

 /GXParishCouncil

 www.gerrardscross.gov.uk



We encourage you to use the website so that we can know what you think about local issues and problems; for example the Tesco Lights, use of the Commons, danger to pedestrians using the bridges in Mill and Marsham Lanes, parking enforcement [or lack of] and so on. Guided by you, the residents, we can do a more informed job. Just use Facebook/Twitter or post your thoughts on our residents feedback page.

Helping our Councillors

Over the past year seven residents have become Associate Members of the Parish Council working with Councillors on areas which particularly interest them. They attend Committee meetings relevant to their areas of interest and, if they wish, Council meetings but without votes. Their assistance, interest and expertise is very valuable to Councillors whilst an added benefit is enabling Associates to learn more of what the Council does and whether, when a vacancy arises, they would be interested in standing for election.

Our current Associates are:

- Gerry Hoare advising on the Youth Club.
- Philip Sellars working with the Packhorse Road Working Party.
- Helen Orme who works on the Planning Committee.
- Dan Turner, founder of Nexus Communications, assisting with the Parish Website.

Former Council Chairmen Peter Chapman working with the Conservation Volunteers and former Chairman, Gillian Underwood, and former Councillor, Pat Fea, helping wherever required.

The Chairman, Chris Brown, would be delighted to hear from any resident prepared to spend a little time contributing to our community in this way.

Phone 01753 888018 or email

chris.brown@gerrardscross.gov.uk



Parking in Gerrards Cross

Civil Enforcement Area parking has now been introduced in the Gerrards Cross area – this commenced on 5 December 2012. This scheme follows similar schemes in High Wycombe and is enforced by appointed parking services contractor NSL on behalf of Bucks County Council.

The main aims are to improve community safety, transport flow and access to parking facilities for shoppers, business customers and residents. Thames Valley Police can still take action over dangerous and/or obstructive parking and hopefully this will improve the situation.

Parking management is an issue locally and, once the scheme is established, it is intended that residents will be asked for their comments on parking problems in their roads, in particular commuters parking all day in residential streets and obstructing driveways.



NSL civil enforcement officers (CEO) are identifiable out and about on your streets by their blue uniforms.

NSL Enquiry phone line is – 0843 208 5544
Further information is available on Bucks County Council website.

Rachel Pope
South Bucks District Councillor
Gerrards Cross North

No poop please! – a letter from a resident

My children and I have been saddened by the seeming disregard some dog owners have for fellow footpath users in failing to scoop up their doggy poop. When quizzed by my children as to why people don't clear up their dog's mess from the pavement, as it is "disgusting and smelly and dirty", I find it hard to leap to said owners' defence. Our school is trying to encourage children to opt for the healthy alternative of walking to school enjoying the exercise and conversations with siblings, parents or carers and friends. All very laudable. However, when conversations are cut short abruptly with "watch out for the poo there!" or "mummy the buggy wheel's covered in poo" you do start

to wonder whether it's having the desired effect on our children? I don't want them to grow up thinking all dog owners are irresponsible and selfish. We're constantly trying to teach our children responsible, polite behaviour and yet this flies in the face of that. So a plea from us pedestrians out there - please please please keep our pavements poop free!



New equipment on East Common

To celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, the Council set aside £20,000 for new play equipment at the play area on East Common. Residents were asked on our website and in 'Voice' to say what new equipment they would like. More amenities for older children were requested and as a result a 'Trim Trail' has been added, said to be designed for 'exercise and fun'.

Also installed is a 'Sid the Snake' for play and seating for younger children, a new slide to replace the old one which would have cost more to repair than replace and an improved base under the aerial runway.

The remainder of the £20,000 was spent on the new footpath from the Turning Circle on the Packhorse Road to Latchmoor Pond and on to the A40 opposite the Bull Hotel. This footpath was requested particularly by those using wheelchairs and mothers with pushchairs, many of whom have told the Parish Council how much they welcome it.



Trim Trail



Sid the Snake

New Non-Emergency numbers for Police and NHS

In case you haven't heard the new Police number is 101 and the NHS 111 both for non-emergencies. For emergencies, still use 999.



We'd love to hear from you, it's your community, your views.
Please contact us on 01753 888018 or visit www.gerrardscross.gov.uk



A chance to give Chiltern Railways your views

Do you use the Chiltern Line from Gerrards Cross? Are you happy with the service, or do you have any complaints, criticisms or comments you would like to air? Maybe you have some suggestions on how things could be improved.

If you do, then put Thursday 14 February at 19:00 in your diary. That is when the Parish Council has arranged for Rob Brighouse, Managing Director of Chiltern Railways to be at Colston Hall in the Memorial Centre to hear the views of his customers and to tell us something of his plans for the future.

To ensure we make best use of his time and to avoid questions being duplicated, we want to have a set of questions for Mr Brighouse to answer. So, if you have any questions to put to him on the following matters, please submit them to the Parish Council and we will combine these into a consolidated list:

The timetable; punctuality; comfort and overcrowding; fares; station facilities; lift and other services for disabled passengers; car parking and prices, drop-off, pick-up and waiting facilities in Station Approach; customer service – station and train; pedestrian access; bicycle parking; bicycle access.

Please send your written questions either to the Parish Council office or by email to clerk@gerrardscross.gov.uk by Thursday 31 January 2013.

We look forward to seeing you at Colston Hall on 14 February, for what promises to be an interesting and lively session.



Football on West Common



A common sight at weekends is football played by the young and not so young on West Common. The organiser and one of the coaches is Phil Moody who for over eight years, has been the moving light behind the games. Now around 220 youths are involved and the Gerrards Cross and Fulmer Football Club is a Football Association Chartered Club.

The under 11s have two teams and the under 12s one, both playing 60 minute matches. The under 13s also have two teams and the under 14s one, both this

time playing 70 minute matches. The under 15s and under 16s have one team and play 80 minutes matches, whereas under 17s and 18s have one team each and play 90 minute matches.

The season starts in September. Throughout the season and in the summer months the pitches have to be maintained which is also the task of Phil. The Parish Council helps with the mowing and cost of fertilisers. Matches are usually against local clubs such as those in Chesham, Thame, Chinnor.

New grants made by the Council

Over £17,000 of Grants made to local Charities, Clubs and Organisations were listed in the January and September issues of this Newsletter. Since then, a further three grants have been made:

- **Gerrards Cross Scouts** - £400 for essential roof and electrical repairs to their hut
- **Gerrards Cross Squash Club**, Junior Section - £600 to pay for a professional coach
- **Maintenance of St James Churchyard** - £1000.

