



## Our library is saved!



Following the announcement by Buckinghamshire County Council (BCC) in late 2010 that the GX Library would be closed, a Working Party, chaired by William Skerrett, was set up and, since then, has negotiated improved arrangements for support (both practical and financial) from BCC, as well as preparing the detail of taking over the running of the Library, in partnership with BCC. This has involved the vital task of recruiting and training a large team of Volunteers from residents to man the Library, as well as setting up the Charity.

The members of the Working Party, together with representatives of BCC, will constitute the new Joint Management Committee responsible for running the Community Library before the end of this month.

Initially, the opening hours of the Library will remain the same and all existing services will continue. However, there are plans to extend opening hours and some services in due course. More immediately, the premise layout will be revised to allow space for more books and to enhance the presentation.

### Keep our Library going - Become a Friend or Benefactor

None of the progress to date could have been achieved without the support of many residents through becoming Friends or Benefactors, not to mention generous donations by the Parish Council and from the Tesco Fund. But to secure the future of our Library, to ensure its future funding and to meet operating costs, we need still more residents to become a Friend or Benefactor of the GX Community Library Charity. To do this and to register, please go on-line through [www.gxlibrary.org](http://www.gxlibrary.org). then click on Friends and Benefactors menu item. Alternatively call Peter Fountain, the Treasurer, on 01753 888385 or write to him at Ardlair, Dukes Ride, Gerrards Cross, SL9 7LE.

**Please show your support  
for our community.**

## Parking restrictions to be enforced – but not quite yet



Rachel Pope, South Bucks District Councillor for Gerrards Cross North, has told Voice that there are proposals to introduce Civil Enforcement Area parking restrictions in Gerrards Cross – in 2013. This has already happened in neighbouring Chiltern and Wycombe Districts where it seems to be reasonably successful. Proposals and implementation schemes

will be overseen by Bucks County Council in due course, drawing on experiences in the neighbouring areas.

The introduction of a new Civil Enforcement Area has to be subject to initial approval by Parliament. The main aims are to improve community safety, transport flow and access to parking facilities for shoppers, business customers and residents. Parking management is an issue locally and it is hoped this will be a sensible way forward.

South Bucks District Council will be writing to all residents as the process develops.

## Plastic Bottle Recycling

Following a successful pilot run last year, South Bucks District Council [SBDC] will start collecting and recycling plastic bottles from 1 October. Residents are asked to label their boxes Glass or Plastic Bottles. Labels may be collected from the SBDC or Parish Council Offices or from the Library. Any queries to SBDC Waste Efficiency Officer 01895 837213.



# Residents comments

## On the commons

The overwhelming wish of residents, echoing that of the Council, – is that their open nature and natural beauty must be retained. This is in response to a request for views in the last edition of 'Voice'. One resident emphasises the joy for her of seeing the wildlife, particularly the muntjac deer and birdlife around the ponds. She would like to see woodland birds and bats encouraged by the building of bat and bird boxes. Another pleads to keep the Commons as they are, allowing residents to walk their dogs or themselves in peace and quiet.

In contrast, some have asked for more amenities for teenagers and older children, to encourage this group to enjoy the open air whilst getting some exercise. A bigger, better climbing frame suitable for ages 4 to 10, as well as a skate park/ramp like those at Chalfont St Peter and Great Missenden are suggested.

Further, the Council have already set aside £20,000 to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee, for the following additional equipment:

- A 'Trim Trail' [pictured]
- A slide to replace the existing one, which would cost more to repair than replace
- An improved base under the Aerial runway - now both worn and muddy!
- A 'Sid the Snake', for play and seating for younger children
- And for the Mums watching their children play – 3 new benches.



The design and position of the Youth Shelter was criticised, although it seems popular, being widely used. Sadly a nicer looking wooden shelter had to be rejected because of the risk of vandalism; the position was at the instigation of the local Police as being well lighted and in good sight of the main road.

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](http://www.gerrardscross.gov.uk)



## Parking on the grass verges near GX C of E School, Moorland Drive

A resident's suggestion of having parking bays in place of the grass verges on the school side of the road. Is not possible as the road would not then be wide enough for two way traffic to continue. The Council's suggestion to plant trees along the verges, thus preventing parking, was supported by the Head Teacher, Nicola Flower: 'I would be very supportive of the idea ... and would communicate this and the reasons to the parents.' However Bucks CC has rejected the idea, as 'safety issues' prevent trees over

2M in height being planted along a public highway, so the Council now has to consider shrubs or a low hedge.



## News from the County Council

In July Bucks County Council approved a contract with WRG to supply an 'Energy from Waste' facility in north Buckinghamshire. Within four years this will dispose of all residual waste (after maximum recycling) using safe proven technology while providing sustainable energy to the National Grid. Residential waste will no longer be land-filled, saving the current £80 per tonne tax; a far better economic and environmental solution than landfill.

A 3 year Streetlight switch-off trial on 46 sites across the county has just been completed, showing a consistent 25% reduction in casualties during darkness

plus a saving of £250k over the 3 years - money now redirected to road repairs. Apart from 5 sites, including the A413 from Chalfont St Peter to Denham, the lights will remain switched off. There is now a programme to instal Energy-efficient Lanterns across the network showing further cost and carbon usage savings.

Government has agreed to include the proposed reopening of the railway from Oxford through Bucks to Milton Keynes and Bedford, and its electrification and extension to the Midland Main Line in its next round of Capital spending plans. There are huge benefits for Bucks,

including a new station at Winslow and thousands of new jobs due to vastly improved connections. As Bucks Cabinet Member, I chair the Board overseeing the project with representatives of the 8 Local Authorities affected plus Network Rail and the Department of Transport. This is a new railway which we can support - as opposed to the ill-conceived HS2!

### Peter Hardy

BCC Cabinet Member for Planning and Transportation Bucks County Councillor for Gerrards Cross South, Beaconsfield Old Town, Hedgerley and Fulmer

# Denham Aerodrome

Gerrards Cross residents are used to seeing light aircraft in the skies near or over Gerrards Cross, so they may be interested to learn something of the Aerodrome's history, its relationship with the Parish Council and what action to take if residents are worried about these aircraft.

## Brief History

Aircraft flew from Denham during WW1 and the Royal Flying Corps 1 Cadet Wing trained Flight Cadets there. Also No 5 School of Aeronautics learnt to work on biplanes at the present site of the Martin Baker Aircraft Factory. In 1926 Myles Bickerton purchased part of the present airfield site because it was high, flat and well drained. Hangars were built and fuel tanks installed. Amy Johnson and the Prince of Wales [later King Edward V111] both visited, as did many civil and military aircraft. In 1938 the airfield became the first licensed aerodrome in Buckinghamshire.

During WW 11 the aerodrome was requisitioned, together with part of Denham Golf course, surrounding fields incorporated and Tilehouse Lane closed. It became an RAF training site and at one time 30 de Havilland Tiger Moths and 30 Miles Magisters were based there. Also many Arnhem glider pilots were trained there.

## Present Use

After derequisition and repair, a Flying Club was started and many young people learned to fly here before going on to be airline pilots. Since the 1960's it has been increasingly used by Charter companies and businesses flying passengers into and out of small airports all over Europe. Maintenance is carried out on Helicopters,



including many performing essential services such as medical flights, power and pipe line inspections and London Air Ambulances ; also on others equipped for Aerial Filming and as TV stations. No.2370 squadron of the Air Training Corps is based here.

## Community Relations

In 1970 a Consultation Committee was set up with the various users of the airfield and the surrounding Councils, including that for Gerrards Cross. It liaises with local planners and encourages them to inform developers of the aerodrome's location and operations. Many school and group visits take place and the aerodrome strictly enforces a 'good neighbour' policy, trying to ensure that flying is always carried out with consideration for those on the ground, in terms of both safety and noise.

The aerodrome is 249 feet above sea level and an area around it and up to 1000 feet is set aside for its safe use. The area above and to the south is designated for Northolt traffic and above, that for Heathrow. Therefore, most flights have to be on the north side

of the aerodrome. For landing and take-off practice wide paths are laid down, avoiding as far as possible built up areas. Contrary to popular belief aircraft may fly anywhere over Gerrards Cross and are not confined to the east of the A413.

## Complaints

These may be made either by telephone [01895 835161] – a dedicated answer-phone in the Control Tower –, in writing to the Parish Council or to the aerodrome Manager, Bickerton's Aerodromes Ltd, Denham Aerodrome, Denham, Bucks UB9 5DN. Complaints should include: date and time of the incident, nature of the problem, position and registration number of the aircraft. If the registration cannot be seen, details such as number of engines, colour scheme, wings above or below the pilot and whether the undercarriage was retracted may help identification. Complaints will be recorded, investigated and answered [provided a phone number or address is given].

## Mill Lane Bridge

Pedestrians consider the lack of any footpath on this bridge highly dangerous, particularly for children walking to the C of E School on Moreland Drive and their accompanying mothers, often with pushchairs. The Council, Network Rail and Bucks County Council have worked for some years to try to find a solution without success or, indeed, any progress.

We have continued to pursue this with BCC, which, as the Highways Authority, has



agreed that the Parish Council can create a footpath along Mill Lane and across the bridge. However, this will reduce the bridge to single lane traffic that will require traffic lights to be installed.

To proceed with the traffic lights solution required the Parish Council to pay for a feasibility study to be undertaken by BCC. We have now received the study report and are reviewing the recommendations.

The alternative of installing a footbridge is far more expensive, as this will require extensive work on the embankment at either side to access the bridge. A simple pinch-point is not feasible due to the lack of visibility.

**Please tell us what you think  
at [www.gerrardscross.gov.uk](http://www.gerrardscross.gov.uk)**

# Planning Issues

## 57 Packhorse Road

For several years residents have had to put up with the dilapidated state of this empty property on the corner of Station Approach and during these years the Parish Council has frequently urged the Landlord to take action.

The tenant – another firm of estate agents – has now told us that the slow progress in renovating the property has been down to the state of both the economy and the property market. However the tenant promises that ‘our planned works will enhance the unit tremendously and hopefully create one of the most attractive in town’.

But don't expect this soon. No precise date for completion is given other than ‘we could be occupying in 6 months’.



## French Horn Site, Oxford Road

The Parish Council has objected to the developers' application for an extension of time before works start on building a residential care home. The site has been left undeveloped for 3 years with unsightly piles of rubble left from the demolition of the original building. The site is in a prime location at the entrance to Gerrards Cross and adjacent to the Commons Conservation Area. The Council feel it is an eyesore and a very poor introduction to Gerrards Cross. At the very least, the piles of rubbish should be removed.

## Sainsbury to Share Fishers Premises

Planning consent has been applied for for Fishers to share their premises with a new Sainsbury Local. Fishers would continue to operate a Butcher and Delicatessen from approximately one-third of the shop with Sainsbury occupying the remainder. Both stores will have separate entrances. The majority of jobs will be protected, with some working in the new Butcher and Delicatessen and many others being offered positions in the new Sainsbury Local. The shop would be open from 7am – 11pm 7 days a week and, subject to planning consent being given, trading should start later this year.

The store will close on 15 September but the Butcher and Delicatessen will continue to operate from the warehouse at the rear. This will be accessed from the public car park next door as Fishers own car park will be temporarily closed.



# Gerrards Cross Station

The first impression visitors arriving by rail receive of Gerrards Cross is of the unkept 'garden' and bank on the station access road. The Parish Council has written on more than one occasion to Chiltern Railways asking them to explain how they plan to improve the appearance of both. The Council has now received the following reply from Chiltern Customer Services:- There is a station improvement project being undertaken at the moment. They have recently completed gardening work at High Wycombe station and are now moving on to Beaconsfield and then Gerrards Cross will follow after that.'

## Station parking

Residents wishing to park already face the problem of finding an [expensive] space and – now – of deciding which of these 2 signs they should obey on the Chiltern Railway owned access road.



# Packhorse Road Traffic lights

A survey of nearly 2000 residents, supported by the Parish Council and extremely well organised by Ros Hurn, found that around 85% of those questioned did not think the lights did what they were supposed to do and, for pedestrians, are dangerous. The results were passed on to Bucks County Council asking whether they agreed with the majority view, but after a month we have had no more than an

acknowledgement of our two letters.

The Parish Council continues to believe that the second set of lights at Station Road is unnecessary and should be removed, with the former pedestrian crossing near Boots reinstated. Also that the crossing on Station Approach should be redesigned to be straight across the road, with a single large island on which pedestrians, especially those in wheelchairs or with pushchairs,

can shelter safely. Further the road into the Tesco car park should be narrowed and the pavement

extended, so as to allow pedestrians to wait in safety until the lights to change.

