

Weedon Parish Council Newsletter

Weedon Village Edition

January 2010

Planning Applications

Both Aylesbury Vale District Council and Buckinghamshire County Council are required to consult the Parish Council about planning applications. The Parish Council holds public meetings to discuss its response and everyone is welcome.

The Open Forum at the start of each meeting is a time when the details of the plans may be examined, questions asked or comments made, thereby making Councillors aware of residents' views. The Parish Council cannot itself approve or refuse planning applications – that is the responsibility of AVDC/Bucks CC – but we can support, have no objection or oppose.

Individual villagers can and should also respond in their own right to any application they feel strongly about, and the Council tries to make everyone who could be affected aware of the meetings via the noticeboards and website.

Neighbourhood Watch and Vandalism

The village is involved with the Neighbourhood Watch (NW) scheme. The Council is aware that residents will be concerned about any criminal activities as we all wish to live in a safe, secure and crime-free environment. Residents are encouraged by the police to report all incidents to them as soon as they occur.

Should you notice anything suspicious, you should report it to a NW Coordinator or Councillor, or to the police:

- **Serious incidents – Local police on 0845 8 505 505**
- If you know who the culprits are, contact **Crimestoppers** on **0800 555 111**
- If you **witness a crime in progress** ring **999**

Website www.weedonbucks.org.uk

This yearly newsletter gives information to assist you to contact a Councillor or attend a Parish Council Meeting. **If you have any concerns, please call a Councillor or, better still, attend a meeting.** It also contains some information about the issues currently being considered by your Council.

Clerk to the Weedon Parish Council (for correspondence)

Sue Mordue, Pear Tree Cottage, 49 Portway, North Marston, Buckingham, MK18 3PL. Telephone 01296 670707

Email: sue-mordue@more-control.com

Councillors and their telephone numbers

Joanna Rose (Chairman)	641622
Chris Measures (Vice Chairman)	640537
Ralph Followell	641998
Justin Sellers	641348
Michael Moore	641915
Janet Jones	641828
Mark Horton (Buckingham Park)	429405

Aylesbury Vale District Councillor

Ashley Bond 641552

Buckinghamshire County Councillors

Niknam Hussain 485847 Mary Baldwin 426629

Other Village Contacts

Tuesday Club	Judy Nagele	641278
Village Association	Catherine Rodnight	641071
Old Schoolroom	Shirley Bush	641382
Methodist Chapel	Laurie Gower	641510

Website www.weedonbucks.org.uk

Parish Council Meetings

The Council meets on the third Wednesday of odd-numbered months at 8pm in the Old Schoolroom and the Methodist Chapel alternately. The meetings are open to the public and there is an Open Forum at the beginning at which any parishioner may raise an issue of concern.

Other recurring agenda items at regular PC meetings are:

- Correspondence – letters received and sent by the Council
- Planning – review of any current applications
- Financial – review of income and expenditure

Additional meetings are held from time to time especially to consider planning matters. Notices of meetings are placed on the noticeboards and on the website. Again, the meetings are open to the public and preceded by an Open Forum.

Minutes

Minutes of each meeting are issued by the Clerk to the Council and are presented for approval or amendment at the next Council meeting. The unapproved minutes are posted on the village noticeboard sited at the junction of the High Street and Aston Abbots Road shortly after meetings, and on the website. An archive of approved minutes is also accessible on the website.

Keeping Up Appearances

There is much that has to be done to ensure the appearance of the village is maintained. This rests in the main with the villagers themselves, but a significant amount of the total annual expenditure of the Parish Council is devoted to maintaining and improving the village environment. With your help there may be areas where we can reduce the expenditure and hence save you money. On the other hand you may think more should be spent elsewhere. If so, let us know.

A credit to all your efforts is that this year we were awarded a Certificate of Merit in the Best Kept Village contest.

Recent Initiatives

Tree planting in New Road

Since the last newsletter we have finished the tree planting project along New Road organised by Cllr Followell and it does look wonderful.

Floral barrel

A wooden barrel planting arrangement on the small triangle green outside the 5 Elms was set up and is looked after by Clare Macdonald.

Grit/salt bins

For the winter months we purchased some additional grit bins. As you will have seen, the village roads are NOT routinely gritted, so we hope you have been helping yourself to the grit as needed.

Four new bench seats – funded by Weedon Village Association

The WVA has paid for four new bench seats around the village – on the corner of East End and Aston Abbots Road, at the “gap” on the Aston Abbots Road, at the bus stop at the top of New Road, and at the bus stop on the A413 at the other end of New Road. The WVA regularly invests any surplus funds into village improvements.

Buckingham Park

We have bought and erected a new noticeboard outside the Community Centre to help Buckingham Park residents (currently part of Weedon Parish) to become involved in their community. Our recent parish council vacancy has been filled by Mark Horton from Buckingham Park, who will provide a much needed connection with the area and provide the foundation for the new parish.

Weedon PC fully supports the process to create a new parish at Buckingham Park, which is expected from May 2011. The split will benefit both communities, as we feel they are too different to be successfully managed by one parish council in the future.

Weedon Village Parish Plan progress

Many of you are involved in the various working groups which make up the inputs to our Parish Plan. Recently a questionnaire was distributed and the Steering Committee was very happy with the response rate and comments made by residents. The Committee will now start to pull all the information it has gathered together and work towards producing the final plan over the next months. It is essential that every part of the community is involved in generating ideas and giving opinions – so thank you for your participation so far.

If you have any more input, are interested in joining one of the working groups or can provide any assistance in producing the plan, then please contact Ralph Followell who will put you in touch with the working parties as appropriate.

The Park Children’s Play Area

All the equipment satisfies current safety regulations and is examined annually by ROSPA. New items have been suggested during the Parish Plan discussion groups – watch this space!