

# Weedon Parish Council Newsletter

**JUNE 2012**

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.**

A handy pull-out sheet is enclosed to help you identify which tier of local government to contact in relation to any particular service or issue.

Traditionally the role of parish councillor in Weedon is voluntary and unpaid. The part-time Clerk is the only paid employee of the Council at pay rates set according to local government guidelines.

## Clerk to the Weedon Parish Council

Barbara Mitchell, The Well House, 26-28 East End, Weedon,  
Aylesbury, Bucks HP22 4NJ Telephone 01296 640865

Email: [bcmitchell123@gmail.com](mailto:bcmitchell123@gmail.com)

## Parish Councillors

Joanna Rose <i>Chairman</i>	641622	Chris Measures	640537
Kirsty Ashurst	640224	<i>Vice Chairman</i>	
Justin Sellers	641348	Wendy Kett	640366
Nigel Winnett	640125	Tom Jameson-Evans	640845

### Aylesbury Vale District Councillor

Ashley Bond 641552

### Bucks County Councillors

Niknam Hussain 485847  
Mary Baldwin 426629

### Other Weedon Contacts

Weedon Charities	Ralph Followell	641998
Village Association	Catherine Rodnight	641071
Old Schoolroom	Shirley Bush	641382
Tuesday Club	Judy Nagele	641278
Methodist Chapel	Laurie Gower	641510
Golf Society	Ralph Followell	641998

If you wish to be included on our Weedon email list, which is used ONLY for village events and issues, please email [joanna@cjrose.net](mailto:joanna@cjrose.net).

**Check [www.weedonbucks.org.uk](http://www.weedonbucks.org.uk) for information and live calendar**

# What the Parish Council

## ROUTINE CARE AND MAINTENANCE

- We looked after the **Park and Children's Play Area**
  - Regular grass-cutting and grass improvement treatment
  - Cutting and pruning of hedges and trees and weed control on paths
  - Inspection by ROSPA of play equipment and minor repairs according to their recommendations
- We looked after other public spaces:
  - Grass-cutting and weed control at the **Pond**, and supply of duck food
  - Planting and maintenance of the **High Street Pump**, with the voluntary help of Christine and Nic Nicolay
  - Planting and care of the **Village Green Triangle** outside the pub, with the voluntary help of Clare Macdonald
  - **New Road Trees** planted in 2007 were monitored, and three replaced
  - We contributed to the rent of a **storage facility** for large items owned by community organisations such as the WVA
  - We installed a **dog bin** on the verge outside the large Park gates
- We maintained **public footpaths**, mowing and cutting back as required and liaised with landowners over repair of stiles and gates.
- We paid for electricity to power the **street lights**, and arranged bulb replacement and repairs where needed.
- We contributed to the upkeep of the **graveyards** in Hardwick and Weedon.
- We kept the Weedon **website** and **noticeboards** up to date, and published and distributed **leaflets** on subjects of importance to the village.
- We reviewed the **Action Points from the Parish Plan** at each meeting, and tracked their progress or completion. See a full update on pages 4-7.

## PROJECTS 2011/12

- **Pond Silt Clearance**

We commissioned an ecological consultant to carry out a survey and make recommendations. The first stage was to remove the silt (relatively easy when the water was low), and this was done in December.
- **New noticeboard and exhibition display panels** (part-funded by Bucks CC)
  - Stephen Sidebotham designed and constructed a new High St board
  - We purchased two sets of indoor display panels for use at meetings

# did in 2011/12

## LIAISON WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS

- **AVDC** in respect of **Planning Applications**
  - We were asked to comment on 25 planning applications, and public meetings were held for all but the most minor tree works
- **Bucks CC** in respect of **Highways** (including **pavements** and **verges**)
  - We continued to inform BCC about road repairs required, including potholes, lobbying for higher priority on their maintenance lists
  - We met with Traffic Control Inspectors, and requested a review of traffic control measures in the village [see Parish Plan Update]
- Various agencies for the **Protection of Persons and Property**
  - **Thames Valley Police, Trading Standards** and **Bucks Fire and Rescue Service** all attended a drop-in session we organised to revitalise the village's **Neighbourhood Watch** scheme.
  - The village **Emergency Action Team** was supported.
- Parish councillors attended meetings of the **Local Area Forum**, a discussion forum for all levels of local government – parish, district and county
- We met with the **Bucks County Show** committee to discuss improvements to traffic arrangements for 2012. As a result, all village roads will be closed this year except to residents who will be issued with permits.

## FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

### ● **New Parish Clerk**

We advertised for a new clerk to replace Sue Mordue, who left to take on a larger parish clerk role in Stewkley. After interviewing 5 candidates, we were delighted to appoint Weedon resident **Barbara Mitchell**.

### ● **Precept/Council Tax**

- The precept for 2011/12 had been set at a level to just cover routine expenditure, in order to minimise the impact of the reduction in number of residents due to the hiving-off of Buckingham Park.
- The precept for 2012/13 has been set at a similar level to 2011/12 so that Weedon residents saw **NO INCREASE** in the Weedon element of their April 2012 Council Tax bills.
- Again we are aiming to cover only routine expenditure from the precept, and we will draw on some of our reserves to fund the major projects, while maintaining a prudent positive contingency balance.

### ● **Statutory accounts**

Unlike many parish councils, we are fully up-to-date with submission of our statutory accounts. Copies are available to view on request from the Clerk.

# Update on the Parish Plan

## Economy Working Group

Parish Plan  
Update

ITEM	ACTION	RESPONSIBILITY	TIMESCALE	PROGRESS
SHOP, POST OFFICE AND GROCERY DELIVERY	Hold discussions with current service providers to determine interest in extending or expanding range.	Parish Plan Economy Working Group	3 – 6 months	Completed
	Investigate better promotion and publicity of existing service providers.	Parish Plan Economy Working Group	3 – 6 months	Completed
	Talk to Five Elms pub to find out if they would stock a supply of postage stamps.	Parish Plan Economy Working Group	Immediate	Completed
UTILITIES INFRA-STRUCTURE	Publicise the newly formed heating oil supply co-operative to extend its coverage.	Parish Plan Economy Working Group	Immediate	Scheme is in full swing. Contact Jerry Boylan on 640626 or <a href="mailto:jeremy_boylan@hotmail.co.uk">jeremy_boylan@hotmail.co.uk</a>
	Set up a feasibility study to investigate upgraded broadband or new dedicated cable provision for high-speed internet, telephone and TV services.	Parish Plan Economy Working Group	3 – 6 months	Wireless broadband now available via Mark Talbott, offering higher speeds than standard, but at greater cost (technical limitations apply). Contact 474470 or <a href="mailto:mark@signwizzard.co.uk">mark@signwizzard.co.uk</a>
ALLOTMENTS	Convene a meeting of interested parties to discuss progressing the provision of allotments and their location.	Parish Council	3 – 6 months	PC contacted those expressing interest. Only one remained interested. No further action.
FARMS	Support farmers in Weedon and neighbouring villages eg. Bond Bros, Parrott & Son.	All Villagers	Continuing	Continuing
FIVE ELMS PUB	Support the pub as an important village economic and social asset.	All Villagers	Continuing	Continuing
NEW COMMERCIAL PREMISES	Protect Weedon from commercial development to maintain its character.	Parish Council All Villagers	Continuing	AVDC have copy of Parish Plan and PC will continue to bring Planning Applications to Council meetings for response.

# Environment Working Group

Parish Plan  
Update

ITEM	ACTION	RESPONSIBILITY	TIMESCALE	PROGRESS
VILLAGE CHARACTER AND IDENTITY	Work to preserve and retain character and identity	Parish Council All Villagers	Continuing	Continuing
CONSERVATION AREAS	Continue to recognise importance and effectiveness of village conservation areas	Parish Council All Villagers	Continuing	Continuing
<b>NATURAL ENVIRONMENT</b>				
FOOTPATHS	Investigate funded programme to improve access and connectivity	Parish Council	Feasibility study started 2010	Stile replacement project study completed. Action to commence shortly.
TREES	Investigate and consult on tree planting in public areas	Parish Plan Environment Working Group	3 – 6 months	PC will take over project
FLOWERS	Investigate and consult on flower planting in public areas	Parish Plan Environment Working Group	3 – 6 months	As above. Bulb planting to be reviewed Sept 12
GRASS ON VERGES AND PUBLIC AREAS	Maintain current mowing programme.	Parish Council and PC liaison with Bucks CC	Continuing	PC will continue and budget for this
<b>BUILT ENVIRONMENT</b>				
HOUSING DEVELOPMENT	Participate in AVDC planning consultations, aiming to maintain previous policy of only very small-scale development	Parish Council All Villagers	Continuing	Met with AVDC re Local Plan 29/6/11. PC submitted detailed response to AVDC consultation Oct 11
LIGHTING	Continue to maintain lights and replace as necessary. Investigate reported "dark" locations.	Parish Council	Continuing	Reviewed and information shown on mapping software system
PAVEMENTS	Investigate individual complaints and rectify	Parish Council liaison Bucks CC	Immediate	Continue to be on all PC meeting agendas
WASTE COLLECTION AND RECYCLING	Inform AVDC of demand for more frequent recycling, and interest in cardboard and green waste collections	Parish Council to inform AVDC	Immediate	Copy of Parish Plan given to AVDC. New AVDC waste/recycling scheme scheduled 2012.
ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	Investigate provision of more litter bins and possible new provision of dog bins.	Parish Council	Immediate	Dog bin installed. New litter bin at bus stop on A413. New green bins replace old yellow ones.
	Investigate engaging contractor for regular litter-pick.	Parish Council	Continuing	AVDC contract monthly for village and on request Cooks Hill and New Road.
	More village clean-ups.	All Villagers	Continuing	WVA continue organising annual litter pick.

# Transport Working Group

Parish Plan  
Update

ITEM	ACTION	RESPONSIBILITY	TIMESCALE	PROGRESS
SPEEDING	Consider additional speed analysis at different locations with particular emphasis on pedestrian safety.	Parish Council – to progress with Bucks CC	6 – 12 months	BCC Highways visited. Some recommendations have been made. Further detailed report promised.
	Entrances to village – consider additional gates, road markings.  Aston Abbots Road – consider additional allowable signage		Immediate  6 – 12 months	1. PC is following up with Bucks CC for report.  2. Police completed session with speed camera in Sept 10.  3. Community Speed Watch to commence September 2012.
	A413 – respond to Bucks CC Speed Limit Review.	All Villagers Parish Council	Immediate	BCC Review completed and changes implemented
PEDESTRIAN SAFETY	Carry out detailed study of Five Elms crossroads, investigating options to improve safety.	Parish Council – to progress with Bucks CC	6 – 12 months	Also covered at Highways site meeting. Road markings have been refreshed.
	Ensure hedges are trimmed.	Parish Council	Immediate	Continuing
BUSES	Ensure information is readily available on bus services eg. publish timetables and distribute in village, plus put on Weedon website.	Parish Plan Transport Working Group	Immediate	Web link in place.
BUS SHELTERS and BENCHES	Due to relatively low bus usage, and cost and visual impact, no action on bus shelters. Consider benches at bus stops.	Parish Council	Completed	4 benches installed 2010.
CYCLING AND WALKING	Lobby for upgrade of existing A 413 path to tarmac.	Bucks CC via Parish Council	6 – 12 months	Communicated request to Bucks CC.
CAR PARKING	Mindful of impact on local residents, investigate possible options to alleviate pressure on street parking for visitors to public meeting places.	Parish Council	6 – 12 months	No mandate to find land for a car park. Maintain watching brief and report irresponsible parking to the Police.
CAR SHARING	Publicise interest in car sharing, encouraging villagers to contact each other.	Parish Plan Transport Working Group	Immediate	Informal links continue to be promoted.

# Social and Community Working Group




Parish Plan  
Update

ITEM	ACTION	RESPONSIBILITY	TIMESCALE	PROGRESS
THE OLD SCHOOLROOM: FACILITIES	Encourage users to request new equipment. Publicise upstairs room.	Old Schoolroom Management Committee	Continuing	Continuing
THE OLD SCHOOLROOM: ACTIVITIES	Feed back on potentially popular activities. Encourage villagers to organise further. Indoor activities ticked by 20+: Pilates Fitness/Gym Film Society Wine Appreciation Dancing Whist/Bridge/Cards Gardening Club	Parish Plan Social & Community Working Group	Achieved	Feedback completed. Activities started as follows:  3 classes since 2011 Taekwondo since 2010 Monthly club since 2009 } } No groups to date } }
METHODIST CHAPEL: FACILITIES	Pursue funding options for new toilet.	Methodist Chapel Trustees	3 – 6 months	Disabled Toilet completed June 12. Access from outside chapel.
THE FIVE ELMS PUB	Communicate questionnaire responses to tenants. Suggest event planning is reviewed for clashes.	Parish Plan Social & Community Working Group Pub Tenants	Immediate	Feedback completed. Calendar launched (see below).
THE PARK: FACILITIES	Investigate supply, siting and funding for additional play equipment for younger children. Check out surfacing options.	Parish Plan Social & Community Working Group to recommend to Parish Council	3 – 6 months	Outline design commissioned by PC and funding explored. PC has asked Soc Comm WG to review and consult.
	Re-engage with teenagers to elicit ideas	Parish Plan Social & Community Working Group	3 – 6 months	New play equipment would cover ages 2-14 re current best practice.
OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES	Feed back and encourage villagers to organise further. Outdoor activity ticked by 20+: Walking	Parish Plan Social & Community Working Group	Immediate	Feedback completed. No group to date.
COMMUNICATION	Possible launch of a Weedon-specific newsletter to augment the Parish magazine. Seek volunteer to edit.	Parish Plan Social & Community Working Group to canvass for volunteers	Immediate	Soc & Comm WG reviewed. Facebook page <a href="#">Weedon Bucks</a> set up so residents can interact and post photos.
	Re-design Weedon website?		Immediate	PC investigating options.
	Streamline communication, encouraging liaison to avoid date clashes.		A volunteer has come forward.	Online calendar set up, maintained by Kirsty Ashurst.
NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH	Consider re-launch of NW scheme, or promotion of it.	Parish Council	Immediate	Drop-in session and info leaflet March 2012.

# What the Parish Council plans for 2012/13

## PLANNED MAJOR PROJECTS 2012/13

As last year was one of much change – new councillors, new clerk, newly-reverted ex-Buckingham Park status, newly adopted Parish Plan – the council has been consolidating its operations, and laying the groundwork for major projects which will come to fruition this year:

-  Replacement of the **Park play equipment**
-  Improvement of *Village Walk* footpaths by **replacing stiles with gates**
-  Potential **traffic calming** measures

## GENERAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

The Council meets on the third Wednesday of odd-numbered months at 8pm in the Old Schoolroom (winter) and the Methodist Chapel (summer). 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.

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.

Minutes of each meeting are issued by the Clerk 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.

## PLANNING APPLICATIONS AND MEETINGS

Both Aylesbury Vale District Council and Bucks CC are required to consult the Parish Council about planning applications. The Parish Council holds public meetings to discuss its response.

In the Open Forum, the details of the plans may be examined, questions asked or comments made. The Parish Council cannot itself approve or refuse planning applications – that is the responsibility of AVDC/Bucks CC – but we can support, offer 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 noticeboards, website and email.



# WHICH COUNCIL DOES WHAT?

It can be confusing when people refer to THE COUNCIL. In reality, of course, there are two or three tiers of local government in your area, each with its own responsibilities. Many residents are unsure which council is responsible for which services. The lists below and overleaf give you the main responsibilities of each of the three tiers of local government in Buckinghamshire.

## YOUR **COUNTY** COUNCIL

### **Buckinghamshire County Council**

The largest of your local councils, covering the whole of Buckinghamshire.

Responsibilities include:

- Schools
- Social Services
- Roads and Highways
- Traffic and Transportation
- Subsidised public transport
- Waste disposal sites
- Strategic planning
- Recycling
- Libraries
- Adult Education
- Trading Standards
- Registration of births, deaths and marriages
- Street lighting
- Pavements
- Public rights of way
- Countryside access
- Youth Services

... and more!

[www.buckscc.gov.uk](http://www.buckscc.gov.uk)

Tel: 01296 395000

## YOUR **DISTRICT** COUNCIL

### **Aylesbury Vale District Council**

Independent of the County Council, and responsible for a more local area.

Responsibilities include:

- Leisure and sports amenities
- Housing
- Refuse collection
- Clearing fly-tipping
- Council Tax collection
- Licensing of local markets
- Planning and building regulation
- Environmental health and food hygiene
- Local land searches
- Concessionary travel
- Cemeteries
- Allotments
- Parking permits/control
- Road/pavement cleaning
- Area development
- Local highway issues
- Electoral registration

... and more!

[www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk](http://www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk)

Tel: 01296 585858

YOUR **PARISH** or TOWN COUNCIL

### **Weedon Parish Council**

Much smaller, and the most local level of government in England. They are independent of other levels of local government, but maintain a close working relationship with both.

Parish and Town Council responsibilities include the following, but not all councils will have responsibility for all these areas:

- Allotments
- Bus shelters
- Clocks
- Closed churchyards
- Commons and common pastures
- Community centres
- Appointing local school governors
- Highways
- Litter bins
- Mortuaries and post mortem rooms
- Cemeteries/burial grounds/crematoria
- Open spaces
- Public conveniences
- Town planning
- War memorials
- Local highway issues
- Electoral registration

... and more!

[www.weedonbucks.org.uk](http://www.weedonbucks.org.uk)

Clerk Tel: 01296 640865

### **PARTNERSHIPS**

There are many other services for which the various levels of local government have shared responsibility, which include emergency planning, tourism and more.

Local Area Forums, of which county, district and parish councillors are all members, provide an opportunity for the different levels of local government to meet and discuss particular issues affecting their neighbourhoods.

### **SAFETY AND SECURITY**

You are encouraged to report all incidents to the **POLICE**.

If you **witness a crime in progress**

**CALL 999**

To **report an incident**, or If you have **information** on who committed a crime

**CALL 111**

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### **NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH**

There are co-ordinators around the village who receive police information on local crime.

Contact a Parish Councillor or the Clerk for details of your area co-ordinator.