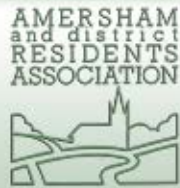


AMERSHAM  
and district  
RESIDENTS  
ASSOCIATION



# Amersham and District Residents Association *2014*





## Letter from the Chairman

Dear Members

Welcome to the 2014 ADRA Newsletter. Following our usual format, you'll find your Committee Members portfolio reports, as well as the minutes from our AGM held Tuesday April 22nd at the Amersham Free Church. Once again we had a very good turnout.

Our guest speaker was Mr. Colin Oakes, who's very entertaining talk, entitled "A Tale of Two Towns" was about the manifestations of the historic rivalry between Chesham and Amersham.

As you know, one of our objectives at ADRA is to work to provide an effective interface between you, our members, and the various layers of County, District and local Councils upon whom we rely for effective administration and the provision of services. Making your views known to us will help us to do this better.

We are a volunteer organisation, which means we rely on volunteers. If you could devote even a little time, it would be most helpful. Please contact a Committee member, or come to a meeting. They're held at 8pm on the third Wednesday of every month, except July and December, in the Small Barn Hall at the Amersham Community Centre.

Finally, please note that our next AGM will be held on Tuesday April 21st at the Amersham Free Church Hall, at 7 for 7:30 pm.

I hope you'll be able to attend.

Yours sincerely  
Bron Curley  
Chairman



## Amersham & Districts Residents' Association

### **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 22nd April 2014 at Amersham Free Church Hall**

1. Chairman's Welcome The Chairman welcomed approximately 75 members to the 53rd Meeting of ADRA and regulations in the case of fire were brought to the meeting's attention.
2. Apologies for Absence  
Chris Wilson, Mr and Mrs Gordon Barratt, Ros Makins, Celia Palmer, Julia Holroyd, Liz Walsh, Rev. Carolynn and Ann Terry.
3. Minutes of AGM held on 23 April 2013: Adoption of the Minutes was proposed by Lynda Wright and seconded by Joan Shepherd.
4. Re-election of Committee  
Lyn Josey was the only Committee member up for re-election and Les Jayatilaka was duly elected onto the Committee as a new member. This was proposed by Brian Woods and seconded by Jenny Robinson.
5. Election of Honorary Auditor  
Ernest Newhouse has agreed to continue as Auditor. His re-election was proposed by Geoff Platts and seconded by Liz Davidson.
6. Treasurer's Report (Geoff Platts)  
As attached.  
Adoption of the accounts was proposed by Bryan Holroyd and seconded by Roy Masters.

7. Planning Officer's Report (Mr B Guruswamy)  
As attached.

8. Highways Report (Geoff Platts)  
As attached.

9. Environment Officer's Report (Ann Terry)  
Read by Linda Flett in Mrs Terry's absence. As attached.

10. Membership Records Officer's Report (Carolyn Spencer)  
As attached.

11. Chairman's Report (Bron Curley)  
As attached.

12. HS2 Update

Cllr Nigel Shepherd reported the following:

The HS2 Bill is about to be railroaded through government. The PM sees this as his vision with business companies' views and the effect on the environment being glossed over. The Secretary of State for Transport, Patrick McLoughlin, is a former Whip and has been put in to deliver at any cost so he is not really listening. David Higgins, who delivered on the Olympic Park project, delivered an HS2+ report a few weeks ago which included changes to the scheme, one of the biggest being a shift from Stage 1 to Birmingham to a proposal to go as far as Crewe by 2027 with Euston to Birmingham by 2026. Huge changes including regeneration are planned at Euston but the figures are being massaged. There is

a proposal to spend £43b to build the line as far as Birmingham which does not include the cost of trains or power station required to operate it, and will not connect to Heathrow or the Continent. There was also talk of dropping the line to HS1 linking HS2 & HS1 to the Continent. It is felt unlikely the Bill will go through this parliament.

On 28th April, the 2nd reading of the Bill will start and detailed counter proposals will be announced on Friday; however, Amersham will not be affected.

As to individual petitioning, ADRA will be in touch with members at the appropriate time with advice on how to take part. An Extraordinary General Meeting was duly called by the Chairman to ascertain whether members were in support of ADRA filing a petition against HS2, and the motion was duly carried.

Linda Wright proposed a vote of thanks to the hardworking ADRA Committee.

13. The Chairman introduced Mr Colin Oakes who addressed the meeting on the rivalry between Amersham & Chesham in a talk entitled 'Tale of Two Towns'.

14. Open Forum

A member queried a cut out by the One Stop shop in White Lion Road which often has a car parked on it and enquired whether there any progress on expanding the pavement there. The Chairman offered to take the matter up with Mayor Nigel Shepherd.



Mrs Lynda Wright raised the problem of Hazel Park which has a salt bin. It was filled very quickly but the Council are not providing new ones. However, if their offices were rung before 8am, the gritter was sent out. There was concern over the centre of local roundabouts which were not being kept painted white, while the one at the bottom of Rectory Hill was well marked. The Chairman offered to enquire what the policy was.

There was a query about Amersham Town Council's move from Amersham-on-the-Hill to the Old Town as to whether ADRA were consulted. The Chairman informed the meeting that ADRA had reservations which were expressed. The Mayor also responded by saying it was costing £40,000 per year to stay where they were and a decision was made to take a Public Works Board's offer to local Councils of a low interest, 25-yr fixed rate loan of £75,0000 which would result in ATC owning the property.

It was felt a good time to purchase a new building and the rental from retail properties in Station Road would more or less cover the outgoing costs of the new building.

The Mayor stated there was a formal consultation which was advertised and just one objection received from Amersham Society. Nobody visited their offices at Amersham-on-the-Hill or, if so, very rarely.

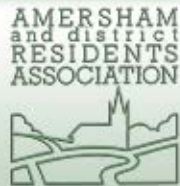
The new offices were duly secured and will include a community space with parking plus a children's playground with the '61 Club still open for judo.



Cllr Vera Head said when ATC moved from the dentist in Station Road in 1995 they decided to move somewhere more accessible. Their subsequent move into the Law Courts plus rentals from Station Road provided sufficient money to pay for their stay at the Courts.

The redevelopment of Hervines Park, currently an under-used space, was discussed. The Mayor stated ATC will hold a large consultation at Hervines which will be their next big project. There was also hope to include a Bowls Club on the site. Consultants are already involved with the potential to improve the access and provide more car parking spaces.

Meeting closed at 10.00pm.



AMERSHAM AND DISTRICT RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION  
Accounts for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2013  
(including for comparison a summary for 2012)

| 2012 | INCOME        | 2013    | 2012 | EXPENDITURE                                  | 2013    |
|------|---------------|---------|------|--|---------|
| £    |               | £       | £    |  | £       |
| 3300 | Subscriptions | 3315-00 | 44   | Printing, stationery, postage & telephone    | 80-99   |
|      |               |         | 241  | Hire of Halls                                | 281-70  |
|      |               |         | 33   | Affiliation Fee                              | 45-00   |
|      |               |         | 227  | Insurance                                    | 227-15  |
| 34   | Bank Interest | 46-96   | 39   | Social Evening                               | 119-73  |
|      |               |         | 266  | Millennium Garden                            | 120-00  |
|      |               |         |      | Opposition to HS2                            | 500-00  |
|      |               |         |      | Amersham Action Group ^                      | 500-00  |
|      |               |         |      | Newsletters 2012*/2013                       | 663-00  |
| 19   | Donations     | 3-00    | 133  | St. Michael's Forecourt Opening - ADRA Stall |         |
|      |               |         | 10   | AGM Misc. Items                              | 150-00  |
|      |               |         | 99   | AGM refreshments                             | 59-96   |
|      |               |         | 500  | Adizone # Presentation                       | 16-50   |
|      |               |         |      | Town Show ( ADRA stall)                      | 20-45   |
|      |               |         | 35   | Bank charges                                 |         |
|      |               |         | 5    | Refund of Subscriptions                      | 10-00   |
| 3353 |               | 3364-96 | 1632 |  | 2794-48 |
|      |               |         | 1721 | Surplus/(Deficit)                            | 570-48  |
|      |               |         | 3353 |  | 3364-96 |

\*Cost of printing donated. # Renamed 'Olympic 2011 Legacy Sports Zone'  
^ Contribution to Town Show

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31<sup>st</sup> DECEMBER 2013

| 2012 |                         | 2013    | 2012 |                 | 2013    |
|------|-------------------------|---------|------|-----------------|---------|
| £    |                         | £       | £    |                 | £       |
| 2747 | Opening Surplus         | 4467-11 | 123  | Current Account | 319-01  |
| 1720 | Surplus/Deficit on year | 570-48  | 4451 | Deposit Account | 4767-81 |
| 4467 | Closing Surplus         | 5037-59 | 1    | Cash in Hand    | 77      |
|      |                         |         | (33) | Creditor        |         |
| 75   | Subs in Advance         | 50-00   |      |                 |         |
| 4542 |                         | 5087-59 | 4542 |                 | 5087-59 |

AUDITOR'S REPORT

I have audited the above accounts having regard to the matters referred to below. This Association, in common with many others of similar size and organisation, derives a substantial portion of its income from subscriptions, advertisements, etc., which cannot be fully controlled until it is entered in the accounting records and is therefore not susceptible to independent audit verification. In my opinion, subject to the foregoing, the accounts give a true and fair view of the Association's affairs as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2013, and the Income and Expenditure for period then ended.

  
Hon. Auditor

  
Hon. Treasurer

25/2/2014

23/02/2014

## Annual General Meeting

**Tuesday 22nd April 2014**

### Agenda

- Chairman's Welcome
- Apologies for Absence
- Minutes of AGM – April 2013
- Treasurer's Report – Geoff Platts
- Planning Officer's Report – Guru Guruswamy
- Highways Report – Geoff Platts
- Environment Officer's Report – Ann Terry
- Membership Records Officer's Report – Carolyn Spencer
- Chairman's Report
- Election of Committee (those up for re-election)
- Election of Honorary Auditor
- HS2 Update – to include an Extraordinary General Meeting on a Resolution authorising Deposit of a Petition against HS2
- Talk by Colin Oakes on the rivalry between Amersham & Chesham entitled 'Tale of Two Towns'

### Open Forum



## Highways

Regrettably the content of my report for the past year is much the same as that for the year which preceded it. I continue to report newly formed potholes, defective or damaged road furniture, white road markings, road flooding resulting from heavy rain and mains water leaks, but of course I can only do this for the roads I use.

I encourage all who encounter similar defects to report them. The contact number, except for water leaks, is 0845 230 2828. When reporting defects I recommend asking for a contact reference number. It is then possible to ascertain, more easily, the latest situation if no action has been taken after a reasonable time - rightly or wrongly, I believe that being given a number means that a report has been formally recorded for action and will not be forgotten.

The contact number for mains water leaks is Affinity Water Tel 0845 782 3333, who then contact the Highways Authority to schedule work. Over a year ago I wrote to Bucks C.C. Area Office, with sketches showing locations of blocked drains, where extensive flooding occurs in Grimsdel Lane near to Green Lane and the roundabout with Sycamore Road. Work at the former location appears to have been successful, but has only been partially successful at the roundabout, where it appears that only some of the drains have been cleared. I have recently reported this shortcoming.

## MEMBERSHIP RECORDS OFFICER'S REPORT

I would like to start by thanking all those who have acted as Road Stewards for us in the last year. Without your assistance it would be much harder, and more expensive, for the Association to keep in touch with its members.

We are particularly grateful for your splendid work in encouraging members to let us have their e-mail addresses. This time last year we had email addresses for only about one-quarter of our members. We are now up to over two-thirds. We do not intend to bombard members with e-mails and we will never provide our membership list to other organisations, but there are occasions when it is useful to be able to communicate quickly and easily with members, for example to remind them of the date of the AGM or to canvass opinion on a local issue. We also, very occasionally, forward messages which we think are of importance from other organisations, such as the HS2 Alliance Action Group.

If you received an e-mail from Guru reminding you of the date of this meeting, it means that we have your current e-mail address. If you did not then we do not. Please try to remember to let us know if you change your email address.

We currently have 1,110 members in 688 households, which is, unfortunately, a small decrease in comparison with the numbers this time last year.

We think that the time is now right for another general membership campaign and many of the Road Stewards will have received an email

AMERSHAM  
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from me in the last few days on this subject and indeed a numbers of you have already responded. For those of you who have already said that you are happy to distribute membership forms to non-member households, there are envelopes on the table at the back of the room. For those I have not been able to contact by email there are also letters at the back of the room asking whether you are happy to help. Once I know that you are able to and happy to assist in the campaign and how many properties you think there are in your roads, I will provide you with a list of houses where we already have members and a supply of forms for those where we do not.

During the year a number of Road Stewards have retired and we are currently in need of help in:

Beech Grove  
Blackacre Close  
Bois Lane  
Chequers Hill  
Clare Park  
Devonshire Avenue  
Devonshire Close  
Eagle Close  
Grove Road  
High Bois Lane  
Milton Lawns  
Orchard Lane  
Quill Hall Lane  
Quarrendon Road  
Saxon Close

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Scholars Way  
Sheepfold Lane  
Sycamore Close and  
Woodfield Avenue

Apart from the new membership campaign, being a Road Steward mainly involves delivering the newsletter each year, although we do sometimes ask for other assistance, such as collecting subscriptions from the very few members who still prefer to pay in cash. It is also a great help to us if you let us know if you become aware of any members moving away.

Please let me know if you no longer feel able to act as a Road Steward and/or would prefer not to be involved in delivering the 2013 newsletter.



## ADRA – Planning Officer’s Report – Year 2013/14 From B A (Guru) Guruswamy

I seem to have struck it lucky again this year in terms of source material for my annual report. It is as if someone in Chiltern District Council knows my needs at this time of the year. In 2012, there was one on Core Strategy. In the following year, there was the first version of a DDPD (Delivery Development Plan Document). Now they have published version 2. Once finalised, it will form the Local Development Framework for the next 12 years - until 2026.

In my report, I would like to cover at first some highlights from that document as it will give you a broader picture of planning issues in the area, and then move on to some specific examples of interest to our members.

- About 1,500 to 1,800 dwellings are to be delivered between now and 2026 ... that is an average of about 80 to 130 per year for the whole of Chiltern District.
- After allowing for those already in the pipeline, some of the sites identified in Amersham include:  
Rear of Quarrendon Rd/Stanley Hill & the Ridgway  
10 dwellings (net)  
Rear of 100 Acres Lane... 8 dwellings (net)  
Sycamore Rd / Rickmansworth Road 12 dwellings (gross)  
Hillcrest Court / Chesham Rd 14 dwellings (net)  
The Pheasant Pub, Plantation Road 8 dwellings (gross)
- You may recall that the Government has allowed change of use of offices to residential without the need for planning permission. In



Chiltern District as a whole, there have been notifications for 41 such dwellings. Not all have progressed. Overall number is expected to reach 60.

- We welcome the proposal that the gardens for new houses should have a minimum depth of 15m ... with certain exceptions. In the case of flats or maisonettes, there are some specifications for communal amenity areas – such as 25 square metres for each one-bedroom unit. (30 sq.m for two-bedroom unit and 40 sq.m for three or more beds). There may be exceptions in town centre locations.
- One gets the feeling that some developers tend to squash people into cramped living conditions. To avoid this, Supplementary Planning Standards are due to be proposed for minimum floor area depending on the number of bedrooms / bedspaces. These standards will be helpful in ensuring that the quality of life is reasonable for current and future residents.
- With regard to Gypsies / travellers / travel show people, space for two pitches have been identified at Waggoner Bit, Whielden Lane.
- Developments in the Town centre which put extra demand on public car parking will incur a charge.
- In line with a proposal from Amersham Action Group (AAG): The council will explore changes to the traffic management, lay out and arrangements – including a one-way system – to support rear servicing and potential new/improved pedestrianisation and increased on-street parking where appropriate.
- A number of Opportunity sites have been identified
- Chiltern Pool / Community Centre including the Barn Hall and Pottery Room / Car parks (1.17 hectares) – long term development opportunity to reprovide leisure centre, community uses and car park with complementary commercial or residential uses.





For instance, there is no facility in Amersham on the Hill to hold a concert for 200 people or so. St. Mary's in Old Amersham has some disadvantages – restricted view because of pillars and lack of adequate toilet facilities.

- Library/Youth Centre/Car Park in the corner of Chiltern Avenue/ King George V field (0.56 hectares): There may be development opportunities for re-providing Library, offices, hotel or specialist housing for the elderly
- Amersham Action Group, with blessings from the Council, have just commissioned a study to look at the options and to get a master plan that would cover these two sites. We will be seeking your views on the options in the next few months.
- Sycamore Road / Rickmansworth Road – covering Iceland and the car park (0.313 hectares): Earmarked for a food supermarket (Sainsburys is often mentioned), residential units above, rear servicing and increased parking spaces.
- Former Entertainer Shop and adjoining property (0.25 hectares) - for a range of town centre uses and residential units [applications in progress)
- Hillcrest Court/ Alfa Romeo Garage (0.21 hectares) – development to cover retail, leisure, restaurant and residential. Where possible, rear servicing to Hill Avenue is to be considered.
- Post Office Sorting Office in Hill Avenue (0.16 hectares): One day, this site may become available for use as retail on ground floor and office or residential at higher levels. It will also provide rear servicing access to Hill Avenue.
- Areas previously known as ERASC (Established Residential Area of Special Character) will now be known as Areas of Little Change. These include Elm Close, Clifton Road etc.

- Together with Amersham Action Group, we suggested a Play Area on the corner of Plantation Road and Roundwood Road. The Council also supports the idea. AAG are holding discussions with the land owner Paradigm for the options.
- Finally, the DDPD also proposes that all new developments should provide fibre optic broadband links. Accommodation for refuse and recycling bins should be an integral part of the design. Where appropriate, Electric Car Charging Points will be encouraged.

Now, we can move on to the second part of my report – some specific planning applications and other developments.

We have attended a few meetings with two developers organised by AAG – one with the owners of Hillcrest and the other with Inland Homes who own the site of former Pheasant Pub.

On your behalf, we have responded to about 17 planning applications during the year with favourable outcome on several of them.

**.. I will try and do them in some order ... imagine a tour from Chesham Bois ... Green Lane ... Green Lane Close, North Road, Grimsdell Lane, Plantation Road, Hill Avenue, Corner of Woodside Rd/Sycamore Rd, Lincoln Park, Amersham School, Clare Park, London Rd Waste Recycling Centre, Piggots Orchard off Gore Hill and finish at the end of High Street in Amersham.**

Access from Great Bois Wood: A resident in Long Park, with a perfectly adequate access from Long Park, also wanted access from Great Bois Wood. The applicant gave no good reasons and one is left to speculate. The Council did not allow it.



57 Green Lane / Corner with Long Park: Plans for an over imposing three storey building on a small plot were withdrawn and plans for a more appropriately sized building have been submitted to replace a house at the corner of Green Lane and Long Park.

1 & 2 Green Lane Close: For a development of three detached houses, the adequacy of the width of the access road and its ownership have been challenged. The Council have given permission but the developer has to demonstrate that they have legal ownership for the full width. Incidentally, the Council Planning Department does not get involved with boundary issues as it is a civil matter.

A second application has been made, with the houses oriented differently but still with the same access issues. Residents are unhappy that the new dwellings will not be in keeping with the area, they will be too close to existing houses and there will be loss of amenities.

North Road, Chesham Bois: A resident had to abandon the plans twice for a huge front extension that would have made it completely out of character – especially in an Established Residential Area of Special Character.

Dog grooming / small business: Despite much opposition, the Council have given permission for a dog grooming business from the back of a house in Grimsdell Lane. They have imposed serious limitations. For instance, they cannot operate during weekends or bank holidays. We cannot escape the fact that nationally many small businesses are now run from homes.

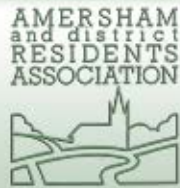


The Pheasant Pub in Amersham: This is a major development. We are awaiting the Planning Inspector's decision on an appeal by Inland Homes for 14 dwellings on the site. The appeal hearing lasted a marathon four days. Many thanks to those of you who responded to the urgent petition via the internet to retain a pub on the site. It helped in supporting the Council's case that it would be a loss of a public amenity. The Council have also turned down a second application for nine dwellings on the site. The main reason stated again is loss of a public amenity. The Planning Department's position seems to be at odds with the Council's own DDPD's suggestion of 8 gross dwellings on the site.

Former Entertainer: On the site of the former Entertainer Shop in Hill Avenue, there is a proposal for a family friendly pub/café/restaurant in the ground floor and some dwellings on the upper floors. The developer is negotiating with the Council as to the appropriateness of some of the conditions on noise etc. that are likely to be imposed if permission were granted.

Sycamore House: Another development where the Council is concerned about the loss of an amenity - in this case a gym - is an application for a residential development on the first and second floor of Sycamore House at the corner of Woodside Road and Sycamore Road. The place has remained vacant for nearly two years and we would be in favour of flats rather than let it become an eye sore. The case has gone for appeal and a decision is due any day.

Land adjacent to Amersham College /Lincoln Park: A proposal to develop 35 dwellings was turned down due to several reasons – such as intrusive overdevelopment with severe access problems and an access



road that would encroach on Green Belt Land.

**Sports Hall:** Amersham School will build a much needed new Sports Hall for its 850 plus pupils. Being in Green Belt Land, the Secretary of State had to give the final approval. They had a £1.4m grant from Bucks County Council from 'Section 106' funds. This is the pot into which developers need to contribute towards education or if there is inadequate provision of affordable homes.

**Clare Park:** Owner of a plot with permission for one dwelling wanted to squeeze two small dwellings in an area characterised by large houses and gardens. It was turned down by the Council twice but the second one has now gone for appeal. A decision is expected by June.

**Waste Transfer Station in Amersham Waste Disposal site:** We have covered this in the last three annual reports. A second application is due from the developers for a slightly smaller building to consolidate waste prior to incineration elsewhere. At a recent public exhibition, it was clear that they had not given much thought, again, for our concerns – either about the traffic management at the junction with London Road East, or installation of filters to control odour. Imagine the traffic issues if the HS2 related traffic is added to it. Concerned local residents have formed a strong opposition group – called Wasters - questioning the need for such a facility in Amersham when there is adequate capacity elsewhere. We had a meeting with them recently and they would like more residents to support their cause. On their behalf, we will be contacting you soon.

**Piggots Orchard, Amersham Old Town:** A proposal for a second dwell-



ing in the garden of a corner plot was turned down as it would have been over bearing on the house behind it – particularly with a difference in ground level of 2.7 metres (about 9 feet).

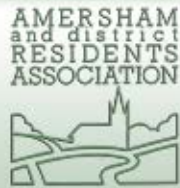
**Field adjacent to 172 Coldmoreham, Amersham Old Town:** On the edge of the Old Town, the Trustees of the Estate of John Brazil presented plans to build eight affordable homes on a land encroaching the green belt. They were turned down on appeal.

**A lift for Amersham Station:** A fresh campaign has been started by Amersham Action Group. As you may know, those returning or arriving from London need to negotiate steep steps to get out of the station. It is virtually impossible for some and poses great difficulty for the elderly and others with prams or luggage or shopping.

ADRA wrote to the Mayor of London, Boris Johnson, last year to resume the construction work that was abandoned a few years ago. We hope that a fresh campaign supported by residents and others affected via a Petition will help us present a stronger case. Thanks to all of you who responded so swiftly to our request to sign the petition via a website. We had over 170 signatures within two days of sending out the e-mail. There will be a stall in St Michael's Forecourt on Saturday (26 Apr) to get further signatures.

That brings me to the end of the second part of my report dealing with specific planning issues. Thank you for flagging issues which needed to be followed up.

Our thanks also go to:



- The Council for providing all the necessary information so openly and comprehensively on the website,
- Amersham Action Group headed by Brian Woods for sharing their vision and plans with us,
- and all the local Councillors and the Council's Planning Officers for taking into account our views.

With constant vigilance and action when necessary, there is no reason why we cannot make this area a thriving, pleasant and desirable one.

B A (Guru) Guruswamy



## Chairman's Report 2014

There have been fewer Committee changes than we have come to expect this year, but I am delighted to note that Mr. Les Jayatilaka has been co-opted to the Committee and we are extremely happy for his contributions to date.

As you all know ADRA exists for the purposes of supporting our members in pursuit of actions and activities which will maintain and improve the quality of life in our communities. Usually this is done by working to establish better communications on behalf of our members with Town, District and County Councils and sometimes with other agencies and groups. As a volunteer organisation we are totally reliant on and fuelled by the efforts of those of our members who come forward to help by offering their services. We have no paid or even elected staff. We do what we can, either generally or specifically related to individual portfolios, taking up issues like pot-holes, street litter and so on, but are limited by our constrained resources. But, as you've heard from your Committee members' reports, success can be achieved!

You've heard me plead for years for help, and I'm going to do it again. Like all similar organisations, ADRA will cease to exist if it can't count on support from its members. A healthy, active Committee drives any community organisation and without one, they die. The average tenure of this Committee is 12 years. 2 would be a better number. Some of us really are at the point where we must bring to an end our ADRA Committee membership.





This organisation is in immediate need of new volunteers. Please consider it. Two hours in the evening of the third Wednesday of every month (except July) is not an onerous burden.

I am encouraged by the fact that we have had three new road stewards come forward in the past year. It is possible!

Mrs. Janer Wheeler, The Amersham Town Clerk who addressed our meeting last year has asked me to remind you of a couple of things; Consultation on children's play areas is now coming to a close and several companies will be approached to come up with proposals. Boards featuring these will be on display at the Beer Festival. Please give your views.

Redevelopment of the Hervines Park pavilion is planned and consultation will begin soon. It is assumed that Sports Body funding will be made available for this initiative. Thoughts are that much more can be made of the site without sacrificing either fields or parking. It is hoped that boards for this will also be available for viewing at the Beer Festival. Thank you for coming tonight. Please help us to maintain ADRA as a functioning community organisation



## Calendar of Events

July 2013 – June 2014

| Date        | Function   | Committee Member attending                    |
|-------------|--|---|
| 08/07/13    | Meeting of Hillcrest Developments                      | Guru  |
| 10/07/13    | Judging of Amersham's contribution to Britain in Bloom | Ann   |
| 11/07/13    | Meeting with Inland Homes re Pheasant                  | Guru  |
| 13/07/13    | Amersham Carnival                                      | Guru  |
| 19/07/12    | Amersham Action Group                                  | Guru  |
| 18/07/13    | Judging Amersham in Bloom                              | Ann   |
| 18/07/13    | Amersham Action Group Meeting                          | Guru  |
| 29/08/13    | Planning Committee Meeting re Pheasant                 | Guru & Ann                                    |
| 05/09/13    | Amersham Action Group Meeting                          | Guru  |
| 08/09/13    | ADRA stand at Amersham Town Show                       | Ann/Bron/Carolyn/Geoff/<br>Guru/Christine     |
| 23/09/13    | Police Commissioner's Meeting                          | Ann   |
| 10/10/13    | Neighbourhood Watch CC Engraving Scheme                | Guru  |
| 10/10/13    | Barnett Waddingham Open Day                            | Guru/Caroline/Linda                           |
| 09/01/14    | Amersham Action Group                                  | Guru  |
| 16/01/14    | ADRA Social  | Guru, Lyn, Bron,<br>Christine, Geoff, Carolyn |
| 22/01/14    | Public mtg. ref: Development at Pheasant               | Guru & Anne                                   |
| 25-28/03/14 | Pheasant Public House hearing                          | Guru/Les/Ann                                  |
| 27/03/14    | Town Centre Sub Group Meeting                          | Guru  |
| 24/05/14    | Beer Festival  | Guru  |





## ADRA Committee Members February 2014

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Please note that as of January 2015, Les Jayatilaka replaces Guru Guruswamy as Planning Officer, Ann Terry has resigned and Linda Flett will assume the Environmental Officer role.



## 5 years on, who's really celebrating?

Five years on from the announcement of the controversial £50bn high speed rail project, HS2, what exactly has been achieved by those in charge of delivering this 'rich man's railway'?

In the words of the magician Paul Daniels, "not a lot".

Unless, of course you count the spending of almost a billion pounds of tax payers' money, the hiring

of around 900 employees, endless consultants and lawyers, along with the services of image consultants and professional bloggers.

With £7bn worth of contracts currently out to tender it's no wonder the project has been labelled by industry experts as a 'grave train' for those with vested interests.

It really does seem that it's a case of having their cake and eating it too.