

Amersham and District Residents Association

**Newsletter
Autumn 2017**

Letter from the Chairman 2017

Welcome to the Autumn 2017 Newsletter. Following our usual format, you will find in these pages your Committee Members' portfolio reports, as well as the Minutes from the AGM held on 25th April 2017.

In addition, the Newsletter contains updates relating to various local matters and articles contributed by other local organisations and individuals, which we hope you will find interesting.

Those of you who were able to attend the AGM will know that Bron Curley, who had served as Chairman of the Association for fourteen years, stood down with effect from 25th April. We wish him well for the future and extend grateful thanks to him for all his efforts on behalf of the Association.

As you know, one of the objectives of ADRA is to provide an effective interface between members and the various layers of Local Authority. Please continue to let us know your views on local matters so that we may continue to do this.

As you also know, ADRA is a volunteer organisation and thus is reliant on members to play a part in running it. We have been very pleased to welcome three new Committee Members, Malcolm Flack, Rosemary Dean and Chris Iles, since the AGM, but we really could do with several more people to strengthen the Committee further. If you think that you might be able to help, please come along to a committee meeting. They are held in the Small Barn Hall at the Community Centre on the third Wednesday of each month (except January and August) at 8.00pm.

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the 2018 Members' Social Evening and AGM. Details will be found on a subsequent page.

With best wishes,

Carolyn Spencer
Chairman

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 25th April 2017 at Amersham Free Church Hall

1 Chairman's Welcome

Carolyn Spencer standing in as Chairman welcomed approximately 46 members to the 56th Meeting of the Association.

2 Apologies for Absence

Bron Curley, Ros Makins, Brian & Bridget Woods, Linda & Peter Harper, Liz Walsh, Tony & Irene Glyn-Jones, Gordon Barratt, George Allison, Colin Wills, Judith Mead, David & Janet Kirchheimer, Isabel & Tony Westhead, Ernest Newhouse, James & Grace Worthington, Celia Palmer, Vera Head, Evelyn & Bill Andrews, David Flett, Bruce & Theresa Bould, Geoffrey Hook, John & Sigrid Poole, Doreen Vivian, Brian & Maria Lorkin.

3 Minutes of AGM held on 26th April 2016: Adoption of the Minutes was proposed by Lynda Wright and seconded by Guru Guruswamy.

4 Treasurer's Report (Geoff Platts)

As attached.

Adoption of the Accounts was proposed by Bryan Holroyd and seconded by Christine Standing.

The lower amount of funds compared with previous years is due to fewer subscriptions and the cost of the Newsletter which used to be produced by a member at a low cost. Geoff asked members to consider which projects current funds could support.

5 Planning Officer's Report (Liz Jones)

As attached.

Liz thanked Les Jayatilaka for his guidance over the last year while she took over the role of Planning Officer.

Question about Iceland site – not known who is taking over the retail space. Nigel Shepherd said that Planning can't dictate who uses the space. The developers know what is wanted by the community. The issue with the market obstructing access will be resolved eventually.

6 Highways Report (Geoff Platts)

Potholes continue to be a problem on local roads, they are generally being repaired in time after being reported. There have been a lot of complaints about overgrown hedges blocking pavements. Geoff asked the council to put a note in with council tax demands requesting people to keep their hedges cut but the council does not send out flyers. Holloway Lane was closed for roadworks for some time. No work was going on so Geoff contacted the County Council who said Affinity Water had put in a request for work. The same day all the roadwork signs were taken down. So if you see anything similar where nothing appears to be happening contact BCC.

Member: Asphalt sticking up on the footpath in Bois Avenue near the Willows. Had reported it to Highways but as yet nothing done about it, asked for someone with more influence to contact them.

Member: Westanley Avenue had been resurfaced when it was not necessary but Highland Road had not been done even though it was necessary.

Member: Has reported problems to Fix My Street, an on line site to report problems, but they don't get fixed.

Member: Copperkins Lane is in a poor state.

7 Environment Officer's Report (Linda Flett)

Linda reported that the town is looking good with tulips etc. planted.

Hyrons Bridge problem – drivers are going round the roundabout the wrong way. Has been in touch with Martin Tett about the problem and sent photos. At the moment nothing can be done due to funding problems. Linda will continue to press for solution.

Mr. Wilkinson had been in touch about the problem. He had watched cars driving up Highland Road and turning right, 80% were on the wrong side and there will be an accident one day. A suggestion is a sign in Highland Road saying no right turn.

8 Membership Records Officer's Report (Carolyn Spencer)

As attached.

- 9 Chairman's Report (Carolyn Spencer)**
As attached.
- 10 Re-election of Committee**
No committee members due for re-election
- 11 Election of new Chairman**
Carolyn Spencer has agreed to be Chairman for one year. Her election was proposed by Vic Faulkner and seconded by Guru Guruswamy.
- 12 Election of Honorary Auditor**
Ernest Newhouse has agreed to continue as Auditor. His re-election was proposed by Geoff Platts and seconded by Daphne Bromley.
- 13 Open Forum**
Membership drive for ADRA. Question was asked how many households in the area were members as a percentage, Carolyn estimated 8 or 9%.

Member: In the past subscriptions were collected by road stewards going door to door to collect and having more contact with local people, now that the majority pay by Standing Order they no longer have this opportunity.

Carolyn Spencer: Several years ago letters were delivered to people by hand, we may need to do this again to contact potential new members. The advantage of road stewards is that they often know when people have moved out or in to the area.

Member: Suggested asking estate agents to let ADRA know when people have moved on.

Member: Need to be on the internet to attract younger members.

Vic Faulkner asked about websites on Amersham. Is there one central website for all information, possibly Amersham.org. Carolyn to investigate as it will be good to have something visible. There are newsletters in Amersham & Chesham, there are plans to put something in Your Amersham.

Member: Suggested electronic copies of newsletter as this may get more feedback. Carolyn said this needed to happen in the future and this method would be cheaper and quicker. Email deliveries get a lot of bounce backs so there will never be total coverage by email.

Geoff Platts commented as a resident on the swimming pool complex, that a lot of money had been spent in recent years on various refurbishment projects and he was not convinced that the age of the swimming pool made it uninsurable.

Maldwyn Jones: Reported on the strength of people power in relation to the Waste Transfer Station. Residents were responsible for raising money to fight the WTS through a judicial review if necessary. People working together is a very strong force.

Member: Asked about proposed trees in Sycamore Road and Hill Avenue. Linda reported that there was funding available but with the current discussion about a one way system in the town it is on hold for a while. At last year's AGM there was not much interest in the trees. Another member thought current planting was adequate and reported that other councils have cut down trees due to high maintenance.

Member: Reported that BCC is thinking of doing away with 4 district council areas. Liz reported that the decision should have been made by the Secretary of State by now but had not been. There is a survey going round asking for views, BCC sponsored. Nigel Shepherd said that this was coming from businesses so could be manipulative propaganda. Decision is still to be made, there are papers on the internet with information.

Member proposed a vote of thanks to the Committee.

Meeting closed at 8.45pm.

AMERSHAM AND DISTRICT RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Accounts for the year ending 31st December 2016

(including for comparison a summary for 2015)

<u>2015</u>	<u>INCOME</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>EXPENDITURE</u>	<u>2016</u>
£		£	£		£
3045	Subscriptions	2970-00	135	Printing, stationery & postage	174-84
			282	Hire of Halls	288-70
3	Donation	3-00	-	Affiliation Fees (2015 & 2016)	90-00
				Donation: Bucks Search & Rescue	500-00
			227	Insurance	246-38
			151	Social Evening	111-57
24	Bank Interest	26-41	250	Millennium Garden/Flower Bed	250-00
			1060	Newsletter	1436-15
			89	AGM refreshments	84-85
			50	Presentations	40-00
			210	Town Show & Heritage Day	-
			-	Chesham Bois Fete	10-00
			<u>2454</u>		<u>3232-49</u>
			<u>618</u>	Surplus/ (Deficit)	<u>(233-08)</u>
<u>3072</u>		<u>2999-41</u>	<u>3072</u>		<u>2999-41</u>

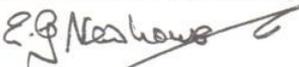
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2016

<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>		
£	£	£	£		
5622	Opening Surplus	6239-84	1375	Current Account	843-49
			6417	Deposit Account	7343-68
618	Surplus/Deficit over year	(233-08)	(1533) (19)	Creditor(Silver Sunday)	(1900-41)
				Creditor	(280-00)
<u>6240</u>	<u>6006-76</u>	<u>6240</u>	<u>6006-76</u>		

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 subscription, 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 31st December 2016, and the Income and Expenditure for the period then ended.


Hon Auditor


Hon Treasurer

Note:- Funds held by ADRA on behalf of Silver Sunday

Income	£836-04
Expenditure	£469-00
Surplus	£367-04
Surplus brought forward	£1533-37
Current Surplus	£1900-41

ADRA Planning Report 2017

The background to the year's activities is the Emerging Chilterns and South Bucks Local Plan 2014-2036. This sets out requirements for building an additional 6615 homes in Chiltern. The 2011 census projects that the population of Amersham will grow by 10% in that time, so we will see changes. But due to Green Belt restrictions, there is significant difficulty in building all the homes needed, the Districts are liaising with Aylesbury Vale District to agree that some of our needs can be met within their local plan.

The revised timetable for the Chiltern and Bucks Local Plan is now around 6 months later than that publicised at the last AGM:

- **Draft Plan** - October/November 2017
- **Submission to the Secretary of State** - March 2018
- **Examination** - June 2018
- **Adoption** - November 2018

I will set out the key planning issues that ADRA has been involved in since last year.

Firstly, the publication of the Green Belt Preferred Options Consultation document and the impact on the Green Belt. This identified 15 preferred areas across Chiltern and South Bucks. Two of these are in Amersham and so of interest to us:

- Land south of London Road West, for 50 homes;
- Land south east of Whielden Street for 70-80 homes.

The former was less of a concern than the latter which we consider creates urban encroachment into the setting of the conservation area, this has an impact on views from the elevated footpaths across Ruckles Field and Rectory Wood. It also impacts on public access to views of the Gilbert Scott workhouse. Together these sites contribute to meeting around 1.5% of Chiltern's housing needs, such a marginal contribution is not worth the harm created.

The second key planning issue is the proposed redevelopment of the Chiltern Pools site. The swimming pool must close by 2020 and has structural problems. A consultation took place late in 2016 for a 'conceptual design' which appears to have caused massive confusion. The public responded with great alarm at apparent proposals to reduce the amount of public space available for non sporting activities and demolish the barns in favour of creating parking space. While the library and a community centre would remain, the existing pool building was not part of the development, therefore the footprint of the Drake Hall/library would expand to accommodate a new pool, racket courts, exercise studios etc. and all the activities that currently take place in the Pottery Shed, Large and Small Barns and Drake Hall. This seemed unrealistic and would require a 50% reduction in parking spaces. CDC is now conducting a requirements specification, to map the needs of user groups e.g. U3A. Consultants are to produce a feasibility report by June 2017 for a decision on whether a development that meets local needs can go ahead. If CDC give a green light, the public will be consulted this summer prior to producing a detailed design for planning purposes.

Another key planning issue is the proposed extension to the Station Car Park in King George V Avenue. The car park is full 3 days a week and needs to expand its capacity to meet demand. An additional 366 spaces would be built on the current surface car park, in prefabricated materials. Clearly we do need additional long stay parking spaces which would free up parking currently used by commuters elsewhere in the town. But the prefabricated façade proposed does not match the existing brick structure or any of the brick buildings in the near vicinity. Even for a car park it is ugly and brutalistic. Interestingly, Bucks Highways have objected to the scheme because the 50% increase in traffic flow is not adequately mapped for its impact on nearby roads at peak periods. The zebra crossing outside the station will create hold ups, as does the mini roundabout at the bottom of Hill Avenue and the nearby one in Station Road. Personally, I find navigating these hurdles in the early evening a road safety nightmare and agree with Bucks Highways that mitigation measures need to be put in place so the road system can cope at peak times. The application awaits a decision.

The fourth issue is the application by McCarthy and Stone to develop an assisted living (extra care) facility on the former B&M Motors site in The Broadway, Old Amersham. An application for a development of 41 units was rejected in July 2016 and a revised application for 38 units rejected in December. McCarthy and Stone have appealed to the Planning Inspectorate and the hearing is on 6 June.

The reasons CDC rejected the application are:

- the inappropriate use of a classification that avoids the developer having to fund affordable homes or provide more parking;
- the over bearing scale of the building, which adversely impacts the conservation area and listed buildings; and,
- inadequate provision of external green space.

The development classification provides independent living for the frail elderly but the appeal asserts that anyone who wants more external space than a single communal bench can walk up to the Memorial Gardens! We shall continue to oppose this development at the hearing.

The final key planning issue is the outcome of the application for a waste transfer station on London Road East to support the transfer of waste to an incinerator in the north of the County. Despite strong local opposition, in May 2015 Bucks County Council (BCC) passed a Resolution to Approve this development subject to certain conditions. Those conditions were met but in December 2016 BCC issued a public notice saying 'The additional capacity that this transfer station would have provided will not be critical for the foreseeable future ... stopping the development will also lead to some savings to Council Taxpayers'. The planning application has now been withdrawn. We consistently said it was not needed and was a waste of taxpayers' money. This is a real example of People Power - persistence and organised opposition can make a difference.

Other planning issues of note include the ongoing trend of commercial properties changing use to mixed residential (flats over retail) or residential only. For example, applications are submitted for the demolition and construction of purpose built flats on the Woodley and Hart site in Station Road and on the Apex House site in Chiltern Avenue.

Conditional approval was given in August 2016 to the contentious application for 35 residential units over the ground floor retail space where Iceland used to be and 2 - 4 retail units. Planners precluded restaurant use. Development has not commenced as access issues are yet to be resolved.

An application to build 4 detached houses and 2 semis on the site of Guidos restaurant has been refused on the basis of over development and its impact on the houses in South Road.

Finally, to illustrate that we do not just oppose change, we are supportive of an application by the Amersham Band to build a bandroom on the corner of Rectory Hill and School Road, in the Green Belt. We consider the Band to be an important local asset which has failed to find an alternative (less contentious) location for its expansion. We encourage our members to write in with support for the application as without public support it is likely that planning will be refused on the basis that it is inappropriate development in the Green Belt. If there is strong public support, exceptional circumstances can be argued to support approval.

Update to AGM Planning Officers Report

In September consultation took place on revised proposals for developing the Chilterns Pool Site. These include retaining the historic barns, re-positioning the development further back from Chiltern Avenue and conducting a land swap so that part of King George V Field, which is protected by Fields in Trust, is released for development on condition that the green in Woodside Close is also protected by Fields in Trust. In this way the green in Woodside Close has a higher level of protection than now. ADRA has responded positively to the proposal as the development proposals are a significant improvement on the earlier 'conceptual plan' which caused so much concern.

The deadline for the draft Chiltern and South Bucks Local Plan consultation is to be revised from Oct/Nov 2017 to March/April 2018. Prior to this a summary of responses to the Preferred Green Belt Options Consultation and an Updated Green Belt Assessment Part 2 will be published in November 2017. You can register to be included on the Consultation Database so that you are notified as the key stages in the plan proceed. You can choose to be notified by e-mail or letter.

Chiltern has also launched a Brownfield Register Consultation which runs to 10 November 2017. This identifies current developed sites that are deemed suitable for 5 or more residential dwellings. Notably the Chiltern Pools site is included in this as the proposals to develop the leisure centre exclude the current pool / gym building.

CM/59/14	London Road East Amersham HP7 9DT - Proposed development of a Waste Transfer Station (WTS) at London Road East, including: A waste transfer station for the reception, bulking and loading of waste;	Resolution to approve May 2015. Public Notice stating will not go ahead Dec 2016. Application withdrawn May 2017.
CH/2014/2287/FA	High Beech 54 Clifton Road Chesham Bois HP6 5PP -Demolition of existing dwelling and replacement of five detached dwellings, garages and associated driveways including new footpath	Approved following legal agreement on affordable housing
CH/2015/1799/FA	3 - 5 Station Road Amersham HP7 0BQ - First floor front rear extensions to existing flat to create additional dwelling, change of use from retail showroom to create two new dwellings, roof alterations, fenestration alterations, external works to include car parking bin storage, bike store	Conditional permission. New application submitted: see CH/2017/0464/FA
CH/2016/1651/FA	Former B & M Motors Ltd 59 - 61 Broadway Amersham HP7 0HL - Redevelopment of the site for 38 units of Assisted Living (Extra Care) accommodation for the elderly with associated communal facilities, parking and landscaping	Permission refused December 2016. Appeal to Planning Inspectorate upheld. Permission granted.
CH/2015/2243/FA	67 - 75 Sycamore Road Amersham HP6 5EQ -Redevelopment of site to facilitate erection of a mixed use building comprising ground floor retail (Use Class A1) with associated access parking, servicing and residential accommodation (Use Class C3) on the first, second and third floors comprising	Conditional permission – development commenced

	35 studio, 1 and 2 bed flats, associated access, basement parking and private communal amenity space	
CH/2016/2081/FA	Multi Storey Car Park King George V Road Amersham HP6 5AH -Erection of a multi-storey car park, comprising a total of 502 car parking spaces (plus 30 disabled car parking spaces at surface level)	Approved following minor changes
CH/2017/0241/FA	Guidos Restaurant 1 South Road Amersham Demolition of existing building and construction of a terrace of 4 four bedroom dwellings and 2 semi-detached three bedroom dwellings	Rejected April 2017
CH/2017/0464/FA	Woodley and Hart 3-5 Station Road Amersham HP7 0BQ - Demolition of retail showroom and flat to facilitate construction two blocks containing ten flats with associated parking and landscaping	Rejected
CH/2017/0184/FA	Apex House - 31 Chiltern Avenue - demolition of existing office building and erection of 9 flats	Awaiting decision
CH/2017/0584/FA	Land at School Lane & Rectory Hill Amersham - Construction of a new single storey band hall, creation of new vehicular and pedestrian gated accesses from Rectory Hill with associated parking	Approved following significant public support
CH/2017/0694/FA	Fairview Industrial Estate Raans Road Amersham HP6 6JY - Redevelopment of site to provide two new industrial buildings split into six units	Awaiting decision
CH/2017/0455/FA	Pheasant Public House 35 Plantation Road Amersham HP6 6HL - alternative layout following grant of planning permission CH/2015/1742/FA. Erection of five residential units, renovation and conversion of grade II listed former	Awaiting decision

	public house to provide a sixth residential unit and day nursery facility, associated landscaping, access and parking.	
CH/2017/1040/FA	Guidos Restaurant 1 South Road Amersham HP6 LX - Demolition of existing building and construction of 1 x four bedroom detached dwelling with integral garage, 2 x four bedroom semi-detached dwellings with integral garages and 2 x three bedroom semi-detached dwellings	Awaiting decision
CH/2017/0923/FA	175 Woodside Road Amersham HP6 6NR -Demolition of existing buildings and construction of eight dwellings (5 x 2 bed and 1 x 3 bed houses and 2 x 1 bed flats) with associated landscaping and new vehicular access	Awaiting decision
CH/2017/0916/FA	24 Mitchell Walk Amersham HP6 6NW - Redevelopment of site and demolition of existing house to provide 4 detached dwellings with vehicular access	Conditional permission
CH/2017/1096/FA	Land To The Rear Of 56 - 58 Sycamore Road Amersham HP6 5DR - Erection of two flats with associated amenity space	Awaiting decision
CH/2017/1637/FA	Land to Rear Of 61 Rickmansworth Road Amersham - Residential development to create four 1 bed flats and one 2 bed flat with six residents' parking bays, bin store and cycle store	Awaiting decision
CH/2017/1384/FA	Former Site Of Robendene Grimsdells Lane Amersham -Erection of part two, part three storey building with nine (2 bed) apartments, associated amenity space and parking, relocation alterations to existing site access	Awaiting decision

Membership Records Officer's Report

We currently have 1104 members in 669 households. This is rather down on last year as we have discovered that several members have died and a number have moved out of the area.

In the short term the numbers are likely to reduce even more. In February I wrote to all members (about ninety households) from whom we had not received a subscription in 2015 or 2016, inviting them to renew their standing orders or to send us a cheque or cash payment for 2017. About a third of these have replied and our intention is that people who have not responded by the end of this month will be struck off.

We hope to undertake a membership drive in the summer and are thinking about how best to go about this. If anyone has any suggestions to make in this respect, I would be delighted to hear from them. I feel sure that, however we go about it, we will be asking our ever-willing and patient Road Stewards for assistance.

We are still trying to add members' e-mail addresses to our records. If you received an e-mail from me 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. If that is the case, please would you add your email address to the list which is circulating, or send me an email. My address is in the recent newsletter and will be in the next one. Also, please try to remember to let us know if you change your email address. We promise not to bombard you with messages and we do not allow other people or organisations to have access to our database, but there are occasions when it is helpful to the committee to be able to canvass members' opinions quickly, or when we feel it appropriate to make members aware of local matters requiring a swift response. Email also enables us to remind the majority of members of dates for the AGM and the January Social.

We are, as always, very grateful for the assistance given by Road Stewards. People have so many demands on their time these days that we are very conscious of the need not to overburden them. However, this year we did ask Road Stewards to undertake the delivery of the recent Newsletter and letters regarding subscriptions and it seemed to work very efficiently, particularly in highlighting deaths and departures. It helped enormously that several people volunteered for extra roads, although a few people did let me know that they felt unable to assist any longer.

We are currently in need of help in:

Deep Acres
Devonshire Avenue*
Devonshire Close*
Elm Close,
Hervines Road,
King George V Road,
Longfield Drive*
Mitchell Walk,
Plantation Road
Scholars Way
Stanley Hill Avenue*
Woodside Road

These are only the roads in which we have a number of members, but no Road Steward. There are quite a lot of roads in which we do not currently have any members and we need to try to find a way to reach them.

Apart from new membership campaigns, 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 next newsletter, which will probably again be hand-delivered, rather than posted. We hope to circulate the next Newsletter in the autumn.

*Following the meeting members came forward to volunteer to act as Road Stewards in these roads.

Membership Records Officer's Report - UPDATE

Malcolm Flack

October 2017

At the AGM, Carolyn Spencer appealed for someone to take her place as Membership Records Officer, for the reason she explained in her opening address; a task which she has carried out for many years very efficiently. So, after a little persuasion I offered myself to fill the position. I am a "native" of Amersham, and so I will endeavour to do my best to maintain the records for the foreseeable future.

Having now had a few months to explore the records and follow up some previous correspondence I am pleased to report that the records are now showing that we have a membership of 1019 members within 611 households in the area.

The area has had many developments in recent times and therefore through a recruitment campaign at little or no cost we would like to welcome any new households that may not be represented in your immediate area. Of course, you may not know whether or not your neighbours are already members, but do please spread the word about the association's existence and maybe you could assist us to swell our membership. Remember, numbers count when we are making representations on local concerns and matters of interest, although as mentioned in the Chairman's Report at the AGM, in certain circumstances, for example when we respond to planning applications, as letter from ADRA is treated as just one comment.

Membership is still only a nominal £5 paid annually by Standing Order and I have Application forms available (see my contact details under list of Officers of ADRA in this newsletter) or you can go on line to download a form, courtesy of the independent Amersham Website which can be found at www.amersham.org.uk under the heading "Amersham & District Residents Association". The form can be printed off for completion.

Finally, as always, do please keep us informed if your contact details should change, especially your e-mail address, which does help us contact you by the easiest economical method. My contact details are listed at the end of this newsletter.

I am now pleased to say that since the AGM I have been able to revise the list of where Road Stewards are still required and the list is now as follows:

Chequers Hill
Deep Acres
Elm Close
Hervines Road
Quill Hall Lane
Raans Road
Rectory Hill
Scholars Way
The Rise

Road Stewards are mainly used to distribute our newsletter.

Chairman's Report 2017 AGM
(Delivered by Carolyn Spencer, in the absence of Bron Curley)

Welcome to the 56th Annual General Meeting of Amersham and District Residents Association. Unfortunately, Bron Curley is not able to be here this evening and he has asked me to deliver the Chairman's Report in his absence.

We are glad to see so many of you here, particularly in view of the rather unpleasant weather this evening.

As usual, I will start with changes to the committee. As mentioned at last year's AGM, Les Jayatilaka has decided to return to Australia and tonight is his final ADRA meeting. We are grateful for his hard work during his time on the committee and wish him and his family all the best for their new lives back in Perth. We hope that Les will accept this book of photographs of the Chilterns as a small token of the Association's appreciation.

Unfortunately there have been no new committee members this year. As you will appreciate, this makes the annual appeal for help all the more urgent. We are desperately in need of more committee members. We really need at least four (but ideally six) more members, so that we have the benefit of a wide selection of opinions at our monthly meetings. Meetings take place in the Small Barn Hall on the third Wednesday of each month at 8.00pm. There is no meeting in August, and the December meeting is usually brought forward to the second Wednesday. Meetings generally last between about forty five minutes and an hour and a half, so committee membership is not an onerous commitment for those who do not take officers' posts. If you feel that you might be able to contribute, please do come along to a meeting,*

On the positive side, Penny King and Liz Jones, as our new Secretary and Planning Officer, have settled well into their respective posts and have already made significant contributions to the work of the Association.

I would like to thank all the current committee members for their support and for their efforts on behalf of the Association.

HS2 rumbles on and it is, unfortunately, looking almost certain that it will go ahead.

Amersham in Bloom goes from strength to strength and the work of their volunteers has made a huge difference to the appearance of our town.

Heritage Day in the Old Town is a huge success attracting numerous visitors.

We are lucky to live in this lovely area, but we need to be vigilant to ensure that it stays that way. As you have heard, we have been very active again this year in commenting on planning matters and we hope to continue to be so, but we really do need more help.

Please carry on contacting committee members to let us know of your concerns about local matters. We will do our best to represent the views of members, but, as I have mentioned before, if we write to one of the local authorities about a particular matter, our letter is counted as only one comment, despite the fact that we have over eleven hundred members. If there is something which concerns you, please make sure that you write to the relevant council as well as raising it with us.

Thank you all for coming.

Addendum to Chairman's Report – Carolyn Spencer

You will recall that Bron has mentioned at previous AGM's that he would like to stand down as Chairman. After fourteen years, he has now decided to do so with immediate effect. We are extremely sorry to lose him, but are very grateful for all he has done for ADRA during his long period of service. We send him our best wishes for a speedy return to full health. As he is not here this evening, the presentation which we had planned to make to him to mark his retirement, will be delivered to him tomorrow.

This does, of course, have an impact on the next item on the Agenda – Election of Committee Members.

*At the conclusion of the meeting, three members came forward to volunteer to attend a future committee meeting on a trial basis.

Parking update October 2017

Apparently unknown to local Councillors, Bucks County Council is now rolling out its Parking Implementation Plan (2016) which phases out the provision of on-street limited waiting bays. This commences in 2017/18 in the town centres, then is being extended to district retail centres and finally villages by 2018/19. This change has started and can be seen in the parking meters installed in King George V Avenue. Due to the absence of consultation, the use of the meters has been temporarily postponed while consultation takes place. We consider the removal of limited free waiting time will adversely impact residents and retail outlets alike. We will strongly resist what is a naked attempt to fill a budgetary gap in BCC's finances and without going through the proper consultation channels.

ADRA Officers

Chairman

Carolyn Spencer
37A Highfield Close
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The Reimagining of Amersham Museum Contributed by Emily Toettcher – Curator

After four years of planning and fundraising and a 10 month closure, Amersham Museum reopened in early July. The museum has undergone a substantial expansion into the neighbouring Victorian building. The work has resulted in the creation of a new, stunning, glass reception space, new exhibition galleries, a wonderful activity space, and dedicated stores for the museum's collection.



Revealing the Medieval Building

One of the key aims of the project was to better reveal the museum's medieval hall house, the oldest domestic building in the town. The new glass reception space reconnects the 15th century building with the High Street and enables visitors to better understand it from within. During the building works in 51 High Street we were able to uncover parts of the medieval building that had become hidden behind Victorian brickwork. Dr Adam Menuge, a timber framed building expert, spent considerable time exploring the building, including the parts that had been newly uncovered. Through this process we have learnt more about our building, how it was originally used, and its early construction. We have also been able to leave a large part of an uncovered wall panel for visitors to see, including the wattle and daub.

A New Perspective

As a result of the work, the museum's collection has been completely redisplayed with more emphasis on the 20th century and much greater access to parts of the collection, including maps and oral histories. Maps have always been of interest to visitors but we had limited space to display them. The new permanent gallery space features a timeline and a series of maps displayed in chronological order, from our oldest map through to a map of the area today. The maps on display include those produced when land was sold in the town in 1740 and 1928, the 1838-40 tithe map, the Metro-land Weller Estate map, and a number of 19th and 20th century OS maps. The modern map is magnetic enabling visitors to place a magnetic house on their home.

This gallery also features a timeline, exploring events and people in Amersham's past. For children there are five opening doors and five models of children who lived in Amersham in the past. Younger visitors have to work out who lived in which house and put them inside their door!

The redisplay focuses on five key dates in the town's history; each provides an insight into the people who lived in the town at the time, the buildings from that era, and the experiences of daily life. The chosen dates are:

1580: Amersham was a busy market town. There were traders making a wide range of goods and farmers working the land. They sold their produce at the weekly market and annual fair. 1580 was also the time that our medieval building was renovated, with the introduction of a chimney stack and fireplaces and first floor.



1775: Amersham's prosperity grew in the 18th century, with inns providing refreshment and accommodation for travellers. Coaches, travelling from London to Birmingham, and Reading to Hatfield, often stopped in the town. Shardeloes was recently remodelled by the lord of the manor, William Drake. In 1775 the Weller family bought the brewery, beginning their long association with the town.

1892: At the end of the 19th century many people were employed in farming, at the brewery, or on the Shardeloes estate. Women and children produced local crafts. The population was boosted by those housed at the new Union Workhouse. In 1892 the town changed dramatically, with the arrival of the Metropolitan Railway and a station is built on the hill near the town. This resulted in migration to the town and new houses and shops in the 'Newtown', Amersham-on-the-Hill.

1939: The new town of Amersham-on-the-Hill began to expand after WWI. In the 1920s and 1930s shops and houses were developed around the station. With the outbreak of WWII in September 1939, the town grew even more. Many people migrated to Amersham to escape from danger in London and in Europe. The Brazil's sausage and pie factory had become a major employer.

1964: After WWII there was significant domestic and commercial development in Amersham-on-the-Hill. New industry emerged, notably the Radiochemical Centre on White Lion Road, and the cosmetics and perfume manufacturer, Goya.

In each time zone there are objects on display, details of key characters and buildings from that time, and a box of objects (replica and original) and photos, maps, and documents, for visitors to explore. In the autumn each time zone will also feature a multimedia tablet with further information and a quiz about the eras. Each area is designed to be sensory; visitors can write at the 1580s desk, sit in the 1930s interior and listen to the radio, watch stills from the theatre, complete the Brazil's pig puzzle or listen to stories in Ron Haddock's 1960s record shop.

The Garden

The museum's wonderful garden has also been re-landscaped to enable wheelchair access and features new planting. We are also now selling plants, particularly the more unusual ones that we grow in the garden.

The Woodcock Room

One of the biggest additions of the project has been the large new activity space in the upstairs of the new building. Named the Woodcock Room after our major donor, Anthony Woodcock, this space will be used for a wide range of activities, including talks, reminiscence and research, and workshops for adults, children, and schools. It is fitted as a temporary exhibition space and we are now planning the exhibition programme for autumn 2017 and spring 2018. It is also a space for volunteers to do collections work when we are closed. The space has been well used already with many children visiting over the summer to participate in Create! workshops. Our first exhibition is inspired by the photographs of George Ward; many of his images feature local people so we decided to bring our redisplay up to date with contemporary images of people outside their homes and businesses around the town. This September the Woodcock Room will be used for an after-school art club for children as well as a series of school visits. Our second exhibition, Dinky Toys, will begin in October.

Overall the project has been tremendously hard work but has been a really enjoyable and creative process. Many people have dedicated their time and effort to making a success. Already we are witnessing the benefits and have welcomed over 2,000 visitors to the museum.



From the Mayor – Cllr Clive Morgan

I am delighted to have been asked to contribute an article about Amersham and my chosen charities during my period as Mayor.

Through the medium of your publication I should like to express sincere thanks and appreciation to all those, too numerous to mention, who support and sponsor “Amersham in Bloom”. From the local businesses, sponsors and the volunteers who continually maintain the high standards to ensure Amersham remains attractive throughout the year, to the public whose generous compliments are continually given. I’m sure you will agree, as you walk through the towns and gardens, that magnificent results have been achieved. The results of the Regional Competition for best town will have been announced by the time you read this. We have again been invited to participate in The National Competition for 2018, and less than 1% get a second invitation – our Silver Gilt award last year must have influenced the judges!

As residents you may have visited the Old Town Memorial Gardens between May and September, and seen the spectacular floral displays present. At fortnightly intervals we have a series of skilful bands with music providing entertainment for all. If you have not yet experienced this opportunity, make a date for the 2018 events, which will be detailed on the Amersham Town website/Facebook page. There is free coffee/tea and cakes to suit all. The first band event will usually be the Bank Holiday Monday where the proceeds from the event are donated to the Mayoral charities.

You will by now have received edition 45 of Amersham News from Amersham Town Council, which included details of the Chiltern District Council proposed leisure centre development and consultation. There are, at the time of writing, no detailed plans that are publicly available, and the development is dependent upon a “Land Swap” to be able to progress. Chiltern District Council have been seeking your views and I hope that you responded to the consultation.

During my period in office as Mayor, I will, I am grateful to say, be able to take advantage of a number of opportunities to raise money for charity.

After much thought and research for appropriate charities, my choice was divided equally between Bucks Mind and Bucks Vision.

Modern living and lifestyles have an impact on almost everyone with PACE, PRESSURE, NOISE, FINANCIAL CONCERNS, EMPLOYMENT, EDUCATION, UNCERTAINTY (a few from a list which can be endless) all affecting the daily lives of men, women, young people and children. Not only can these factors result in physical illness, but increasingly the effects are manifesting themselves in mental health problems. Bucks Mind with their skills and opportunities are able to assist those in need of help with their problems in our local community. Their services and help are too numerous to mention here and further information can be obtained from www.bucksmind.org.uk or by contacting Kaya Malinda on 07930 729606 or Bucks Mind service on 01494 463364.

Bucks Vision, working with blind and partially sighted people, are able to give assistance to enable those within our community to enjoy the same opportunities – freedom, responsibility, and quality of life - as those who are fully sighted. They are able through their resources to provide support, advice, social activities and the skills to enable people to reach their full potential and lead independent lives. Contact www.bucksvision.co.uk or phone Anne Mills on 01296 487556 for more information.

Both these registered charities have working relationships with NHS and RNIB and associated organisations to ensure there is help for Amersham Residents, so if you know of anyone in need of ‘a helping hand’ do make contact. It can make a big difference.

Finally, 2017 is moving on at quite a pace - summer is almost behind us, and that autumnal feeling is creeping in, and just on the horizon are the dark nights and December with its festivities.

I should like to mention the Annual Mayoral Christmas Service, at which all entertainment is being supplied by numerous community choirs and schools and of course not forgetting your involvement. Proceeds will go to the Charities so if you have raffle prizes to donate, please contact Zoe Richardson at Amersham Town Council. You will need to get your tickets for the event early as it is very popular and generally a “sell out”. You will also be able to make donations in the departing collection.

My thanks to you all as residents for making Amersham what it is to date, and we all look forward on the positive sides for our community.

Chiltern District Council Community Activities

Report from Liz Walsh

Joint Councillor for Amersham on the Hill
Cabinet Member for Healthy Communities
Chiltern District Council

Summer Diversionary Programme

Chiltern District Council provided funding for the voluntary youth sector to enable them to deliver a range of summer holiday activities. The funding supported youth clubs to maintain a consistent level of support throughout the summer holiday period for some of the district's most disadvantaged young people. Activities provided in Chesham and Amersham included a bike maintenance project, basketball coaching sessions and football.



Everyone's a winner with the new Chiltern & South Bucks Lottery

Chiltern and South Bucks District Councils are launching a local lottery to help local good causes raise funds through their communities. Tickets for the new lottery will go on sale on 24 October, with the first draw happening on 25 November.

The aim of the Chiltern & South Bucks lottery is to enable good causes to fundraise via the website without any overheads. For every £1 spent by supporters playing the lottery 50p goes directly to the good cause. Lottery players have the chance of winning £25,000, £2,000, £250, £25 or three free tickets.

How it works:

- Good causes receive their own webpage which supporters can use to play the lottery
- Participating charities receive monthly payments of the funds raised directly to their bank account
- They also receive marketing material tailored for their organisation
- There is no cost to the participating good causes
- Players buy tickets online with money going directly to the charity of their choice
- Chance to win £25,000 by matching six numbers
- Other prizes are £2000, £250, £25 or three free tickets
- Prize jackpot is guaranteed regardless how many winners
- Payments are made directly into the winner's bank account

People will be able to buy their tickets and choose which charity they wish to support www.chilternsouthbuckslottery.co.uk/ from 24 October.

Be Inspired Play Day

On Wednesday 2nd August the Chiltern Pools hosted the Be Inspired Play Day on King George V Fields. This annual event is an ideal vehicle to promote the Chiltern Pools, the Gym, the Climb and Summer Programmes to engage with the local community. Approximately 200 people attended the event and enjoyed a variety of activities including arts and crafts, fencing and climbing.

Inclusive Climbing Project

Greenwich Leisure Limited (GLL) secured £10,000 from Sport England to deliver an Inclusive Climbing project at three centres including Chiltern Pools. The project will enable anyone with a disability including sensory loss, physical impairment, mobility difficulties or learning difficulties to participate and enjoy the sport of climbing.

In partnership with the British Mountaineering Council (BMC) the aim is to create a model where GLL can offer group sessions with the view to create a sustainable drop -in session for disabled people.

The grant will fund specialist accessible climbing equipment and training through the BMC (Climbing for All). Centres will be required to undertake the 'EFDS Delivering an Excellent Service for Disabled People' and will then set up a new inclusive climbing session (climbing instructors will be funded through this project).

Sessions have been promoted to local disability groups and schools including Amersham & Wycombe College, Chilterns Gateway Club, Heritage House School, Stony Dean School, Wheel Power, Alfriston and Arctic One.

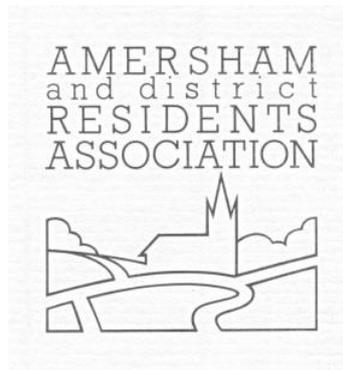
Chiltern Pools Re-development

In November 2016 Chiltern District Council undertook a public consultation to replace the Chiltern Pools and community buildings with a purpose-built centre. More than 80% of the 2,386 responses were in support. However, a number of key concerns were raised by the public. These included retaining the historic barns, re-providing the pre-school nursery, library and community hall, ensuring disabled access to the community facilities and increasing car parking provision. Chiltern District Council sought to address these points and produced a revised vision which it hopes provides an appropriate solution to replacing the ageing Chiltern Pools and 1960's community buildings.

For the community buildings to operate during any development, the new concept would need to be built on the library and car park areas opposite the Council Offices. This requires a small portion of the King George V Field (now owned by Amersham Town Council) to be developed but in return Chiltern District Council would pass to Amersham Town Council the green area in the middle of Woodside Close. Chiltern District Council would also create more green space next to the historic barn buildings. The green in Woodside Close would be transferred to Amersham Town Council through Fields in Trust, a charity which protects open spaces in perpetuity.

Both Chiltern District Council and Amersham Town Council consulted Amersham residents on the land swap between 1 September and 2 October. The consultation results were due to be published soon afterwards. Any general comments about the proposals can be emailed to community@chiltern.gov.uk.

The annual Social Evening for ADRA members
will take place on
Wednesday 17th January 2018
in the Large Barn Hall
Amersham Community Centre
from 7.00 to 9.00pm



Notice of the Amersham and District
Residents Association AGM

Tuesday 24th April 2018

7 for 7.30 pm

The Amersham Free Church Hall