



Summer 2016 Newsletter

If your address label requires correction
contact Kirsty Ward: 01628 313802
kirstytyce@hotmail.co.uk

COOKHAM SOCIETY AND SAVE POUNDFIELD JOIN FORCES TO SAVE THE PONY FIELD

The Cookham Society and the *Save Poundfield* group have teamed up to fight to protect the last green space next to the Nursery School. The villagers call it "The Pony Field". It is part of "Poundfield". From the edge of the field you can look across to Roman Lea and beyond to the horizon in the direction of Winter Hill. This unspoilt field gives Cookham its rural feel

and is a last refuge for wildlife between the busy, bustling villages. The two groups are doing all they can to fight the threat from Oakford homes. The developer has put in an application to build new houses and parking on the field. If the developer wins, the view will be gone, the wildlife will be gone, and this most cherished green space will be gone forever. We must save it and the character of Cookham for future generations.

The Cookham Society has put its objections to the Planning Department in the strongest possible terms. You too can add weight to the case by writing in person to the Planning Department and expressing your opposition to the loss of this precious green oasis.

Write to the Head of Planning, RBWM, St Ives Road, Maidenhead, Berks SL6 1RF



The *Save Poundfield* campaign has a dedicated site on how to oppose development and support preserving this green space. Visit www.savepoundfield.co.uk

POUNDFIELD UNDER PRESSURE

Poundfield has been the subject of planning applications for housing development for over 50 years and opposed by the people of Cookham. A full development was proposed in 1987, vigorously opposed by the 1989 campaign by villagers and finally rejected in a 1991 public enquiry by Michael Heseltine, the then Secretary of State. Whilst



Poundfield is now in the Cookham Conservation Area this does not entirely prohibit development. On 23rd February 2016 Councillors of the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead ("RBWM") voted unanimously to support the designation of Poundfield in Cookham as "Local Green Space" in response to the petition from the Cookham Society (who collected well over 1,000 signatures). It is intended that this would protect Poundfield from housing development – consultation is required and this takes place through 2016.

However developer "Oakford Homes" wishes to build houses on the "Pony Field", the smallest of the Poundfield fields, which is next to the Nursery School. On 9th May 2016 they submitted a planning application (see article Cookham and Save Poundfield join forces).

In addition, on 24th February 2016 Berkeley Homes held an exhibition for proposed development of 31 houses on Poundfield, which would result in building on all the other fields comprising "Poundfield". A Planning Application is expected in June 2016.

Poundfield is one of the defining and much-loved green spaces at the heart of Cookham's rural character. It is a traffic-free space for walkers, dogs, cyclists and horse riders to enjoy the countryside. It has Saxon and Roman historical significance and also features in the art of Stanley Spencer, our world-renowned Cookham artist. Finally it is a natural environment sustaining biodiversity close to the heart of the community and an irreplaceable habitat for wildlife.

CHICKEN FARM

A further application has been received to ascertain whether it would be lawful to place a removable chicken shed on the site adjoining Lightlands Lane and Strande Walk. The proposed shed would be 36 metres long and would accommodate up to 3000 chickens. The Society is joining with the Parish Council and residents to object to this application.

The Borough Planning Panel is to decide whether this proposal can be regarded as Permitted Development at its meeting in early June. There are many objections to the proposals, but the present state of planning law, make them very difficult to uphold. Even the combined efforts of many Borough departments may struggle to halt this application and it remains to be seen what the weight of public opinion can do in this situation.

KEEP IN TOUCH

We are trying to move into the 21st century and cut our costs and we plan to move to emailed newsletters for as many of our members as possible (although we know there are some people who will want to keep receiving paper newsletters and we will ensure that they can). To prevent newsletter errors and bounce-back, can you please make sure you keep us up to date with names, addresses, email addresses and personal circumstances.

THEN AND NOW

One of our members who now lives in Canada has asked if anyone has any old photos of streets and roads in Cookham so that he can publish a *Then and Now* photo story, for newcomers to the villages. If you have anything could you please send it to James Hatch at willow1930@outlook.com

COMINGS AND GOINGS AT THE SOCIETY

The committee has lost three members this spring due to work commitments and health issues, but is delighted to welcome three new members aboard. Peter Munday has lived in Cookham for 12 years and has joined the planning sub-committee. Tracy Suleiman has lived in Cookham for 23 years, her children were educated at Cookham Rise and she has a particular interest in keeping Cookham green, and has therefore joined the Environment Committee and Chris Lewis has added his particular expertise in the fields of fire and flood risks to the planning committee.

The Committee 2015/16

President

Mr John Bowley
Gayton House, High Road,
Cookham Rise SL6 9JF
01628 524580 Email: jandrbowley@talktalk.net

Vice-President

Vacant

Chairman

Mr Evert Groeneweg (EV)
23 Coxborrow Close,
Cookham Rise, Berks, SL6 9HH
01628 851003
Email: gwenevert@btinternet.com

Vice-Chairman

Mrs Lysette Penston (EV)
Gayfield, Grubwood Lane,
Cookham Dean SL6 9UB
01628 473862 Email: l.penston@yahoo.com

Hon Treasurer

Mr Nick Singeisen
44 Westwood Green, Cookham Rise SL6 9DE
01628 529187 Email: nsingeisen@aol.com

Hon Secretary & Membership Secretary

Vacant

Committee Members

Mr David Ashwanden (P)
Butts Legh, School Lane, Cookham SL6 9QJ
01628 526704 Fax: 01628 531543
Email: david@ashwandens.demon.co.uk

Mr Pablo Dubois (P)
Regency Cottage, The Pound,
Cookham Rise SL6 9QD
01628 521002
Email: pablo@dubois.me.uk

Mr John Kitching (P)
Highfields, Grubwood Lane,
Cookham Dean SL6 9UD
01628 482353
Email: john@northcroftfabrics.co.uk

Mrs Susan Leighs (EV)
May Cottage, School Lane,
Cookham, SL6 9QN
01628 523935
Email: sleighs80@hotmail.com

Mrs Liz Peters (P)
Cobbers, High Road,
Cookham Rise SL6 9JS
07957 136065
Email: mail@lizpeters.plus.com

Mr Dick Scarff (P & EC)
Cranford, Bradcutts Lane,
Cookham Dean SL6 9AA
01628 528955
Email: dickscarff@btinternet.com

Mr Laurie West (EV)
Moorlands, School Lane,
Cookham, Berks, SL6 9QJ
01628 530960
Email: lorenzopwest@hotmail.com

Mr Peter Munday (P)
Harvest Cottage, Poundfield Lane,
Cookham SL6 9RY
07443461127
Email: peter@jpmunday.plus.com

Mrs Tracy Suleiman (EC)
Linnets, Terry's Lane,
Cookham, SL6 9RT
07715 565672
Email: tracy.suleiman@btinternet.com

Mr Chris Lewis (P)
Harwood Mount, Spring Lane,
Cookham SL6 6PW
01628 481612
Email: chris.lewis@crlfireflood.com

Minutes Secretary

Vacant

(P)=Planning Sub-Committee
(EV)=Events and Fund Raising Sub-Committee

(EC)=Environmental Sub-Committee
(MMPA)=Marlow Maidenhead Passenger Association

(MMMM)= Marsh Meadow Management Committee

COOKHAM AND CROSSRAIL

COOKHAM LEFT OUT IN THE COLD BY CROSSRAIL

No electrification of the line

The inauguration of Crossrail from Maidenhead in 2019 will provide a valuable new train service to the centre of London, Docklands and beyond. The present electrification work on the main line will also provide a faster service from Maidenhead into Paddington on the Great Western Service. But these changes are not all good for Cookham. Currently, our Branch Line is not included in the electrification work. We will be left behind in this modernization programme and will lose the present morning and evening direct services between Cookham and Paddington. The proposal of a two trains per hour service on the Branch Line throughout the day is a welcome improvement, but it is not adequate compensation for the failure to electrify the line and the ending of the important through services.



We are joining with the Parish Council, the Maidenhead and Marlow Passenger Association in pressing for both electrification of the Branch Line and retention of existing direct through services to Paddington.

COOKHAM SOCIETY 2016 DESIGN AWARD

The Cookham Society's annual Design Award has been given to Cookham Dean Primary School garden. The garden was a community project designed by two parents, Hannah Wilson and Catherine Downes, and incorporates ideas and features suggested by the children. The Award Certificate was presented to Ms Wilson at the Society's AGM on 10 March by the Society's President, John Bowley.

Pablo Dubois who heads up the Society's design award committee said, "We were delighted with this project, it involved all members of the school community and epitomizes many of the objectives of the Village Design Statement."

MEMBERSHIP AND PAYMENTS UPDATE

The society is currently trying to streamline its systems to make it easier to send out reminders and to make payment of subs much simpler. This helps keep our costs down. Reminders will be sent from our new email address, cookhamsociety@gmail.com. Please put it into your contacts book, so that reminders don't bounce back.

You will also be able to pay your subs straight into our bank account if you use internet banking. When you get a reminder just pay the sum requested directly into our bank account, using your full name (including first and surname) as a reference. For those of you that don't have access to internet banking or who prefer to pay directly, the old channels remain in place.

Our bank details are as follows:

Bank:	NatWest
Bank Account:	The Cookham Society
Bank Code:	60.13.35
Account Number:	64226026