

Harpenden Society

Minutes of the committee meeting held at St John's Church Hall, Harpenden on 18th October 2010 at 7.30pm

Present:

Mr A Steele (Chairman), Mr K Jennings, Mr P Barrett, Mr M Howe, Mrs C Stanton, Mr D Bullimore, Mr K Nash, Mr R Thomas, Mr I Fulton, Mrs R Horne, Dr J Davis, Mr Turberville, Mr C Grey

1. Apologies for absence:

Mrs B Sutters, Mrs P Ayres, Ms B Ouston, Mr J Hunt

2. Minutes of committee meeting of 6th September 2010

- 2.1 5.7.2 e.g. threat of Pipers Lane Development.
- 2.2 11.2 Information passed over by the Chairman.
- 2.3 5.4.2 awarded rather than issued.

3 Matters arising

- 3.2 Rovers Football Club - the Town Council are debating the issue and it will be raised at the Environment Committee on Wednesday, 20th October. Mr Bullimore suggested that the pavilion be erected at the Porters Park area instead. Mr Steele to raise the matter with Mr Bagshaw at the next meeting.
- 3.3 Mr Howe has not had a response from the Campaign for Better Transport on bus routes.
- 3.4 NATS consultation has been postponed.

4 Items for AOB

- 4.1 Marketing of the society
- 4.2 Jubilee celebrations 2012
- 4.3 Gift aid
- 4.4 Membership card
- 4.5 ANTAS meeting
- 4.6 Post Office
- 4.7 Mr Turberville's resignation

5. Reports

5.1 Transport (Road and Rail)

- 5.1.1 Mr Howe submitted a report.
- 5.1.2 Leyton Road is now open but Mr Turberville commented that this work took one month.
- 5.1.3 Junction 10a. Mr Howe has some information leaflets on the proposal and made comments and suggestions about the scheme in a letter to Luton Borough Council.
- 5.1.4 Harpenden Urban Transport plan now open for consultation. Final comment December 5th. Public event on Saturday November 6th, 9.30am - 3.30pm in the Town Hall.
- 5.1.5 Humps in Topstreet Way are to be removed and changed. Dr Davis suggested a chicane would be more appropriate but Mr Howe stated this would not be possible, as this idea has been approached before.

5.2 Transport (Air)

- 5.2.1 Harpenden Town Council now has an informal working group on the Harpenden air issues with both Mr MacArthur and Dr Davis on this group.
- 5.2.2 Crossroads of air traffic (Heathrow and Luton) is still an issue with easterly winds.

5.3 Plans

- 5.3.1 Chief Planning Officer, Heather Cheesborough, will be speaking at the next event. Mr Steele asked for questions to be prepared.
- 5.3.2 Mrs Ayres/Secretary reported a planning application by the Phillips family, Luton Hoo Estate, to Central Beds Council for an off-road driving /training course on agricultural land off West Hyde Lane. It falls in the Green Belt and is for up to 300 days of the year for 4-wheel drive vehicles. The dirt track across the field is now out of bounds to dog walkers and riders. The Society is to object on the grounds of noise and inappropriate use of green belt land.
Note: Email of objection sent 19.10.10. with circulations to relevant parties.

5.4 Commons & Greens

- 5.4.1 Commons & Lydekker Public Meeting. 7 attendees. Round table informal discussion. Discussion of maintenance on the common and presentation. No contentious issues.

5.5 Town Council

- 5.5.1 Audit commission gave the Town Council an unqualified report.
- 5.5.2 Dr Davis commented that the Society meetings are not being listed in The Forum newsletter again which could be due to space availability. To be discussed at the next meeting with the Town Clerk.

5.6 Environment

- 5.6.1 Environmental Forum Meeting attendance. Dr Davis submitted a report.
- 5.6.2 Mrs Horne asked about the litter pick groups, which have now slowed. Dr Davis to ask about this at the next meeting.
- 5.6.3 Mr Thomas asked Dr Davis to bring up the subject of the wood behind the Fox pub.
- 5.6.4 Seniors Forum. Mr Nash stated that the Town Council has offered £1000 to the Seniors Forum.

5.7 Green Belt

- 5.7.1 SADC PAP Committee is in discussion with propositions that have alarmed members of the committee itself and led to their withdrawal. Area of Search 8, part of the former National Childrens Home site, is now a possibility for development, but no longer Pipers Lane.
- 5.7.2 Mr Thomas asked whether the press should be invited but the committee felt that a report could be submitted after the event.

5.8 Batford

- 5.8.1 The park seat has been chosen and approved.
- 5.8.2 The slide should be put in sometime this month.
- 5.8.3 Christmas lights demo on 19th October
- 5.8.4 The closure of the Police Station meant that entry for Mr Grey and others to attend a Ward meeting was made difficult and he missed the meeting. And in the case of an emergency!
- 5.8.5 New book about Harpenden and Batford will be published.
- 5.8.6 Nuisance caused by local youths has quietened considerably.
- 5.8.7 Seniors Forum. The newsletter was delivered 15 days after the Batford event.
- 5.8.8 Highways new signage outside Batford School has been put up the wrong way.
- 5.8.9 Loss of local businesses with recent closures. No comment received from the Town Council.
- 5.8.10 Attendance at the Jubilee working party meeting.
- 5.8.11 Concern over increased rubbish.

5.9 Upper Lea Valley Group

- 5.9.1 Nothing to report.

6 Newsletter

- 6.1 Mr Turberville to complete the next newsletter but steps have to be taken for the next issues. Copy required for early November. Nominations for the awards and information cards to be included within the issue.

7 Chairman's Items

- 7.1 Archives. Dr Davis contacted previous treasurers for their agreement with the archive material. Thanked for his sterling work by the Secretary.

8 Correspondence

- 8.1 The Town Council stated that Thursday is the only available day for speakers and events.
- 8.2 Community Conference. Ms Stanton reported briefly on the conference.

9 Finance

- 9.1 Nat West bank mandate is being changed from Mr Steele to Mr Allen, the new treasurer, in line with that approved at the last meeting.
- 9.2 Gift Aid – need to change the authorised official from Mrs Penny Ayres (nee. Alcock) to the new Treasurer, Mr Arnold Allen, and a second person, the Secretary, to cover any unforeseen eventuality. The change of variation form has been applied for from HMRC. Account will need to be taken of the 'management condition' set out in the guidelines re: the 'Fit & Proper Person test' introduced under the provisions of the Finance Act 2010 effective from 1st April 2010. HMRC need to have at least 1 month notice before a payment claim can be met whilst updating records. Approved unanimously.

10 Events


- 10.1 Speakers have been arranged for the first quarter of the new year by Mr Turberville.

11 AOB

- 11.1 Marketing of the society. Ms Stanton submitted the notes from the marketing sub-committee meeting and their actions. Help was requested for continuing this. Ms Stanton to email out the meeting notes.
- 11.2 Jubilee celebrations. Ms Stanton, Mr Bullimore & Mr Grey reported on the first working party for 2012. Mr Turberville commented that the meeting was vague and needs pulling together.
- 11.3 Gift Aid. Forms requested from HMRC by Mr Barrett and awaited to submit for year 2010.
- 11.4 Membership details. Mr Barrett meeting with Mrs Suitters and Ms Ouston 21.10.10. re. this information and consideration to the Data Protection Act implications.
- 11.5 ANTAS meeting. 30th October. Councillor Mike Appleyard will update on planning policies on the intentions of the coalition government. Secretary to report on local issues.
- 11.6 Post Office. Mr Turberville has received a letter regarding the opening of Southdown Post Office within the Co-op on 11th November.
The Station Road Post Office threat of closure relates only to the Sorting Office not the Post Office. Deferred until next year with the possibility that the sorting is moved to a site in the Buncefield area and an automated system of handling.
- 11.7 Mr Turberville's resignation via letter to Mr Barrett. He will complete the next newsletter only and events up to the AGM.
- 11.8 Park Hall – notification received of increases in charges.

12 Dates of next meetings:

29th November
10th January 2011


29/11/10

HARPENDEN SOCIETY

Committee
Meeting 29/11/10

Committee Meeting 29 November 2010

1.1 Pedestrian Crossing : Leyton Road

This has now been completed. The levels/gradients of the road are much improved and safer for cyclists. I understand that a letter has been written to and a reply received from Herts Highways regarding the length of time that the work took to complete.

1.2 M1 Junction 10A

I have received no acknowledgement nor response to the comments that I made to Luton Borough Council.

1.3 Bus Services (Network St Albans)

On November 1 I sent an email to Stephen Joseph of the Campaign for Better Transport stating that I had not had a reply to my letters of 8 May and 3 September.

I received a fairly prompt reply, but as I expected the money to improve bus services was confined to St Albans City only. In the email reply there was no mention that there would ever be any funds to improve the bus services District wide.

1.4 Harpenden Transportation Plan

As mentioned at the last Committee Meeting this had been published. The public event took place on 6 November which I visited and seemed to be well attended. At the time of writing this report I am analysing the detail of the Plan but it is over 200 pages long.

There are 5 sections in the Plan and I have listed these, plus the main elements in the attachment.

I will be making comment on the Plan both personally and on behalf of the Society before the due date of 5 December. Any comments would be welcome to help me with this.

2. Rail

2.1 Rail Bridge over Southdown Road : Skew Bridge

As promised in my last report I have written to Network Rail reminding them of their promise to deal with the Skew Bridge.

No reply yet.

2.2 Harpenden Station

The preparatory work to install ticket gates has recently commenced. I do not fully understand how the 4 separate entrances will be covered by 2 sets of gates.

I have reminded FCC that the booking office is (I believe) a locally listed building and is in the Conservation Area.

HARPENDEN TRANSPORTATION PLAN

Headings & Elements

1. Accessibility Improvements at Harpenden Station

Southern entrance from Crabtree Lane
Increased provision of cycle parking
Improvements to Station forecourt
Footbridge & lifts
Additional blue badge parking
Improvement to layout of taxi bays
Expand entrances to car parks
Improve junction of Station Road and station access roads
Second level to east car park
Mini-bus/taxi shuttle from villages/outskirts of Harpenden

2. Improvements to Cycle Network

Improved access to railway station & town centre
Nicky line to railway station
Nicky line to Lee Valley route
Nicky line & Lee Valley routes to town centre
Cycle/pedestrian routes West Common to Common
Alternative access to town centre, via parallel cycle route alongside A1081
Lee Valley route improvements
Increased provision of cycle parking in town centre
Increased level of cycling information and promotion
Harpenden to Redbourn cycle route via Rothamstead
Cycle route from Roundwood avoiding A1081

3. Demand Management/Smarter Choices/Sustainable Transport

Expand Controlled Parking Zone (CPZ)
Increased use of season tickets at car parks
Improved signage to off street car parks
Encourage greater take up and promotion of Safer Routes to Schools
Workplace travel plans for major employers
Station travel plan
Increase levels of provision of sustainable transport information
Active promotion of sustainable travel modes
Improve access to local hospitals
Real time information provision for public transport
Ensure DDA compliance of buses and bus stops

4. Safety Concerns/Speed Compliance/Walking Issues

Speed limit compliance : Walkers Road
Speed limit compliance : Grove Road
Speed limit compliance : Wheathampstead Road
Improve existing pedestrian crossings A1081, West Common to Common
Improve pedestrian environment on narrow pavement under Nicky Line bridge

Ditto but on Ambrose Lane bridge over Nicky Line
Ditto but on Sun Lane over railway line bridge
Ditto but Ox Lane under the Lee Valley route bridge
Ditto but to Southdown Road under skew bridge
Improved pedestrian access to Wheathampstead
Improved pedestrian access to Harpenden Rugby Club from Harpenden along Redbourn Lane
Improved pedestrian facilities at Bull Road roundabout
Improved pedestrian facilities from Harpenden Common to the existing pedestrian network

5. Other Schemes

Resigning Luton from A414 and St Albans from Luton via M1
Improvements to A1081 and B652 within town centre
Increase promotion of Community Transport services
Increase use of Hospital shuttle services
Remove zonal 7.5T weight limits and impose weight limits on minor roads plus introduce a Freight Quality Partnership
Leyton Road 20 mph zone
Improvements to the zebra crossing at the junction of Station Road and Lower High Street
Pedestrianisation of part of Lower High Street (Station Road to Vaughan Road only)

The Harpenden Green Belt Association

The last meeting of the Society, which was addressed by the new planning officer for SADC, was timed very fortuitously, and the Association is very grateful to Brian Turberville for arranging it.

The meeting took place just when we were becoming very concerned about SADC's attitude to building on the green belt. There were suggestions that SADC's clear statements of last year that there would be no building on Harpenden's green belt were being overlooked as a new Local Development Framework (LDF) was being put together.

The Association has been engaging very busily with SADC, and though the new LDF has not taken shape yet we are now hopeful that it will respect the undertakings that SADC had previously given the residents of Harpenden.

I will report to the Society as matters develop.

Richard Thomas
Chairman, The Harpenden Green Belt Association

Harpenden Society

Treasurer's Report 29 November 2010

Income	3,136.91	
Interest	<u>14.32</u>	3,151.23
Room hire	658.75	
Advert	336.78	
Insurance	172.50	
Donations	6 46.00	
print	1,015.49	
Comm exp	254.49	
ULV	5 50.00	
Treasurer's records	243.00	
Flower bed sponsorship & flower competition	213.00	
Display boards	<u>38.47</u>	
	<u>494.47</u>	2,869.73
Net cash flow 1.1 to 29.11.10		<u>£281.50</u>

Cash at bank	
Nat West	2,342.61
CAF	9,549.08
	<u>£11,891.69</u>

Notes

- 1 The CAF account has been changed
- 2 The NatWest mandate papers were lost by the bank and are having to be re-prepared
- 3 Some of the expenses include items for 2009 that were not included as paid after 31.12.09
- 4 No Gift Aid refund has been received

Circulated at meeting.

HARPENDEN SOCIETY

Committee Meeting - Monday 18 October 2010
at 7.30 p.m. in St John's Church Hall, St John's Road, Harpenden

Agenda

- 1 Apologies for absence
- 2 Minutes of meeting held on 6 September 2010
- 3 Matters arising
- 4 Items for AOB
- 5 Update and discussion of reports
 - a) Transport – road and rail - 6/11/10 - Park Hall - Urban Transport Team - 9.30pm meeting - Visit.
 - b) Transport – air
 - c) Plans
 - d) Commons and greens
 - e) Town Council & Minutes re: Quarterly Meeting with Town Clerk (8 November '10)
 - f) Environment
 - g) Green Belt
 - h) Batford
 - i) ULVG
- 6 Newsletter – next edition - Next Meeting - 21/10/10 - New Planning Officer.
- 7 Chairman's items
- 8 Correspondence
- 9 Finance – Current State
- 10 Events
- 11 AOB:
 - ✓(i) Marketing of the Society – Caroline reporting
 - ✓(ii) Jubilee Celebrations 2012 – Report by Caroline - 4/7/10.
 - ✓(iii) Gift Aid – Application for 2010 - Secretary
 - ✓(iv) Membership Card – Need to check accuracy of information – matters raised
 - ✓(v) ANTAS Meeting – AGM 30.10.10 at Chesham – Secretary attending.
- 12 Date of next meetings: 29th November 2010; 10th January 2011.

Secretary.

HARPENDEN SOCIETY

Committee Meeting 18 October 2010

Report for Agenda item 5(a) Transport

1. Roads etc.

1.1 Pedestrian Crossing : Leyton Road

Work in progress and should be completed by the end of October. The closure of Leyton Road has caused considerable tailbacks on the A1081 approaching from St Albans, which indicates how much it is used as a "rat-run" to avoid the town centre.

1.2 Pedestrian Crossings : High Street

Both sets of traffic signals have been replaced on the crossings in the High Street. These are of a different type with no Green Man. They also detect vehicles by means of sensors mounted on the poles instead of loops in the road surface. I will monitor to ascertain if this is more efficient than before.

1.3 M1 Junction 10A

Thanks to Brian Turberville who visited the exhibition and provided me with a leaflet I was able to make comment to Luton Borough Council on the proposals for the junction. I will give further details at the meeting if required.

1.4 Road Closures for Re-surfacing

Two significant roads will be closed during November/December for resurfacing or reconstruction. These are Milton Road and Topstreet Way. The speed humps in Topstreet Way will be removed but then replaced with the rubber/plastic type as fitted in Crabtree Lane.

2. Rail

2.1 Rail Bridge over Southdown Road : Skew Bridge

On checking my records and the bridge I find that the promise made by Network Rail in their letter of last November has not been fulfilled because the ivy etc has not been removed.

I will therefore write to Network Rail to remind them of their commitment.

2.2 Harpenden Station

The platform extensions to accommodate 12 coach trains have been opened without ceremony (unlike St Albans). However they will not be used until late 2011 when the 12 coach trains are introduced. A 12 coach set is undergoing testing on the Thameslink route at the present time.

MCH

13.10.2010

SADC ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM MEETING 13/9/10 EVENING

I attended for the Society along with ca. 25 others representing other local groups under the Chairmanship of the new Portfolio holder, Melvyn Teare. The main theme was how to spot, and then tackle, "Fuel Poverty" in the district based on a presentation by Tim Shand from the Energy Saving Trust – which has 18 advisers in the Eastern Region (accessible on 0800 512 012). Similarly insulation advice from the HEEP (Herts. Essex Energy Partnership) scheme on 0800 980 6026. Definition is that a household would need more than 10% of its disposable income to ensure adequate heating (WHO suggest 21C for the living room and 18C for the rest of the house – which some may query as on the high side). Usually affected are the elderly living on their own, sometimes having been tempted by switching suppliers, and can be difficult to identify unless e.g. noted by a GP, visiting Social Worker or Meals on Wheels provider. Much talk about the need to insulate and the various schemes available – including one for solid wall houses using a 1cm thick foam interior wall coating. Typically 30,000 additional deaths during winter ascribed to this cause.

I asked if the officers could construct a brief summary of contact numbers etc. which could be provided to e.g. GP surgeries as it is essential to make it easy for those visiting the elderly to communicate the problem to e.g. the SADC and suggested, which they agreed to do, that the text be sent to the Editor of the Harpenden Forum, ideally in time for the next (Winter) issue, and indeed also to me for the Society to consider incorporating it in a future Newsletter. (Not just to inform our own membership but also those who know others who may be in difficulties and perhaps not prepared to admit it – my own feeling is the phrase "Fuel Poverty" does not help in that regard and maybe we should use an alternative form of words).

In Harpenden the Seniors Forum covers much of these issues.

Other contributions were made from the floor and overall it was a lively meeting though tended to stray away from the topic into more general heating/insulation issues (there is, or should be, a IR heat loss detector available for hire from the HTC). There was then an open forum on recycling, various waste issues including the possibility of the group visiting e.g. the company which converts our compostable waste from the green wheelie bin.

JD

Harpenden Society

Minutes of the committee meeting held at St John's Church Hall, Harpenden on 6th September 2010 at 7.30pm

Present:

Mr A Steele (Chairman), Mrs B Suitters, Mr P Barrett, Mr M Howe, Mrs C Stanton, Mr D Bullimore, Mr K Nash, Mr R Thomas, Mr I Fulton, Mr C Grey, Mr M Howe, Ms B Ouston, Dr J Davis, Mr A Allen, Mr J Hunt

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed Barbara Ouston and Arnold Allen to the committee

1. **Apologies for absence:**
Mrs L Weekes, Mrs P Ayres, Mrs Horne, Mr K Jennings
2. **Minutes of committee meeting of 5th July 2010**
 - 2.1 5.4.2 Number of signs depend on the size of a plot / plots.
 - 2.2 5.2.1 To read 'Harpenden's stance on local flight paths'
- 3 **Matters arising**
Query on Michael Weaver's interest in joining the society's committee.
- 4 **Items for AOB**
 - 4.1 Constitution Revisions
 - 4.2 Historical Papers
 - 4.3 M1 Junction improvement scheme
 - 4.4 Jubilee celebrations 2012
5. **Reports**
 - 5.1 **Transport (Road and Rail)**
 - 5.1.1. Mr Howe has rewritten to the Campaign for Better Transport about bus routes (Network St Albans). Money was to be available for St Albans district.
 - 5.1.2. Local transport plan. In touch with Rupert Thacker of Herts Highways. This is 4-5 months late as it will be October / November of this year.
 - 5.1.3. Pedestrian crossing Leyton Road near the Town Hall is imminent for construction.
 - 5.2 **Transport (Air)**
 - 5.2.1. Recent press coverage in the Herts Advertiser.
 - 5.2.2. Dr Davis reported that the noise is still loud between 6-9am on Sundays.
 - 5.2.3. Passenger traffic is down by 11%. Air movement is down by 11%. Movement by aircraft at night has increased.
 - 5.2.4. Dr Davis and Mr MacArthur encouraged the Town Council to write a letter to NATS about the possibility of re-consulting on the idea of looping the departing aircraft to the south of Harpenden during easterly winds. The Town Council has written and now been told that the consultation will start later this year
 - 5.2.5. Mr Thomas stated that there was some concern about Mr MacArthur's group being part of the Society, and this was well justified. The concern was that the Society could become a one issue society. It was agreed that Mr MacArthur will not be invited to join the committee.
 - 5.3 **Plans**
 - 5.3.1 No significant items to report.
 - 5.3.2 Mr Turberville stated that he would like to become involved in the plans group.
 - 5.3.3 Mr Barrett asked Mr Turberville whether the Society should ask relevant questions regarding plans (and other issues pertinent to the town) of the local council speakers booked to speak at next few Society events. This would include enforcement issues – such as residential properties being used for business premises.
Mr Turberville let the committee know that Helen Cheesborough will be speaking in October for a Society event. Any questions are to be submitted to Mr Turberville to be put forward for in preparation for Ms Cheesborough's talk.

- 5.3.4 James Marshall House. Mr Howe asked whether there had been any comments on the situation. Mr Steele replied that the new application was reasonable.

5.4 Commons & Greens

- 5.4.1 Environment Committee: The Town Council are trying to obtain management control of Batford Springs. There has been a change of portfolio holder and the Town Clerk is trying to negotiate terms of a lease. There is also some talk of joining with the ULVG.
- 5.4.2 Green Flag has been issued *awarded for the 3rd year running*
- 5.4.3 Golf Club committee have been asking permission from the Town Council to make minor alterations.
- 5.4.4 Nickey Line. The District Council is planning to put in a shrub bed near the bridge.
- 5.4.5 Rovers Football Club. They have been promoted and now have to adhere to FA rules. The issue is that it is common land and there are no permanent structures to be erected.
- 5.4.6 Mr Turberville asked if there had been any details of the flower beds being uprooted just before the Harpenden Carnival. Mr Nash replied that there had had been no comments. Mr Steele stated that he would include this in his next meeting with the Town Clerk.

5.5 Town Council

- 5.5.1 Nothing to add from Mr Nash
- 5.5.2 Mr Barrett reported on the Quarterly Meeting with the Town Clerk and minutes were issued.
- 5.5.3 Town Clocks. Mr Thomas gave a brief history on the C&A clock. The existence of this was thanks to the Society and the Town Council.

5.6 Environment

- Dr Davis is to attend SADC meeting and will report at the next meeting.

5.7 Green Belt

- 5.7.1 Mr Thomas stated that our district is in discussion of who is to take responsibility of the new housing targets (previously issued by the last government – East of England Draft Development Plan).
- 5.7.2 Mr Steele suggested that the issue of the area north of Harpenden should be taken up with Helen Cheesborough. The suggestion is that the housing development stay within the current boundaries.

5.8 Batford

- 5.8.1 £8-10,000 is available for the slide in Porters Park
- 5.8.2 £25,000 to fit and produce the kids play area. This would be with a local company
- 5.8.3 Police Ward meeting on Thursday 9th
- 5.8.4 2012 Jubilee celebration – Group meeting invitation for Mr grey on 7th October.
- 5.8.5 *Continue Late bus stop. Sloped and not wheelchair friendly. It is being looked at*
- 5.8.6 New Christmas lights for Batford.

5.9 Upper Lea Valley Group

- 5.9.1 Nothing to report.

6 Newsletter

- 6.1 Newsletter is in the process of being delivered.
- 6.2 Mr Thomas is to deliver the flyers to Ms Ouston for delivering with the newsletter
- 6.3 The next issue of the newsletter is due early December and copy is needed end of October.

7 Chairman's Items

- 7.1 None

8 Correspondence

- 8.1 Your Voice – Policy & Finance
- 8.2 Christmas Lights survey results
- 8.3 Invitation to AGM on 13th September for Herts & Middlesex Wildlife Trust

9 Finance

- 9.1 Expenses come to £400 approx
- 9.2 Mr Barrett is to hand over to Mr Allen as the new Treasurer
- 9.3 Mr Barrett reported on the number of signatories and will organise Mr Allen becoming a signatory.

10 Events

- 10.1 Speakers are arranged for the Autumn
- 10.2 Christmas Event is on 9th December.
- 10.3 Mr Fulton asked if Peter Lilley had any limitations for his talk in September. Mr Turberville has spoken to his secretary and is waiting for any final details.

11 AOB

- 11.1 Constitution Revision. A copy has been circulated. The Constitution needs to make provision for Trustees and financial issues (crisis management).
Mr Thomas stated that an earlier meeting that the constitution was a little inflexible in regards to the Environment. Mr Thomas suggested that the wording in the constitution could state "for the town" and remove the word environment. Mr Hunt suggested changing this to "enhance the local area". The Committee agreed as it remained consistent with the objectives.

The Committee approved the Constitution subject to the above amendment.

Official approval will be sought at the next AGM and circulated prior to this in the February issue of the Newsletter. The Secretary should be notified by 30.9.10. if there are any other amendments.

11.2 Historical Papers

Passed over by Mrs Ayres and they currently reside with Dr Davis, who has organised the information. The summary (13 pages) was circulated to the Committee and Dr Davis asked the Committee to read the final draft as Committee members are mentioned within the document. Dr Davis will meet with the County Archivist regarding the material.

11.3 Gift Aid

Mr Barrett is establishing who is responsible for various documents regarding gift aid and to meet with Ms Ouston and Mrs Suitters.

11.4 Post Office Closure?

Mr Barrett had heard a suggestion that there could be a possibility that the main Post Office would close and residents would pick up parcels from the sorting office at Hemel Hempstead. Mr Barrett suggested alternative units. The Town Council would be notified first. Mr Barrett is to email the Town Clerk.

11.5 Long Standing Members

It was agreed the funds could be used to purchase gifts for retiring long-standing members.

11.6 Mr Weaver

The situation will not arise until next year. This will be dealt with in accordance with the normal procedure for potential committee members. They would then be approved by the Committee.

11.7 M1 Junction 10a

Luton Council want to create a flyover. There will be an exhibition on Friday 10th at Stockwood Discovery Centre (11am – 8pm) and Saturday 11th at the Arndale Centre. Mr Turberville will visit to gather any relevant information.

- 11.5 Jubilee Celebrations. Paul Smith at the Town Council submitted a letter to Mrs Stanton regarding the initial meeting for the celebrations, as a representative of the Society. Mr Bullimore and Mr Turberville will also attend the meeting on 7th October and will report back to the Committee at the subsequent meeting.

- 11.6 Mr Turberville reminded the committee of the possibility of picnic benches on the common. Mr Turberville gave the information regarding possible benches to Mr Steele for discussion at the next meeting with the Town Clerk.

- 12 **Dates of next meetings:** 18th October, 29th November


18/10/10

HARPENDEN SOCIETY

Committee Meeting - Monday 6th September 2010
at 7.30 p.m. in St John's Church Hall, St John's Road, Harpenden

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- 5 Update and discussion of reports
 - a) Transport – road and rail
 - b) Transport – air
 - c) Plans
 - d) Commons and greens
 - e) Town Council & Minutes re: Quarterly Meeting with Town Clerk
 - f) Environment - *Next Meeting on 12/9/10*
 - g) Green Belt
 - h) Batford
 - i) ULVG
- 6 Newsletter – next edition . *End of October.*
- 7 Chairman's items
- 8 Correspondence
- 9 Finance – Current State
- 10 Events
- 11 AOB:
 - (i) Revision of the Constitution by the Trustees
 - (ii) Summary/Commentary of Treasurers Documents – John Davis
 - (iii) Gift Aid – Preparation of claim to Inland Revenue - Secretary
 - (iv) Potential closure of Main Post Office, Station Road - discuss
 - (v) Consideration of gift to retiring long-standing members – Brenda Suitters & Ann Tomkins
- 12 Date of next meetings: 18th October 2010; 29th November 2010.

Secretary.

Mary Barrett

From: "RICHARD THOMAS" <richardfthomas@btinternet.com>
To: "Lillian Weekes" <lyn.weekes@talktalk.net>; "Brian Turberville" <jackiebrianatpennycroft@yahoo.co.uk>; "Brenda Suitters" <brendasuitters@talktalk.net>; "Caroline Stanton" <cvstanton@hotmail.com>; "Oliver Randell" <omrandell@btinternet.com>; "Keith Jennings" <kaypjay@yahoo.co.uk>; "John Hunt" <gordon.hunt@sky.com>; "Malcolm Howe" <m.howe@stalbans.gov.uk>; "Rosemary Horne" <rmh.Harpenden@tiscali.co.uk>; "Chris Grey" <marion.grey@ntlworld.com>; "Duncan Bullimore" <duncan.bullimore@ntlworld.com>; "Penny Alcock" <jandpalcock@tiscali.co.uk>; "Anthony Steele" <ahsteele@bcs.org>; "Mary Barrett" <evelyn.barrett@btopenworld.com>
Sent: 04 September 2010 16:02
Subject: Re: HARPENDEN SOCIETY

The Harpenden Green Belt Association

My apologies for this unusual way of presenting my report but my pc is not functioning fully at the moment.

Our article in the next Society newsletter refers to a possibility currently before District Councillors that land in the north and south of Harpenden could be built on. Both areas are green belt, the southern area by Pipers Lane being bigger and thus having a much greater potential impact on our infrastructure.

The idea came from the new District planner, who submitted it to Councillors because she felt duty bound to inform them of their options. This is emphatically not the same as a recommendation from her department.

The Councillors are of course aware of the platform of defending the green belt on which they stood for election recently, and have noted the option.

We do not think there is any action we should be taking at the moment, as the District and County are still operating without housing targets, and the Coalition's policy is still unclear in this respect. However we are watching the situation carefully.

Richard Thomas
 Chairman
 4.9.10

04/09/2010

Harpenden Society

Minutes of the committee meeting held at St John's Church Hall, Harpenden on 5th July 2010 at 7.30pm

Present:

Mr A Steele (Chairman), Mr P Barrett, Mrs C Stanton, Mr D Bullimore, Mr K Nash, Mr R Thomas, Mr C Grey, Mr I Fulton, Dr Davis, Mr O Randell, Mr N MacArthur, Mrs B Ouston

1. **Apologies for absence:**
Mrs P Ayres, Mrs B Suitters, Mrs L Weekes, Mr A Allen, Mrs Home, Mr J Hunt, Mr K Jennings, Mr M Howe, Mr B Turberville
2. **Minutes of committee meeting of 10th May 2010**
 - 2.1 None
3. **Matters arising**
None
4. **Items for AOB**
 - 4.1 Voice your Choice
 - 4.2 Harpenden town sign
 - 4.3 Marketing activity
5. **Reports**
 - 5.1 **Transport (Road and Rail)**
Report submitted by Mr Howe
 - 5.2 **Transport (Air)**
 - 5.2.1 Introduction of Mr MacArthur and a proposal for a sub-committee for Harpenden's stance against Luton Airport issues which include:
on local flight paths
Safety Risk as aircraft as too low under height regulations
Part of a larger scale of airport traffic (Heathrow, Northolt etc)
Air traffic control
Environment
Noise & disturbance

Mr Bullimore asked whether this should be a sub-committee of the Harpenden Society or a group associated with the Harpenden Society.

Existing groups and examples were quoted highlighting the ethos of the Society and current arrangements of the Society.

Mr Barrett spoke of the objectives set out in the Constitution in terms of "environmental quality". Mr MacArthur, Dr Davis and Mr Thomas meet to discuss any campaign to oppose which the Society acknowledges in principle.
 - 5.3 **Plans**
 - 5.3.1 Mr Steele requested that the plans group needs an extra person, either temporarily or permanently.
 - 5.3.2 Issue of house on Sauncey Avenue being demolished and 2 built in its place by Jarvis.
 - 5.4 **Commons & Greens**
 - 5.4.1 June 24th Common Walk. Mr Nash reported that there is to be a walkway through the Spinney by Pimlico cottages. A good walk and well-recommended.
 - 5.4.2 Flowerbed sponsorship policy. Flowerbeds have been plotted and sponsor offered 1 or 2 signs, and size of signs dependant on ~~number~~ *size* of plots taken.
 - 5.5 **Town Council**

- 5.5.1 Budgets. 2 meetings per year. Internal and external audits. District Councils did not comply with deadlines as their accounts were not yet audited, but the Town Clerk requested that the district auditor was not aggravated.

5.6 Environment
Nothing to report.

5.7 Green Belt

- 5.7.1 St Albans district target of 7,200 houses and an increase of 10% imposed by the last government. The coalition government has said that the Regional Assembly is set to be abolished. The concern is for the coordination of running the new housing targets.

Required infrastructure is a concern, especially with the number and maintenance of schools. The immigration cap should reduce the demand for more housing.

Currently a state of flux for housing and planning and competition for resources between district and county. Mr Nash referred to the organisation of this issue during the 1970s.

5.8 Batford

- 5.8.1 Mr Steele commented on the opening of Porters Park and how well it went.
5.8.2 Mr Grey circulated the Batford newsletter, Forum, the Herts Ad and Focus newspaper where the opening was reported.
5.8.3 Police presence and Neighbourhood Watch is going well and situations have quietened down.
5.8.4 Funding sought for the park and the bench for Debbie Moore.
5.8.5 Leacroft accommodation. Replacement flat for last remaining resident has been shelved and money has been offered instead.
5.8.6 Shops are closing in Harpenden due to high rents. Mr Grey and Mr Steele asked if there was something that the Society could do to help promote local businesses. Mr Bullimore requested that a local businessman (shop owner) and publican be invited to the committee. Mr Nash stated that Mr Weaver may be interested in joining. Mr MacArthur stated he would be interested in developing local business promotion.
5.8.7 Veterans Day parade last year did not take place due to a number of reasons: police resources, financial reasons and insurance for the cadet force display. Mr Grey wrote to Peter Lilley MP to complain about this situation and the parade did take place but not in full capacity.

5.9 Upper Lea Valley Group

- 5.9.1 The society met the donation of £500 to the ULVG as approved at HS Meeting on 10.5.10., para. 9.2. a donation to the ULVG
5.9.2 Mr Randell circulated the latest newsletter and a report.

6 Newsletter

- 6.1 Copy date for September issue is 9th August. Mr Turberville has requested that copy arrives earlier.
6.2 The new leaflet will be inserted into the next issue of the newsletter.
6.3. Mr Bullimore suggested that an article be submitted about any proposals re: Luton Airport issues as they affect Harpenden Town.

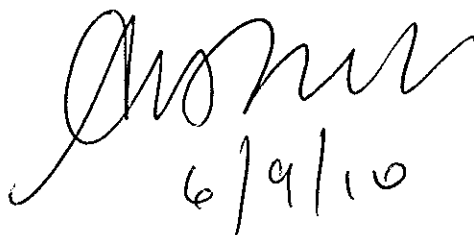
7 Chairman's Items

- 7.1 Membership Secretary. Mrs Suitters has retired and Mrs Ouston has agreed to undertake the work. Mrs Home is to help with the distribution of newsletters.
7.2 Voice your Choice – The Town Council has asked for suggestions for money (£26,000) available to be spent on town projects. Suggestions are the various clocks (C&A, Southdown, WH Smith etc) and Batford. Mr Steele agreed to write to the Town Council on the issues which could be discussed at our next quarterly meeting on 2.8.10 if need be.
7.3 Ernest Haseldine – designer of the Harpenden Sign. The metal plate on the sign is getting weather-beaten and Mr Steele suggested that the sign be restored. Town Council to be notified since it is their responsibility - emailer to be notified.

8 Correspondence

- 8.1 Local transport plan No.3. Strategic environmental assessment.

- 8.2 Mayor's event
8.3 Hitchin Society newsletter
8.4 Retail group funding approval information. Mr Nash reported that it was not approved by the town council.
- 9 **Finance**
9.1 New treasurer is Mr Allen.
9.2 Secretary reported expenditure: £364 for Discovery Day; £276 for forthcoming leaflet drop in Harpenden; £500 payment to ULVG and sundry smaller amounts totalling just over £1,000.
- 10 **Events**
10.1 A successful BBQ at Mr Turberville's house
10.2 Mr MacArthur suggested that Mr Lilley split his time between speaking and questions and be advised in advance. Mr Barrett to write a letter to Mr Lilley advising him. Note: Mr Turberville sent an email to confirm agreed arrangements re: the talk by Peter Lilley MP on 23.9.10, before any letter is sent.
- 11 **AOB**
11.1 Marketing – awareness and membership development
Discovery day
Mailer piece:
Newspaper
hand out to people at stations and schools (Mr Thomas)
Redevelopment of website intended
Debrief to happen and suggestions welcome for further development.
- 12 **Dates of next meetings**
6th September
18th October
29th November


6/9/10

HARPENDEN SOCIETY

Committee Meeting - Monday 5th July 2010
at 7.30 p.m. in St John's Church Hall, St John's Road, Harpenden

Agenda

- 1 Apologies for absence
- 2 Minutes of meeting held on 10th May 2010
- 3 Matters arising
- 4 Items for AOB
- 5 Neil Macarthur (see below) on Air Traffic, and Business Involvement with HS - *Approved*
- 6 Update and discussion of reports
Interest Group.
(no problem)
 - a) Transport – road and rail
 - b) Transport – air
 - c) Plans .
 - d) Commons and greens
 - e) Town Council
 - f) Environment
 - g) Green Belt
 - h) Batford
 - i) ULVG
- 7 Newsletter – next edition
- 8 Chairman's items
- 9 Correspondence
- 10 Finance – Current State
- 11 Events
- 12 AOB:
 - (i)
- 13 Date of next meetings: 6th September 2010; 18th October 2010.

Neil Macarthur - a recent new member, is interested in becoming a Committee member and has been invited to attend the meeting (see above)

Peter Barrett
Secretary.

Some notes prepared by Neil Macarthur are attached.

[1] Harpenden Air Traffic "Special Interest Group"

Luton air traffic is becoming an increasingly significant cause of disturbance and pollution for Harpenden Society members and the residential community. LADACAN has too wide a geographical spread and cannot satisfy all needs of individual communities which is one of the reasons why the NATS Terminal Control North [TCN] rerouting of Luton air-traffic failed to transpire and is currently on hold. My suggestion is a Harpenden focused special interest group within the society that will bring pressure to bear upon local politicians, Luton Airport, the CAA [NATS regulator] and NATS who are responsible for the routing. There are changes at in CAA policy that afford a leverage opportunity to re-establish TCN. Due to the widespread concern for this subject, it would act as a catalyst for new member recruitment.

[2] New Society Membership From Harpenden Business Community Initiative

A membership drive targeting new members from small local Harpenden businesses who have the opportunity to be "written-up" in the society newsletter in exchange for becoming members and either paid advertisers in the newsletter and/or promotion of society membership to their customers. The society's 600 members is a significant consumer group with the type of demographics that would appeal to many small local firms and the income from advertising would fund additional recruitment initiatives.

[3] Peter Lilley Event 23September

May I recommend that Peter Lilley is advised in advance that 30% of the time is for updating of members on local matters receiving his attention and the balance of time is for member questions. In my experience politicians will fill the available space so this simple agenda adjustment will ensure member interests are given an opportunity for airing.

HARPENDEN SOCIETY

Committee Meeting 5 July 2010

Report for Agenda item 5(a) Transport

1. Roads etc.

1.1 Repairs to Roads

Herts Highways continue their programme of road repairs. I note from the local paper that many roads are to be closed during July to allow repairs.

Some of the significant roads are : Leyton Road , Arden Grove, Southdown Road (length towards the Public Hall only), Meadow Walk.

The spray infilling to repair potholes that I mentioned in my last report appears to be quite successful.

1.2 Extension of CPZ/Waiting Restrictions

As mentioned in the notes from the meeting with the Town Council waiting restrictions are to be extended to prevent all day commuter parking in Leyton Road (at the rear of the Silver cup PH etc.) and the whole of West common, from the Silver cup right through to its junction with the A1081 including all of the short connecting roads.

1.3 Signage in Southdown Road (Minute 11.4)

I have yet to deal with this but it is not forgotten.

1.4 Bus Services (Minute 5.1.1)

I have yet to receive a reply to my letter of 8 May 2010 to the Campaign for Better Transport enquiring about local bus services. I will "chase" before the next meeting.

2. Rail

2.1 Harpenden Station

a) The platform extension for use by 12 coach trains have nearly been completed but I doubt if they will be open for the foreseeable future as the 12 coach trains are not due for introduction until December 2011.

The railway embankment alongside Carlton Road has been reinstated including the laying of topsoil. Hopefully vegetation will now regrow.

b) At the APTU meeting in May I learned that it is still FCC's intent to install ticket gates at Harpenden station. Quite how this will be done I do not understand. The actual station building containing the booking office is listed.

c) A new footbridge will be built during 2011. This will be further north along the platforms to reflect the location of the platform extensions. The new footbridge will include lifts.

Interestingly it is proposed that the existing footbridge will remain.

MCH

28.6.2010

UPPER LEA VALLEY GROUP REPORT TO

THE HARPENDEN SOCIETY COMMITTEE MEETING 8.7.10

1. Group Name

Since its formation in 1972 the Group has been known as the Upper Lea Valley Group. In reality for the past decade or more virtually all work has been on the Batford Springs Nature Reserve and its immediate environs. It has become apparent that our efforts to make the Reserve better known to the residents and to attract more volunteers are being hampered by the ULVG name which does not carry the message we wish to project. Whilst ULVG will continue to be the business name of the Group for the present, we will from now use the operational name Batford Springs Nature Reserve and the ULVG members will be known as the Batford Springs Volunteers.

This change provides a name immediately recognisable to all residents and more accurately describes the role of the members. Our new logo (to be shown at the meeting) will be of the Batford Springs Nature Reserve and this is the title we will use on our web site, in leaflets and newsletters and all other communications with the general public.

2. Core Committee

Two years ago the ULVG changed its informal operation to that of an unincorporated institution with a constitution and formally elected officers. For the first year the three officers have handled the running of the Group. It is now time to establish a Core Committee, reporting to the AGM, to formally run the Group. An initial meeting of the officers has been held to define the basic methods of operation and we expect to co-opt two members onto this committee in the near future. It is planned that the role of the committee and its composition will be formally ratified at the next AGM in March 2011.

3. Recent Activity

Monthly work parties have continued with attendance currently above 2009 levels. We are facing a problem with a leak in the southern edge of the pond which is draining the pond as quickly as the springs fill it resulting on a lower than normal water level. A second attempt is to be made on 4/7 to stem the flow.

Our other main concern is the condition of the two reed beds. The one nearest the river, having been commercially recovered some years ago is again falling to the influx of nettles. Conversely, the reed bed in the pond is flourishing in this season's weather and threatening to cover the entire pond. We have sought professional advice on both problems. Given we can raise the man power have possible solutions available to us.

The 4th Harpenden Scouts are continuing to work with us and spent two evenings working on the Reserve in early July.

4. Reserve Signage

We have now obtained the funding to create and erect four name signs at the entrances to the Reserve and up to four observation boards. Work on this project will commence shortly and we hope to have the signs in place later in the year.

5. Botanical Study

Under the direction of a Cambridge University based botanist we are planning a full botanical study of the Reserve. The plan is to identify and locate as much of the flora as possible using volunteer labour. It is hoped to recruit volunteers from local 6th forms and Universities.

6. Common Discovery Day 19th June

The Group participated in this event as the Batford Springs Volunteers. The day proved to be a success in spite of the wind with over 60 people expressing an interest. We hope to attract a number of new working volunteers.

7. Publicity

The Discovery Day was used to launch our new quarterly publication - Batford Springs Community Newsletter (copies at the meeting). The objective is to circulate it to all organisations associated with us or geographically close to us to keep the local community informed of our presence and activities.

Our new website – batfordsprings.org.uk – was launched at the beginning of June. This will be a 'managed' vehicle with the latest news and activities. It will have an excellent introductory video made by one of our members.

8. Reserve Ownership

Negotiations with SADC and HTC continue. Whilst no decision has yet been reached the signs are that there will be action later this year to begin the process of transfer to HTC either directly or initially on a lease.

We are maintaining our long-term contact with the H&M Wildlife Trust in relation to Reserve management and conservation issues. The progression of this relationship may well interrelate to the progress of the ownership negotiations but they currently have serious strains on their financial and manpower resources.

9. HS funding

On my last visit to the committee the HS kindly voted for a grant of £500 to the ULVG. I believe that Anthony spoke with our Chairman about its possible use and the timing of the transfer of the funds. The project we had in the pipeline was the training (including safety equipment) of a volunteer for chainsaw work. We cannot obtain PL cover for this vital work unless the operative holds the appropriate certificate. The candidate is now deciding on the course date so the receipt of the funds would be very welcome.

Oliver Randell
Secretary, ULVG 24.6.10

What is the maximum amount for a projects and how many projects will funded?

The overall budget for the projects is in the region of £26,000. The number of projects funded will depend on which projects are preferred by the public. One large project may be funded or a range of smaller projects. The project may be as simple as a new picnic bench or hanging baskets for an area or larger projects such as improve the Christmas lights, Town Centre car parking or improve a retail area to increase footfall.

Who will lead the projects?

The most appropriate organisation for the particular project will lead the project. This may be the organisation who has suggested the idea, the Town Council or the Town Council may seek an organisation to lead the project. Just because you have suggested an idea does not mean you have to lead it.

How to apply:

Please click here to complete the application form.

If you want to nominate more than one idea please register each project separately. This can be done on-line or write to the Town Council marked Ideas Please, Voice Your Choice, using the same headings as the form below.

Closing date:

The closing date for ideas is Friday 30 July 2010.

Further information:

If you want to discuss your ideas prior to entering please contact Helen Eadon on 01582 463665.

Voice Your Choice

Ideas Please! Your chance to spend £26,000.

We know people living locally have the best knowledge of an area and know what needs to be done to improve it. This is your chance to tell the Town Council how you would improve Harpenden and perhaps see your idea in action.

The Town Council has been awarded approximately £26,000 from St Albans City and District Council (SADC) via the Local Authority Business Growth Incentive scheme (LABGI) to spend for the benefit of local commerce and local people.

The Town Council has agreed that the community will decide how this money should be spent. First the Town Council needs to know about great initiatives which should be funded. The Town Council will look at the feasibility of all the suggestions and then you will be able to 'Voice Your Choice' by voting on your favourite projects.

The Town Council needs your ideas. If you have a project or initiative which would benefit local people or commerce then make sure you let the Town Council know about it. If you don't tell us, who will!

What projects will be funded?

The remit of the projects is very broad but it needs to fit into one of the following themes:

Safer Communities – tackling crime, disorder, anti-social behaviour

Children and young people – improve provision for young people, improve play areas, sporting facilities

Environment – managing/improving open spaces, litter, pollution, promote environmentally friendly living

Economy – improve the shopping area, running training courses

Older People – improve services for elderly people

Sport, Leisure and Recreation – improving sports and entertainment for local people

Community – improve facilities and amenities for local people, enhance community engagement and involvement

Special interest groups – develop local organisations or community events

It is important that there are no large running cost implications to ensure the future of the project.

Who can suggest ideas?

Ideas can come from individuals, community groups, charities or businesses but the project must benefit local commerce or local people.

Who will decide which projects are chosen?

The feasibility of all suggested projects will be investigated. A list of all feasible projects will be compiled and all residents of Harpenden will be asked to 'Voice their Choice' by voting for their favourite projects.

Harpenden Society

Minutes of the committee meeting held at St John's Church Hall, Harpenden on 10th May 2010 at 7.30pm

Present:

Mr A Steele (Chairman), Mrs B Suitters, Mr P Barrett, Mr M Howe, Mrs C Stanton, Mr D Bullimore, Mr K Nash, Mr R Thomas, Mr K Jennings, Mr C Grey

1. Apologies for absence:

Dr Davies, Mrs L Weekes, Mrs P Ayres, Mrs Horne, Mr J Hunt, Mr I Fulton, Mr B Turberville, Mr O Randell.

2. Minutes of committee meeting of 29th March 2010

2.1 Mr O Randell did attend the meeting on 29th March 2010.

3 Matters arising

None

4 Items for AOB

4.1 Constitution

4.2 Signage at Southdown Road

4.3 St Nicholas School

5. Reports

5.1 Transport (Road and Rail)

Report submitted by Mr Howe

5.1.1 Mr Howe commented on the article in Herts Advertiser regarding cash for bus services and has written to the paper asking whether this would cover the services to and from Harpenden.

5.2 Transport (Air)

5.2.1 The 6 day volcanic ash episode, and resulting blanket cancellations from Luton Airport and elsewhere came at a particularly good time for Harpenden residents (being during easterly winds and inevitable Harpenden over flights).

5.3 Plans

5.3.1 Mr Steele commented on a house in Pennycroft which has requested permission for demolishing and rebuilding. The society is to object.

5.4 Commons & Greens

5.4.1 Discovery Day. Volunteers for one hour – Mr Bullimore, Mrs Suitters, Mr Jennings, Mr Barrett. There is available budget for a small gazebo. Mr Grey has offered the use of a table. The Marketing sub-committee will meet to discuss promotional material.

5.4.2 Sponsorship proposal for farmers' market. Put forward by a local estate agent.

5.5 Town Council

5.5.1 Budgets. Discussion of the levels of earmarked and general reserves as very high amounts. Overbudgeting each year.

5.5.2 Mr Thomas suggested getting together with the Town Council to discuss projects for the town's improvements.

5.6 Environment

Nothing to report.

5.7 Green Belt

5.7.1 Mr Bullimore commented on the Bushwood development on the edge of Caddington. Mr Thomas stated that there have been a number of proposals for housing by Luton but the Harpenden Green Belt Association does not have influence in the Bedfordshire area. Mr Thomas is monitoring the progress of the development at Junction 10 as well.

- 5.8 Batford**
5.8.1 22nd May Opening of Porters Park, attended by Watford Football Club. 10.30-12.30am
5.8.2 Police Ward meeting. Discussion over anti-social behaviour in the Batford area by one group of people e.g. misuse of motorcycles, and the use of a complaints number. Mr Grey was concerned about the issue of drugs activity in the area. The Batford area is in the Police Pledge.
5.8.3 Mr Grey mentioned that there is a police cadet force being started in the area.
5.8.4 BCAG litter pick with involvement of SADC and residents. There was a very large amount of litter and dumped material. The unused garages still have a lot of refuse in them/around them.
5.8.5 Waterside Coffee Bar. Application to turn it into an Indian takeaway. BCAG has opposed this. Mr Grey to supply Mr Steele with information on planning and licensing.
- 5.9 Upper Lea Valley Group**
5.9.1 Nothing to report.
- 6 Newsletter**
6.1 Copy date for September issue is 9th August.
- 7 Chairman's Items**
7.1 Membership Secretary. Mr Steele and Mrs Suitters are to discuss the post with a proposed volunteer. Mrs Suitters and Mrs Home to discuss the duties of the post.
7.2 Marketing suggestion through the estate agents.
- 8 Correspondence**
8.1 Policing & Community Service. 12th May in St Albans – Secretary is attending.
8.2 SADC is going to the High Court regarding high % increase of gypsies and travellers in the area. 28-29th July.
8.3 Keep it Local Loyalty Card.
8.4 Civic Voice. Proposal of £500, perhaps raised to £800. ANTAS offered an amount on behalf of a cluster of societies. Many societies waiting to see what happens before committing.
- 9 Finance**
9.1 Expenditure since Jan 2010 is £404 including printing costs, insurance etc. Similar to last year. Income £143 for membership & tea/coffee.
9.2 Donations for BCAG and ULVG. BCAG does not require a donation at present. ULVG has requested £200 for banners out of the £500 donation suggested.
9.3 Update from Trustees meetings since the AGM. Two signatures required on a cheque at any time, in total three signatories. Nat West and CAF Banks have confirmed mandate have been accepted as requested.
The second meeting was an update on the society's position.
9.4 A letter of resignation as Treasurer has been received from Mrs Weekes". This is what the Committee requested. Arnold Allen, a member of the society, has been asked to become the Treasurer. Position discussed in detail with Mr Arnold by Messrs Jennings, Steele & Barrett. Approved. Mr Barrett is to help with information when required, as is Mrs Ayres.
- 10 Events**
10.1 Mr Turberville asked for names for the Summer BBQ 6pm on Friday, 25th June.
- 11 AOB**
11.1 St Nicholas School Community Cohesion. Request for further involvement with the community. Mr Barrett is to write to the school clarifying the society's position, putting forward the newsletter for communication and suggestion of ULVG activity involvement.
11.2 Remembrance Day Parade. To discuss with the Town Clerk.
11.3 Constitution and Trustees. Mr Hunt has compiled a draft copy of key points which Trustees were given approval to consider.
11.4 Signage in Southdown Road. Parking sign screwed into the wall. The council have been contacted but has had no response. The owner removed the sign but it has since been put back. The wall predates the cottages by hundreds of years. Mr Howe to investigate.
- 12 Dates of next meetings**
5th July, 6th September, 18th October, 29th November



5/7/10

HARPENDEN SOCIETY

Committee Meeting - Monday 10th May 2010
at 7.30 p.m. in St John's Church Hall, St John's Road, Harpenden

Agenda

- 1 Apologies for absence
- 2 Minutes of meeting held on 29th March 2010
- 3 Matters arising
- 4 Items for AOB
- 5 Update and discussion of reports
 - a) Transport – road and rail
 - b) Transport – air
 - c) Plans
 - d) Commons and greens
 - e) Town Council
 - f) Environment
 - g) Green Belt
 - h) Batford
 - i) ULVG
- 6 Newsletter – next edition
- 7 Chairman's items
- 8 Correspondence
- 9 Finance – Current State
- 10 Events
- 11 AOB:
 - (i) Report re: 2 meetings of the Trustees and the co-opting of a potential new Treasurer.
 - (ii) Discuss a letter from St Nicholas School, Harpenden, entitled "Community Cohesion".
 - (iii) Representation on the annual Remembrance Day Parade.
- 12 Date of next meetings: **5th July 2010; 6th September 2010.**

The Quarterly Meeting with the Town Clerk scheduled for Monday 10th May 2010 has been postponed to Monday 24th May 2010 at 9am.

The Secretary will be attending the biannual meeting of ANTAS on Saturday 8th May 2010 and report accordingly.

Secretary.

HARPENDEN SOCIETY

Committee Meeting 10 May 2010

Report for Agenda item 5(a) Transport

1. Roads etc.

1.1 Repairs to Roads

Herts Highways continue to carry out repairs to damaged roads and seem to be carrying out more extensive work rather than just infilling holes. The top of Piggotshill Lane between Topstreet Way and Alzey Gardens is an example.

A spray infill is also being used which seems to work satisfactorily. I will be interested to see how long these repairs last.

1.2 Hertfordshire Local Transport Plan

I have just received a letter from HCC inviting comments on the "Scoping Study" for the development of the next Local Transport Plan (LTP3) which will run from 1 April 2011 to 2031. The deadline for responses is 4 June 2010. I do not understand the point of this as in my opinion these LTPs seem to make little difference to transport in the County.

However I will have the letter available at the meeting if discussion is required.

2. Rail

2.1 Platform Extensions, Harpenden Station

Work on these continue, but slowly, perhaps this is why such projects cost so much. The bank alongside Carlton Road has been cleared and tidied to some extent but has still not been finished satisfactorily.

MCH

5.5.2010

Harpenden Society

Minutes of the committee meeting held at St John's Church Hall, Harpenden on 29th March 2010 at 7.30pm

Present:

Mr A Steele (Chairman), Mr P Barrett, Mr J Hunt, Mr K Jennings, Mrs R Horne, Dr J Davis, Mr M Howe, Mr K Nash, Mr D Bullimore, Miss C Stanton, Mr C Grey, Mr B Turberville. *Mr O. RANJEL.*

1. **Apologies for absence:**
Mr I Fulton, Ms A Tomkins, Mrs B Sutters, Mrs L Weekes, Mrs P Ayres, Mr R Thomas.
2. **Minutes of committee meeting of 8th February 2009**
 - 2.1 Signed
3. **Matters arising**
 - 3.1 Dr Davis asked that the direct line for litter bins be included in the next issue of the newsletter.
4. **Items for AOB**
 - 4.1 Accounts update. The committee discussed the post of Treasurer and a letter explaining the constitutional position is to be sent to Mrs Weekes, signed by the two Vice-Presidents on the absence of the President, asking her to clarify her resignation and wishing her a speedy recovery.
 - 4.2 Mr Hunt is to suggest amendments to the constitution for agreement by the committee.
 - 4.3 Mrs Horne to be included on the newsletter committee for proof-reading
 - 4.4 Archiving
5. **Reports**
 - 5.1 **Transport (Road and Rail)**
 - 5.1.1 Mr Howe submitted a report.
 - 5.1.2 Dr Davis contacted the hotline for the roads and asked if the repairs contractors carried out are surveyed. Anyone wishing to report work required on the roads (potholes) should request a reference number to enable them to follow up the situation. Mr Grey updated this by commenting that a house number or lamppost number helps identify the area where repairs are needed.
 - 5.2 **Transport (Air)**
 - 5.2.1 NATS suggestion of two flight paths being diverted away from Harpenden (to the north and south) was indefinitely postponed. Details were distributed by Dr Davis at the AGM.
 - 5.3 **Plans**
 - 5.3.1 Plans North Meeting held on 29.3.10. discussing the application re: the demolition of James Marshall House and the redevelopment with flats, etc. The Society is not objecting.
 - 5.3.2 Jameson Road. The Society is objecting to the building of several large houses within another property's garden.
 - 5.3.3 Derwent Road / The Common in Kinsbourne Green. Proposal for a cluster of 5 houses, then reduced to 3. A further application for 3 houses amended (but still higher than surrounding houses). The appeal against the decision was won. The builder appealed against the second decision and found favour. Mr Barrett is to pursue the cost and infrastructure implications.
 - 5.4 **Commons & Greens**
 - 5.4.1 Update is covered well in Forum magazine.
 - 5.4.2 Common Discovery Day - a gazebo to be set up for the Harpenden Society on 19th June. Volunteers requested.
 - 5.5 **Town Council**
 - 5.5.1 The Town Council has decided to allow accommodation to the Harpenden History Society in Park Hall until a permanent location can be found.
 - 5.6 **Environment**

- 5.6.1. Arnold Allen has been put forward for the Environment representative on the committee but Dr Davis is to continue in the meantime.

5.7 Green Belt

- 5.7.1 Arrested development is a report which can be downloaded from the Centre for Cities website. Mr Barrett is to forward the information to Mr Thomas as it could be damaging to Green Belt.
5.7.2 Dr Davis commented on local press articles which claim that there is a failure to provide a core strategy that could leave the Green Belt wide open for development in the future.

5.8 Batford

- 5.8.1 Mr Grey thanked the committee for the award he was presented with at the AGM.
5.8.2 12th April 7.30pm Batford Memorial Hall. AGM of the BACG.
Mr Grey is to bring up the subject of the performance of the non-emergency reporting number for the police.
5.8.2 Dr Davis and Mr Turberville brought up the subject of a memorial for Debbie Moore for her work in Batford. The Society is to donate some funds for this. Mr Grey is to move this forward.

5.9 Upper Lea Valley Group

- 5.9.1 Mr Steele distributed a discussion summary.
5.9.2 Mr Randell updated the committee with the organisation and reporting system with the Society. Mr Randell is to keep the Society updated with activities on a quarterly basis (approx).
5.9.3 Birdboxes. 13 were constructed and have gone up. Coverage was in the local papers.
5.9.4 Mr Turberville suggested that the Society gives some amounts to the ULVG and also BACG. The amount suggested was £500 to each which was approved unanimously.

6 Newsletter

- 6.1 The next issue will be completed in the next few days.

7 Chairman's Items.

- 7.1 None

8 Correspondence

- 8.1 Neighbourhood Watch Police Cadet Force and its inception locally.
8.2 Antas Meeting Saturday 8th May.

9 Finance

- 9.1 Covered earlier

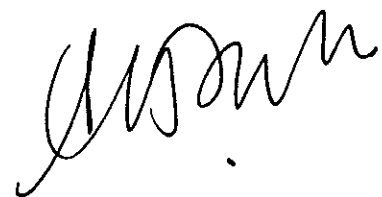
10 Events

- 10.1 Mr Turberville is to organise a BBQ on Friday 25th June at 6pm. for which there will be a small charge to cover food and drink.

11 AOB

- 11.1 Membership – increase by mailer drops, advertising in the Forum and a stall at the Carnival. A sub-committee to meet to discuss activities.
11.2 Mr Turberville suggested that another category be added to the awards, such as function for the community. It was pointed out that the Constitution already covers such considerations.
11.3 Mr Steele received an email regarding painting of the double doors between The George and the Limo hire. Mr Steele will deal with this.
11.4 Mr Jennings discussed the Society Plaque awarded to the Inn On The Green with the owners since it had been removed from the front of the building. It has been refitted in its original position.
11.5 Archiving. Dr Davis has reduced the information.
11.6 This years AGM - no observations or comments re: any changes to the current format or evenings arrangements. Members approved.

12 Dates of next meetings - 10th May



10/5/10

HARPENDEN SOCIETY

Committee Meeting - Monday 29th March 2010
at 7.30 p.m. in St John's Church Hall, St John's Road, Harpenden

Agenda

- 1 Apologies for absence
- 2 Minutes of meeting held on 15th February 2010
- 3 Matters arising
- 4 Items for AOB
- 5 Update and discussion of reports
 - a) Transport – road and rail
 - b) Transport – air
 - c) Plans
 - d) Commons and greens
 - e) Town Council
 - f) Environment
 - g) Green Belt
 - h) Batford *Beag*
 - i) ULVG
- 6 Newsletter – next edition
- 7 Chairman's items
- 8 Correspondence
- 9 Finance
- 10 Events
- 11 AOB:
 - (i) Debriefing on the AGM
 - (ii) Appointment of a new treasurer
 - (iii) Unsatisfactory state of business premises in Town – raised by member
- 12 Date of next meetings: 10th May 2010; 5th July 2010.

*14) Reduced details for 2010
to a single sheet.*

Invited to attend the meeting is a Mr Barry Watson who has volunteered his services as the Membership Secretary:

"States that he has been a member for only a year or so but lived in Harpenden for 35 years. He has good computer skills and two modern computers. He runs three websites of his own and he is the owner and founder of Harpenden Freecycle". He is attending our AGM and will introduce himself.

Furthermore, interest has been shown by a Mr Arnold Allen in representing the Society as our Environment Representative. I do not know whether he is an existing member. We have no background knowledge or information about him. He will be attending the AGM to introduce himself and has also been invited to the meeting on Monday.

I must emphasise that no decision has been taken as to their suitability for either roles and furthermore the issues relating to the AGM and treasurer to be discussed Monday should be strictly confidential and for the attention of the Committee Members' only.

Peter Barrett - Secretary

HARPENDEN SOCIETY

Committee Meeting 30 March 2010

Report for Agenda item 5(a) Transport

1. Roads etc.

1.1 Car Parking Fees

As from 5 April 201 the charges for all car parks in Harpenden will increase. The charge for 1 hour rises by £0.10 to £1.10 (except at Lydekker Park where it remains at £0.60). The charge for 2 hours rises by £0.20 to £2.20 with Lydekker rising from £1.10 to £1.30. the percentage increases vary from 7% to 18% depending on length of stay and the location.

There is still no charge for parking on Saturday in the Lydekker car park.

1.2 Harpenden Urban Transport Plan

I reported to the November Committee meeting that the draft Plan was to be available in late February/early March 2010. This has not occurred. I have been in touch with the person in Hertfordshire Highways who was dealing with this matter and he has advised that the Plan will be available for public consultation after the local elections in May.

I will of course ensure that I am involved on behalf of the Society.

1.3 Pedestrian Crossing : Leyton Road

As mentioned at the AGM the raised table in Leyton Road nearby Park Hall is about to be altered to a formal pedestrian crossing. To improve visibility several car parking spaces will have to be lost. I hope that when the alterations are carried out the levels of and angle of approach to the raised table are improved.

1.4 Repairs to Roads after Winter Damage

Despite the comment in the local press Hertfordshire Highways are carrying out repairs to defects/potholes throughout the town. Some have been quite large areas patched/resurfaced, others filled with a spray compound. I will be interested see how this lasts.

2. Rail

2.1 Harpenden Station

Three parts to this:

a) Platform Extension : Again these progress relatively slowly. The southbound platforms are being extended north over Station Road bridge. The northbound platforms are being extended south. Nothing is finished yet. The embankment on Carlton Road is a mess. I hope that this will be left tidy when all is completed.

b) The layout of Platform 1 has been altered in that a new waiting shelter has been built between the coffee cabin and the entrance from the car park. This means that the two ticket machines have been relocated off the platform to be next to the car park ticket machine.

c) Ticket gates : As mentioned at the AGM the previous decision not to install ticket gates at Harpenden station appears to have been reversed. I will try to influence this through my membership of APTU.

THE HARPENDEN SOCIETY

Annual General Meeting 25 March 2010

Report on Transport : Road and Rail

During the year I have dealt with and reported to the Committee on various matters being:-

Roads etc

- Harpenden to Luton Cycleway
- Redbourn Lane Safety improvements
- Lower Luton Road, pelican crossing
- Road re-surfacing programme by Herts Highways
- Harpenden to Hemel Hempstead bus route (320)
- The development of the future Harpenden Urban Transport Plan
- Winter damage to roads

Rail

- Ticket gates at Harpenden Station – abandoned
- Extensions to platforms to accommodate 12 coach trains
- New Thameslink route timetable and weekend closures of the through route
- Contact with Network Rail on the poor condition/lack of maintenance of Skew Bridge
- Thameslink route disruption as a result of both driver shortages and weather conditions.

Malcolm Howe
23 March 2010

Harpenden Society

Minutes of the committee meeting held at 63 West Common, Harpenden on 8th February 2010 at 7.30pm

Present:

Mr A Steele (Chairman), Mr P Barrett, Mrs R Horne, Mr M Howe, Mrs C Stanton, Mr D Bullimore, Mr I Fulton, Dr J Davis, Ms B Naylor-Stables, Mr R Thomas, Mr B Turberville, Mrs P Ayres, Mr O Randell, Mr C Grey, Mrs B Suitters, Mr K Jennings, Mr K Nash

1. **Apologies for absence:**
Mrs L Weekes, Ms A Tomkins
2. **Minutes of committee meeting of 4th January 2010**
 - 2.1 5.1 Footpath north from Red Cow pub. Tarmaced by Sustrans.
- 3 **Matters arising**
 - 3.1 Litter letter. Mr Wakelam is the contact at SADC.
- 4 **Items for AOB**
 - 4.1 Archiving
 - 4.2 AGM
 - 4.3 Royal Jubilee 2012
5. **Reports**
 - 5.1 **Transport (Road and Rail)**
In the absence of a report only a brief comment by Mr Howe
 - 5.2 **Transport (Air)**
 - 5.2.1 Dr Davis's article was published in the newsletter regarding the latest developments.
 - 5.3 **Plans**
 - 5.3.1 Jameson Road. The Society objected to plans on a spare piece of land with a plan to place a drive between 2 houses (10-12) and build 4 houses within the space. The building plans are excessive for the space.
 - 5.4 **Commons & Greens**
 - 5.4.1 Meeting of Environment Committee. Project Days to be on the agenda, as well as horse riding and volunteers policy.
 - 5.5 **Town Council**
 - 5.5.1 Budget Meeting 1st February. Agreed as standstill budget (reduced by 0.3%). Reserves continue to grow (£18,000).
 - 5.5.2 Report on the Farmers' Market. Out of 7 options for change, 3 of the proposals are to be worked on – increasing numbers of stalls, increase rent, change of location. Currently subsidised by £7000.
 - 5.5.3 Parish Charter.
 - 5.5.4 Consultation for school admission arrangements.
 - 5.6 **Environment**
 - 5.6.1 SADC Environment meetings increased to quarterly attended by Dr Davis. A note to be submitted for the next newsletter.
 - 5.7 **Green Belt**
 - 5.7.1 Mr Thomas submitted a report.
 - 5.7.2 Draft proposal to build on green belt has been withdrawn (not formally). LDF should have been submitted but has been deferred in the hope of the change in policy. Acting Head of Planning, John Young, is believed to have rushed the consultation.
 - 5.7.3 To rely on windfall, infill and brown field sites, not green belt. Thanks to all involved. Feeling is that the request for building on green belt land will be raised again.

- 5.7.4 Mr Thomas asked if the Society would thank the Town and District Council for their efforts. He will draft the letters.
- 5.7.5 Mr Thomas suggested that the Society meets Planning Director, Heather Cheeseborough. Mr Steele and Mr Thomas to arrange the meeting.

5.8 Batford

- 5.8.1 Christmas Lights was well attended – 150 people.
- 5.8.2 Police presence highlighted in Batford area.
- 5.8.3 Porters Park. Delay on works due to bad weather and hope to finish before March. 'Snagging' can be arranged after 31st March.
- 5.8.4 Lack of salting in the Batford area an issue, especially on the bus routes.

5.9 Upper Lea Valley Group

- 5.9.1 Land ownership. Mr Shwe to comment.
- 5.9.2 Bird boxes now up thanks to the Society's donation.
- 5.9.3 Attendance in work parties up 25% including Scouts and D of E. Air Cadet Force also interested in helping.
- 5.9.4 Mr Randell requested financial help for a blower for help dispose of the material. Mr Barrett spoke of the constitution which limits how the Society donates money.

6 Newsletter

- 6.1 Mr Turberville suggested discussing the newsletter in a smaller working group. Mr D Bullimore, Mrs ~~B~~ Naylor ~~Stables~~ and Mr Turberville to be on the working group. To report back to the committee. *Mrs Rosemary Horne.*
- 6.2 Mrs Horne commented on the use of the images changing at the top left on the front page.
- 6.3 Mr Turberville asked for more items for the newsletter.
- 6.4 Mr Grey to submit images of how Porters Park has progressed.
- 6.5 Mr Randell to submit information on the bird boxes noted above.
- 6.6 Mr Turberville asked if someone could write a small piece regarding the talks if Mr Turberville is not available himself to do it. Mr Barrett offered his help.

7 Chairman's Items

- 7.1 None to report.

8 Correspondence

- 8.1 Appreciation for Mr Barrett's letter regarding litter from SADC. Litter arrangements to be looked at for after the farmers' market.
- 8.2 Response from Mr Daniel to Mr Barrett's letter regarding the yellow lines outside the public halls, implying that traffic wardens are allowed to issue tickets.
- 8.3 Unauthorised street furniture and pavement licensing. Street clutter relates to signs. Pavement licensing allowed by 2 councils only - Westminster and St Albans, but other items have caused pedestrians to suffer injuries from falls both in S Albans and Harpenden. Being monitored.

9 Finance

- 9.1 Nothing to report.
- 9.2 Mrs Weekes emailed the information on the hire of the halls at £8 per hour. Mrs Horne stated that the ceiling at St John's is causing an issue for the committee's current meeting, and the hall is now requesting a year's payment up front and an increase. Mr Howe informed the committee that Southdown Methodist Halls are £16 per hour. Mrs Ayres suggested the Day Centre as a possibility. Mr Randell suggested the venue at the Coldharbour Lane Allotments but this is not free on Mondays (Tuesdays a possibility). Mr Turberville and Mrs Horne to negotiate with St John's Church Hall.

10 Events

- 10.1 Mr Turberville asked for suggestions for the Summer event. Mr Steele commented that it is not just a committee event. Mr Bullimore suggested Stockwood Park.

11 AOB

11.1 Awards. The criteria for the awards is not detailed enough but mentions 'environmental'. Mrs Horne asked for criteria for the award and also a new name for the environmental certificate. Mr Thomas suggested 'Society Award'.

Mrs Horne asked for comments on whether the society should give more than one plaque each year. Mr Barrett stated that more than one is possible and some years none have been awarded.

Mr Bullimore suggested that if the situation of more than one possibility arose again, it could go before the whole committee.

The decision is that one award can be given by the Awards Committee, but if that committee feels that they are more than one worthy of a plaque it goes to the whole committee for a decision.

Mrs Horne stated that the awards are for those with public access.

11.2 Mrs Suitters announced her intention to leave the position of Membership Secretary and Mr Steele asked for suggestions for the position. The membership information to be computer-based.

11.3 Civic Society Initiative. Mr Barrett circulated documents and information regarding the Society aims and objectives for setting up in Spring this year. Discussed and considered that cost implications for funding are prohibitive. To monitor the progress of the Society.

11.4 Archives. Dr Davis asked that the committee members take a copy of the report on archiving. Dr Davis has started to go through the paperwork and summarised the contents. There are items that should be shredded, but keep some information. The committee agreed with Dr Davis's suggestion and discretion.

11.5 Golden Jubilee. Mr Bullimore, Mrs Stanton and Mrs Horne offered to help with the organisation for the event with the Town Council. 4-5th June 2012.

12 AGM

12.1 Mr Barrett to make 45 copies of the relevant reports.

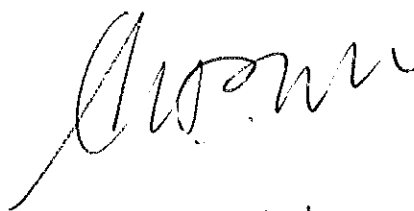
12.2 Mr Steele asked that all speakers submit a short report to work from – one side of A4 (5 minutes), a copy to be handed to Mr Barrett.

12.3 Mrs Ayres stated that the financial report must be presented by law.

12.4 Mr Grey suggested putting up display boards for the activity of the Society and to help with the display. Members to supply Mr Grey with information and images.

13 Dates of next meetings

29 March



29/3/10

HARPENDEN SOCIETY

Committee Meeting, Monday, 8th February 2010
at 7.30 p.m. the h/a of Rosemary Horne, 63 West Common, Harpenden

Agenda

- 1 Apologies for absence
- 2 Minutes of meeting held on 4th January 2010
- 3 Matters arising
- 4 Items for AOB
- 5 Update and discussion of reports
 - a) Transport – road and rail
 - b) Transport – air
 - c) Plans
 - d) Commons and greens
 - e) Town Council
 - f) Environment
 - g) Green Belt
 - h) Batford
 - i) ULVG
- 6 Newsletter – next edition
- 7 Chairman's items
- 8 Correspondence
- 9 Finance
- 10 Events
- 11 AOB:
 - (i) Civic Society Initiative – discuss re: correspondence and aims & objectives
 - (ii) Annual Awards and proposed changes
- 12 Date of next meetings: 29th March 2010, 10th May 2010.

AGM – Thursday 25th March 2010.

Harpenden Society

Minutes of the committee meeting held at St John's Church Hall, Harpenden on 4th January 2010 at 7.30pm

Present:

Mr A Steele (Chairman), Mr P Barrett, Mrs R Horne, Mr M Howe, Mrs C Stanton, Mr D Bullimore, Mr I Fulton, Mr K Nash, Dr J Davis, Ms B Naylor-Stables, Mr R Thomas

1. Apologies for absence:

Mrs P Ayres, Mr O Randell, Mr Turberville, Mrs L Weekes, Mr C Grey, Ms B Suitters

2. Minutes of committee meeting of 30th November 2009

No Corrections needed

3 Matters arising

- 3.1 5.6.2 Litter bin. Dr Davis asked if there was any response. Mr Barrett stated that there was an acknowledgement only.

4 Items for AOB

- 4.1 None

5. Reports

5.1 Transport (Road and Rail)

Report submitted by Mr Howe

- 5.1.1 Walkers Bridge. Mrs Horne commented on the hanging vegetation.
5.1.2 Mr Howe raised the question on whether the Skew Bridge was listed. The Chairman will bring up the issue at the next meeting with John Bagshaw on 8th February.
5.1.3 Dr Davis commented on the footpath from the Red Cow pub that has now been tarmaced. This has made the footpath a fast track for cycles and suchlike, will need to be resurfaced and will become icy. There was no consultation for this action to the footpath.

5.2 Transport (Air)

- 5.2.1 Forum magazine contained a page article from NATS about looping planes south of Harpenden. This programme was postponed until September 2009 and Dr Davis and the Town Council have written to NATS to ask them to continue with the programme and not delay further.
5.2.2 Noise Action Plan. Mr Barrett has received acknowledgement from Luton Airport regarding the society's comments on the consultation for the Noise Action Plan.

5.3 Plans

- 5.3.1 Mr Steele commented that a plan for a building behind Crabtree Lane was raised as a potential issue. This would only affect the neighbours so the society is not comment on it.
5.3.2 Brushwood at Kinsbourne Green. Developers put in an application to demolish the house and build 5 cluster homes. The application (2008) was refused. A second application was refused. The developer has lodged an appeal to the inspectorate at Bristol. A third application has been made.
The society is to look at the issue.

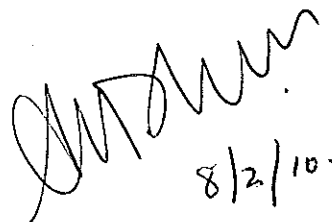
5.4 Commons & Greens

- 5.4.1 Fair Payments. There are no guidelines for licensing fairs and receiving money from them. So this is to be considered.
5.4.2 Extension of use of the hall for the Historical Society.
5.4.3 Farmers' Market survey completed and issues to be discussed. No decisions have been made as yet. The society will reiterate that the market should be self-supporting and not at the expense of the town.

5.5 Town Council

- 5.5.1 Change for accounting practices approved by SIPFA. This will mean an increased cost for annual accounts.

- 5.5.2 Budgets. The Town Clerk produced a zero budget and 'wish-list' items removed. Wish-list items could be paid for by the reserve. A decision is yet to be made.
- 5.6 Environment**
- 5.6.1 Dr Davis suggested that the environment be taken over by someone (as Dr Davis has been looking after it for the interim) and put forward at the AGM.
- 5.6.2 Litter Bin routine cleaning letter from the society received an acknowledgement from SADC.
- 5.7 Green Belt**
- 5.7.1 Consultation for releasing Green Belt land. District Council to respond this month to inform us of their proposal. Housing targets are set by the Regional Assembly, with the Lib Dems and Conservatives wanting to get rid of the Regional Assemblies, and therefore housing targets would also be removed.
- 5.8 Bafford**
- 5.8.1 Nothing to report
- 5.9 Upper Lea Valley Group**
- 5.9.1 Nothing to report
- 6 Newsletter**
- 6.1 Form for the awards to be in the next issue as some general information about the awards.
- 6.2 AGM information to be included in next issue
- 6.3 Ms Naylor-Stables to help collate information to put into a word file. The file then to be sent to Mr Bullimore for flowing into newsletter template. Mr Horne to proof-read as request for second proof-reader.
- 6.4 Mr Bullimore to set up a general email address to automatically forward onto Ms Naylor-Stables and Mr Turberville items for the newsletter.
- 6.5 Ms Suitters to confirm issue dates of the newsletter.
- 7 Chairman's Items**
- 7.1 Awards. Mrs Horne to discuss new title for the awards
- 8 Correspondence**
- 8.1 St Albans Civic Society winter newsletter received
- 8.2 Public Halls parking outside the main entrance. The semi-circular road is a private road and traffic wardens do not have powers over the parking on those yellow lines. Mr Barrett wrote to the CEO of the SADC asking for clarification.
- 9 Finance**
- 9.1 Nothing to report
- 10 Events**
- 10.1 Suggestion of representative of Herts Advertiser to speak at a future event.
- 11 AOB**
- 11.1 Civic Society Initiative. A national body to support and champion civic societies. To be discussed at the next meeting. Details are available on www.civicsocietyinitiative.co.uk.
- 11.2 Archive of society information. Mr Steele contacted the county archivists and they are interested in minutes and other information. The society's information does need going through before handing over.
- 12 Dates of next meetings**
- 8th February – 7.30pm at the home address of Rosemary Horne, 63 West Common. St John's Hall not available.
- 29th March


8/2/10.

Report from the Harpenden Green Belt Association

We have had a very good result from all our efforts last autumn.

Thanks to the excellent consultant's report paid for by the Society and a great deal of work from our volunteers in the holiday season, nearly 17% of all Harpenden households told the District Council (SADC) that they were opposed to the SADC proposals to release land from the green belt around Harpenden for housing.

SADC has now announced that they are withdrawing the idea of house-building on the green belt. This applies to all the green belt in the whole district. SADC is confident that it can meet its housing targets by relying on windfall sites, though this contravenes the present Government's rules. So they don't attract trouble from the Government at this stage, they are delaying the issue of their final plan.

There are various interpretations that can be put on this. We can take it at face value, because we know that SADC wants to defend the green belt, and has already taken the Government to court, and won, on this very issue. Cllr Robert Donald, the leader of SADC, has also said firmly in public meetings that he is a strong supporter of the green belt, and he has written to us in the same terms.

Some might say that the withdrawal of the idea of building on the green belt in the whole district is thanks to the opposition shown in Harpenden. It would have been politically very difficult for SADC to have dropped the idea of building on Harpenden's green belt, but done the opposite for St Albans. On this view, the people of St Albans owe us a vote of thanks!

A cynic might say that if Government appoints an inspector, as it can do, to overrule SADC and force the release of green belt in the district in order to meet Government's housing targets, then SADC could avoid the resulting political repercussions from its voters. Perhaps too SADC is heeding the policy statements from the Conservatives and LibDems that they will abolish both the Regional Assemblies and the Regional Spatial Strategies, and hence the housing targets that have put us all in this bind.

However, let's not be cynical. Let's be thankful, and congratulate the Society, the Green Belt Association and our Town Council on an effective campaign to defend our town and to allow our residents to make their voices heard. If we had relied only on the professionally designed SADC internet questionnaire, our residents could not have expressed their simple message and their opinions, and we could now be anticipating a very different and under-resourced town. The green belt defends towns, not the countryside.

Let's thank SADC too that it has heeded the views of our town, and our Town Council for its support.

By the way, SADC has taken on a new planning director named Heather Cheesbrough in place of John Young who had held the position in an acting capacity. She will be taking up her new job soon. Perhaps the Society should meet her.

HARPENDEN SOCIETY

Civic Society Initiative

Following on from the discussion at the last Committee Meeting I have carried out further research into the Civic Society Initiative including reading all of the papers and reports available from the web site.

The information that I found, not in any particular order is:-

1. The core funding for the proposed new body is approximately £400,000.00 per annum.
2. The proposal for funding is on a per capita basis for participating Societies (ie levy per member). This would work out at between £1.00 and £3.00 per member.

This would cost the Harpenden Society up to £3,000.00 per year which would mean an increase of more than 50% in the subscription. At the lower rate the cost would be £1,000.00 which equates to about a 25% increase in subscription.

As a matter of interest, affiliation to the Scottish Civic Trust costs nothing. However I could not ascertain how the SCT is actually funded.

3. I noted that neither ourselves, nor St Albans Civic Society were amongst those recorded as having been consulted on the formation of the new body, but the Hitchin Society and a few others in Hertfordshire were. Were we invited/consulted or not?
4. The new body is expected to be a company limited by guarantee and it will probably be registered as a charity.
5. The new body is expected to be launched in April 2010.
6. The new body is intending to offer quite a few benefits to affiliated societies and their members including:
 - Free access passes to National Trust properties
 - Insurances for the participating Society
 - All types of insurances for Society members

Maybe this is why the fee is quite high?

7. One of the stated advantages of the new body is that a largish organisation will have a far greater influence where it is needed, compared with individual societies. It could make a real difference but to do this it must have a clear mandate, good focus and proper management. It **must not** be a "talking shop".

MCH
3 February 2010

CIVIC SOCIETY INITIATIVE

Many thanks to Richard Thomas for his views circulated 7 January about the brochure produced by the Civic Society Initiative of which I have taken a copy for our next meeting on 8th February. Below is my report.

A document on the website highlights the work of the CSI and the outcome from a comprehensive survey of 194 civic societies and 305 people in 14 Open Forums across the country; receiving contributions from 448 civic society members from 267 different civic societies through an online survey; and the responses as to what civic societies do and what are the most important issues to them. Included are findings of a statistical report about 30 separate activities typically undertaken by societies ranging from planning applications, a newsletter, to refurbishment of old buildings and clean-up events.

Having attended the ANTAS meetings for the past three years I have seen first hand the involvement and activities undertaken by a number of civic societies in this region of which there are approx. 25 - not all attend on a regular basis. Though they may be well-intentioned in their aims, objectives and endeavours, but unlike us they do not have the same broad range of skills and expertise from amongst their committee members or members that they can reliably call upon when tackling the ever-increasing civic issues - we are truly fortunate and so is Harpenden as a Town. For some it is a constant battle, sometimes in most confrontational circumstances with little chance of success. Thus, the advent of the CSI, offers that support on a broader base, embracing many of the issues, with the aim of achieving some continuity and consistency in handling and dealing, but at a cost in funding - and not an insignificant one.

As normal practice, we carry out routinely a high percentage of these activities, which, in some cases, we have done for many years and we are constantly watchful of fresh activities or events with which we should become involved or where our services are called for. Also, I should mention that few societies have the regular meetings or enjoy the cordial contact that we have with our Town Council but particularly the Town Clerk - we have worked hard to achieve this! And there are many more functions and duties we perform which we generally take for granted. To this extent we should congratulate ourselves, take credit in the support we receive and our success rate generally in our ventures.

Having requested their promotional package and literature and listened to one of their key speakers at the last ANTAS meeting, I see that for some civic societies in the country, this is a more unified and positive way forward, a step further than the CIVIC Trust - it is a new voice in the civic field which some may seek.

Having said this, since it is early days for this new body, I think it would be sensible to observe its progress rather than to just ignore it. A response is sought in spring about becoming a member and though there are some practical benefits even for our Society, we have no real reason to join. I know views and soundings about CSI will be taken at the next ANTAS meeting to which I can report back. Overall, we are doing very well under our own steam!!

Peter



ASSOCIATION OF NORTH THAMES AMENITY SOCIETIES

CIVIC SOCIETIES—DECISION TIME

What has happened?

by John Davies, Vice Chairman

For the last fifty years, civic societies have been represented nationally by the Civic Trust. However, in April 2009 financial difficulties made it necessary for the Civic Trust to close and be taken into administration. As a result of this, civic societies no longer have any national representation or reference point.

Should we be concerned?

Immense concern was expressed at the closure of the Civic Trust. National organisations, including the National Trust, CPRE (Campaign to Protect Rural England), English Heritage, CABE (Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment), RIBA (Royal Institute of British Architects) and others immediately recognised the importance of the civic society movement being represented at a national level.

HRH The Prince of Wales, formerly Patron of the Civic Trust, spoke forcefully of the contribution made by civic societies, and the opportunity to build something even stronger; a powerful community movement, a steadfast champion of the fabric and character of our nation's cities, towns and villages.

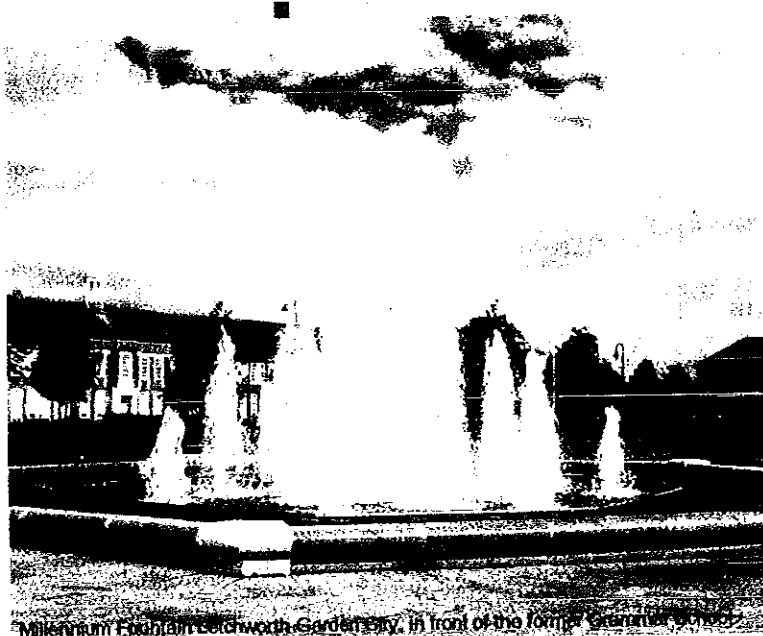
What is now being done?

With the generous support of national organisations, and contributions from many civic societies, the Civic Society Initiative was established as a time-limited, transition project. This was tasked with assessing the level of support for a new organisation to represent civic societies, what it might do and how it could be established. The work of the Civic Society Initiative must be completed by May 2010 (one year after it was set up); at that time its funding will end, and it will cease to exist. If civic societies wish to have a new national voice, a decision must be made by then.

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NEWSLETTER WINTER 2009-10



Why not revive the Civic Trust?

The Civic Trust was a highly respected organisation that made a valuable contribution to the quality of life in our towns and cities. A major part of its work included regeneration and other projects highly dependent on government funding. In the current economic climate such funding ceased to be available, and it is quite unrealistic to expect public-sector support to be resumed in the foreseeable future. It is therefore not possible for the Civic Trust to be revived.

What is now proposed?

Over the last six months, the Civic Society Initiative has gathered the views of civic societies, other organisations and individuals throughout the country. This has shown very strong support for an entirely new organisation to represent civic societies at a national level. Such a new body would need to be small, highly cost-effective and independent of government funding.

What will it do for my civic society?

The civic society movement is large; perhaps a thousand separate societies, with some 250,000 individual

CIVIC SOCIETIES—DECISION TIME cont'd

(Continued from page 1)

members. It should wield considerable influence and be taken very seriously by decision makers. But individual societies struggle to make their views heard; local authorities often regard them as simply another objector. A national voice would campaign for recognition of the contribution made by civic societies. Through this, your society would gain in standing and influence.

A national body would help develop the skills of individual societies, for instance in communications and membership recruitment. Support would be provided on fundraising, access to special insurance arrangements and on legal questions. It would also promote the sharing of best practice between societies, most probably through the formation of local groups or clusters of societies. Your society would be able to use the new national logo, giving it increased authority and recognition.



Wendover High Street

How much will all this cost?

Before the closure of the Civic Trust, the affiliation fees paid by societies did not cover the cost of the support provided. A new, independent organisation would need to be funded by a fee structure that reflects the level of support actually wanted by member societies. It is not thought realistic to expect any significant funding or grants from other sources; any such income would be specific and short-term, and would not contribute to the longer-term viability of the new body.

In order to achieve the basic objectives, with minimum staffing levels and modest office accommodation, it is likely that the annual budget would need to be in the range of £300,000 to £400,000. For the new organisation to be secure and independent, this would eventually need to be funded by the participating societies.

And what would this cost my society?

Although no decision has yet been made, probably the fairest way of funding the new organisation would be by a *per-capita* fee based on a society's membership. Small societies would therefore pay less than large societies, with the total fee being in direct proportion to size. The level of this fee is dependent on how many societies are willing to support the new organisation, but it is likely to be in a range of up to £3 per individual member.

It is recognised that many societies would find this difficult in the short-term, and arrangements for a transition period are being investigated.

But my society only charges a nominal amount per household

Some societies have charged very low membership fees, perhaps to encourage wide-spread membership in their locality. It may be necessary to ask what people want from a civic society, as with very low subscriptions, only a minimum level of service can be provided, and wider influence cannot be achieved. Major charities have membership fees several times higher than those of most civic societies, and this has enabled them to become highly influential at a national level.

A transition period might provide time for societies to adjust their membership fees. Alternatively, societies might wish to promote fund-raising events more actively than in the past as a way of being part of a national movement.

What now needs to be decided?

By early 2010 every civic society will be asked whether or not it is willing to support the formation of a new national organisation. It is recognised that some societies may find this a difficult decision to make, but it is only if most civic societies say "yes" to the new organisation that it can actually go ahead.

If sufficient support is not forthcoming, no new body will be formed. Civic societies throughout England will then have no national representation, and no way of influencing central government on matters concerning our towns and cities. In contrast, Scotland and Wales have their own separate Civic Trusts, and these will continue to assert influence on behalf of civic societies within those devolved administrations.

What should we do now?

So that an informed decision can be made by each civic society, we would ask that this leaflet should be read by your society's executive committee and by as many members as possible. We would also encourage as many as possible to read the report of the Civic Society Initiative, "Own the Future" which can be obtained as shown below.

Early in the new year, the Civic Society Initiative will provide civic societies with full information on just what membership will cost, and what will be provided in the way of specific services and benefits. At that time, civic societies will be asked to make the vital decision of whether or not to support the formation of a new national organisation to represent the civic society movement in England.

The report "Own the Future" may be downloaded from www.civicsocietyinitiative.org.uk

Alternatively, it may be obtained from The Civic Society Initiative,
Unit 101
82 Wood Street
The Tea Factory
Liverpool L1 4DQ
0151 708 9920

admin@civicsocietyinitiative.org.uk

HARPENDEN SOCIETY

Committee Meeting, Monday, 4th January 2010
at 7.30 p.m. in St John's Church Hall, St John' Road, Harpenden

Agenda

- 1 Apologies for absence
- 2 Minutes of meeting held on 30 November 2009
- 3 Matters arising
- 4 Items for AOB
- 5 Update and discussion of reports
 - a) Transport – road and rail
 - b) Transport – air
 - c) Plans
 - d) Commons and greens
 - e) Town Council
 - f) Environment
 - g) Green Belt
 - h) Batford
 - i) ULVG
- 6 Newsletter – next edition
- 7 Chairman's items
- 8 Correspondence
- 9 Finance
- 10 Events
- 11 AOB:
 - (i) Civic Society Initiative – correspondence re: aims & objectives.
- 12 Date of next meetings: **15th February 2010, 29th March 2010.**

AGM – Thursday 25th March 2010.

HARPENDEN SOCIETY

Committee Meeting 4 January 2010

Report for Agenda item 5(a) Transport

1. Roads etc.

1.1 Skew Bridge, Southdown Road

As advised in the letter dated 24 November 2009 from Network Rail the work to remove the vegetation will be after April this year. I will continue to monitor the situation.

Has anything been done regarding the possible listing of the bridge?

1.2 Winter Damage to Roads

The recent and continuing snow and cold weather has caused considerable damage to the roads throughout the town with many holes and deterioration to surfaces.

The number to report such defects is 01438 737320 or via the Herts Highways web site : www.hertsdirect.org/highway_faults

2. Rail

2.1 Harpenden Station

Quite a lot of work has been carried out over Christmas/New Year to extend the platforms northwards. Structures have been completed across Station Road bridge including infilling the gap between the two separate parts of the bridge. The new balustrading on the east side of the bridge is rather visually intrusive.

2.2 Thameslink Route Disruption

Despite an agreement between FCC and the rail unions a full timetable is not yet in operation. I do not expect a full service to be provided until late January/early February.

A compensation offer has been made to season ticket holders but there seems little for occasional travellers unless your train was delayed (from the original timetable) by more than 30 minutes.

MCH

3.1.10

Harpenden Society

Minutes of the committee meeting held at St John's Church Hall, Harpenden on 30th November 2009 at 7.30pm

Present:

Mr A Steele (Chairman), Mr P Barrett, Mrs R Horne, Mrs C Stanton, Mr D Bullimore, Mr B Turberville, Mr K Nash, Dr J Davis, Mr O Randell, Mr K Jennings, Mr R Thomas, Mr C Grey

1. Apologies for absence:

Mrs P Alcock, Mr M Howe, Mr I Fulton, Mrs L Weekes

2. Minutes of committee meeting of 19th October 2009

- 2.1 5.5.2 should read Bamville
- 2.2 5.2.2 should read 'runs to Sunday 17th January'
- 2.3 5.7.6 should read 'county' not area

3 Matters arising

- 3.1 None

4 Items for AOB

- 4.1 Ambrose Wood

5. ~~Reports~~

5.1 Transport (Road and Rail)

- 5.1.1 Mr Howe submitted a response letter from Network Rail regarding vegetation on Skew Bridge. An order has been raised but work not to be completed until the new financial year.

5.2 Transport (Air)

- 5.2.1 Noise action plan. The airport is obliged to provide it under European legislation. Dr Davies drafted a letter for the Harpenden Society highlighting the delay in providing this. No actions made by the airport have had any impact.
A few aircraft cause almost all the problems and asks that those are looked at (e.g. A300).

5.3 Plans

- 5.3.1 Mr Steele told the committee that the website development means that plans we have objections to can be seen and the public can also comment on any plans they feel should be looked at.

5.4 Commons & Greens

- 5.4.1 Minor items such as replacement bench on Leyton Road.
- 5.4.2 Circus tender to run a non-animal circus for 3 years (2010 – 2013)
- 5.4.3 Tree works on golf course on 2nd tee – thinning trees and acid grasslands
- 5.4.4 No increase in charges for fairs in 2010
- 5.4.5 Woodland Grant scheme ended in 2009. English Woodland Grant Scheme (DEFRA) being looked at for helping to maintain trees on the common.

5.5 Town Council

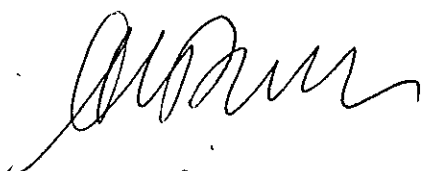
- 5.5.1 Not a lot of activity. Consultation documents provided for consideration.
- 5.5.2 Creation of Parish Charter consultation document issued.
- 5.5.3 2008-9 accounts were approved. General reserve is £366,000 and earmarked reserve approximately £187,000. The society will monitor the increase.

5.6 Environment

- 5.6.1 Dr Davis received information on tree policy and sent a reply on his behalf, mentioning the society at the end of the letter.
- 5.6.2 Litter bins are still overflowing and seem to be cleared on a random basis. Dr Davis drafted a letter, which after discussion with the Secretary re: contents will be sent to the Chief Executive SADC.

- 5.7 **Green Belt**
5.7.1 Mr Thomas circulated a report.
5.7.2 East of England Regional Assembly – the region's strategic partnership. 4 housing scenarios have been submitted for Hertfordshire. The Green Belt Association sent in a response. The county has developed its own material called "Time to speak up Hertfordshire". Both the Conservative and Liberal parties have stated that this housing activity will not be included in their policies and will be abolished.
5.7.3 The Oval has prepared a 5 year plan and begun to consult local residents. They want to tidy up the site and buildings. Full details in Mr Thomas's report.
- 5.8 **Batford**
5.8.1 Work to start in December / January on the next stage of the MUGA
5.8.2 More funding received (total just under £90,000)
5.8.3 Lights on in Batford on 4th December.
- 5.9 **Upper Lea Valley Group**
5.9.1 A note was circulated regarding the position on land ownership, which resulted in the statement that the reserve is one of the key sites of a flagship site of SADC. A response was sent to John Bagshaw and advice sought from the Wildlife Trust.
5.9.2 Work on the website is progressing. Mr Randell asked for links to the Harpenden Society site.
5.9.3 Links with 4th Harpenden Scouts doing conservation badges. Work being carried out and look to continue next year, with a view to making birdboxes and batboxes. Mr Randell asked for £50 to be donated for materials, which was approved.
- 6 **Newsletter**
6.1 November issue printed.
6.2 Possibility of someone producing print-ready documents. Small committee to discuss this.
6.3 Next issue due in February.
- 7 **Chairman's Items**
None
- 8 **Correspondence**
8.1 Harpenden Seniors Forum. Letter to shopkeepers looking for support for OAPs and concessionary rates.
8.2 Harpenden Trust newsletter.
8.3 NHS local newsletter
8.4 SADC letter regarding the loss of 4 laptops.
8.5 Email regarding selling off of inland waterways.
8.6 Policing Pledge.
- 9 **Finance**
9.1 Nothing to report
- 10 **Events**
10.1 December, January and early 2010 events and speakers are promoted in the newsletter.
- 11 **AOB**
11.1 Ambrose Wood owned by NCH and up for sale. The buyer was a tenant (Headmistress of Roundwood Park school) and the NCH are to maintain it under a 20 year lease.
- 12 **Dates of next meetings**
4th January
8th February
29th March

Mrs Horne asked for possible 2010 dates to book the hall.



47/1/10