



H A D D E N H A M
P a r i s h C o u n c i l

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Annual Parish Meeting 13th April 2022 Reports

The following reports are included:

[Planning Committee](#)

[Finance and Governance Committee](#)

[Climate Emergency Committee and Working Groups](#)

[Facilities Committee](#)

[Allotments Committee](#)

[Community Orchard Committee](#)

[Sports Facilities](#)

[Snakemoor](#)

[reLEAF](#)

[Haddenham Safe Walking and Cycling](#)

Banks Park Recreation Ground Charity, Haddenham Educational Charity, and Haddenham Parochial Charities

Planning Committee

Bigger Picture Planning Context

- In 2020 the Government published its “Planning for the Future” White Paper proposing a radical shake-up of the planning system to considerable criticism from within the sector and beyond. September 2021 saw a change of Secretary of State (to Michael Gove) and ministry name (to “Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities), and what looks likely to be a different direction for planning. Details are awaited, including on the future of the Cambridge to Oxford “arc” proposals, which appear now to have reduced status.
- The Vale of Aylesbury (VALP) Local Plan for the period 2013-2033 was finally adopted in September 2021 after 7 years’ work. It makes Haddenham a “strategic settlement” for 50% growth by over 1000 new homes on 3 allocated sites (see below). Meanwhile work has started on a new Buckinghamshire-wide Local Plan covering new development until 2040. A call for brownfield sites has gone out; a call for greenfield sites is likely later this year when landowners can put forward potential sites for development.
- The Government has made several changes to Permitted Development rules and to the Use Classes Order. The net effect is to remove some changes of use from planning control, particularly from commercial & offices to residential, as at Chiltern House, Waterslade House and Park House, leading to job losses and negating the intentions of Neighbourhood Plans including ours.

Work of the Parish Council Planning Committee

- The Parish Council (PC) is a statutory consultee on planning applications. We review all applications and submit comments to Buckinghamshire Council which determines them. We have to respond within set time limits, and we concentrate on “material” (ie relevant) planning matters in order to give our comments weight.
- During 2021/22 we had 16 meetings and reviewed 91 applications – a serious volume of work, reflecting the national spike in applications during the pandemic.
- The majority are householder extensions, but can still be controversial, usually because of overlooking, loss of daylight, inadequate parking provision, or inappropriate design or materials. We give informal advice to applicants and neighbours.
- On larger developments, the PC concentrates on the details of any assets to be transferred to the PC: open space, playgrounds, street lighting, and S106 obligations in respect of sport, leisure & recreation. We attend site meetings, particularly as handover approaches, and deal with the legal documentation of land transfers.
- During 2021/22 Bucks Council laid out an experimental temporary 20mph limit with cycle lane along Thame Road/Tacks Lane. Feedback was mixed: people welcomed slower speeds round the House of Spice S-bend, but were less supportive of the design, the one way only cycle lane, and respecting the 20mph limit. The scheme has now been removed after agreement not to make it permanent, but to review in the Streetscape project.
- The PC has launched its “Streetscape” project and appointed consultants Phil Jones Associates to lead a wider review of traffic impact and connectivity issues with 50% funding contribution towards fees from Bucks Council’s Community Board. A public workshop on issues and options will take place on 28th April 2022.

Principal Current Developments

- **Airfield site:** development by Cala Homes. Eastern phases are complete and work is under way on the final western phase on the former football pitch by Pegasus Road. New open space, playing fields, playground and site for a new pavilion were transferred to the PC in

2021. The PC has let a contract to build the pavilion; work is on site and is due for completion in August 2022.

- **Aston Road:** The open space in the south-east quadrant is now open for public access. Dandara have received planning permission for a re-design of phase 1 land for 85 homes, a net uplift of 32 units making 312 dwellings in total. The PC has signed a legal agreement to take transfer of all amenity land to the PC in due course. The PC continues to fight for restitution of the section of missing public footpath behind Willis Road.
- **Land off Churchway to the north of Rosemary Lane (aka HAD007):** the outline application submitted in 2017 was finally approved in October 2020 for 273 dwellings. In February 2021 the PC submitted comprehensive objections on the Phase 1 Reserved Matters application by Redrow Homes and made further objections in December 2021 to amended & additional plans.
- **Land at Platers Road off Dollicott:** transfer of the open space to the PC has been delayed because of uncertainty about access to the HAD007 site via the old farm gate.

Recent Development in Haddenham

1851 Census 1703 people
1951 Census 1666
1981 Census 4815
2011 Census 4502 people (= c. 2000 homes)

Major growth post-war 1950s to 1970s, when the last big development was the Sheerstock estate. No change (indeed decline) from 1981 census to 2011 census. In 2015 identified in the draft Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan (VALP) as a “strategic settlement” for growth by 50% with over 1,000 new homes during the plan period 2011 to 2033. Most of growth is on 3 allocated sites: Airfield (233 homes), Aston Road/Glebe (311), and land west of Churchway/north of Rosemary Lane (273). The VALP was formally adopted Sept 2021 and allocated 1082 homes in Haddenham.

The references in bold below refer to the registered number of the planning application and can be accessed on Bucks Council’s web-site. The first two numbers show the year the application was submitted; the next 5 figures are the application’s unique number; and last three letters indicate the type of application (eg outline, full or reserved matters).

Recent Completions (330):

07/00226/AOP Land at Thame Rd paddock site (WE Black) - now Wirethorn Furlong - 31 homes
07/03507/AOP Spicer Hallfield, Banks Rd (WE Black)– now Printers Piece/Spicers Yard – 48 homes
09/01873/APP 4 Stanbridge Rd demolition of existing house and erection of 5 homes
10/00009/AOP Land adjoining station (Persimmon) – now Cotts Field/Pilots Place - 72 homes
11/00209/APP 40 Thame Rd – redevelopment - 6 flats
12/01603/APP Red Lion, 2 Church End. Change of use and refurb of pub to house and 2 new dwellings at the rear allowed on appeal after several earlier refusals and appeals.
12/02247/APP 26 Rudds Lane - now Roundhill View – redevelopment - 4 houses
11/012666/APP Land adj. 5 Townsend/Mallards Croft - 6 houses (amendment to **07/01437/APP**)
13/03205/APP Land at Fern Lane (Rectory) - now Ricketts Way - 5 units (4 new + 1 refurb)
14/03637/APP Land at Pegasus Way (WE Black) - now Millway Furlong - 45 homes
14/01099/APP 23 High Street (Peking Rendezvous) - now Waggoners Court - 6 homes
15/02123/APP Land at Dollicott (Cala) - now Platers Rd - 25 homes
16/02190/APP 2 Thame Rd – change of use from shop/office and enlargement to 1 house
16/0412/AOP Land east of Stanbridge Rd (Rectory) – now Mead Furlong/Brook Meadow - 43
17/01692/APP Fairfields Farm (Rectory) - now Fairfield Close - 14 homes
18/01172/APP Airfield retail (now Co-op), nursery & flats at Tibbs Rd completed 2020 - 17 homes

Under construction (554 + 69 flat Care Home):

14/03289/AOP & 16/04575/ADP Land at Haddenham Airfield (Cala) - 233 homes

14/02666/AOP Land at Aston Rd by Lightwood Strategic for 280 homes granted by Secretary of State June 2016 after call-in; **17/01841/ADP** validated May 2017 Phases 1&2 reserved matters by Dandara for 147 homes granted May 2018; **17/04543/ADP** Phases 3&4 reserved matters for 137 homes granted Jan 2020; **19/00087/APP** design changes not determined; **20/03764/APP** Revised Phase1 reserved matters submitted Nov 20 density increased from 53 to 85 dwellings (net uplift of 32) resulting in revised overall site total of 312; Oct 21 further Phase1 amendments to 84 dwellings plus changes to mix and street layout. Revised overall site total now 311. Approved March 2022.

16/00047/APP Dollicott Paddock (WE Black) - 10 homes. Started on site 2020. Completion expected during 2022. Now Carwithen Close.

19/00172/APP and 20/01672/APP Land adj Pegasus Way at Westfield Close – 69 flat Care Home for 81 residents. On site.

20/02543/APP Green Dragon, 8 Churchway. Application for change of use from public house to residential allowed on 2nd appeal after various earlier refusals.

Approved in outline or in full but not started on site (360):

17/02280/AOP Land west of Churchway/north of Rosemary Lane (HAD007) granted Oct 20 plus S106 agreement for 273 homes. See Phase1 Reserved Matters submitted **21/00215/ADP**.

18/00066/COUOR Chiltern House Thame Rd B1 to C3 permitted development – 12 flats

18/01037/AOP Land Adjacent To Haddenham Nurseries Stanbridge Road. Outline permission granted June 2020 for 16 homes. Reserved Matters application submitted **21/02709/ADP**.

20/01298/COUOR Waterslade House Thame Rd B1 to C3 permitted development – 36 flats

20/00787/APP 9 Gibson Lane – 1 house following earlier refusal on appeal -see **18/02755/APP**.

21/03125/COUOR Park House PD change of use to 22 flats. See also **21/01397/COUOR**.

Applications to be determined:

21/00215/ADP Land off Churchway site HAD007 Phase 1 Reserved Matters for 153 homes submitted by Redrow Homes

21/00621/APP Land Off Aston Road - Demolition of existing buildings and erection of two dwellings (re-submission)

21/01984/APP Land south of Lower Rd – 14 homes (re-submission after **19/02145/APP** refused)

21/02633/APP 19/20 Fort End (House of Spice) retention of part of restaurant and change of use of part to 5 flats. Amended scheme following appeal dismissal of appeal (below).

21/02709/ADP Land adjacent to Haddenham Nurseries Stanbridge Road. Reserved matters application for 16 homes.

21/02776/APP Land r/o Waterslade House – 6 flats new build

Applications refused:

14/02309/APP Haddenham Health Centre – erection of 8 bungalows - refused

15/00980/APP 19/20 Fort End (House of Spice) change of use to 7 flats - refused on appeal

16/02905/APP Land off Mill Lane for new bungalow - refused

17/01225/AOP Land east of Churchway/north of Green Lane 72 homes – refused on appeal in 2018

17/02126/APP Land at 14 Townsend for 5 homes refused September 2021 (>4yrs after submission). Re-submitted as **20/02897/APP** see below.

18/02755/APP 9 Gibson Lane -1 house Refused on appeal. Resubmitted as **20/00787/APP**.

18/02385/APP 19/20 Fort End (House of Spice) not determined and re-submitted as **20/01129/APP** for retention of part of restaurant and change of use of part to 5 flats. Dismissed on appeal for non-determination in 2021. Amended scheme submitted as **21/02633/APP**.

18/03704/APP Chiltern House redevelopment for 17 flats refused on appeal for non-determination

19/02145/APP Land off Lower Rd/Rear of Stanbridge Rd 43 homes. Refused on appeal 2021 for non-determination. Smaller scheme submitted 2021 as **21/01984/APP**.

19/01806/APP Land off Aston Rd 2 homes on derelict site. Refused 2021. Re-submitted 2021.

20/02897/APP Land at 14 Townsend for 5 homes. Appeal for non-determination dismissed and permission refused Oct 2021. See also **17/02126/APP** refused 2021.

21/00863/APP Land to rear of 108 Churchway – 2 x 2bed flats refused Nov 2021.

21/01397/COUOR PD change of use to 22 flats – refused. Re-submitted as **21/03125/COUOR** and approved.

Total units approved since 2011 census

1104 homes. At an average occupancy of 2.5, this represents c2700 people, making a total population of c.7200 on completion of all approved developments.

Cllr. David Truesdale

Chair Haddenham Parish Council

Finance and Governance Committee

Local Council Award Scheme

We are very proud to have recently achieved a Quality Gold award as part of the Local Council Award Scheme. In achieving Quality Gold status, we join only four other local councils within Buckinghamshire in obtaining the highest award available under the scheme. The Local Council Award Scheme (LCAS) is designed to celebrate the successes of the very best local councils and to provide a framework to support all local councils to improve and develop to meet their full potential. The Quality Gold award recognises that a council is at the forefront of best practice and achieves excellence in governance, community leadership and council development.

Impact of the coronavirus pandemic

Over the last year the Parish Council has changed the way it works again as we move out of lockdown. The changes to the legislation that allowed parish and town councils to hold remote meetings ended on 31st May 2021 so despite the high levels of coronavirus still in circulation we had to resume face-to-face meetings. The purchase of a conferencing system as part of the funding for the new meeting room has allowed us to hold hybrid meetings giving members of the public and any Councillors unable to attend in person the opportunity to join our meetings remotely. We hope the Government will listen to the request from the National Association of Councils to bring in new legislation to enable Councillors to be considered present at hybrid meetings.

New Parish Council Office and Conference Room

Building work to refurbish the former Day Centre as a new Parish Office and Conference Room was completed by Jet Construction in March 2021 and the rooms were then fitted out with new furniture. When working from home guidance ended in July 2021 the staff started working from the new office which has space for four members of staff, a reception area to safely receive visitors, a small meeting room, kitchen and toilets. The conference room is used regularly for our Parish Council meetings and is being hired out for community groups to use. We have received very positive feedback on the transformation of these rooms which are a great place to work and meet, and we think a great example of repurposing rather than rebuilding.

Precept and budgets

We continue to work to a 5-year business plan and produce a detailed Action Plan to monitor its delivery. These were updated and adopted for 2022-23 during the budgeting process for setting the precept. We take into account the commuted sums that the Council receives to cover 10 years' maintenance costs of any new assets it adopts. As we are adopting a lot of amenity land in a relatively short space of time and don't want to set the residents up for a significant council tax increase in 10 years' time when the commuted sums are used up we are planning a gradual small increase in the precept each year and balancing the shortfall with utilisation of the commuted sums. After two years where we have argued that the tax base set by Buckinghamshire Council for Haddenham didn't include enough new homes, thus placing a higher tax burden on residents, we were relieved this year to have a more reasonable figure set, although we still struggled to get access to the breakdown figures.

New budgets have been added for 2022-23 to fund the projects coming from the Climate Emergency Working Groups.

The Council continues to set aside ear-marked reserves in line with its pro-active asset management approach to ensure it can responsibly manage its growing portfolio of assets.

New Facilities

The new developments in the village all make S106 contributions to sport and leisure projects, which the Parish Council nominates. In 2021-22 £90,000 of funding was used to refurbish Woodways

recreation ground play area. The major project we have ongoing now is the building of a new pavilion at Tibbs Road to serve the new sports pitches. The project has taken a long time to come to fruition so we are really pleased to have appointed Marlow Builders who are making good progress with the building work which is being managed by PCMS Design Ltd. Prior to starting building work it was decided to undertake a sustainability review of the specification to ensure the building is as sustainable as possible, which is challenging for a community facility. Where cost would not allow us to include heat pumps the design has been modified to allow conversion in the future. When built the new pavilion will provide changing rooms, toilets and a function room with kitchen that can be hired out. We currently anticipate building work will be complete by the end of August 2022 in time for the new football season.

Grants

With many clubs and societies not meeting during the pandemic there has been a reduction in the number of grant applications received so we were very pleased at the end of March to be able to award a higher than usual unanticipated grant to Haddenham Screen to purchase a new projector to install in the Youth and Community Centre. The old projector was found not to be working when it was tested prior to starting up Haddenham Screen after the lockdown, so we hope this will help this popular village activity to restart very soon.

Adoption of land

The open space at the front of Platers Road has reached the end of the two-year developer maintenance period and the legal process of transferring the land to the Parish Council has unfortunately been very delayed due to rights of access over the private road on the estate not being included in the transfer of that land to the management company. We have asked Buckinghamshire Council solicitors to investigate the breach of the S106 agreement but the response is slow. On the Aston Road site Dandara will be ready to transfer the 'country park' land and play area to the parish council when their required two-year maintenance period ends in April 2023 (subject to a final inspection). We had hoped to take early transfer of the burial ground and pavilion site to enable us to start work on these but this has been delayed as further work is required to raise the ground level. At the Airfield site CALA Homes have asked the Parish Council to start the process of transfer of the remaining areas of public open space.

Staffing

As the village is growing, so is the Parish Council in order for it to keep up with the new responsibilities it is taking on. We currently have a full-time Clerk and three part-time staff (2.5 FTE in total). In the last year Jane has taken on the challenge of getting a new role of Facilities Manager established on a part-time basis, having originally joined the council as Assistant Clerk and then coming back to provide temporary cover for Emma. We have confirmed in the last year, what we thought we already knew, that the Facilities Manager needs to be a full time role. The Council has now approved creating this permanent full-time position and we have agreed with Jane that she will stay on whilst we recruit to fill the new position. We're pleased to have Emma back working her normal hours and Kerrie has taken on a couple of extra hours per week to help with the finances.

David O'Hanlon
Chair of Finance and Governance Committee

Climate Emergency Committee

The Climate Emergency Committee leads on the Parish Council's strategy to address the climate emergency and reduce carbon emissions within the village. It oversees four working groups which focus on individual projects:

Home Energy

The Home Energy working group's focus is reduce CO₂ emissions through Home Energy projects by doing the following:

- Establish networks with enthusiastic members of the community who have an interest in this area.
- To model the affordability for households of both changing from using a gas boiler to alternatives (e.g. hydrogen, air-sourced heat pump, ground-sourced heat pump, communal ground-sourced heat pump) and improving their homes' energy efficiency and forming a strategy as to which action or combination will achieve the biggest reduction in CO₂e emissions while being affordable and hence deliverable
- To explore innovative ways to educate and encourage Haddenham households to adopt the optimal course for their dwelling and their financial circumstances.
- To identify opportunities for central government or unitary government grants which can provide financial assistance for energy source switching and/or for home improvements.
- To explore and establish a business case for households to consider the use of renewable energy such as solar panels, air source heating and ground source heat pumps.
- To form a project which will enable and encourage householders to move away from gas energy to low carbon energy at the time which will deliver the lowest home energy emissions by 2030.

Initial research has focused on home energy solutions for domestic properties in Haddenham. A number of Home Energy providers and specialists will be attending the Annual Parish Meeting, where there will also be a talk from Bean Beanland from the Heat Pump Federation. Promotion of Home Energy solutions will continue throughout the year, including at the Village Fete.

Volunteers to support this initiative are Kirsty Shanahan, Linda Fisher and Professor Floud.

Cllr. Nick Kidby

Electric Vehicle Hire Club

The Parish council continues to work with 3B hire to set up an EV hire club for Haddenham. Once up and running, the hire club will allow you to use an EV for exactly as long as you need, even if only for a couple of hours, with no monthly membership fee and no need to worry about any of the expenses of running your own vehicle. There has been a significant trend for households to reduce the number of vehicles they own post-Covid, and the hire club could well provide the flexibility people need to take the plunge and get rid of a second car. As well as cutting carbon emissions, you could also end up saving a significant amount of money.

For those of you who have already have registered your interest, please bear with us a little longer while we sort out the charging infrastructure, and if you haven't done so but would like to be kept informed of progress, please contact 3B directly at ross@3Bhire.co.uk.

We realise that car ownership is the only practical option for some, though, and would be particularly interested to hear about anything that is making it difficult for you to switch to an EV, whether it's cost, availability or a lack of off-street parking.

Cllr. Alan Thawley

Food We Eat/Food We Waste sub-committee report

The focus of the FWE/FWW sub-committee during 2021 was to raise awareness of the food waste issue in relation to climate change and produce a behaviour-change style challenge for village residents.

In order to prepare the material for these projects, members of the sub-committee have held meetings with representatives of Feedback Global and Hubbub - two food system campaigning charities.

The sub-committee also identified that WRAP (Waste Resources Action Programme charity) were holding a Food Waste Action Week, 7-13th March 2022, and we linked in with the WRAP action week by having a stall at the Vale Harvest market on March 5th in order to publicise FWE/FWW and launch the village Food Waste Challenge.

Over 50 residents signed up to a pilot of the FEW/FWW challenge which utilises the pre-existing online Food Savvy Challenge resources. A specific Facebook group was set up to monitor participant's progress and encourage further community engagement. The pilot challenge has just finished and a post-participation survey is underway, the results of which will help steer future actions taken by the sub-committee.

We plan to hold further awareness raising events during 2022, and will be helping to promote a guest lecture being hosted by Zero Carbon Haddenham at 7.30pm on 26th April: "The Surprising Impacts of our Food Choices" by Anthony Simpson – more details to be published soon on the Haddenham.net/Parish Council websites.

Mr. Diccon Proctor

Land Use

The focus of the Land Use working group is to ensure land use is changed effectively to reduce CO2e emissions. It hopes to do this by via the following measures:

- Establish a business case for farmers to move away from cattle and sheep farming which has a large methane foot print and consequently a very high short-term impact on global warming
- Co-ordinate the planting of the village wood by the Airfield
- Woodland offset – ambitious planting of woodland on flood plain surrounding the village.
- Liaison with other parishes to adopt a woodland planting scheme which delivers significant reduction in CO2e emissions and maximises CO2 sequestration.
- Ensure reforestation is done at industrial scale but not in an industrial manner – woodland planting should be done to rewilding principles with a view to a native and diverse ecosystem (flora & fauna) that is then best left for nature, not humans to manage.

Cllr. Greg Smith

Facilities Committee

The Facilities Committee has a very wide remit covering all the open spaces of the parish, including all the buildings and street furniture belonging to the Council.

The Committee has four sub-committees – Orchard, Snakemoor, Sporting Facilities and Allotment Committees - their reports are included.

Play Areas

All our play areas continue to be well maintained by parish council through regular inspections to ensure they remain fun and safe to use. The Council's ongoing playground improvement program saw the refurbishment of the playground at Woodways. This project was in collaboration with our younger members who filled out questionnaires telling us what type of playground they would like to see. The result being an exciting and more inclusive playground which is vast improvement on the old equipment. It has been great to hear the positive feedback and we hope it will continue to be well used for years to come.

The BMX track continues to be a well-used facility and we are lucky to have this in Haddenham.

New Fort at Woodways



Street Furniture

The Parish Council continues to maintain the Bus Shelters around the village and has re-painted the shelters on Woodways. We continue to work with Bucks Council to ensure our rubbish bins and dog bins are emptied in a timely manner. Unfortunately, we are not responsible for dog bins on land we don't currently own, such as The Grove. Until the Council formally adopts these areas (at the completion of the site) they remain the responsibility of the developers.

There has been the installation of some new benches and should any parishioner wish to donate a bench, please refer to the Council's Bench Policy.

Trees & Hedges

It has been an unbelievably busy year with tree work throughout the parish! Working with reLEAF, Bucks Council and the Woodland trust, there has been a phenomenal amount of tree and hedge planting over the last year. Over 100 trees and hedges have been planted across the parish with significant planting at Woodways Recreation Ground and areas around Sheerstock. The trees are not only good for the environment and wildlife but provide beautiful additions to the overall appearance of the village.

With increased trees, requires increased maintenance and the Parish Council has instructed an independent tree surgeon to undertake a survey of all of our tree stock. It's important that the Council can plan effectively any maintenance which needs to be done, to keep the trees safe and healthy. Sadly, Storm Eunice did result in the village losing a number of trees. These will all be replaced over time.

New trees at Woodways



New trees at Sheerstock



Street Lights

The Council undertook the tender of its street light maintenance contractor and were delighted to appoint Eldridge Electrical. A full survey of our 200 plus street lights is being undertaken to identify any streetlights that may need replacing. The village has a mixed stock of street lights reflecting the growth of the village over the years. The Council will continue to repair and replace when necessary residential only streetlights.

The connection of our street lights to the national grid is the responsibility of UK Power Networks. Unfortunately, we have experienced many time delays with UKPN connecting new columns to the grid. This has resulted in very frustrated residents and Council staff! We are looking at ways to improve this and hope to be working with a new specialist supplier by late Spring.

Grounds Maintenance

The Council has re-tendered its ground maintenance and this was awarded in June to Aspire Community Works for the next two years. They will continue to provide grass cutting and general maintenance services around all areas of the village. The Council is continuing to improve biodiversity throughout the village and this will include the planting and developing wild flower areas in association with Aspire.

Buckinghamshire Council Devolved Services

The Parish Council has signed a 12 months' extension the devolved services agreement with Bucks Council and negotiated a small increase in the amount of funding from Bucks. This allows the Parish Council to maintain the highway verges (30mph only) throughout the village, footpaths and provide permission for temporary signage.

Cllr. John Wheeler
Facilities Committee Chair

Sporting Facilities Committee

The last year has seen dramatic changes to the sporting facilities within the village. The Parish Council and the local Sports and Social Club have come together to form the Sporting Facilities Committee, to provide a collaborative approach to improve the sport and social facilities of the parish.

The grounds maintenance of the recreation ground at Woodways and Tibbs Road is an important part of ensuring that pitches and outfielders are safe and suitable for sport. A full timetable of maintenance on the pitches - incorporating, fertilising, herbicide, verti-draining and seeding - has kept the pitches in very good condition through the football season.

There have been some significant improvements to The Pavilion at Woodways. There has been repairs to the guttering, roof and soffits and the installation of a new kitchen. The new kitchen is a vast improvement and we hope be fully completed by Easter. We have also improved the health and safety provision of the building by introducing regular legionella testing, fire extinguishers and PAT testing of equipment.

The new Pavilion at Tibbs Road is currently under construction and we hope that it will be completed by September 2022. It is an exciting and innovative building with excellent environmental credentials. It will provide a first class facility for Haddenham Youth Football Teams as well as function room which can be used by the wider community. We are delighted that we have other organisations already interested in using the building on its completion.

Future projects include the creation of a cricket ground and Pavilion at The Grove Dandara site. This is still at the planning stage and will require a lot of ground preparation following the conclusion of building on the site. We anticipate that it will another five years before we are in position to play cricket there and coupled with some innovative landscaping, we hope to support other sports such as archery, in this location.

Cllr. John Wheeler
Sporting Facilities Committee Chair

Allotments Committee Report

The last year has seen a continuation in the demand for allotment plots, and 3 new plots were prepared on the old bonfire site.

Extra solar panel batteries were installed, so that the water pumping could be extended, and a power point was installed in the community shed to power the batteries of the electric strimmer. I should like to thank Chris Wylam for all his efforts in this area.

Recycling bays have been constructed so that green waste can be used and Richard Moore has overseen the project, including the 2 working parties which turned the heaps and did some wood chipping.

The tenancy agreement has been updated and circulated to all existing plot holders. Changes will come into effect on 1 April 2023.

I should like to thank Alison Watt for all her hard work letting plots and helping the Chairperson.

Cllr. John Wheeler
Allotment Committee Chair

Community Orchard Committee Report

The community orchard continues to go from strength to strength and is very popular with village residents. The visitor numbers increased a lot during 2021 as a consequence of more people discovering it during the various Lockdowns. This has caused some erosion of the main perimeter path and the committee are looking in to how we can address this issue. As well as charming the human population, we know that the local wildlife is attracted to the orchard too, as evidenced by 13 different UK butterfly species being spotted in 2021. The orchard got a commendation, for the measures it has taken to enhance nature, from the Wild Aylesbury Vale Competition organised by Bucks Council and BBOWT.

There have been some new additions to the plants in the orchard this year, namely a Mulberry tree donated by the Piers Family, and 165 hedge saplings donated by the Woodland Trust. The latter have been planted in 3 areas and in years to come will hopefully give a beautiful display of spring blossom and autumn berries. The hedge trees will form the orchards contribution towards the Queen's Green Canopy scheme which marks the platinum Jubilee.

Although our social events were somewhat restricted by the pandemic, we did manage to join in the village scarecrow festival, and had some wonderful mini-scarecrow creations on display, which were made by local children and families. A big thank you once again goes to the Baruch family for providing the excellent music at the Jazz picnic in September and the Christmas lightshow in December. In 2022 we hope to be able to hold our annual Easter egg hunt and summer community picnic, as well as another jazz picnic, plus a children's natural art/sculpture trail.

The main development the committee are planning during 2022 is to upgrade a section of the perimeter path in order to make the orchard more accessible to villagers with reduced mobility or wheelchair dependency. Depending on funding availability, the aim is to lay a firmer path material between the Mallards Croft entrance and the two benches. The Mallards Croft gate will also be replaced with a wider and easier to open version. Next to one of the benches two raised beds will be installed and planted up to make a sensory garden.

As always I would like to thank all our volunteers for their support and hard work – we really are enormously grateful for everything that you do to look after keep this special. An extra mention goes to Elizabeth Craig, our Duke of Edinburgh volunteer, who helped us out in a variety of roles throughout 2021.

New orchard committee members or volunteers are very welcome and can register their interest in helping out via the Chairman, Diccon Proctor, by emailing communityorchard.haddenham@gmail.com.

Diccon Proctor
Community Orchard Committee Chair

Snakemoor

Working Groups Held:

10th April 2021
17th April 2021
10th July 2021
23rd October 2021
12th March 2022

Snakemoor Achievements

1. 15 bespoke bird boxes installed
2. Pond & stream rejuvenated & aquatic planting carried out
3. Biodiversity project launched; volunteers in place to manage
4. Paths made passable for all seasons and weathers
5. Several hedging gaps filled; orchard area widely pruned
6. New volunteers brought onto the team

Snakemoor Aims for 2022-23

1. Biodiversity Project: Teams to capture & manage species data
2. Pond: aquatic plant proliferation; newt survey to carry out
3. Bird boxes: proofing against pests; monitoring of nesting activity
4. Hedging extension works
5. Black poplars (gift from U3A) to plant by stream
6. Further clearance of dead trees

Snakemoor Volunteers Xmas Drinks



Snakemoor Pond



I would specifically like to mention the work of Michael Whitney in mowing the meadow area - a very large task. In addition, Mark Nicholson has done tremendous work in making safe widespread storm damage, and allowing us to improve the paths.

Robyn Thorogood continues to give much effort and support to the volunteer team.

Mr. Julian Watson

reLEAF

Our application last year to be part of Buckinghamshire Council's (BC) bid for government 'Treescapes' funding was successful. We have just had 24 street trees planted around the village by BC contractors and the Parish Council (PC) received funding to have its own contractors plant trees in Woodways recreation ground and at the top of Sheerstock (replacing some of the conifer hedge line). It is worth mentioning that many of the locations we suggested for street trees were turned down by BC due to the verge being too narrow or there being utilities underground, such as the 57 sites suggested along Willis Road.

We have just been contacted to see if we are interested in making another application for funding this year so we are compiling a list of potential locations for trees on streets and PC land.

Last time the funding was as follows & I presume this will be the case again - for trees or hedgerow that:

- are not in existing woodland areas,
- are planted in blocks of up to 0.5-hectare maximum
- can be on privately owned land
- can be street trees (ie next to the highway)

The funding is for capital cost only, but this can include contractors undertaking the work and the first three years of maintenance.

We didn't really pick up on the option of privately owned land before, but if anyone wants hedging or a tree(s) for their garden or even farm please get in touch ASAP. We can add it to the application & see where we get! If you have a suggestion for a street tree location, please let us know. It would be ideal if you can give the grid reference using [Grid Reference Finder](#)
The application needs to be submitted by **May 31st**.

This planting season the reLEAF team & local residents planted more trees and shrubs in Sheerstock park, Thame Road, the pound at Church End, the pond on Rudds Lane. Some of these trees were donations; some were purchased & some we had grown ourselves! We now have a small tree nursery at the Baptist Church and are very grateful to them for allowing us to use the space & install a water butt. We are planning a session with the cubs to pot on some of our baby trees later this month. The trees previously planted are thriving with the consistent watering being done by residents nearby.

If you would like to get involved, or suggest a tree site for the Treescapes application please email releaf@zeroch.org

Kirsten Shaw & the reLEAF team

Haddenham Safe Walking & Cycling Group

Our group campaigns to make the village a safer place to navigate for pedestrians and cyclists, as well as users of wheelchairs, mobility scooters, buggies, pushchairs and so on. Our goal for Haddenham to become a '**Walking and Cycling Village**' is not about excluding anybody – we appreciate that some people rely on their cars, but we want everyone who is able to walk or cycle to have the choice, which means challenging the current domination of the road network by the needs of motor vehicles. A safe and welcoming environment is particularly important for more vulnerable road users, such as children and those who are less confident or mobile.

We therefore have high hopes for the outcome of the current **Streetscape** project, which will take a long-overdue look at transport and traffic all across the village, and we encourage everyone to get involved so that the proposed solutions will be based on a broad survey of villagers' concerns and needs. As well as an opportunity to address particular problem areas like the double roundabout where Churchway meets Woodways or the vast expanse of tarmac at Church End, we hope it will embrace general principles like the prevention of through traffic and speed reduction.

A further principle we hope will be embraced via Streetscape and as a wider policy is the systematic provision of **bike stands** for the facilities and focal points of the village. This is all the more important due to the growing adoption of **e-bikes**, which will make cycling accessible to an even wider section of the population, because their higher value and extra weight increases the requirement for secure parking options. We have undertaken a comprehensive survey of the village to identify requirements.

Looking further afield, we will continue to press Buckinghamshire Council as hard as we can to make progress on their aspiration for a **Greenway linking Haddenham to Thame and Aylesbury**. National policy and a desire to see the route built shared by both Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire mean the prospects have never been better, but progress remains frustratingly slow, and we anxiously await to hear that Bucks has commissioned the promised **detailed options report**.

Our members continue to be actively involved in the promotion and maintenance of the cross-country footpaths around the village, and special thanks should go to Bill Piers and his Ripple team for their hard work on the replacement of numerous styles with more accessible gates. We are also very close to achieving a '**round Haddenham**' **circular walk**, with only permission to cross a short stretch of land still proving elusive.

Following a recruitment drive, we are pleased to have gained new members, but are always keen to welcome more into the fold, particularly from the newer areas of the village, and we hope that the improved active travel links we campaign for will play their part in bringing the whole community closer together. We are also pleased to have published two issues of **our new newsletter, Signposts**: do let us know if you would like to be added to the mailing list to receive it hot off the press!

My thanks go out to all members of the group for their ideas and enthusiasm, and in particular to Cynthia Floud, who I replaced as chair last year after many years of dedicated work.

Cllr. Alan Thawley

Banks Park Recreation Ground Charity, Haddenham Educational Charity, and Haddenham Parochial Charities

The Parish Council has written to stakeholders with an interest in these charities about a proposal to amalgamate into one new charity.

The charities we are considering for amalgamation are:

Banks Park Recreation Ground Charity, Charity No.300272 of which Haddenham Parish Council is the sole managing trustee. This charity owns the land at Banks Park and the freehold of the various buildings on the site. Income comes from the ground rent paid by the occupiers of those premises. The income is used to maintain the shared areas of Banks Park and freeholder repairing obligations. Any surplus can be used at Woodways Recreation Ground.

Haddenham Educational Charity, Charity No. 301589 of which Haddenham Parish Council is the sole managing trustee. The income from this charity is from an investment fund set up by the sale of the Old British School and is used to award grants of £100-£150 to those who apply in October each year. The charity has also received residual funds from the defunct charity and limited company Haddenham Youth & Community Centre to continue to fund youth work in Haddenham.

The three Haddenham Parochial Charities which are currently managed together by a board of trustees appointed by the Parish Council:

- **The Reverend John Willis Charity**, Charity No. 205529. This charity owns the land at the allotments on Townside which is held by the Official Custodian. The allotment site is leased to Haddenham Parish Council and the income to the charity is annual ground rent.
- **Alms Corn Charity**, Charity No. 237625. The income of this charity comes from 2 local land owners who are required to make a donation to the charity each year calculated on the basis of the value of corn.
- **Joseph Franklin Charity**, Charity No. 204185. The income of this charity is from an investment fund.

The income from the Parochial Charities is distributed to those in need who apply for a grant in December each year.

Why are we considering amalgamating the charities?

There are several reasons:

1. To reduce the administrative burden, particularly for the four smaller charities which have a very small annual income.
2. To modernize the charities' aims, operations and governance to better serve our local community in the 21st century.
3. To ensure the future of the Parochial Charities due to the difficulty of recruiting new trustees.
4. Discussions to renew leases for the allotments and Village Hall have pointed to the desirability of review.

Proposed structure of the new charity

The new charity would be set up as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). This is a relatively new corporate form of business designed for charitable organizations. The main benefits are that the charity has "legal personality" (eg the ability to enter contracts, deliver charitable services, and to hold property in its own name – rather than in the name of its trustees), and its members have limited liability. Historically these benefits were only available to limited companies, so many charities chose to incorporate as charitable companies limited by guarantee. However, this requires registration and filings with both Companies House and the Charity Commission. In contrast a CIO

only needs to register and file accounts and returns with the Charity Commission, so reducing bureaucracy for the charity.

The new charity scheme

The assets of the individual charities would be transferred to the new charity which will have a broad constitution incorporating the aims of the original charities:

1. To provide financial support to those in need with food and fuel during the winter months.
2. To provide financial support with vocational or educational expenses.
3. To own land at Townside to be protected for use as allotments in the village.
4. To own, manage and improve the land and leased properties at Banks Park.

What is the process?

The process is quite complicated so we anticipate progress will be slow, but briefly to outline what is needed:

1. We are currently having the land and properties at Banks Park and the allotment site valued by a specialist surveyor to ensure that any disposals do not disadvantage those charities.
2. The trustees of each charity have met and agreed in principle to the amalgamation.
3. We have appointed a solicitor with expertise in charity law to advise and liaise with the Charity Commission to make sure the correct legal procedures are followed.
4. We are engaging with stakeholders to seek their views on the proposal.
5. A constitution will need to be drafted and agreed for the new charity.
6. Work with the Charity Commission to set up the new charity and appoint trustees.
7. Transfer the assets of the existing charities and wind them up.
8. Get updated / new leases in place for all properties.