



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 19th April 2023 Reports

The following reports are included:

[Planning Committee](#)

[Finance and General Purposes Committee](#)

[Climate Emergency Committee and Working Groups](#)

[Facilities Committee](#)

[Haddenham Village Hall Committee](#)

[Haddenham Safe Walking and Cycling](#)

[Haddenham Parochial Charities](#)

[Banks Park Recreation Ground Charity](#)

[Haddenham Educational Charity](#)

[Haddenham Community Library](#)

Planning Committee

The work of the Parish Council Planning Committee

- The Parish Council (PC) is a statutory consultee on planning and listed building applications. We review all applications and submit comments to Buckinghamshire Council (BC) which determines them. We have to respond within set time limits, and we concentrate on “material” (i.e. relevant) planning matters in order to give our comments weight.
- During 2022/23 we had 15 meetings and reviewed 90 applications (67 for planning permission and 23 for listed building consent) – a serious volume of work with briefings prepared by the Chair on each application.
- 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.
- The Planning Committee leads on major projects currently including the Airfield Pavilion, “Streetscape”, re-investment in the Village Hall complex, and the upcoming Aston Road cricket pavilion and burial ground projects.
- We have a small grant fund to help residents with repairs to public-facing wicket walls, and in response to requests have prepared a contact list of local contractors and consultants who may be able to help with heritage work and approvals.

Major Developments Update

- **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 Rd. New open space, playing fields, playground and site for a new pavilion were transferred to the PC in 2021. The PC let a contract to build the Airfield Pavilion in 2021. Completion took place in December 2022 with handover to the Parish Council. The estimated cost of c.£1.5m is funded by developers.
- **Aston Rd:** The open space in the south-east quadrant is now open to public access. Dandara is working on the final phase including the western open space identified for a cricket and burial ground. The PC has a legal agreement to take transfer of all amenity land in due course. Bucks Council has refused to engage with the PC’s request to re-instate the missing section of public footpath behind Willis Road.
- **Land west of Churchway/north of Rosemary Lane (aka HAD007):** The 2017 outline application was finally approved in October 2020 for 273 dwellings. In August 2022 the PC addressed the Bucks Council Planning Committee meeting which went on to grant conditional permission to Redrow for the Phase 1 Reserved Matters (for 153 homes). In the early months of 2023 Bucks Council has served a Stop Notice followed by two Enforcement Notices because the Suds (drainage) arrangements have still not been agreed.
- **Land at Platers Rd off Dollicott:** transfer of the open space to the PC has been delayed because of uncertainty about public access to the Redrow HAD007 site via

the old farm gate. Recently Bucks Council finally responded that the failure to ensure public access was not their responsibility.

- So far in 2023 two “hostile” applications have been submitted on behalf of local landowners on sites **not** allocated for development in the Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan. They are “Land east of Churchway” (opposite Redrow) for 91 dwellings by Richborough Estates , and “Land south of Lower Road” (east of Stanbridge Rd) for 15 dwellings by Rectory Homes. Both have been submitted previously and refused on appeal. Both are seeking to use Haddenham to test whether Bucks Council does have its claimed 5-year housing land supply in the Vale area – a test which the current Secretary of State may be about to drop.
- A full list of all developments in Haddenham since 2007 is available from the Parish Council.

“Streetscape” Project

- The Haddenham Neighbourhood Plan included a commitment to conduct a traffic impact assessment in the context of growth, wider mobility and access needs (particularly walking & cycling), safety, and environmental considerations. In December 2021 the PC appointed consultants Phil Jones Associates (PJA) to undertake a village wide appraisal and develop a design framework to influence future investment. Match funding for fees was agreed by the Community Board.
- Project milestones:
 - Jan 2022 Entire village tour and photographic survey
 - Jan 2022 Stage 1 consultation goes live using bespoke on-line software @Bucks.place
 - March 2022 Initial ideas using design toolkit
 - April 2022 1st stakeholder exhibition in Parish centre
 - April-May 2022 4-week consultation period
 - June 2022 Development of concept ideas and on-line presentation to Village Society
 - July 2022 2nd stakeholder exhibition in Parish centre (has remained on display)
 - July-August 2022 4-week consultation period
 - September 2022 Publication of 70-page feasibility report including design concepts at 8 specific locations and one village-wide proposal for a 20mph zone.
 - October 2022 PC commissions further feasibility of village-wide 20mph zone given high-level support and likely to include some of the location-specific design concepts.
 - December 2022 Publication of 20mph feasibility report
 - December 2022 PC requests feasibility quote for Kings Cross junction review following history of accidents and a meeting with Cuddington & Chearsley PCs
 - Feb 2023 Presentation to Bucks Council transport and highways development colleagues. BC requests further design work on Thame Rd and automatic traffic count (ATC) data.
 - March 2023 PC approves PJA quote for feasibility design work to Thame Rd and to bid to CB jointly with Cuddington PC for Kings Cross review.

Bigger Picture Planning News

- It has been a year of chaotic changes of direction and of ministers. The Government stepped back from radical planning reform in its much criticised 2020 “Planning for the Future” White Paper. In late 2022 Michael Gove was re-appointed as Secretary of State at the Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities, since when a revised Levelling Up & Regeneration Bill (actually mainly about planning) has been published, along with a revised draft National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) - its 5th iteration in just 10 years.
- The “Levelling up” agenda appears to mean that the Cambridge to Oxford “arc” proposals have reduced status with the proposed road dropped, but the east-west rail link continuing.
- 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, negating the intentions of Neighbourhood Plans like ours, and removing any obligation to contribute betterment (via S106 or CIL) to the local community.

Bucks Council Planning News

- **Local Plan for Bucks.** Work has started on a new Buckinghamshire-wide Local Plan covering new development until 2040. Calls for potential brownfield and greenfield development sites have gone out to landowners and will be reviewed under the Housing & Employment Land Availability Assessment (HELAA) due to be published later in 2023. Local landowners and their development partners have submitted 15 sites in and around Haddenham with a combined area of 230 hectares.
- **Buckinghamshire Local Cycling & Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP).** In February 2023 Bucks Council unveiled its Council-wide approach to infrastructure provision for cycling, walking and wheeling (ie wheelchair/mobility scooters etc) with potential projects identified by Community Board area. Projects in the Haddenham & Waddesdon Community Board include 2 “aspirations”:
 - Haddenham to Aylesbury (also serving Stone, Dinton & Upton)
 - Haddenham (Station) to Thame

Both are described as “category 3” schemes defined as “in early stages of development, needing significant investigation to proceed”. Villagers may recall we reported on feasibility studies by Sustrans back in 2015 for Haddenham-Aylesbury, and in 2016 for Haddenham-Thame.

David Truesdale
Planning Committee Chair

Finance and General Purposes Committee

Committee renamed

This year it was decided to revert to the previous name for this committee from Finance and Governance as the 'general purposes' descriptor clarifies that all the things that crop up that aren't covered by other committees are covered by this one.

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 2023-24 during the budgeting process for setting the precept. We face the same challenges that everyone is currently facing of trying to balance the budgets in the face of escalating costs. We consider 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. We were pleased to see that the tax base set by Buckinghamshire Council for Haddenham had increased and appears to better reflect the increasing number of new homes, thus reducing the tax burden on residents.

New budgets have been added for 2023-24 to run the new Airfield pavilion and the youth club.

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.

Youth Club

Following the winding up of Haddenham Youth and Community Centre Charity, the Parish Council has stepped in take on the responsibility of running the Youth Club. The lease for the centre has been transferred to Haddenham Junior School and includes provision for the youth club to continue to use the centre free of charge. We are delighted have entered into an agreement with youth worker Dave Rollins that allows him to continue to run the youth club. After a long closure during the pandemic Dave has successfully got the club up and running again, starting with the year 6 students at the junior school to help with their move to secondary schools, the majority continue to attend the club now they are in year 7. We would like to be able to expand the youth provision in the village and are looking into ways this might be possible.

New Facilities

The new developments in the village all make S106 contributions to sport and leisure projects, which the Parish Council nominates. This year we have utilised almost £1.5M to build a pavilion at the Airfield site to serve the new sports pitches, the majority of that having been paid by Cala Homes for the Airfield development. PCMS Design Ltd managed the build for us and worked closely with the selected builder, Marlow Builders, this included monthly project meetings with Parish Council representatives. They encountered many challenges during the building work, including weather, sourcing tradesmen and escalating costs. Our final challenge is to get Thames Water to connect the mains water supply, currently we have been waiting seven months, but we finally have a date in May for the

work to be carried out. Unfortunately lack of a water supply has delayed the opening up of the building for use, however we are now taking bookings and expect the building to be a great new asset for the village. The new pavilion has two wings, one designed for use for football with two team changing rooms, and a referee's changing room, and the other wing with a function room and commercial kitchen that can be hired out for a variety of uses including exercise classes and parties.

Work has now started on designing the new pavilion for Haddenham Cricket Club that will be built to serve the new pitch on the Aston Road development. A meeting was held that included representatives from England Cricket Board as their input is needed to confirm if the design of the building meets ECB criteria and would therefore attract funding. An amendment to the S106 agreement for the Aston Road development is being drafted to include the building of the pavilion as a project as it wasn't originally included.

Grants

Many clubs were slow to restart after the pandemic so we are pleased to report that the number of grant applications this year has increased. This year we have funded new shelving at Haddenham Community Library as well as supporting other local organisations with smaller grants, including Haddenham Tennis Club, Zero Carbon Haddenham, The Sixty Plus Club, Haddenham Village Society and a donation to the Poppy Appeal.

Adoption of land

The open space at the front of Platers Road reached the end of the two-year developer maintenance period in April 2021 and since that time we have been asking Buckinghamshire Council to investigate the possible breach of the S106 agreement and planning permission that has resulted in no public right of access to the adjacent land. During the planning process the Parish Council asked for a right of access to be included to allow pedestrians easier access to local amenities. We have received an unsatisfactory response from Buckinghamshire Council who have told us that although included in the plans there is no legal obligation for the access to be provided, so we now need to consider adopting the land without the public access from land to the north.

On the Aston Road site, the required two-year maintenance period for the Country Park and smaller play area ends in April 2023. A final inspection of the land will be carried out prior to transfer to the Parish Council. Work to raise the ground level of the new burial ground site has now been completed and we await the results of a topographical survey to confirm the levels are correct. Once confirmed, we will be able to progress with obtaining permission for the burial ground from the Environment Agency.

At the Airfield site an inspection of the final areas for adoption has been carried out and a one-year maintenance period started in January 2023. An inspection of the street lights has been carried out and subject to repairs being needed they will be adopted by the Parish Council in the next few months.

Staffing

The rapid growth of the village, bringing new residents and new facilities has put increasing pressure on the Parish Council to keep up with the new responsibilities it is taking on. The Council employs a full-time Clerk and two part-time staff and this year the role of Facilities Manager, having been established on a temporary, part-time basis, has been expanded to become full time. After carrying out a recruitment process we were pleased to welcome Ian

Final to the team as our new Facilities Manager in September 2022. The Council has now decided to undertake a staffing review to ensure it continues to provide the level of service needed for its size and responsibilities.

David O'Hanlon
Chair of Finance and General Purposes 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:

It is important to continually raise the profile of the Climate Emergency and what we are trying to achieve within Haddenham. The Parish Council is always looking for innovative ways to get the message across. To this end, we are working with Zero Carbon Haddenham on the idea of creating an eye-catching mural within village to highlight that time is ticking to address this on a local and nationwide level. We want to make sure there is plenty of community input into the design, so please get in touch if you would like to join the working group - anyone with enthusiasm and a little time to spare would be very welcome! Hopefully, this will come to fruition later this year.

David O'Hanlon, Chair of Finance and General Purposes Committee

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.

We are delighted to be working with Buckinghamshire Community Energy on our inaugural Energy Efficient Home Fayre on the 1st October at the Airfield Pavilion. It will be an informative fayre focusing on ways to improve your home to make it more cost effective to run. There will be informative talks from industry leaders in this field alongside an exhibition of relevant companies. More information to follow over the next few months, but add it into your diary!

Cllr. Nick Kidby

Electric Vehicle Hire Club and EV charging points.

The Council was delighted to be working in partnership with 3B in launching a new EV Hire Club in December. For the first time, Haddenham residents have access to an electric car that can be booked for as little as an hour up to seven days. The response from the residents has been very positive with a lot of repeat users. If it continues to be well used, there may be demand to add an additional car. We urge our residents to try it out – as for a very reasonable cost, you can greatly reduce your own individual carbon footprint, and could potentially use the hire club as a replacement for a second vehicle.

The Parish Council has also provided a public EV charging point at Banks Park. It is located opposite the recreation ground and next to the 3B Hire Club Car. This is the only public – working – charger in Haddenham, so please make use of it if you have an Electric Vehicle. You can find the Banks Park charging point on ZAP MAP, which will tell you if it is occupied or not.

The Council are looking to extend their EV charging provision and are in discussions with a third party to provide an additional 2 to 4 fast charging points at the Airfield Pavilion car park.

Cllr. Alan Thawley

Food We Eat/Food We Waste

The Parish Council met with the Haddenham Junior School Eco-co-ordinator to look at how to engage school children (and their parents!) in ways to reduce food waste. It was pleasing to see that the Junior school were already participating in their own initiatives and we are looking at collaborative ways to take these ideas forward. Unfortunately, there has been a slight delay to achieving these objectives, due to a change of Eco-Ordinator within the school, but we hope to re-establish contact to get the project rolling again very soon.

The Parish Council has been active in promoting Bucks County Schemes such as the Community Fridges which are now popping up all over Bucks. This complements the great work our allotments holders do by donating excess produce to local food banks.

The Council is working with Abbeyfield Nursing home to continue to provide herb beds for their residents to tend and use at the Community Orchard. The planting of a community herb garden will be undertaken in association with ReLeaf at the Airfield Pavilion later this year. Once established it will provide herbs for all Haddenham residents to pick and enjoy.

It has been noted that with the increase in food prices, whilst very hard on your pocket, has resulted in less food waste. We hope that when prices ease, the good habits and practices which have been learnt still continue.

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.

This is a long process which takes a lot of liaison and time, we hope to have make further progress this year.

Cllr. Greg Smith

Facilities Committee

The Council are pleased to announce that they have employed a full time Facilities Manager. With the village growing so fast it was felt this was the way to move forward. The new Facilities Manger's name is Ian Final and he will be looking after all things facilities. Feel free to pop in the parish office to say hello or give him a call if you have any facilities related questions.

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 – Community Orchard, Snakemoor, Sporting Facilities and Allotments. Reports from each sub-committee are included.

Play Areas

All our play areas continue to be well maintained by the Parish Council through regular inspections to ensure they remain fun and safe to use. All of our play areas are well used with high visitor numbers each week.

As well as these areas we also have the B.M.X track which is an envy for other areas. This has had its annual technical service where over 20 tonnes of crushed stone was newly laid.

Along with our football pitches, tennis courts and open spaces Haddenham really is a great place for outdoor activities.



Street Furniture

The Parish Council continues to maintain the bus shelters around the village. These are inspected and cleaned on a regular basis.

We continue to work with Bucks Council and our in-house contractors to ensure our rubbish bins and dog bins are regularly emptied.

There are a number of new bike stands planned to be erected throughout the village giving people a safe option to lock their bikes up when cycling around the village.

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's been a very busy time with the planting and maintenance of trees and hedges. Working with reLEAF volunteers over 150 trees and 1800 hedging plants have been planted. Obviously, all these young trees need plenty of care during their first 2-3 years of life and we work very closely with our contractor to ensure they are watered and loved. This task was especially difficult last year with the very dry summer we experienced. Phase two of Sheerstock Path was completed with all the old and scraggy Leylandii removed and replaced with native species. More old and dying Leylandii were removed from Woodways boundary with new planting to take place in the autumn. ReLEAF have planted a large number of trees and hedge plants at the Airfield recreation area.

St Mary's Church

A boundary wall has been rebuilt at the church with part wychert and lime mortar render. We have plans to rebuild the school entrance wall this summer with the complete build being carried out in wychert.

Church End Pond



There was concern for several years about the silt accumulation in Church End pond and the possibility of the pond becoming completely silted up over the next few years. Initial investigations carried out estimated around 350 tonnes of silt would need to be removed. The concern was if the silt was contaminated or not as this would make a huge difference to the cost and potentially putting the whole project at risk of never happening. Silt analysis was carried out in February 2022 and it was confirmed that there were no contaminants of concern. Last summer's drought meant that the pond almost completely dried out, significantly reducing the cost of silt removal as the water would not need to be pumped out, and after some neat negotiating by the Clerks it was arranged that the silt could be disposed of at a nearby building site where ground levels needed to be made up. We acted quickly to remove the silt before autumn so the whole cost of the project fell from an estimated £100,000 to around £10,000. The pond has since naturally refilled to the brim and the ducks are happy to call it home again for many years to come. The water level will be monitored over this summer to see if it dries out again, and if we need to find a more

environmentally friendly way to supply water when it runs low. We have some clever engineering ideas from local experts on how this could be done but it would require a lot of planning.

Street Lights

Street lights continue to keep us busy as we look to gradually replace the older columns and make repairs as soon as we practicably can. 13 columns were replaced towards the end of last year which should last many years to come. We will be looking at replacing a similar number later this year.

Repairs are made as soon as possible but in some instances, this is down to our grid supplier UKPN who are sometimes a little slow to rectify things.

Grounds Maintenance

The Council are currently in the process of re-tendering for their grounds maintenance contract. All tenders must be returned to the parish office by the 28th April with a view to the new contractor starting work on the 1st July. This contract will run through to December 2025.

The Council is continuing to improve biodiversity throughout the village and this will include the planting and developing of wild flower areas in association with the maintenance contractor.

Buckinghamshire Council Devolved Services

The Parish Council has signed another 12 months' extension to the devolved services agreement with Bucks Council, this time with a 9% rise in funding. This allows the Parish Council to maintain the highway verges (30mph only) throughout the village, cut public rights of way, serve hedge cutting notices and provide permission for temporary signage.

Community Litter Pick

A community litter pick was arranged for The Tibbs Road area in March and was well attended by local villagers. Sixteen people of all ages came along and managed to collect 23 bags of rubbish. More litter picks will be arranged later in the year.

Cllr. John Wheeler

Facilities Committee Chair

Snakemoor Nature Reserve

22/23 Activities

- **Bird Boxes** - the programme of installation has been completed, and latterly supplemented with squirrel protection plates. A monitoring programme will check for bird nesting activity.
- **Hedges** - many of the gaps have been planted with mixed species of hedgerow saplings donated by volunteers (sourced from Woodland Trust).
- **Pond** - improvements have been made to the pond area (brush clearance and light penetration). A distressing incidence of vandalism took place in January - when a large quantity of debris was thrown in, when the surface was frozen. This has been widely communicated, and greater vigilance will reduce recurrence.

- **Paths** - substantial work has been done on making the paths accessible in all weathers. With the significant contribution of free issue wood chippings by Complete Trees (when on Haddenham Parish Council jobs), we have had a plentiful supply of material.
- **Trees** - four donated (Haddenham U3A and Haddenham Horticultural Society) Black Poplars have been planted alongside the stream. Light gaps have been established in this area to encourage new growth. All have survived the 2022 summer drought, thanks to volunteer watering.
- **Volunteers** - a campaign to bring in additional volunteers has yielded good results. Five new people have taken part in activities so far.

23/24 Priorities

- A further drive to encourage additional volunteers - particularly from the new housing areas - a leaflet campaign is planned;
- Additional planting of aquatic plant species in the pond;
- Exploration of installing new owl boxes;
- A relaunch of the Biodiversity project;
- Additional hedge saplings to be planted;
- Consideration and planning of the future needs of Snakemoor;
- Improvements to the driveway, which is in a poor state.

I would like to extend special thanks to those below:

Sue & Ian for all their support at Haddenham Parish Council.

Kevin Wynne for much needed help with tree planting.

Michael Whitney for his work on the meadow.

Mark Nicholson for his extensive tree works.

Robyn Thorogood for his wide experience and advice.

Julian Watson

Volunteer Leader

Townsend Community Orchard

During June 2022 significant improvements were made to the accessibility of the community orchard. The aim of the project was to enable wheelchair users and those of limited mobility to come and enjoy the ambience of the orchard and participate in our social events. The Mallards Croft entrance gate was replaced with a wider and easier to open version, which is latch-less and swings in both directions. A firmer path was laid between the Mallards Croft entrance and the two benches. By one of the benches two raised beds were installed and planted up to make a lovely sensory garden, and two spaces for wheelchairs and buggies were created next to the bench. The design of the raised beds allows those of reduced mobility to reach and help tend the plants, and this forms part of an active ageing project we are promoting with Abbeyfield care home. On July 9th the new path and sensory garden was formally opened by the Lord Lieutenant of Buckinghamshire, Countess Howe. The orchard committee wishes to express its sincere gratitude to Todd Lepelley and his team for doing all the improvement works, to Chrissie Jones for planting the raised beds and to Graham Taylor for donating the compost for the beds. The sensory

garden has been funded by a generous donation from the owners of Vicarys Pharmacy, Neepa and Yogesh Patel, in appreciation of the fantastic efforts of all the volunteers who worked at their Covid vaccination clinic.

The summer drought presented some considerable difficulties in caring for the trees and the newly planted hedge saplings, but thanks to some tremendous help from our volunteers who regularly watered them, all the plants have survived and are putting on a super spring display of blossom this year. During 2023 we are hoping to plant three new espalier fruit trees, and install some bird and bat boxes to encourage more wildlife into the orchard.

We were able to run three very successful and well attended community events this year: an afternoon tea party with the residents of Abbeyfield care home, a Jazz picnic in September, and the Wassail in January which had over a hundred adults and children taking part in a very colourful lantern procession. Plans for events in 2023 include a resident artist and summer picnic during Bucks Art Week, and a repeat of the Abbeyfield visit, the Jazz Picnic and the Wassail.

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 this special place. An extra mention goes to Jamie Goodall, our Duke of Edinburgh volunteer, who helped us out in a variety of roles throughout 2022.

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 Chair

Sporting Facilities Committee

The Sporting Committee has been working together with the representatives of the sporting and sports and social club now for over year. There has been in changes in Committee Membership but everyone is still committed to work together to improve the facilities for sport around the village.

The year saw the relaunch of the Sports and Social Club and being rebranded as The Whistler. We would like to thank the Committee members who had served the Sports and Social Club for many years and congratulate the new committee on the success of The Whistler. The whole area has been refurbished - including decoration inside and out and a new patio. The improvements have seen a significant increase in membership.

There have been improvements made to Woodways Pavilion. The toilet facilities have been overhauled and completely refurbished. The removal of an obsolete shower has provided space to increase the ladies toilets from 2 cubicles to 3 and the disabled toilet has been made compliant with the insertion of panic alarm, accessible sink and taps, and improved circulation into this area. The whole of the toilet area has been redecorated with a new

floor, PIR lighting and this has been extended into the foyer area too. The Parish Council is delighted with the results and a much-improved facility for all users.

The changing room floor was very tired and breaking up in places. It has the added problem of three main hole drain covers in there (a legacy of the original poor design). The main hole covers were failing and not easy to access, so a new concrete with latex was put over the entire area. New main hole drain covers were inserted and the whole area is now level and usable.

Further improvements to Woodways over the next financial year include the insertion of solar panels on the roof to address the eye watering cost of electricity bills we have had this year. There will also be a new external door fitted by the kitchen area. The main function room will be redecorated to bring it in-line with the improvements in the foyer and The Whistler.

Cllr. John Wheeler
Sporting Facilities Chair

Allotments Committee

The updated allotment site lease has been agreed and signed.

Demand for allotments remains strong with only 2 free plots currently available.

The Parish Council recently paid for 10 people to attend a hedge laying course and work has begun on laying the new hedge.

Work was carried out at the end of summer to repair a leak from a split in the underground pipe feeding the trough at plot 78. A valve was fitted and a manhole installed over the pipe join so that the pipe can be accessed in case of any future problems. 2 skips were hired in the autumn to help plot holders dispose of waste from the site. Another skip has been ordered for later in April.

An application for an access protection road marking by the allotment entrance has been submitted to Buckinghamshire Council.

The following changes to the plot holders agreement came in to affect on 1 April 2023:

- Bonfires are NOT permitted on site between 1st May and 30th September and should be avoided if possible. Consideration to neighbouring properties should be a priority.
- To keep the plot(s) in reasonably cultivated condition so as not to offend Tenants of nearby plots, with a minimum of 80% of the plot used for horticultural purposes.
- Not to plant trees or shrubs with the exception of fruit trees which will be no greater than 8ft.

Cllr. John Wheeler
Allotments Committee Chair

Haddenham Village Hall Committee

The committee welcomed a new Treasurer, Lynne Colley.

Brenda Bonnage left the committee.

The committee continues to work on the accessibility report, prioritising fire exits and safety.

Having made significant efficiency and safety improvements to the water and heating systems and electrics in the hall, we continue to keep a close eye on unpredictable energy costs in line with our budget.

We have reached stage 2 in the process of funding for the decarbonisation project consisting of main hall heating by ducted air from heat pumps, supported by the addition of solar PV panels, which will also provide for other electrical services with extra insulation making the most of the heat. Importantly, the beneficial elements of such a project are structural, power related and will benefit the control of ongoing costs.

The committee continues to meet every 6 weeks at the Village Hall.

Haddenham Safe Walking & Cycling Group

Our group campaigns to make the village a nicer and 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 our roads and streets 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.

So we are delighted with the outcome of the Parish Council’s **Streetscape** project, which saw strong public support for a set of principles to make our streets work better for all users, as well as specific interventions in eight problem areas. The most popular measure, with 89% support, was a **village-wide 20 mph limit**, which is now being pursued by the Parish Council. This has been one of the group’s key long-term ambitions, so we hope our highway authority, Buckinghamshire Council, will not try to stand in the way.

We are also very pleased that the Parish Council (PV) has agreed to a programme of increasing the provision of **bike stands** at key locations. The first wave is due to be installed very soon on Parish Council land – at Snakemoor nature reserve, the Village Hall, Sheerstock Play Area, Woodways Play Area, Fort End and St Mary’s Church – and the PC will be talking to Bucks Council to get permission for a second wave on highways land.

Another promising development is a potential pilot scheme to develop one or more **accessible walking routes** to help those with mobility issues. The idea would be to maintain a high-quality trip-free circuit to promote exercise as well as connecting people to village amenities, focusing initially on the Woodlands sheltered housing complex and perhaps the Abbeyfield care home. This innovative approach could potentially supplement limited county council budgets for pavement maintenance with outside funding.

Outside the village, 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**. Progress is frustratingly slow as ever, but the crucial detailed options report on the Thame leg is due to be released in the autumn. We will bide our time until then but will be ready to demonstrate the strength of local feeling if the latest report turns out to be a delaying tactic. No work is currently being done on route to Aylesbury, but we are heartened to see that Bucks is actively trying to collect developer funds to progress it.

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 rRipple 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.

April also marks the first anniversary of **our newsletter, Signposts**, which explores these kinds of issues in what we hope is a thought-provoking and informative way! You can download the latest issue from the Village Society website, and you will find instructions on how to subscribe inside.

Alan Thawley

Haddenham Parochial Charities

The three Haddenham Parochial Charities 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. Last year (December 2022) the Parochial Charities made a donation of £100 to twenty-eight residents.

The Parish Council is continuing to work with specialist solicitors and Parochial Trustees to put in place the necessary protocols to amalgamate the Haddenham Parochial Charities with the following charities:

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. 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 proposed 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.

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

1. The land and assets of the charities at properties at Banks Park and the allotment site valued by a specialist surveyor to ensure that any disposals do not disadvantage those charities. This has resulted in the Reverend John Willis Charity having increased income from the Parish Council for the lease of allotment land.
2. The trustees of each charity have met and agreed in principle to the amalgamation.
3. We have continued to work with an expert solicitor in charity law to advise and liaise with the Charity Commission to make sure the correct legal procedures are followed.
4. We continue to engage with stakeholders to seek their views.
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.

Banks Park Recreation Ground Charity (BPRGC)

Leases

There is a complex arrangement between BPRGC, Haddenham Parish Council (HPC) and the Village Hall Management Committee (VHMC). We have been seeking legal advice on the best way to set up a new lease for the village hall, new HPC office and committee room, this involves solicitors to represent each party and will need the approval of the Charity Commission. The process is not straight forward and is taking a while to resolve, as we have to act in the best interests of all parties, but have a potential conflict of interest.

Facilities management

The Conference Room is now being regularly booked for a variety of different uses and is providing a useful new space for community use. Feedback from those using the room has been very positive. During the winter months the room was used as one of the Warm Spaces as part of the volunteer led initiative to provide support during the cost of living crisis. We also held a CPR and defibrillator training event recently with more planned. Two new electric vehicle charging points have been installed at the village hall, 50% of the cost was covered by BPRGC and 50% by a grant from the Community Board. One of the chargers is allocated to the new Electric Vehicle hire club (more about that can be found in the Climate Emergency Committee report).

The car park at Banks Park has been relined with some adjustments to the layout at the front of the Village Hall to protect the dropped kerb access and to reserve two spaces for electric vehicle charging alongside the new chargers.

Two new sets of doors have been installed at the village hall, at the side of the main hall and serving the Walter Rose room. More new doors will be installed next year as funding becomes available.

David Truesdale

Chair of Banks Park Recreation Ground Charity

Haddenham Educational Charity

The charity has an income from the investment made following the sale of the Old British School in Churchway. The Old British School was a charity, with a deed of 1851, the original deed being varied over time until 1982 when the sale of the school was authorised and the deed was varied to the scheme in existence today. The Trustee of the Charity became Haddenham Parish Council at this time. Applications for small grants to support residents of Haddenham to provide assistance with pursuing further education, including university, apprenticeships, sports and the arts.

Grants

In 2022 the Charity received 22 applications for grants, significantly higher than in recent years, this was coupled with a reduced income from the investment in the previous year. It was therefore decided to only award a grant to each of the first-time applicants. Grants of £165 were made to 11 applicants.

David O'Hanlon
Chair of Haddenham Educational Charity

Haddenham Community Library Report to Haddenham Parish Council

In the last twelve months the library has undergone significant reestablishment of services post covid and internal refurbishments.

Significant achievements

- Rearrangement of library shelving including the purchase and installation of new shelving funded (£5000) by the Parish Council – photos below
- Purchase of new tables and chairs from recycled business furniture supplier
- Rearrangement of computers in library to support greater use by general public
- Reestablishment of community activities including storytime, bounce and rhyme, knit and knatter and establishment of drop in for coffee and chat and “all things digital” support.
- Participated in the Parish Council Warm Spaces initiative providing refreshments, local newspaper and activities for participants.
- Half Term activities for children
- Utilising the Repair Café for repairs for library items.
- Garden maintenance and improvements including removal of ivy from building.

Future Plans

- Continuing refurbishment with major upgrade to library lighting which will include energy efficient lighting with planned request for funding from Parish Council.
- Council major works to roofing, windows and front and back door replacements which will contribute to more efficient use of energy.
- Expansion of community activities across all age groups including children’s reading club and school holiday activities.
- Proposed participation in the Parish Council Mural Project
- Participation in any further warm space initiatives

The Haddenham Community Library Trustees and Management thank the Haddenham Parish Council for their continued support.

Prepared by Robyn Cook and Anna Baldwin – Library Managers 29.3.2023