

# HITCHAM and TAPLOW

## PRESERVATION

### SOCIETY

# Buckinghamshire - The next 10 years



by  
Mrs. Brenda Wickham  
Chairman of  
Buckinghamshire County Council  
Planning and Transportation Committee

### Why we want to up-date the Structure Plan

Those of you who remember the very great detail with which the County Council's original Structure Plan proposals were investigated in 1976 and 1977 wonder why it is now putting forward a series of alterations to that plan. The Structure Plan sets out in terms to give a broad guide to how much development should be permitted in Buckinghamshire. It says, for instance, that

plans for house building should be strongly resisted in the Green Belt that covers much of the south of the county and that new homes and jobs should be encouraged in Milton Keynes, Aylesbury and

Buckingham, but leaves to district councils many of the detailed decisions on how the Structure Plan should be implemented in their own areas. However, something that stops once

the plan has been made. Buckinghamshire is the fastest growing county in this country. Its population is up by nearly 200,000 in the last 20 years and, at 567,000 is still growing at around 10,000 a year. These extra people need new homes, new roads and new jobs. Sorting out where they should all go is a continuing job. The Structure Plan needs to be kept up to date.

• See page two

## December deadline for housing plans

By December 31 the County Council has to decide where it thinks an extra 7,500 people should be accommodated in the three southern districts of Buckinghamshire. And that 7,500 will require an extra 2,700 new homes over and above present building expectations.

That central fact has added urgency to the formal updating of the County Structure Plan, which is now taking place.

For if local people can't agree on the distribution of the extra homes between the three districts of South Bucks, Chiltern and Wycombe, there is a danger that the Secretary of State for the Environment will allow building in areas he considers appropriate, which might not be the areas Buckinghamshire people would want - even reluctantly - to see built up.



## Missing Minerals

One subject of great public interest not dealt with in the proposed Structure Plan alterations is minerals policy. This is because the County Council is still awaiting the outcome of a public inquiry into its Minerals Subject Plan, which seeks to control the extraction of sand, gravel, chalk and other minerals in the county.

Proposals resulting from the public inquiry will be written into both the Structure Plan and the Minerals Plan at a later date so that the Minerals Plan will be consistent with each other.

## New housing Targets

...ed with the ...er ex- ...ments to the ...od 1976-1981 some ... more homes were built ...an expected ... County Planning Officer ... Mr. Edwin Schoon said that ... town's rapid growth rate ... didn't mean homes were built ... without planning permission. ... It meant, rather, that builders ... had moved more quickly than ... into bricks and mortar plans ... He said: "Developers have ... been quick to act on planning ... permission for new housing in ... Aylesbury. Their actions show ... as a centre for development". ... Mr. Schoon said the build- ... ing boom had been concen- ... trated in the years 1977, 1978 ... and 1980.

### MORE HOMES

He thought the current depression in the building industry would slow the rate of development, but that activity would still enter the 1990s with up to 1,800 homes than expected original structure plan. This would be a further 100,000 over the next

the parts of the district ... 300 ... in

### STRONGLY AGAINST

Brenda Wickham, Chairman of the County Council's Planning and Transportation Committee, said the Department of the Environment's direct ... 71 homes.

She said the Secretary of State left the extra homes would be needed in rural local housing needs.

# NEWSLETTER

MITCHAM & TAPLOW PRESERVATION SOCIETY

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## BUCKS COUNTY STRUCTURE PLAN

The cover of this Newsletter is made up of part of a Newspaper recently received by the Society.

It describes how, since the Structure Plan was approved in 1977, the Secretary of State for the Environment, has told the County that, instead of providing 13,200 new houses by 1991, they must now provide 15,900. Of this extra 2,700, 500 have been allocated to the South Bucks District.

It seems from the tone of the County Newspaper that they had argued strongly against Mr. Hesseltine's Department and "got nowhere". Apparently we have to accept, in the next 10 years, the extra 300 homes!

### AMENITY MATTERS

#### Approach Road

Members may have noticed that about half way along Approach Road, on the northern side, there is an entrance to some derelict land which was rapidly becoming an unsightly tip. The Executive Committee noticed this and discussed it at their meeting on 4 March. As a result of this a letter was written to the South Bucks District Council with a copy to the Taplow Parish Council.

One of the Committee members had invited the Divisional County Engineer down to look at some other eyesores and, while he was here, asked him to look at this fly tipping on Approach Road. The reply was received that, as the rubbish was not on the highway, it was the affair of the owners of the land and not County Council. The Committee then wrote to the Licensed Victualler's Society, who were understood to be the owners, but they replied saying that the purchase had not yet been completed! Again the Committee wrote to the County Council and they passed the letter to the Waste Disposal Section for action. However, when the Committee met in August, it was reported that the rubbish had been cleared up and the area fenced off with a stout concrete plank wall. We noted that already some of the planks were missing, so we wrote to the County again. But now it appeared that it was the Licensed Victuallers affair and that they had put up the concrete fence and that they would repair it. This has now been done - so our thanks to the Licensed Victuallers.

This example of the Committee's work is quoted to show how perseverance can get results in the end - "Perseverantia Sua".

#### Volunteers for Taplow Station Flowerbeds

For many years now the Society has accepted the responsibility for keeping the flower-beds on the central platform at Taplow Station in good order; regular travellers will have noticed that there are beds of dahlias, roses and shrubs. There is also a sign over the Booking Office stating that the flower-beds are maintained by the Society. Needless to say, this is done with the permission of British Rail in Slough who make a small grant towards the cost of plants. Most of the work has been done by three members of the Society, one of whom, due to ill health, is unable to keep up his efforts in the forthcoming year. Any member, perhaps short of land of his own, who would like the satisfaction of working on and producing results from a piece of ground seen daily by so many people, is requested to get in touch with one of the Committee members. He or she will earn the gratitude of the Society and those who use the Station.

## The Derelict Triangle

Despite the heading above, this is not connected with the "Bermuda Triangle" but concerns a small section of derelict land which lies between the railway line and Approach Road at the Station Garage end. This Triangle is owned by British Rail and has been allowed to degenerate into an unsightly piece of land. There is not a lot of point in simply going in and removing the undergrowth and weeds because the cleared land merely invites the natural seeding of a new generation of growth. Any member who has a positive suggestion as to how this area can be made to look more attractive, and kept that way, is asked to let a member of the Committee know his views. He can be assured that the ideas will be looked at with a good deal of interest.

## SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

### Churchyard Cleaning at St. Nicolas

Members who read the Spring 1981 Newsletter, will know that the Society organised parties to clear the Churchyard on Saturday 7 March, 2 May and 23 May. The general impression was that these were pleasant occasions during which members got much satisfaction out of working together for such a worthy cause.

It was, however, realised that it was not right for the Society's members to work only for the Church and therefore the responsibility for clearing up the Churchyard was passed back to the Church. Those of you who are members of the Church as well as of the Society will know that the Church Authorities have now taken over the job, given it a new name "Operation Churchyard" and have dedicated one Saturday morning each month to this work; they have chosen the third Saturday and a small number of people turned out for the first event on 19 September. We feel that the Parochial Church Council will not mind us saying that the next dates are Saturday 17 October, Saturday 21 November and Saturday 19 December.

We feel that the Society would be very pleased that we have been able to initiate something like this and there has been no lack of appreciative noises of the Society's efforts from the Church Authorities (from the Top down).

### Cliveden Wine and Cheese Party

Many members will have attended the Society's Wine and Cheese Party at Cliveden on Saturday 27 June 1981, which now looks like becoming an annual event. This year we were blessed with less inclement weather than in 1980 and were again treated to Mr. Cotton's inimitable descriptions, followed by a conducted walk round the Water Garden. Afterwards we returned to the Orangery where the usual Cheese and Wine was dispensed and consumed with gusto.

We are glad to report that, having maintained the 1980 charge of £1 per head, there was again a small profit which the Committee have decided should be spent on more trees for the National Trust at Cliveden. The Committee is undecided whether we should continue with this format for another year or make this a bi-annual event in order to maintain interest. Members are invited to give their views to a Committee member.

### Footpath Walk - Sunday 6 December 1981

We thought that a walk in the Winter, when the foliage does not obscure the view, would make a change. This walk, which will leave the Taplow Mound in the Old Churchyard near Plessey's, will leave at 2 p.m. and will be led by Philip Cooley. The expected route is along the top of the Cliveden Bank overlooking the Thames.

Please come!

## RECENT PLANNING DEVELOPMENTS

The list below gives all items of particular interest to the Society, arising since the last Newsletter.

Berry Hill Farm. Accesses for gravel extraction (258-9/79) from Boundary Road (to which the Society objected) and from Approach Road. Conditional permission.

Taplow House Hotel. Three storey extension. Still under appeal. The Society objected. (308/80).

Lamont House, River Road. Additional house on land (145/81). Consent refused.

Old Court Hotel, Bath Road. Three storey rear extension (209/81, outline application). Conditional permission.

Maalesa, Station Road. Double garage (217/81, revised application, changed access). Conditional permission.

Sheepoote Wood, Wooburn Common Road. New access to field (279/81). Decision deferred.

Upper Lodge, Hedsor Park, Heathfield Road. Single storey house substitution (266/81). Conditional permission.

Pioneer Works, Marsh Lane. Extension of storage area (307/81). Consent refused.

Land between Buffins and School field. Three houses and garages, access off Hill Farm Road (326/81). The Society objected. Consent refused.

Cliveden Stud. Loose boxes and access from Huntswood Lane (357/81). The Society supported this application. Conditional permission.

Skindles Hotel. Double garage adjoining Petrol Station (378/81). The Society objected. Decision deferred.

Gateways, River Road. Detached house and garage (401/81, outline application). The Society objected. Consent refused.

Taplow Court. Workshop etc. and tank for standby fuel (Thames Water Authority). (404/81, new application). Consent refused.

New Taplow Paper Mills. Aerial (422/81). Decision deferred.

Joe's Folly, Amerden Close. Continued siting of residential staff caravan (467/81). Conditional permission.

Bishop Centre, Bath Road. Retention of 'Leisure House'. (612/81). Conditional permission.

Bishop Centre, Bath Road. Additional use of (Habitat) building for wider range of sales (708/81). Consent refused.

Land between Bath Road Lay-by and Taplow Lake. Adventure Playground for handicapped children, including 'log cabin' (724/81). Conditional permission.