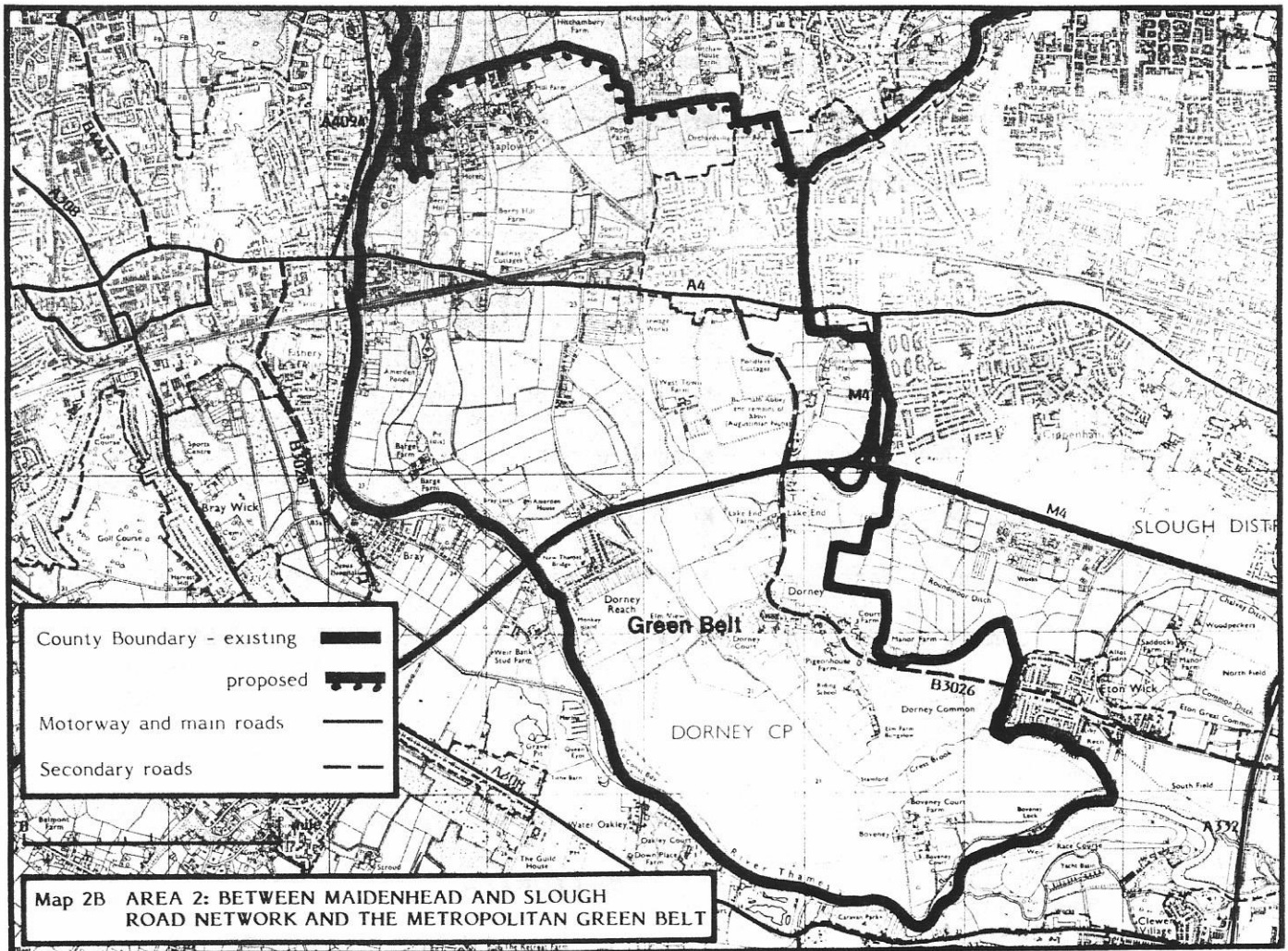


HITCHAM and TAPLOW PRESERVATION SOCIETY



Do you want Taplow to go into Berkshire?

SPRINGS

HITCHAM and TAPLOW PRESERVATION SOCIETY

Objects of the Society

The Society was formed in 1959; one of its most important objects is:-

".....securing the protection from disfigurement or injury of the countryside and rural surroundings and amenities of the Parishes of Hitcham and Taplow.....".

The Society therefore scrutinises many Planning Applications and Appeals and makes constructive comments when appropriate; it also gives evidence at Local Planning Enquiries.

Officers and Executive Committee Members

President	Mr Leonard Miall OBE
Vice Presidents	Mrs E Law Mrs GL Milne Mr AJC Paines Mrs AB Horton.
Chairman	Mr RJ Hanbury
Vice-Chairman	Mr NBRC Peroni
Hon. Treasurer	Miss E Ricketts
Hon Secretary	Mr RGR Nutt
Planning Watchman	Mr A Hickman
Committee Members	Mr W Ball, Mrs CJL Cumberlege, Lt Col SJ Dagg, Mrs H Lee, Mr HC Nixon, Miss GG Pollock, Mr E Schmitz-Peiffer.

EDITORIAL

In this issue we bring you two major subjects which are likely to occupy much of our time and effort in the next few months. They are:-

The County Boundary Review, which, after a long innings, has nearly reached its conclusion.

and

The Maidenhead Flood Relief Scheme, which has only just reared its head - a head which, although we are not in possession of all the facts, appears to be a rather ugly one!

REVIEW OF COUNTY BOUNDARY

The Annual General Meeting, this year, was addressed by representatives from the two Counties (Berkshire and Buckinghamshire) involved in this review in so far as it affects Taplow.

The current proposals by Berkshire, (announced in January 1986 and much more far-reaching than the previous ones) are to take nearly the whole of Taplow and Dorney and the Lent Rise Ward of Burnham out of South Bucks District and into the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead in Berkshire.

The justification for this change was explained in detail by Mr GJ Handley, County Research and Intelligence Officer of the Royal County of Berkshire under the following headings:-

Education, Roads & Transport, Social Services, Fire and Library Service, Planning and, finally, Trading Standards.

Many of the advantages quoted by Mr Handley were based on the dependence of the area on Slough, thus, in his view, pointing out the desirability of including the area in Berks.

At the moment, Taplow and Dorney stick out into Berkshire; this is one of the chief planks in their argument for not adhering to the natural and time-honoured boundary of the River Thames.

In fact the un-natural excrescence is not Taplow and Dorney sticking into Berkshire but Slough sticking into Buckinghamshire. As was pointed out by many Members speaking at the AGM, if Slough was returned to Bucks, the natural boundary of the Thames would flow neatly round Taplow, Dorney and Slough.

Since the AGM, we have been in touch with Mr D U Pullen, County Secretary and Solicitor of Buckinghamshire County Council, who has assured the Society that, until the Boundary Commission produces its draft proposals "in the fairly near future", no action need be taken.

Berkshire have also put in an alternative proposal that the boundary be moved right up to the M40 Motorway (No! - that is not a miss-print for M4).

MAIDENHEAD FLOOD RELIEF SCHEME

Thames Water have just announced a £32,000,000 Scheme to prevent a recurrence of the massive flood of the R. Thames which, in 1947, caused considerable damage to property in Maidenhead.

Apparently, the new channel is to run between Boulters Lock and Boveney Lock on OUR side of the River as schemes on their side of the river are "environmentally intrusive", and the new channel is to be about the same width as the water width under Maidenhead Bridge,

There is to be a presentation by Thames Water to the Maidenhead and District Civic Society to which members of the Society's Executive Committee have been invited and, needless to say, the Parish Council is very concerned and is also receiving briefings.

We will keep in touch with you about both these schemes, and let you know if and when any action is required.

APPLICATION for a SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST ORDER

The Occupier of the land in question, threatened with notice to quit to allow development, has written to the County Planning Officer making this application; the case he has made is so interesting that we have obtained his permission to reproduce much of his letter; it is given below:-

"The land, of over 2 acres, is unique in character in this part of Buckinghamshire. It is well secluded, having high hedges or plantations on all boundaries. It is uneven, rising quite steeply from south to north. There is no similar undeveloped land where wild life can exist undisturbed for some miles in all directions. To the south there is a considerable area of flat agricultural land; to the north the country has a lot of development,

"The soil structure is of great interest and of significance for the wildflowers in the field which attract a multitude of butterflies. The top, or northern, half is heavy clay. The drainage is poor so that the ground is always damp, even in high summer. The lower half is well drained, the sub-soil being sand. In the open field there are cowslips and, in the wooded parts of the lower half, beds of violets, both mauve and white. The field wild-flowers vary with the change of sub-soil

"As regards birds, mammals and reptiles, the land is particularly suitable as a sanctuary. The belt of woodland to the north contains high trees; wych-elm, horse chestnut and ash. These trees are important in providing nest sites for the birds particularly the mistle thrush. There is a resident kestrel but I do not think that he nests there at present. The green woodpecker and the jay nest in this wood which attracts numerous migrants; log-tailed tits nest regularly in a group of junipers in the south east corner. Badgers make a track into the field from the north-east corner. The land is probably badly needed by badgers for foraging. At least one fox is always there. Pheasants have for the present eased to use the land. A cock pheasant who had one or two hens with him last spring was killed by a fox. Rabbits that burrow into the embankment to the west have spread onto the land in some numbers. There are field mice whose numbers are kept within limits by the kestrel and, no doubt, voles. Frogs breed in the pond. There is always a lot of spawn every spring. Most of it is eaten by a pair of wild ducks that invariably visit the pond but enough survives for there to be a great number of frogs always around. There are also toads. They have not been seen using the pond for breeding. The outlet of the pond provides a small stream suitable for the cultivation of candelabra and other primulas (there are 12 varieties established there) of which florinda and alppicola are being naturalised in the wooded parts. There is a large bed of water mint which is very attractive to butterflies in late summer.

"In the immediate area there is no other unspoilt and secluded area for wild life of all kinds including plant life. Permanent designation as an area of special scientific interest to save it from being despoiled by development is not only fully justified but is also urgent".

A DILEMMA

It is considered by some Members that current planning policies could lead to a gradual decline in the facilities in the village.

At the moment there are very few houses available for young families with limited incomes. If development of this type of accommodation is not provided in the village, there will be fewer children to keep up the numbers in the school, which might then be faced with closure. This would remove one of the important attractions of the village.

The school provides a distinctive feature which distinguishes a living and lively village from a dormitory suburb - it is vital to the life of the village.

This hypothesis can be applied in many different directions; perhaps it is flawed and the decay would not occur, but should not thought be given to the possibility of avoiding it altogether by arranging for suitable development of low cost housing, perhaps even to rent.

NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Since the AGM, the Executive Committee has co-opted two new Committee Members. They are Emma Read and 'Budge' Francis. Apart for the value of the work they will do to help us keep going, they live in parts where we do not already have coverage by Committee Members - Emma in Boundary Road and Budge in River Road.

We wish them both WELCOME!

GARDENING

Our Gardening Correspondence writes:-

If you have a suitable space in your garden, how about planting a tree? This could be large or small according to the area. Its as well to get expert advice as some trees have exceptionally long and powerful roots which could undermine a lawn or upset the foundations of your house. Evergreens come in many different shades of colour varying from the familiar dark green of a Christmas tree to the beautiful silver-grey of a eucalyptus. If you choose an evergreen, it cheers your garden up in winter but you may prefer a flowering tree such as an early cherry for the spring.

If your garden has an area immediately outside that would be suitable for planting ie. a bank or verge which is not walked over, why not put in some bulbs and hardy annuals? This would make a beautiful patch of colour; it has been done to great effect on the bank alongside the village green in Taplow. If the idea was carried out more widely, it would make a delightful display.

PLANNING

Introduction

The remarks under this heading are selected from minutes of several Committees of the South Bucks District Council - mainly the Planning & Development Committee (P&D). They also take account of representations and comments made by the Society. The Newsletter is normally several months behind in giving this information, but we hope it will, none the less, be useful to members.

Extracts from P & D Committee Minutes

1. Any improvement to the A4 road between Maidenhead and Burnham should be considered in the context of accident prevention rather than increasing the traffic flow,
2. The Committee deplores the creation of a ten year land bank for gravel and mineral extraction and suggests that, in view of the considerable extraction in the past, the level of development in future be restricted.
3. On 30 July 86, the Committee was asked for its views re grant for re-planting Homer Wood, Wooburn Common Road - no objection but some screening trees to be retained.
4. On 5 Nov 86, the Committee welcomed a Forestry Proposal to re-plant part of Sheepcote Woods at Sheepcote Farm.

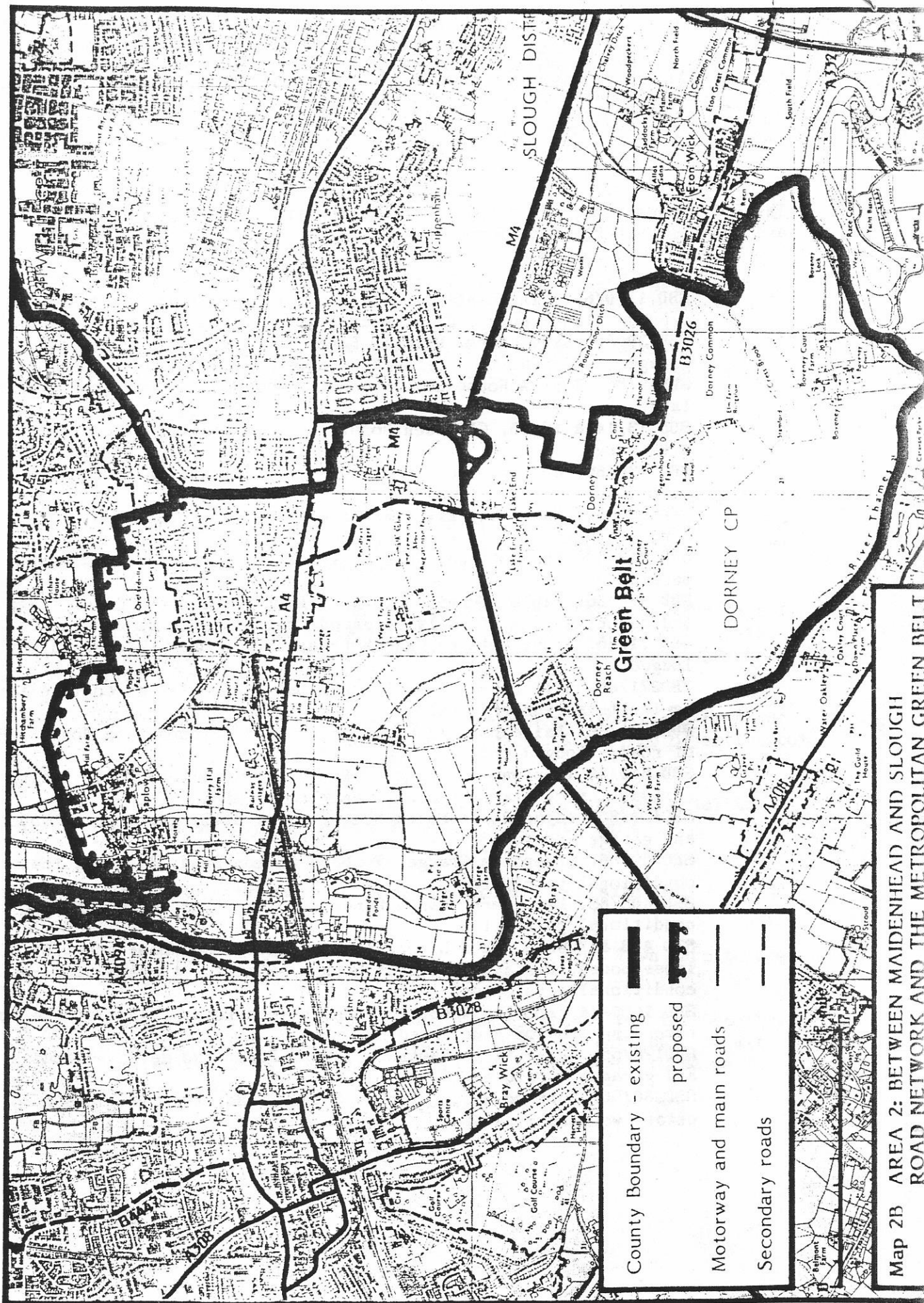
Extracts from Environmental Control Committee Minutes





1. Footpath 64 was to be divided to enable West Town Farm to use the land better. There were no objections.
2. The law on Sunday trading should be enforced, but the Committee resolved that future amendments to the Shops' Act would permit limited hours for all shops - working by employees to be on a voluntary basis.

Planning Applications

The P & D Committee considered the following applications:- (the SBD Numbers are the District Planning Numbers)

- SBD 1170/84. The Stables, Boundary Road; extension over stables to provide flat - appeal dismissed.
- SBD 29/86. Lyndisfarm, Hitcham Lane; erection of 2 houses and garage - deferred then refused on appeal.
- SBD 9/86. Taplow House Hotel; erection of 9 extra bedrooms - agreed later.
- SBD 13,14 & 15/86. Cliveden Hotel. various changes in connection with hotel.
- SBD 138/86. Springfield House, Mill Lane; extension - conditional permission.
- SBD 255/86. Fairview, River Road; extension - conditional permission.
- SBD 242/56. The Cottage, Rectory Road; extension - conditional permission.
- SBD 274/86. Taplow Service Station, Bath Road; erection of flagpole and canopy signs - firstly deferred then conditional consent.
- SBD 71/86. Acorn Cottage, Marsh Lane; extension - refused; appeal lodged.
- SBD271/86. Hill Farm North, Hitcham Lane; erection of cottage for agricultural worker - refused.
- SBD 630/85. Maidenhead Autos, Bath Road; development on North side of road - lodged only.
- SBD 510/86 (renewal of 378/83); W I Hall, Institute Road; siting of caravan for caretaker - conditional permission.
- SBD434/86. Adjacent to South Lodge, Berry Hill; erection of house and garage - refused.
- SBD709/86. Sheepecote Grange, Wooburn Common Road; deferred then conditional permission.
- SBD 403/85. Penwyvern, Marsh Lane; extension and new garage - conditional permission.
- SBD 403 & 779/85. MECA Liveries, Wooburn Common Road; erection of loose boxes, haybarn and dutch barn & extension to tack room - conditional permission.
- SBD 1090/84. Abbots Wood Mill, Heathfield Road; change of use to recording studios - deferred
- SBD128/56. Adjacent to Hawthorns, Bath Road; two detached houses and garages - refused.
- SBD280/56. Burwood House, Taplow Common Road; two dwellings for estate workers - refused.



	County Boundary - existing
	proposed
	Motorway and main roads
	Secondary roads

Map 2B AREA 2: BETWEEN MAIDENHEAD AND SLOUGH ROAD NETWORK AND THE METROPOLITAN GREEN BELT