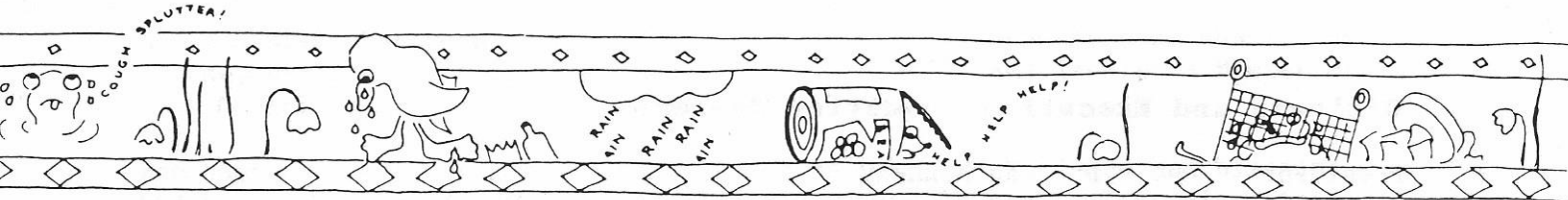


# Hitcham & Taplow Preservation Society

## NEWSLETTER

Spring 1992

No. 61

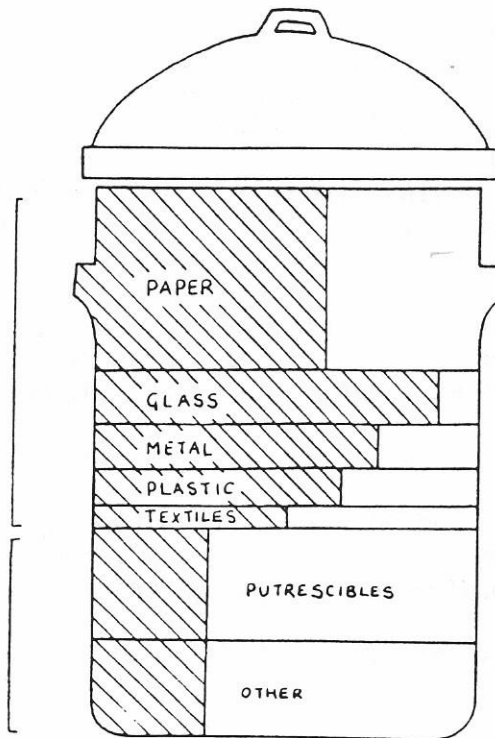


### CONTENTS OF A TYPICAL UK DUSTBIN

Source: Warren Spring Laboratory

Potentially 'clean' or recyclable fraction

Readily degradable fraction



AMERSHAM, LONDON ROAD (A413):



AYLESBURY, RABANS CLOSE (OFF THE A41):



BEACONSFIELD, CANDLEMAS LANE,



BLEDLOW RIDGE, WIGGANS LANE,



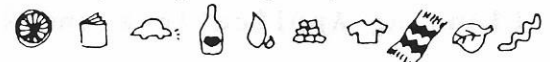
BUCKINGHAM, RING ROAD INDUSTRIAL ESTATE,



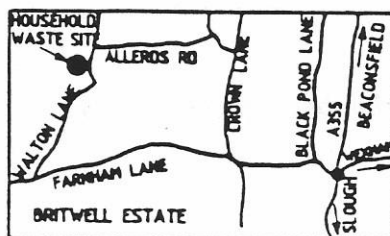
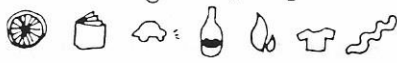
BURNHAM, CROW PIECE LANE,



CHESHAM, LATIMER ROAD (B485),



HIGH WYCOMBE, CLAY LANE BOOKER,



**BURNHAM** - Crow Piece Lane; open daily 8am - 7pm (Summer)  
8am - dusk (Winter)

**Recycling:** scrap metal, cardboard/paper, used engine oil, glass bottles, gas cylinders, hardcore, clothing/textiles, bric a brac and furniture, garden waste

# Hitcham and Taplow Preservation Society

## Objectives 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	Dr John Kennedy
Vice Presidents	Mrs Eileen Law, Mrs Anne Milne, Mrs Sheila Horton, Mr Louis Freedman CBE and Mrs Helen Lee
Chairman	Mr David Aldridge
Vice-Chairman	Mr Bill Ball
Treasurer	Mr Hugh Nixon
Secretary	Mr Bob Hanbury
Planning Watchman	Mr Tony Hickman
Committee Members	Mr Rusty Grant, Mrs Eva Lipman, Mr Humphrey Lloyd, Mr Andy McKenzie, Mr Dick Nutt, Mr Barrie Peroni, Miss Gwen Pollock, Mrs Sue Senior and Mr David Stanning.

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*The front cover is a montage of some of the information from Bucks CC on Re-cycling Waste; see Article on page 2.*

*Readers will see that there is an advertisement on the back page.*

## **Editorial**

I have no doubt that everyone will by now have heard of the sudden death of Budge Francis on 5 October last year. He had been on the Executive Committee for a number of years where he had responsibility for keeping up-to-date with the NRA's proposals for the Flood Relief Channel and he had agreed to be proposed as Vice Chairman at last year's AGM. He is being sorely missed both as a friend and as a Member.

Members will note the large number of changes to the list of Officers and Committee Members shown above.

Leonard Miall has been succeeded as President by John Kennedy who is, of course, our representative on the District Council and is also a Member of that Council's Planning and Transportation Committee.

Bob Hanbury wanted to step down after seven years as Chairman and his place had been taken by David Aldridge, already known to members for his efforts on the Village Green Party; unfortunately David has now moved out of the area and, although this is not a bar to holding office, it clearly is a disadvantage and David does not intend to do more than one year as Chairman.

Bill Ball has accepted the post of Vice Chairman, but has said that he would not have sufficient time to be considered as the next Chairman.

Rusty Grant has kindly agreed to take over Budge's responsibility over the Flood Relief Channel.

The Secretary also felt that he had done enough after 17 years in the post; nobody seemed to want this job so Bob, retiring as Chairman, agreed to do it (frying pans and fires?). However, it was arranged to distribute the duties a bit, David Stanning has agreeing to act as Minute-Taker at Committee Meetings and Dick Nutt retaining some of the Secretarial duties eg Newsletter production - see below.

I am afraid that there is no actual Editor of this Newsletter as no-one has come forward to offer to fill the gap left by Danita Pierce's unexpected return home to America.

Some of this issue had been initiated by her and the rest has just been put together as well as maybe by Dick Nutt whose Wordprocessor/Desk Top Publisher is, as usual, being used to produce the final version.

### **Dates for Your Diary.**

The Village Green party will be held again this year; it will be on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> June; the arrangements are expected to be much the same as in previous years.

The Annual General Meeting will be on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> October in the Village Centre.

Further details of both these events will be sent to all Members nearer the time.

Dick Nutt  
(Not the Editor)

## Recycling Waste

*While he was Secretary, Dick Nutt had correspondence with Peter Proctor who is responsible for Waste Management for the County Engineer at Bucks CC.*

Bucks County Council has detailed information sheets on the recycling of:-

Glass, paper, metal (including steel and aluminium cans),  
chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs used in fridges and freezers),  
plastics, textiles, garden waste, used engine oil, batteries  
and gas cylinders.

Phone (0296) 382412 if you want more details.

**Plastic.** People often complain that there are very few facilities for the reclamation of plastic (e.g. mineral water bottles of 1 to 2 litre size).

It is doubtful if recycling plastic saves energy because it is:-

difficult to identify - 50 different types are in circulation.  
difficult to collect - high volume/low weight.  
costly to transport;

Consequently, there is not yet a scheme for recycling plastic run by the County but there is an experimental scheme in Milton Keynes.

**Paper.** This is another material which people feel should have more recycling centres but, as for plastic, it is not so simple as it appears. Each time paper is recycled it can only be used to make a lower quality product; thus there is always plenty of newsprint (which is very low quality) available for recycling but the limited demand for this is usually satisfied by the the oversupply of newspapers returned from distributors.

## Recycling Centres

Details of the some of the Centres nearby are given below:-

PLACE	Glass	Cans	Textiles	Other
<b>Burnham -</b>				
Crow Piece Lane,	*	*	*	Oil gas paper hardcore & garden.
Moat House Hotel, Grove Road	*	?	0	
Summers Road Car Park	*	*	0	
<b>Dorney - Palmers Arms Car Park</b>				
	*	0	0	
<b>Eton Wick - Car Park Eton End Road</b>				
	*	*	*	
<b>Maidenhead -</b>				
Civic Amenity Site, Stafferton Way	*	*	*	Paper
Golf Driving Range, Braywick Road	*	*	0	
Magnet Car Park, Kennet Road,	*	*	*	
Robin Hood, Marlow Road	*	*	0	
Shopping Parade, Wessex Way	*	*	*	
<b>Slough - ASDA Car Park, Telford Drive</b>				
	*	*	0	

## Notes

(a) The details above were extracted from information from Bucks CC and, for Berkshire, from an advertisement (& ASDA from personal knowledge).

(b) \* shows the facility is available  
0 shows the facility is NOT available  
? shows that information is not available.

## **Chairman's Report**

*Mr Hanbury, the retiring Chairman, gave this report at the 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual General Meeting on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> October 1991*

**Trees on Boundary Road.** Some of those destroyed by the fires in the previous summer had been replaced. 15 Trees had been planted on the Recreation Ground; it was proposed to plant some more trees this autumn. The wetter summer had meant that watering of the trees was not required.

**Flower Beds on Taplow Station.** All the work on these beds was carried out by the Committee Members and their families; it was hoped that Members appreciated our efforts.

### **The Party on the Village Green**

This year the party had been organised by David Aldridge's Sub Committee; our thanks to everyone concerned for their efforts. On the day there were more people than last year.

The Society was grateful for Andy McKenzie & NSUK for providing the wood.

Budge Francis had agreed to take over the organisation of the party for next year and we have not so far found a replacement. We had booked the Band and its tent for 21 Jun 1992. It should be remembered that the party is for the benefit of our members.

**Newsletter.** Mr Hanbury thanked Danita Pierce for her efforts as Editor and Dick Nutt for assembling it; the results spoke for themselves.

**Thames Flood Relief Channel.** Mr Hanbury mentioned the efforts made by Tim Smith M.P. on our behalf. Subsequent to the visit to NRA by Lady Trumpington, Tony Hickman had written to her inviting her to come to Taplow to hear the other side of the debate; the invitation had been declined. She said that she had received lots of letters opposing the scheme and had visited the NRA to get the other side of the picture.

**Gravel.** The Chairman referred to the opposition of the local Conservative Party to all gravel extraction in Taplow and wondered what would happen if all parishes took the same view. He said that he understood that one of the main problems was the prospect of extraction from both sides of Berry Hill at the same time and in connection with this he thought that we should support the application by Summerlease to have the time limits for the Stevens field site moved. As this was vociferously opposed from the floor the Chairman agreed to oppose the application.

**Committee.** The Chairman thanked the retiring officers and members Eva Ricketts, Helen Lee, Eckart Schmitz-Peiffer, Danita Pearce, Dick Nutt, and Leonard Miall. He pointed out that Tony Hickman had to have his arm twisted to stay on as our Planning Watchman and we hoped to reduce his burden.

Rather than make further comments about Budge Francis, he thought he could best illustrate the great contribution that Budge had made by reading the many items from the minutes of the previous committee meeting that recorded that Budge either had done or was going to do something for the Society.

He mentioned that there were vacancies for Vice-Chairman and for the Village-green Party organiser. He thanked all the committee members and their families for their time and efforts on behalf of the Society.

## Correspondence

From:- Michael H H Bayley ARIBA, Dipl Arch, Oxford.

Dear Sir,

Since Lincoln Lee has asked for answers on his thoughts on "Springs and Wells" (*in Newsletter No. 60 - Ed*), I may be able to help him with one query.

As a small boy I used to be taken for rides in my grandfather's - or great uncle's - car to visit relations and the adults used to point out places of interest on the the way.

One of these was the second house down Berry Hill on the west side below Mill Lane, today called Dingly Dell, which I was told was built as a fancy cow house from which the milk was taken up the footpath by Bapsey pond to the "ladies" dairy of Taplow Court. Since Bapsey Pond was lined with brick and the spring that fed it was set in a brick culvert from the old church site, presumably to keep the water clean, cattle would not have been allowed to use it. They must have been watered nearby and I was told that this was at Stock wells, presumably the wells and spring for stock.

It is possible, however, that the name may have been STOKE WELL; Stoke in place names is usually a name denoting an old Holy place, so it may be another name for Bapsey Pond.

The Stock-well lay in Spring field.

The overflow of Bapsey Pond used to run in a cast iron pipe down the footpath to feed a pond on the south side of Mill Lane. I think it was the frosts of '46 - '47 that shattered this shallow pipe so that a gully (and I think, later, a pipe) was run across the nearby field to take the overflow into the old Chalk quarry

Yours etc.

Michael Bayley

## Flood Relief Scheme

**Rusty Grant, the Committee Member now charged with following this Scheme, gives the latest position.**

No doubt all Members will now be aware that the Secretary of State for the Environment has decided to "call in" the Maidenhead, Windsor and Eton Flood Alleviation Scheme for a Public Enquiry. The date for this Enquiry has not yet been announced.

The reasons given for calling in the Scheme and the Terms of Reference for the Enquiry are given by the Department as follows:-

- (a) The relationship of the proposals to the policies in the approved Berkshire and Buckinghamshire County Structure Plans and the adopted local plans for South Bucks District, the Borough of Slough and the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead.
- (b) The implications of the proposals for the extraction of minerals (*Ed: i.e gravel*) having regard to the Mineral Subject Plans for Berkshire and Buckinghamshire.
- (c) The effect of the proposals on the archaeological site known as Agars Plough, having regard to the Planning and Policy Guidance Note No 16, Archaeology and Planning.
- (d) The relationship of the proposals to the proposed widening of the M4 Motorway by the Department of Transport.
- (e) The effects of the proposals on the natural environment and on wildlife.
- (f) The effect of the construction work needed to create the proposed channel on the amenities of those living in the neighbouring settlements.

In an adjournment debate in the House of Commons on 7 November 91, our local MP, Tim Smith, made an excellent speech to the House setting out all the points in opposition to the Scheme and asking the Minister to call in the Scheme and have the matter examined in a full, open and public enquiry. The Parish Council and the Preservation Society have, for a long time, been pressing for this course of action and now our efforts have been rewarded!

The Public Enquiry is going to cost money and this Society will most certainly have to contribute towards the cost of briefing the right people to speak on our behalf.

In the meantime, it is essential that we try to obtain any information which may be of use to our cause and that of the various local councils which oppose the scheme, bearing in mind the Terms of Reference which have been set out above.

Taplow Parish Council proposed an excellent alternative plan, which the Society supported, but it is essential that we make our own stand against the NRA's Scheme.

The majority of the letters in the local press are all against the Scheme - the only one in favour being that from the Maidenhead Civic Society.

Meanwhile, it is imperative that we keep up our opposition to the Scheme; letters, setting out your objections, should be sent to N.R.A. in Maidenhead - please send a copy to me for the Society so that they can be produced at the Enquiry to support our objections.

## **Evolving Taplow**

*After the Annual General Meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> October 1991 Leonard Miall, OBE, the retiring President, gave a talk on the changes that had taken place in Taplow since he moved here from Washington in 1953.*

Like many others he had been attracted by the train service at that time. Taplow, which in those days had its own stationmaster, regularly won the competition for the best-kept railway station, and enjoyed one non-stop train to Paddington in the morning and another back in the evening. This amenity had survived from the time that Lord Desborough, the owner of Taplow Court, was chairman of the Great Western Railway. When he was ennobled he took the name Desborough from the county division just to the west of Taplow, one of the three that constituted the Chiltern Hundreds. Taplow itself was in the Burnham Hundred.

Near the station the land on the west side of Institute Road, which had been used for the storage of barbed wire during the war, was in a very derelict condition. In 1954 some local residents learned that this land was to be sold for use as a caravan site. The owner said he would sell the land to them instead if they could raise the purchase price within a week. Ernest Perkins, who then lived at Hitcham Close and was a member of the parish council, played a major role in raising the money and establishing the Taplow and Hitcham Recreation Grounds Association, registering it as a charity, and leasing part of the site to Flexello as a sports ground.

The village green and the land on which St Nicolas School now stands were then cow pastures belonging to Hill Farm. So was the site of the Buffins housing estate. The parish council, under the leadership of Ernest Perkins, was able to preserve part of this land for a village green, although planning permission for some housing to be built opposite the church had already been given. There were long and difficult negotiations. At the same time the Church Reading Room was bought and extended to provide a village hall.

Other major changes in the village during this time had been the creation of Wellbank, Cedar Chase, Stockwells, Saxon Gardens and the Springfield Estate. These were built on what had previously been large properties, or were infilling. Many Taplow residents were deeply concerned when Eton Rural District Council authorised the building of the Buffins Housing estate in Green Belt land, and attempts were made to get this decision reversed. Legal advice was that there was virtually no chance of achieving this, because the change in the value of farmland once planning permission had been granted was too heavy a financial burden for the planning authorities to bear. The best course would be to make such a loud public fuss that the authorities would think twice before allowing a further violation of the Green Belt land at Taplow.

Eton R.D.C. had just circulated to all ratepayers a special report on its recent activities, which included reference to its protection of the Green Belt. Leonard Miall had thereupon written an open letter to the chairman of Eton R.D.C., couched in offensive terms and sent to all the local newspapers, challenging him to declare how much ratepayers' money had been spent on this glossy brochure with its mendacious propaganda. The row got taken up by the national press, and the luckless chairman lost his seat at



the next election. The resulting fuss led directly to the creation of a village plan for the development of Taplow, and in due course to the village being made a Conservation Area.

Taplow residents were also greatly concerned at this time by the dirt and disruption caused by the extraction of gravel for the Maidenhead extension of the M4 from the field between Poplar Farm and Boundary Road, and none more than Dr Maurice Rogers who lived at Lea Rig. He formed the Hitcham & Taplow Preservation Society in January 1960, and it held its first Annual General Meeting in November of that year, with Viscount Astor as President in the chair. The Society brought great pressure to bear on the gravel extracting company to honour its obligations to replace the topsoil and to restore the field to a proper condition for pasture.

The Society successfully opposed other applications for gravel extraction in Buffins field and Huntswood in the early 1960s, as well as at Barge and Amerden Farms in 1967. It was also greatly concerned about the increase in aircraft noise following the installation on 21st July 1972 of the new aircraft beacon behind Neville & Griffiths dairy. This concentrated what had previously been dispersed aircraft taking off from Heathrow for Scandinavia, the USA and the North of Britain to fly in a narrow channel right over the village. It was what was known as a 'minimal noise route' which meant maximum noise for people living in relatively small and peaceful areas such as Taplow. The Society was told that the Civil Aviation Authority could only be encouraged to move some of this traffic away if there was an immediate and powerful local protest.

Mr T.A. Field of Cedar Chase was one of the founders of what was called the 21st July Action Group, and he gave the Society useful advice on how to create a protest which would be effective: send a letter to the Civil Aviation Authority with an open copy to your MP; make no complaint but just ask a rather difficult question, for instance: "Could you please tell me how many perceived noise decibels a 747 should be emitting when it passes over Taplow Village?" The Authority could not then respond with the standard postcard saying the Minister would take note of your views, because you had not expressed any views. And there was the awkward spectre of the MP asking in the House why his constituent had not received an answer to his perfectly reasonable question, and so the civil service had to draft individual replies to these letters.

Together with the 21st July Action Group the Society managed to organise the sending of some 5000 letters to the CAA. They did include some form letters, but there were enough variants on difficult questions to cause havoc in the CAA. They had to stop this flow of letters. They sent spokesmen to a meeting in the village and they separated off the Scandinavian traffic and sent it elsewhere. The Society's then chairman, the late Ivan Snow, together with Leonard Miall then had an opportunity of presenting Taplow's case at a meeting of the Noise Advisory Council. They made the point that people living in areas of low ambient noise level were often more disturbed by aircraft noise than those in urban areas. For this reason the so-called minimum noise routes were unacceptable in principle.

Leonard Miall concluded by saying that the achievements of the Society were not permanent victories. Matters such as the havoc caused by gravel extraction, aircraft noise and threats to the Green Belt were still present.

The Society must remain constantly vigilant.

## **Planning Applications**

*Planning Decisions given by the Planning & Transportation Committee of the South Bucks District Council (SBDC).*

**The Feathers P H, Cliveden Road, Taplow (S/91/0050/LB-S/91/0007/FF).** Consent  
Single storey rear extension and alterations to Listed Building. Granted

**Maidenhead Autos, South Side, Bath Road, Taplow (S/91/0281/FF).** Deferred for  
Demolition; erection of car sales office, petrol filling station and associated works. Legal Agreement

**The Old Coach House, Rectory Road, Taplow (S91/0478/FF).** Conditional  
Single storey extension and alterations. Permission

**Dorney Meadow, Old Marsh Lane, Taplow (S/91/0342).** Non Determination Appeal  
Extension to 1st floor of stable block.

**Taplow, Dorney and Burnham (C/91/8204/CM).** Council Objection  
Construction of Flood Relief Channel meeting with Bucks CC be  
and associated works and winning requested - Council representation  
and working of minerals. to include Dr Kennedy

**Fir Cottage, Wooburn Common Road, Taplow (SBD/587/90).** Allowed on  
Two storey side extension and detached garage. Appeal

**White Place, River Road, Taplow (S/91/0576/00)** REFUSED  
Erection of detached bungalow. Applicant has now appealed

**Taplow House Hotel, Berry Hill (S/91/0594-5/LB)** Deferred for Negotiation  
Two storey extension for 8 bedrooms N & E elevations, a water tank and the  
rooms and associated works. applicant entering into a legal agreement

**Land south of Dorney, north of the River Thames** Bucks CC be informed  
**for Eton College (C91//8208-11/CM)** that Council strongly  
Construction of 8 Lane Rowing Lake and associated works. objects

## **Planning Newspieces**

*The Minutes of the various Committees of the District Council have been studied and extracts (shown within quotation marks) or precis are given below. Dates in brackets indicate when the Committee met.*

**Planning and Transportation Committee (18 September 1991)**

### Publicity - Planning Applications

The Department of Environment have produced a Consultation Paper stating the "intention that all planning applications should be given some form of compulsory publicity".

The Committee considered that publicity of applications was desirable in principle and that letters to neighbours and site notices were the most effective means of so doing.

The Committee, following consultation with Parish Councils, "resolved that a scheme be introduced on a trial basis as soon as possible whereby applicants would be asked to display in a prominent position on site for a period of 21 days a notice to be provided by the Council giving details of the proposed development."

## **Planning and Transportation Committee (16 October 1991)**

### **Tree Wardens**

The Committee was informed that Buckinghamshire County Council was to initiate a Tree Warden Scheme which was a national initiative to enable people to play an active role in conserving and enhancing their local trees and woods. All parish councils are to be invited to appoint Tree Wardens and the District Council hope to appoint a monitoring officer to deal with tree preservation with whom Tree Wardens would be able to liaise.

## **Leisure and Environmental Committee (5 November 1991)**

### **Footpath Matters**

The Committee noted that the Buckinghamshire County Council (Parish of Taplow) Definitive Map (No 1) Modification Order, 1990 had been confirmed by the Secretary of State on 31 July 91. The Order adds to the Map, "a new footpath from its junction with Wooburn Common Road opposite Footpath No 3 in the parish of Taplow, in a generally southern direction for a distance of approximately 390m, to its junction with Littleworth Common Road, having a minimum width of 1.8m."

## **Planning and Transportation Committee (13 November 1991)**

### **M25 Collector and Distributor Roads**

The Committee received a presentation from the Department of Transport outlining the proposals for widening the M25 where it passed through South Bucks. The principle behind the idea of collector-distributor roads was explained. "These roads would be physically close to the existing motorway, preferably on each side and either two or three lanes wide. They would take all traffic travelling between one or two junctions only - estimated to be over 50% of traffic using the M25. In doing so they would reduce congestion and remove the existing substantial weaving movements."

"The Committee expressed considerable objections to the concept and serious concerns regarding the unacceptable environmental impact of such roads on local communities and the environment".


### **Tree Work in Conservation Areas**

Members living within a Conservation Area (*ED: e.g most of Taplow Village*) are reminded that they are required to give six weeks notice to the Council of any work to trees they wish to carry out.

### **Barge Farm - Land South of Bath Road, Taplow**

After the press and public had been excluded from the meeting, "the Chairman agreed to deal with an urgent item of business relating to this site...."

Agreed to issue two Enforcement Notices in respect of this land regarding its use for markets/car boot sales, car parking and associated access/egress".

A decorative border with a repeating pattern of stylized flowers and leaves on a dark background, surrounding the central text.

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