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The
Yateley
Society

STOP PRESS !

Issue 72 December 2004



On behalf of the Executive Committee, I'd like to wish all our members a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. We'd love to see you on Thursday 16 December for our Christmas get together featuring the Mytchett players.

Parking Meter – Deficit Beater?

In response to a customer survey throughout Yateley, Hartley Wintney and Odiham, which identified a need for additional parking, rather than additional spaces, which they have rejected because they cannot afford them, Hart District Council has come up with..... parking meters!

They also believe, *by the way*, that the £240,000 deficit produced by their own style of parking enforcement could be alleviated by this scheme.

Councillor David Murr, Chair of Yateley Town Council Environment Committee and Yateley Society member had this to say, as reported in The Yateley News:

"The cabinet report suggests this is a way of providing additional parking but all it will do is make our residents pay for parking in areas where they currently park for free. No extra parking will be provided.

This is just a blatant attempt at raising extra revenue to cover a quarter of a million pound loss by Hart since it took over the responsibility for parking enforcement a couple of years ago. I have written to the chief executive and the leader of the district council expressing our disquiet. Parking



meters are not the sort of thing you expect in a small town like Yateley. The only other parts of Hampshire that have them are Portsmouth and Southampton. The question of locations came up and we thought the target area could well be the conservation area in the centre

of Yateley. The image of the green outside St Peter's Church - the real heart of the old village - surrounded by parking meters is appalling. There is no benefit whatsoever apart from swelling the coffers at Hart. I object to wardens going round slapping on penalty tickets in places where people have parked in a perfectly workable manner for years. There is no way of making extra spaces available.

We want to encourage trade for our local shops, not kill it off. We are trying to get better parking facilities at our shopping parades, not make the situation worse. This idea must be nipped in the bud. We are contacting the parish councils in Hartley Wintney, Odiham and Hook to let them know our views. Possibly we could join forces if they feel the same way."

In the meantime, we should expect public consultation at some point.

Unfortunately our November meeting was postponed at short notice, but we will be debating the Yateley Village Design Framework at our January meeting. (and won't parking meters at Church End be in direct conflict with the Yateley Village Design Framework?)

Come along and join in the discussions, bring friends and neighbours and make our voice even louder!

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ISSUES



Application updates:

Woodhayes, Firgrove Road – the application for 14 2-bedroomed flats was refused because it would be out of character with the street scene and the Yateley Green Conservation Area, would cause loss of amenity to the adjacent residential property and the site access would be unsafe.

Clarks Farm, Reading Road – the application for housing, live/work units and a community building, together with a new roundabout on the Reading Road was refused - because of its impact of the strategic gap, its effect on the open, rural and undeveloped character of the area, loss of land allocated from employment, unsustainability of residential development in the area, impact of extra pressure on local recreational and community facilities, obligations to highway infrastructure and requirements cannot be met, detriment to nature conservation, detracting from the setting of the listed building, impact on the Darby Green Conservation Area, unacceptable impact on the highway network, inadequate flood risk assessment, *and 4 more points to do with water!*



Useful weblinks



Don't forget you can access all Hart's planning applications, together with their documentation and even residents comments on the website.

You can also make your comments online.

<http://www.hart.gov.uk/planning/>

WHAT ELSE IS GOING ON

Blackbushe Metals (SIMS) Liaison Panel

At a meeting on 17 November 2004, attended by our Chairman, Tony Hocking, it became known that SIMS is attempting to re-open the loop of road from the rear of the site to the top of Dungells Lane. This is being strongly opposed by local residents who fear a return to the old practice of large numbers of heavy truck movements on this road, and queuing of trucks with noisy and polluting engines running. Commoners' assistance (via the Yateley Society) was requested after the meeting.

and a relief for some residents.....

Residents near Fox Lane, however, are breathing a much healthier sigh of relief now that Fox Lane appears to have been made one way and they no longer have to put up with so much in the way of queuing, noisy, smelly trucks!

Getting to the bottom of the problem!

The Conservation Working Party would like to offer thanks to our new Yateley Ranger, Angie, who is instrumental in slowing the deterioration problems at Castle Bottom!

and another Ranger makes his mark....

You may remember the recent article by Elliott Fairs who has been given responsibility for the Royal Oak Valley. He will be recommending that the footpath through the valley be adopted as an official footpath and, in the way, Hampshire County Council will become responsible for its maintenance and upkeep. Some scrub has also been cleared. Good!

Blackbushe Airport Consultative Committee and the future of local flying

Our Chairman, Tony Hocking, reports that there are some constitutional changes afoot in this committee.

The first is that the bodies represented on the committee should select their own representative however they wish. Yateley Commoners are to be replaced by The Yateley Society, so Tony is our representative.

Apart from that, the Chair, who has normally been Chairman of Hart District Council, will now be elected by Blackbushe Airport Ltd – after consultation with the committee. The requirement to consult all appointing bodies for all occasions where expenditure is incurred is to be dropped. Instead, only those bodies directly involved will be consulted.

On the matter of complaints to the committee, 9 have been received relating to Blackbushe aircraft low flying or practising engine failures near houses. Mostly due to flying school mistakes – *but still quite frightening for the residents who don't know that at the time!*

As a consequence of being part of the Consultative Committee, Tony was invited to a general meeting to discuss the future of Farnborough, Fair Oaks and Blackbushe airfields, the activities of their Consultative Committees and any possible joint action by local residents to combat any common problems.

The government is keen to promote business aviation for London and has decided that 6 airfields are worthy of study and possible upgrading and expansion. The 6 are: Southend, Biggin Hill, Northolt, Farnborough, Fair Oaks and Blackbushe. There is a perceived need for increased movement 'slots' at airfields close to the international airports, which are too busy to handle business traffic.

The promoters of this meeting run a quasi national organisation "Aviation Environment Federation" campaigning against noise and other environmental problems caused by general aviation and airfields. They have a website which can be found at www.aef.org.uk (email info@aef.org.uk). If you don't have access to the internet, contact Tony Hocking on 01252 875158 for more information.



Stop Press Deliverers

Thanks for all the offers of help delivering the Stop Press. Elizabeth won't have to soak her feet anymore!

Time to spare and enjoy reading?

The Library Lecture 2005 will be about the Haven, and the current research project for the Exhibition is on Yateley between the end of WW2 and the Coronation.

We are 'desperate' for someone, or even a small team, to read newspapers – the Camberley News at the Surrey Heath Museum and the Reading Mercury at the Reading Reference Library. Please contact Peter Tipton on 01252 873378 if you are interested.

Our AGM is in February. If you would like to nominate yourself or someone else to the Executive Committee, please let me know on jo.hill@bigfoot.com, or (01252) 640909. All posts are up for re-election. We still need to find a new Treasurer as Peter Tipton would like to concentrate on Planning Issues.

The Executive Committee (as elected at the AGM each February) meets every 6 weeks and this newsletter is published as a result of the reports produced for those meetings. The items mentioned here are not exhaustive, just indicative of latest projects and developments. If you have any specific questions, input or desire to pursue any of these issues, please contact me or any other member of the Executive Committee. This is also an appeal if you would like meeting reminders to be sent to you by email, please drop me an email with your address (updated if you've changed it!) and I'll add you to my list.

Jo Hill, tel: (01252) 640909, email jo.hill@bigfoot.com Yateley Society website: www.hants.org.uk/yateley/

PROGRAMME OF EVENTS - 2005

OUR MEETINGS ARE NOW HELD AT YATELEY INFANT SCHOOL HALL Generally on the 3rd Thursday of the month, 8.00 pm Start. (Entrance to Car Park and Reception from Cranford Park Drive)



Thursday 16 December 2004	CHRISTMAS SOCIAL "Mytchett Playmaking" present their Mummers play. Come along and see, have a mince pie and the odd glass of Christmas cheer.
Sunday 2 January 2005	PLEASE NOTE - CONSERVATION VOLUNTEERS! Replaces the normal end of month Conservation Working Party meeting which would have taken place on Boxing Day! Everyone is welcome and I have been told that the "usual noggins" will be on offer!
Thursday 20 January 2005	WHO HAS PLANS FOR YATELEY - WHO WILL PLAN YATELEY? Make our Voice Louder! A debate about the concept and consequences of the Yateley Village Design Framework (And perhaps some aesthetically pleasing Parking Meters?).
Thursday 17 February 2005	AGM
Saturday 5 March 2005	Royal Oak Valley - Volunteer Day Organised by Yateley Ranger, Elliott Fairs - more details to follow
Thursday 17 March 2005	Basingstoke Canal - the History, Wildlife and Conservation
Thursday 21 April 2005	Valda Hudson - presents a guide for the amateur genealogist
May	Yateley History Exhibition and Library Lecture - The Haven
Thursday 16 June 2005	Carol White - gives us another update on the archaeological exploits on Yateley Common
Thursday 21 July 2005	Visit to St Mary's, Hartley Wintney

Programme as 1 December 2004



Our new venue for monthly meetings, which generally take place on the 3rd Thursday of each month, 8pm start:

Yateley Infant School hall
Cranford Park Drive
Reading

The Conservation Working Party normally meets at Wyndhams Pool, Cricket Hill at 10.00 am on the last Sunday of every month. Everyone is welcome to join in the fun! The aim is to help the Yateley Rangers in all sorts of tasks in the upkeep of Yateley Common. To find out more, please call Mike Mann on 01252 877741.