

Dear Member,

I have pleasure in inviting you to our 39th AGM on Wednesday 19 May 2010 at 7.30pm in the Ascot Authority Box, Level Two, Ascot Racecourse (please use Car Park 3). The Authority are providing their facilities free of charge and our Guest Speaker will be Mr Tim Slaney, Head of Planning and Development at the Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead. As usual, wine and nibbles will be provided by the Committee and we hope to have a good turnout at this prestigious venue. I now report on the activities for the last year, leaving more detail for the AGM itself.

PLANNING OVERVIEW

SPAE 2010 MANIFESTO Your Committee recommend for approval and adoption at our AGM the accompanying draft based on that prepared by Surrey CPRE. The next year promises to be a busier one and your Committee consider that this initiative will provide a sound base.

RBWM LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK This has been put on hold pending the General Election. Bracknell Forest's LDF was passed some time ago.

COWORTH PARK HOUSE This is due to open this summer after a £50 million-plus refurbishment.

LYNWOOD BEN has told us that although their redevelopment plans are still on hold with the credit crunch, they will be submitting shortly a "hybrid" planning application and will continue to keep SPAE informed.

ASCOT PLACE WALL Residents of Cranbourne & Winkfield supported by SPAE have won the first stage of their battle to stop a five mile 6ft 6in wall which would shut off views and woodland they have enjoyed for centuries. They hope that an earlier plan by the owner to build the wall on the far side of open fields away from roads and homes might be revived.

HEATHROW 3rd RUNWAY Although outside our area this will affect us, and SPAE supports RBWM and 12 other organisations in their fight to prevent this which has now reached the High Court.

HEATHERWOOD HOSPITAL The NHS Trust owning this and Wexham Park are proposing to free a large part of this Green Belt site from its restricted planning use with a view to a possible eventual sale. We are pressing for SPAE to be fully consulted if strenuous objections are to be avoided. Public meetings are likely to follow.

DERA SITE, CHOBHAM COMMON SPAE has just heard of the public consultation on the proposed boundaries of this 2500 residential house development on Green Belt with offices. Although it is outside our area it will impact on A30 traffic at Sunningdale.

WEBSITE & EMAIL You are encouraged regularly to visit our website for monthly news and to let our Secretary know your email address if this is not on our membership list. Members with registered email addresses receive these reports by that means thus saving cost.

SPAE COMMITTEE & OFFICERS Sadly our Secretary Jacky Scott-Howison is having to stand down for family reasons and anyone interested in this interesting and stimulating local post should contact me. My grateful thanks are given to Jacky and the continuing Committee and officers for all their hard work.

R.G Stubblefield, Chairman

Tower Lodge, Charters Road, Sunningdale, SL5 9QB

PARISH REPORTS

SUNNINGDALE

Keith Streams, 01344 623086, keith@streams733.orangehome.co.uk

The number of applications for new developments continues to be low compared with the past few years, most applications being for extensions to existing properties. There is some evidence of construction being commenced on approved development sites which have lain fallow for some time, perhaps indicating that the market is looking up and that fresh proposals may be expected.

A matter of some concern is the degree of 'innovation' used in some applications with the assertion that they comply with planning regulations and also the persistency with which some are resubmitted. Three such cases are currently being resisted. There has been disappointment with the outcome of two cases referred to Inspector level and also with some approved at RBWM Planning Unit level which have had little or no regard to the preservation of the local character.

SUNNINGHILL & ASCOT

Peter Standley, 01344 623502, peterstandley@onetel.com

A harsher financial climate has meant fewer applications for blocks of flats, even in some cases previous approvals for flats being resubmitted for a smaller number of houses (eg Ascot Motor Works where 10 town houses instead of 14 flats is proposed, although at the expense of greater harm to neighbour amenity).

One for one replacements with much larger dwellings continue and there have been several applications to replace one house with two. The Society has some sympathy for applicants seeking just one extra house who have been refused on grounds of harm to the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area. We have felt bound, however, to support the refusal of these applications. First because the number of single new dwellings means that they will have an in-combination effect and second because the Borough has been unable so far to arrange for suitable, alternative natural green space which would provide mitigation to offset their impact on the SPA. If not challenged the precedent that would create would make it difficult for the Borough to then oppose applications for much larger numbers of dwellings on grounds of harm to the SPA.

For many years the Society has unsuccessfully tried to challenge the use of the landfill site in St Georges Lane as a waste transfer station because for the last ten years it has not had the benefit of planning permission. It was never intended this Green Belt site should become a permanent recycling facility. Our attempts to get the site returned to agricultural use as intended have now received a setback with RBWM accepting the operator's claim that because wood chipping has gone on for ten years this has established lawful use rights. Wood chipping can now lawfully be carried out at this site in perpetuity! At the opposite end of Wells Lane the Society is actively supporting local residents in their resistance to the use of Oakfield Farm as a mini-skip recycling facility for which there is no planning permission. Although RBWM have issued an enforcement notice this has been appealed and there will be a Public Inquiry to consider this appeal in March.

WINKFIELD

Stewart McDougall, 01344 621797, stewartandjanet@tiscali.co.uk

Whilst the number of applications for developments have been at a very low level over the past year, there have been some which have or will have a dramatic impact on our area. The wall around Ascot Place would impact substantially on the open appearance in some parts of Winkfield and this is being actively followed through legal challenges by local residents groups. A recent application also by the owners of Ascot Place to build a conference centre of around 600 square metres in Green Belt land on their estate is going to be equally contentious. One hopes that the nature of ownership will not incur privileges unavailable to ordinary mortals.

Bracknell Forest Borough Council have just published their site allocation plan for building land up to 2026. It includes two sites in the Winkfield area of particular concern. One is the triangle behind Locks Ride and the other about 80 hectares of Crown Estate land between the A 329 and the railway line after the Royal Foresters restaurant/hotel and before the Mercedes garage. This is particularly concerning as, although not Green Belt, it has always been referred to in BFBC plans as the green separation zone between Ascot and Bracknell. Both suggestions can be seen at <http://consult.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/portal/planning/sadpd/sadpdparticipation> where you will also be able to input your comments/objections. Showing that public objections can sometimes be effective the appeal on the proposal to erect industrial units on Green Belt land in Prince Consort Drive was rejected.

THE 39TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
of the Society will be held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 19 May 2010
in the Ascot Authority Box on Level Two at Ascot Racecourse, Ascot High Street

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the 38th AGM held on 20 May 2009
3. Matters arising from those minutes
4. Election of Officers; the following have been nominated and are willing to serve:

President:	Mr S G Errington, CBE, DL
Vice-President:	Lord Elibank
Chairman	Mr R G Stubblefield
Deputy Chairman & Planning Secretary:	Mr G B Burgess, RIBA
Hon Treasurer & Membership Secretary:	Mrs K Webb
Hon General Secretary:	TBA
5. Election of Executive Committee; the following have been nominated and are willing to serve:
Mr G J Joyce, Mr S McDougall, Mr J T McElhaw, Mr D Marshall, Mr P W O'Kill,
Mr P E Standley, Mr K D Streams
Other nominations for Committee Members should be received by the Chairman no later than 13 May 2010
6. Treasurer's and Membership Reports, including adoption of Accounts and appointment of Reporting Accountants
7. Planning Secretary's Report
8. President's Remarks
9. Chairman's Report
10. Any Other Business

*Upon the close of business there will be an address by our Guest Speaker,
**Mr Tim Slaney, Head of Planning & Development, Royal Borough of Windsor
& Maidenhead**
after which refreshments will be served*

	2010	2009
<u>Income</u>		
Subscriptions	1,719.00	1,827.00
Donations	54.00	69.00
NS Bank interest (Gross)	53.23	594.20
Bank account interest (Gross)	<u>1.03</u>	<u>13.09</u>
	1,827.26	2,503.29
<u>Expenditure</u>		
Printing & stationery	333.70	469.52
Postage & telephone	160.28	304.73
Hire of halls & AGM expenses	161.58	113.36
Subscriptions & donations	261.00	46.00
Corporation Tax	127.47	160.80
Accountant's fee	115.00	111.63
Bank charges and refunds	15.00	---
IT & office equipment	--	316.73
Sundries - Rent	96.00	84.00
Petrol/travel	40.20	44.00
Reception	<u>--</u>	<u>65.58</u>
	<u>1,310.23</u>	<u>1,716.35</u>
<u>Surplus of Income over Expenditure</u>	517.03	786.94
New life memberships	--	100.00
Accumulated Funds b/f	<u>29,152.68</u>	<u>28,265.74</u>
<u>Accumulated Funds c/f</u>	<u>29,669.71</u>	<u>29,152.68</u>
<u>Represented by :</u>		
Investment with NS Bank	18,424.45	18,371.22
Barclays Business Premium a/c	2,007.60	2,006.57
Cash at bank & in hand	2,237.66	1,774.89
1,412 Witan Investment Trust plc shares at cost (market value at 31/03/10 - £6,747.95)	7,000.00	7,000.00
	<u>£29,669.71</u>	<u>£29,152.68</u>
.....Chairman	Treasurer
Approved on	2010	
<u>ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT</u>		
We have examined the accounts of the Society for the Protection of Ascot & Environs for the year ended 31st March 2010 in conjunction with the books, records, and information supplied to us by the Treasurer and confirm that they are in accordance therewith.		
Porter Garland Chartered Accountants	Portland House Park Street, Bagshot, Surrey April 2010	

MINUTES of 38th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held on Wednesday 20th May 2009 in The Windsor Forest Suite, Ascot Racecourse at 7:30 p.m.

The Chairman opened the Meeting by welcoming the newly appointed High Sheriff, Councillors, Press and 63 Members and Guests.

In addition, Mr Stubblefield said SPAE was delighted that Mr Phillip Everett would be the Guest Speaker after the Meeting.

The Meeting then proceeded with the Agenda:

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

The General Secretary read out the list of apologies received (18 members).

2. MINUTES of 37th AGM:

The adoption of the Minutes of the above Meeting held on 21st May 2008, were approved and signed by R G Stubblefield.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THESE MINUTES: None arose.

4. ELECTION of OFFICERS:

The following were proposed by Miss Christine Gadd, seconded by Mrs Judith Stephens and were unanimously elected:

President:	Mr S G Errington CBE, DL
Vice President:	Lord Elibank
Chairman:	Mr RG Stubblefield
Deputy Chairman and Planning Secretary:	Mr GB Burgess RIBA
Hon Treasurer and Membership Secretary:	Mrs C Webb
Hon General Secretary:	Mrs Jacky Scott-Howison

5. ELECTION of EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

The following were proposed by Mr T McBurnie, seconded by Mr N Stephens and unanimously elected:

Mr G Joyce, Mr S McDougall, Mr TJ McElhaw, Mr PW O'Kill, Mr PE Standley, Mr KD Streams.

6. TREASURER and MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORTS including ADOPTION of ACCOUNTS and APPOINTMENT of REPORTING ACCOUNTANTS:

Mrs K Webb reported on the Audited Accounts which had been circulated. Income remains much the same as last year, but donations are down as is Bank and Savings Interest. Expenditure is generally down reflected in the generosity of Committee members. Membership is 1214. Mr Stephens commented on the accounts and congratulated the Committee.

After discussion it was agreed that we should continue to protect our reserves. Adoption proposed by Mrs C Stephens, seconded by Mrs C Weightman and approved.

- 7. PLANNING SECRETARY REPORT** Mr Brian Burgess reported that there were 493 applications covering our area compared to 619 last year. 130 received SPAE attention of which 49% were refused or withdrawn. Successful in helping to dismiss Appeals, particularly the Tesco application in Sunninghill and others including Ruslings, Kingsland, The Coach House and Prince Albert Drive. Unsuccessfully at Titlarks., and Rosewood. Shorts recycling site is under negotiation. The Coworth Park development proceeds. In Winkfield one outstanding application for apartment blocks remains and permission has been refused at Covert Wood to change woodland into public open space. Mr Burgess thanked the planning team of Peter Standley, Keith Streams and Stuart McDougall for their time and effort and SPAE members who keep us abreast of developments.
- 8. PRESIDENT'S REMARKS:** Mr Errington gave a short address to thank Mr Michael Clegg for all his work during his time served as Chairman for six years, followed by ten years as President of SPAE. Mr Clegg led the response to inappropriate development in our area but also worked assiduously to establish good working relationships with local planning officers and elected representatives. Mr Clegg was presented with a bottle of Port and gave his thanks.
- 9. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:** Like the Curate's Egg! – some good news and some bad. The good included Tesco and Llanvair Drive, the bad Fairfield House. He then gave an overview including reference to the credit crunch which is having an effect on the number of applications. Assets retained to fund large appeals. The need to attract new members. Mr Ian Valentine received an Honorary membership for his work with our Website and thanks were given to Mr Keith Streams and Mr Peter O'Kill for their work on publicity. Tributes: The Chairman paid tribute to all SPAE's officers, Team Leaders and the Committee for their hard work during the year and thanked their wives for providing the snacks for the AGM.
- 10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:** There was none.

The Meeting closed at 21.10 and the Chairman introduced the Guest Speaker, Mr Phillip Everett, who gave an interesting and informative talk about his work, including that of Deputy Ranger of the Crown Estate. Mr Everett answered questions then the Chairman expressed his thanks to him. After which refreshment was served.

1. Quality of life and the protection of the environment should be political priorities - particularly in this time of recession.
2. Local democracy must be safeguarded and communities should be able to influence the planning process more.
3. The golden rule for development must be: Brownfield first, Greenfield only as a last resort.
4. The Green Belt was established to provide permanent protection and must be vigorously defended.
5. The increased housing targets for our area in the final South East Plan (excessive, unsound and unsustainable) if attained could have a harmful affect and when appropriate will be opposed by the Society.
6. There must be no new housing without sufficient investment in associated infrastructure and public services.
7. Additional housing should meet local needs first and foremost , particularly the requirement for affordable homes.
8. New building should be to the highest design standards, with emphasis on energy and water efficiency. Neighbourhood identity, character and setting should be enhanced by protecting open spaces and gardens, and by use of local materials.