

Press Release from Wendover Parish Council

On Feb 16th 2009 the Parish Council met having been forced to postpone the meeting due to the snow. There were several important items on the agenda.

Back Street Land Issues

After 14 months BCC have issued their report into the status of a small piece of land in Back Street, Wendover which has been disputed for nearly 2 years. The report concludes that that the land is public highway. Having had an opportunity to study the report from BCC the Councillors considered their next steps.

The Land Registry has stated that as this area is public highway, ownership or title may not be granted, this applies also to Mrs Green who had disputed the ownership. More than a year ago, Mrs Green was advised by Land Registry that she had not proven her ownership.

The Council wishes to reach a conclusion to this issue which provides a long term pragmatic solution and provides value for money while also protecting the public interests.

As Public Highway, the land is the responsibility of the Highways dept of BCC. Therefore the Parish Council will pursue with BCC highways the clearance of the public highway of any obstructions. Further the Council seeks to work with BCC to come to an amicable agreement about the past maintenance fees, which BCC has incorrectly charged to WPC and which were paid by WPC in good faith, as well as coming to an agreement about the future maintenance responsibilities.

Notwithstanding the above, the Council reserved the right to challenge the findings of the BCC report due to several perceived errors and inaccuracies in the report detail. The Council hopes that this can be avoided.

London Road Skate Park – road crossing.

The council considered the options for the entrance to the London Road site and the Skate Park and decided to approve a traffic scheme which will provide a safe refuge on the side of the road, with a narrowing of the road to reduce traffic flow and speeds. There will be a ramp up to the skate park. This entrance will be located where the users have forced a gap in the fence. Although this is the more expensive option, the council took the view that the safety of the skate park users is paramount and later will add a separate pedestrian entrance for the Commemorative Wood once it is more mature.

The Council authorised the initial design work to be done and once this is available the final layout of the complete park can be defined. This will enable work to start on the promised BMX track. There will need to be consultations with the local road users and emergency services before the scheme is finally implemented

Ashbrook Trees

Due to the canker that affected the wonderful horse-chestnuts at Ashbrook, the trees became unstable and had to be taken down; many people have commented how much they miss them, even though it has revealed a great view of the Chiltern Hills and Wendover Woods.

The Council agreed that new trees should be planted with a variety of species in order to reduce the risk that be could all be attacked by a single disease again. It will take many years for new trees to grow to the stature of the original trees and the council undertook to investigate costs to plant a few slightly larger trees as well as young trees. It has to be noted that young trees will establish quickest and soon catch up with larger trees, but the overall visual impact has also to be considered.