



Newsletter

May, June and July

2023

Editorial

As we go to press, preparations for the coronation of King Charles III are in full swing with RAF Halton's involvement in the training of the troops being central to the day's ceremonial spectacle.

The crabapple tree that was planted to commemorate the life of Queen Elizabeth II is blossoming and wildflower verges in the parish will soon start to look more interesting and colourful.

The Open Gardens event scheduled for the summer has been cancelled due to lack of interest but we are hoping residents will be encouraged to decorate their property frontages for the coronation.

St Michael and All Angels will be hosting Music in Quiet Places again in June and August. This was much enjoyed last year by those attending.

Please read the article inside about meetings that have taken place to discuss the Strategic Planning Document which forms the master plan for the Halton site when the RAF base closes and the item on the Neighbourhood Plan and its necessary redraft.

We are grateful to the Community Board who financed the repair of the flagpole on the church tower. A 'cherry picker' was hired and four intrepid steeple-jacks (Brian, Don, Joss and Paul) carried out the repair.

Parish Office

Fiona Richardson our Parish Clerk works on Tuesdays and Thursdays 9am – 3pm. If you would like to meet with the Clerk at the Parish Office, Halton Village Hall, on any matter, please make an appointment on 01296 626073 or email clerk@halton-pc.gov.uk



Carrying out repairs to the flag pole on the church tower. Top left: the 'cherry picker' in action. Top right: the Union Flag proudly flying from the repaired flag pole. Bottom: two of our four intrepid steeple jacks, Joss and Paul.

Supplementary Planning Document for the RAF Halton site allocated in the Vale of Aylesbury Plan (VALP)

Following on from the article in our November newsletter, the Parish Council (as a statutory consultee) attended two further Stakeholder Workshops on the Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) for the RAF Halton site. They took place in February and March with the aim of continuing to develop the SPD, which will form the Master Plan.

The SPD principles support the VALP Policy of 1,000 homes across the site. The design of the site will be landscape led with 50% green infrastructure and includes retention of the existing sports facilities.

Schools and Local Amenities

Rather than expand our current school, Buckinghamshire Education Department's preference is to build a new (second) combined school on the site and to co locate it with a local centre (shops). This led to much debate, and no agreement was reached on the location, so there is more work to do on this area.

Housing

We were asked to agree a Land Swapping Approach, where development is consolidated in one area to the benefit of green corridors and green areas. For example, if the large white building (the RAF dental centre) behind St George's Church was demolished, and the land it sits on returned to parkland, the volume of the building would have to be found elsewhere. The trade-off is to have a higher density of housing where the Old Workshops currently stand. We agreed to this in principle, but we would need to see what that would look like in reality, for example we would not wish to see three and four storey buildings on a rural green belt site. We have subsequently written to Buckinghamshire Planning Department for clarification on building densities and heights in this area.

The SPD Heritage Policy is to conserve and enhance heritage assets and their settings across the site, whilst ensuring viable use consistent with their conservation. Buckinghamshire Council Conservation Officers proposed new national building listings across the site, however, English Heritage only accepted two buildings at the Groves Henderson Barracks, which were missed off the original national listing. Buckinghamshire Council has therefore designated some of the buildings for Local Listing, which means that they must be given extra consideration for planning purposes. Rather than one style of build across the whole site, we were asked to agree to a variety of styles to reflect the different characteristics of each distinctive area. For example, a military flavour in sympathy with the current buildings on the top site where the Barrack Blocks are located, like the Garden Quarter at Bicester Village. A more contemporary feel on the Old Workshops site to reflect the lines of the workshops and the Nuffield Pavilion. You can view examples of each style in the Design Guide (Appendix 11) of our draft Neighbourhood Plan available on our website. We agreed with this approach.

Movement and Access

Roads and Transport are considered during the SPD design phase, the policy is to deliver junction improvements onto the B4009, provision of a local bus service, an improved network of cycle and walking links and adequate parking provision. However, at the meetings there was not sufficient detail regarding these plans. The Parish Council is very keen for a roundabout at Main Point to slow traffic and make the junction safer, and for traffic lights on Perch Bridge to make it safer for pedestrians and drivers. With Community Board support, we funded Transport for Bucks to undertake a road safety report on Perch Bridge, (the report can be accessed from our website). The report recommended traffic lights as the optimum safety solution for Perch Bridge. We sent copies of the report to the DIO, Buckinghamshire Councillors, and the SPD Team. We have written to Buckinghamshire Council on these points, and we have been assured that as yet, no traffic modelling has been conducted. The traffic modelling will be

carried out to inform the planning application, which is a later stage in the process. We will continue to press on these points, to get the best solution for the Parish as a whole.

Sports Facilities Policy and Allotments

When RAF Halton closes it is the Parish Council's ambition to take over the sports facilities for the benefit of the community and to have our own Allotments. We conducted a business case assessment and cost benefit analysis to be confident that the Parish could sustain the sporting facilities and Allotments. We prepared two papers, one for Sports Facilities and one for Allotments (both available on our website), which we shared with the DIO, Buckinghamshire Councillors, our MP and with the Strategic Planning Team.

We are delighted to report that at the March meeting the Strategic Planning Team announced that the Nuffield sports facilities are to be transferred to the Parish Council on the closure of RAF Halton. We could not be more delighted, and we hope you are too!

Our hard work has paid off - although we can't rest on our laurels and there is still much to do! Buckinghamshire Council will organise the transfer. We do not have all the details at this point, but we will keep you updated. Our neighbours Aston Clinton Parish Council were at the meeting and offered us help and advice based on their own experience of running sports facilities. The SPD currently sites the Allotments and a children's playground in the vicinity of the Assault Course area.

Public Consultation

The SPD Team will be conducting further work on the plan and will prepare for a Public Consultation, currently scheduled for July - August this year. You will all have the opportunity to view the plan and comment prior to its completion. We will keep you updated on any developments and consultation dates.

A Word of Caution

The VALP and subsequently the SPD did not cover the airfield or any land that side of the canal, Halton House and its parkland, or some of the sports fields and fields currently farmed and in the green belt. Those issues and concerns are not addressed in this process. Buckinghamshire planners are starting the process to develop a county wide plan and as such have asked for sites to be considered. The DIO has put forward the airfield and some fields (currently farmed and in the green belt). We will keep you updated on any developments to the Buckinghamshire Plan.

Jane MacKinnon, Chair, Halton Parish Council.

Neighbourhood Plan

Following on from our Open Day in the Village Hall, we conducted a 6-week consultation period on our Neighbourhood Plan, which closed on 5 March 2023. Thank you to all our Parishioners who took the time to complete the feedback forms, we really appreciate your comments and suggestions, we also received useful feedback from our statutory consultees, and we are reviewing all the inputs and will be updating the Plan to reflect our community's wishes.

During the consultation period, we had a meeting with the DIO to answer their questions on the plan, which informed their formal feedback. One of the major changes from the consultation will be our Neighbourhood Area, which currently omits parts of the RAF Halton site at the request of the MOD. The DIO decided that it no longer objected to the inclusion of the 'Operational' area of RAF Halton being in our Neighbourhood Plan/Area, this is partly because planning for the site is currently underway, and we are closer to its disposal date of 2027.

At our meeting on the 22 April 2023, the PC voted to accept the DIO's suggestion and change the Neighbourhood Area. The PC has therefore written formally to Buckinghamshire Council to have the entire

Parish, including the whole of RAF Halton, designated as our Neighbourhood Area. This means that the plan will start again from the date of the new designation, and we will have to go back through the whole public consultation period again. However, it is a much better option to do this now, while the plan is still in draft, than to start again in 2027.

Jane MacKinnon, Chair Halton Parish Council

Our New Village Hall Bookings Clerk

Halton Parish Council have recently employed Sarah Stobbs as our new bookings clerk. Sarah will be your first point of contact for village hall bookings and information. Sarah lives locally and she also works at Halton Community Combined School. She has excellent communication and organisational skills and will be a great asset to our team. Welcome Sarah!

You can contact Sarah at bookingsclerk@halton-pc.gov.uk, 07565 797049. You can find out more about village hall hire at <http://www.haltonvillagenews.co.uk/parish-council/the-village-hall/>

Competition to Win a Coronation Hamper

To commemorate the coronation of King Charles III, the most tastefully decorated property frontage in Halton village will be awarded a hamper after 6th May and a commemorative photo will be featured in the following Parish Newsletter.

The Village Hall will be decorated with bunting and the Church flagpole will fly the coronation pennant. A photographer will capture images of the village on the day and judging will be carried out by Halton Parish Council.

Canal Update

The Wendover Canal Trust has a project to upgrade the canal footpath. The Wendover Canal resembles a chalk stream fed by aquifers at Coombe Hill with canal water of great clarity. The Grand Union Canal depends on this canal to replenish water at its Tring summit. Bordering the Chilterns AONB, it offers outstanding views of the Chiltern Hills and Aylesbury Vale while providing a beautiful, tranquil green corridor. With a high footfall the path has deteriorated and has become muddy and slippery in places. The Trust started their work at Wendover and Phase 1 of the project upgraded an initial 920m of the canal path for a cost of £367K. The cost of restoring the footpath is quite expensive. The benefits of having a safe, secure and traffic free path between Halton and Wendover are obvious, especially for children using it to get to and from school. With a level path in good repair it opens up the towpath to a wider variety of users. Having the towpath upgraded and easy to use from Wendover to Buckland Wharf also helps us connect to our neighbours in surrounding parishes. The Wendover Canal Trust has now moved on to Phase 2 of the project which will extend the upgrade to the centre of Halton – a further 1800m. The Parish Council fully supported the proposal and gave a small grant as a token of our support. We have been working with them to maximise the benefit of this initiative for a wider audience . One of the major benefactors to this project is the HS2 Chiltern Review Group. To make the upgrade go further the width of the towpath has been limited to 1.5m which appears to be a quite adequate width. Phase 2 is projected to last between November 2023 and March 2024.

Climate Action Group—Help Needed

How can being encouraged to do some recycling, switch off lights and use paper straws possibly hold back sea-level rise or deadly heat-waves? Well, of course, they can't, but it has been shown that changing our behaviour so that we do lots of small things can soon add up and locally help our environment. Obviously if everyone were to switch to an electric car, cycle or use public transport more, switch to a renewable energy supplier, limit the consumption of meat and dairy products, reuse and recycle products, the whole planet would be in a measurably better position.

Research has shown that the extent to which people make environmentally friendly choices is affected by their assessment of what others are doing. So, over time, this environmental influence can spread throughout a neighbourhood.

In a bid to make this happen, many parishes around the UK have formed climate action groups to try to address some of the issues associated with climate change on a local level.

By focusing on just a few achievable goals, local groups like Wendover and Weston Turville, are already making a difference. Weston Turville has carried out a home energy efficiency survey on a few typical houses using thermal imaging cameras to pinpoint heat loss spots around the home. They hope to purchase their own camera so that residents can carry out their own surveys and decide where to improve their insulation. They are in the process of compiling a list of drivers in the parish who would be willing to provide weekly transport to take non-car owners to Wendover for shopping. They are also hoping to open a Repair Café. Aston Clinton has opened a Repair Café to encourage locals to bring along items that can be repaired and recycled and therefore reused instead of thrown in the rubbish.

Several of these ideas could be adopted by Halton Parish. It would be nice to feel that in this part of Buckinghamshire all the parishes are doing their bit to help to restore our local environment.

By working together and supporting each other we could make a difference.

Despite not so far having a parish climate action group, Halton has recently been accepted by Bucks Council as a potential site for an electric car charging point for the village. Bucks Council will be conducting a feasibility survey of the Village Hall carpark.

Climate action groups tend not to be associated with their parish councils and, in Halton, we would be no different, so if you feel enthused to get together with a few like-minded people and have any ideas to save money, protect and enhance the environment, please contact me. Climate change is affecting us all so please don't sit back and expect others to sort it out.

Caroline Waddams—01296 624458

The Queen's Green Canopy

During the winter, the Parish Council planted a crab apple tree as a living tribute to Queen Elizabeth II as part of her green canopy project. The tree is now in full blossom and we look forward to watching it grow and prosper in the years to come. A commemorative plaque has been installed in front of it.

Dogwoods for winter colour were also planted. The wildflowers that were put in the verges by several of the villagers last autumn will be emerging soon. All the planting, together with the commemorative plaque, was funded by the Community Board for which the Parish Council is very grateful.

Mike Jimson

It is with regret and sadness that we note the passing of one of the characters of Halton Village - Mike Jimson. He had lived in the village for 30 years. During that time he was a stalwart of the community giving his time generously. There were some core activities he volunteered to do and of course he will be remembered for them, including bell ringing at St Michael's Church, Cricket and umpiring for Wendover Cricket Club, helping to run the Village Hall and layout editor of the Halton Parish News Letter



He was the booking clerk for the Village Hall for the last 10 years and during that time helped move the activity on to a more professional basis by setting up a methodology to support the booking process and the village hall customers. This has enabled the Village Hall to flourish and become self funding.

But he also did lots of other things to contribute to local life. He always helped to put up Christmas decorations in the Village Hall. He served the village pensioners during their Christmas lunch. He built a bench in the bus shelter and made an 'A' frame to help advertise Church teas on a Summer Sunday afternoon. He helped to design the front garden area of the Village Hall and always participated in the Village tidy ups. In a small community he made a big contribution.

Brian Thompson

Music in Quiet Places

Following the success of the Music in Quiet Places (MIQP) concert held last year, it has been decided to hold two concerts this year. The first will be on 3 June and the second on 12 August.

The format will be similar to last year with only one minor change. As the front of the church is quite narrow for the musicians, we will be temporarily removing the front choir stalls on both sides for the concerts thus allowing more space for the players. The concerts will start with a short guided walk around the village starting at 6.30 pm and finishing about 7.15 pm. Drinks will be available for concert goers before hand and the concert will start at 7.30pm. There will be an interval midway through the concert.

All money raised by the concert will go into the Tower Fund to help pay for carrying out essential repairs to the tower, particularly around the bell chamber openings.

Tickets will be released shortly and will be available from Fiona Richardson – the Halton Parish Clerk on a Tuesday or Thursday at the Village Hall, from Brian Thompson or from 'Just' shop on Wendover High Street.

Village Diary

24 May	7:00 pm	Annual Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall
24 May	7:30 pm	Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall
3 June	Walk 6:30 pm Concert 7:30 pm	Music in Quiet Places	St Michael and all Angels
26 July	7:30 pm	Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall
12 August	Walk 6:30 pm Concert 7:30 pm	Music in Quiet Places	St Michael and all Angels

Open Gardens 2023

The Parish Council's annual community event was to be Open Gardens on 24 June 2023. We were planning a Coronation theme as gardening is one of King Charles's great loves.

Halton's last Open Gardens was pre Covid, and we realise that many of our residents who supported the event have moved away. We were hoping that residents who haven't taken part might like to give it a try. In the past everyone who has opened their garden has enjoyed the experience. We needed ten gardens, eight as a minimum, but unfortunately we only had five, so the event will no longer go ahead.

Halton Parish Council would like to thank Shirley and Paul at the Old Post Office, Lucy and Stuart at Brookside, Emma and Jon at Talisman Cottage, Grace at Tree Tops and Jane and Rod at White Rose Cottage for volunteering their gardens. We ask that they hold onto their enthusiasm until 29 June 2025 when their patience should be rewarded by a rejuvenated event.

Thank you also to Sarah at Church View and Paran at Canal Cottage for volunteering for Afternoon Teas.

We had applied to the Community Board for funding to support the event, which we will now withdraw.

Highways Report

Potholes continue to be a problem around the parish. They are reported to FixMyStreet when spotted. Please remember that anyone can use FixMyStreet to report problems with roads or pavements.

Our MVAS data shows that our highest speed recorded from both signs was 55mph. Although this is well above the speed limit, it is an improvement on speeds of 65-75 mph previously recorded.

So far this year there have been four accidents with cars finishing up in the ditch by the tennis club exit in Halton Lane. We are recording up to 12,000 vehicles a day using this road. Please do take care on this dangerous corner.

Buckinghamshire Council now has a new contractor for road works. The hope is that the Parish Council will now be able to progress with some of the projects we have been working on throughout the parish.



The crab apple tree that was planted to commemorate the life of Queen Elizabeth II in full blossom.

Recycling Dates

Green Waste Bin	Blue Recycling Bin and Garden Waste	Food Waste Bin
Thursday 4 May		Thursday 4 May
	Thursday 11 May	Thursday 11 May
Wednesday 17 May		Wednesday 17 May
	Wednesday 24 May	Wednesday 24 May
Thursday 1 June		Thursday 1 June
	Wednesday 7 June	Wednesday 7 June
Wednesday 14 June		Wednesday 14 June
	Wednesday 21 June	Wednesday 21 June
Wednesday 28 June		Wednesday 28 June
	Wednesday 5 July	Wednesday 5 July
Wednesday 12 July		Wednesday 12 July
	Wednesday 19 July	Wednesday 19 July
Wednesday 26 July		Wednesday 26 July

Residents on the Wendover side of Perch Bridge have different collection days and dates, one day later on Thursday each week.

Useful Telephone Numbers

Clerk to the Parish Council – Fiona Richardson	01296 626073
Village Hall Booking Clerk—Sarah Stobbs	07565 797049
Guard Room – Main Point	01296 656211/656503
Wendover Police Office (Wendover Library) - Tues & Fri 10am-12pm	01296 621916
Police Non-Emergency Number	101
Crimestoppers	0800 555 111
Electricity Emergency	0800 316 3105
Fly Tipping Hotline	0845 330 1856
Potholes notification	08452 380882
Wendover Health Centre	01296 623452
WHC Friends Desk	01296 622565
Halton Community Combined School-Halton	01296 622264
John Hampden Infant School-Wendover	01296 622629
Wendover CE Junior School	01296 669822
John Colet Secondary School	01296 623348
Church Warden-Linda Kynaston	01296 431009

Next Issue

If you have anything for inclusion in the next Halton Village News-letter please email it to haltonvillage.newsletter@gmail.com or ring 01296 624458 before 21 July 2023.

The views expressed by contributors are their own and not necessarily the views of The Halton Village Newsletter.

The next Parish Council meeting will take place on 24 May, 2023 in the Village Hall at 7.30pm. This will be preceded by the Annual General Meeting of the Parish Council at 7pm.