

# The Village Green

Covering the communities at Chearsley, Haddenham, Ickford, Kingsey, Long Crendon, Shabbington, and Worminghall

September 2016



**Aylesbury Vale Green Party**

## Tell us what matters to you

We recently organised a doorstep survey about issues of concern in the local area. A big thank you to the more than 400 Bernwood residents who kindly responded.

The main concerns expressed were to do with road safety and housing development plans. Other issues raised included problems with antisocial behaviour, the provision of community facilities and opportunities for young adults.

If you were out when we called but you would like to tell us what matters most to you and what issues you would like us to work on locally, we would love to hear from you at [info@aylesburyvale.greenparty.org.uk](mailto:info@aylesburyvale.greenparty.org.uk). Your views will help us to set priorities for campaigning and action for a better Bernwood.



## Haddenham-Thame cycleway

Aylesbury Vale Green Party members have been pressing Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire County Councils, in association with local groups, for progress on the long-promised cycleway from Haddenham & Thame station to Thame.

After considerable delay, a feasibility study was delivered in late July by cycle route specialist Sustrans to Buckinghamshire County Council, which is leading on the project.

We believe the report identifies the technical issues that must be addressed in order to accommodate a cycleway alongside the A418



and then along Thame Road from Scotsgrove to the station. These include the possibility of a new bridge.

At the time of going to press, the report had not been made public while the county councils consider it and prepare their response. Given the existing substantial new development in Haddenham and the prospect of a lot more, AVGP and others will be increasing pressure on the councils to provide this essential piece of infrastructure. The present road route to and from Thame to the station is a death trap.

## Introducing David Lyons, green campaigner



David Lyons is a parish councillor and community activist in Haddenham, where he has lived for 14 years, near to his precious allotment. He campaigned

earlier this year to make Clay Corner crossroads safer. David has been active in Transition Haddenham and helped to bring about the community orchard and a number of other food-related initiatives. David is well aware of issues around the station from cycling there in his daily commute. He is pressing for a traffic and parking strategy that supports the whole village.

# Green Party response to Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan

● We are questioning the number of houses required in this area. The council should be challenging the number of houses that are unallocated in the south of the county and which we are told must be built here.

● We welcome the idea of Aylesbury as a garden town but only if it is delivered with full green infrastructure so that it is a really pleasant place to live.

● AVDC should make requirements on developers to build houses that are carbon-neutral. It is difficult enough to afford a house without having to pay high energy bills.

● We want to see Bucks CC and AVDC both commit to providing the green infrastructure that their strategies outline throughout the Vale. That means excellent cycle lanes, footpaths and public transport as well as quality green corridors.

● Neither Haddenham nor Winslow should have 4,500 additional houses tacked onto them. By querying the housing need we are challenging this requirement.

You can find our full response to the Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan at <https://aylesburyvale.greenparty.org.uk/campaigns.html>

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## Long Crendon: what are the district and county councils doing to represent your interests?

In Long Crendon, housing development tops the list of villagers' concerns. People can see that the failure of Aylesbury Vale District Council to have a local plan has given developers a free rein in building expensive "executive" homes on any piece of land that they can get their hands on.

Whilst maximising developers' profits, villagers told us in the recent survey that these houses do not meet the needs of local people. Both young and older people have to leave their home village because of the lack of truly affordable and suitable housing.

Our councils are failing in allowing houses to be built without investing in essential infrastructure such as schools, shops and accessible transport. Both the GP surgery and

the school in Long Crendon are overstretched, and services for the elderly are under great strain. This failure of our councils to invest in infrastructure hits the less well-off hardest.

Whilst the district and county

councillors are failing to represent villagers' interests, the Green Party would work with housing associations, parish councils, landowners and builders to provide genuinely affordable homes for local people, the priority being homes

suitable for poorer families as well as single and older people. We would ensure that these homes are built to high energy-saving standards.

We will also press for increased investment in vital infrastructure to ensure that developers make a proper contribution to make our public services fit for purpose.

The Green Party is the only party whose councillors would be committed to building and supporting truly sustainable communities in our rural villages.



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## So what's different about the Green Party?

The Green Party is a party of social and environmental justice. We believe in "the common good" – politics that work for the benefit of all. We are the only party that puts the environment at the heart of our policies.

We stand for greater equality, sustainability and the right of all of us to a full and healthy life, which includes decentralising

government as much as possible and empowering people to be able to make more decisions at the local level.

If you would like to find out more about the Green Party, or if you would like to help us by campaigning in your village, then please get in touch by emailing [info@aylesburyvale.greenparty.org.uk](mailto:info@aylesburyvale.greenparty.org.uk).

Following the success of our Greener Living Fair, we are pleased to tell you that we are holding a:

**Christmas Greener Living Fair**  
Haddenham Village Hall  
Sunday 11th December  
1.30-4pm

**Children's arts and crafts,  
upcycling stalls, books, therapies**