

The Village Green

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

February 2017



Aylesbury Vale Green Party

Tories fail to invest in Long Crendon School

In Long Crendon two large housing developments have been given planning permission, with the developers being required to make contributions of hundreds of thousands of pounds towards expanding primary and secondary education.

Yet rather than invest in the highly regarded Long Crendon School, Buckinghamshire County Council, which is responsible for education, has allocated the money to expand schools in Brill, Waddesdon and Aylesbury. Why not Long Crendon?

Long Crendon School is very well regarded but short on capacity. In some years even children living nearby have been unable to get a place. As a result parents have to drive them to schools in other villages such as Haddenham.

As many of the new houses will be near the school, in the future children in other parts of the village will be less likely to be able to attend their local school.

Long Crendon School has been grappling for years with the economics of trying to open an additional reception class that would enable all village children to attend.



Green Party activist David Lyons with Florence Miller, whose eldest daughter did not get into their local school

Now with the population of Long Crendon set to grow even further, the developer's contributions should be invested in the local school, not schools between four and 11 miles away.

But yet again Conservative councillors are failing to look after the interests of local people. They have not bothered to consult villagers or the Parish Council. They

have not bothered to explain why they aren't investing in Long Crendon School.

Green Party councillors would commit to putting decisions in the hands of local communities, empowering people to be able to make decisions at a local level. The Green Party believes in building and supporting truly sustainable communities in our villages.

A unitary authority for Buckinghamshire

You may have heard about proposals to create a unitary authority in Buckinghamshire that combines the services provided by both the county and the districts.

There are two options given. The county council proposes one county-

wide unitary that it believes will save the most money. The district councils are suggesting two unitaries – one the current Aylesbury Vale area and the other an amalgamation of Chiltern, South Buckinghamshire and Wycombe Districts. They believe

these will provide more efficient service delivery given the geography of the county.

The final decision will be made by Sajid Javid, the communities secretary. We suggest you write to your MP to make your voice heard.

Haddenham parking problem



Green Party activist David Lyons has supported moves to introduce parking restrictions near to the station and can report that Transport for Buckinghamshire (TfB) has finally agreed to install double yellow lines on the Thame Road.

Unfortunately, Dave says restrictions in one area will just mean that problem parking moves further from the station. Calls for Chiltern Railways to reduce its parking fees fall on deaf ears.

With hundreds of houses to be built in Haddenham in the future, the problem will increase. Dave wants an integrated transport plan that will reduce the need for people to drive in the village.

Haddenham and Thame Parkway station is an important transport

hub for the district, but intermodal connections are limited:

- There are still no cycle paths to either Thame, Aylesbury or villages such as Long Crendon, Chearsley or Cuddington.
- The X80 Aylesbury-Oxford express bus does not stop near Haddenham because TfB has not made any layby provision.
- There is little or no bus provision to Long Crendon, Chearsley or Cuddington, particularly that could support commuters via Haddenham.

However, there are now direct trains to Oxford from Haddenham, thus attracting more commuters to Haddenham and Thame Parkway station. Dave says he will continue to fight for improvements.



More about David Lyons

- David (pictured above) is a hard-working parish councillor, standing up for local people since 2011.
- His approach is innovative as well as practical. He has successfully achieved a village orchard and founded Haddenham in Transition, promoting community action for food and energy.
- He is an advocate for a comprehensive and sustainable transport strategy, including speed controls to make local roads safer, and a more pleasant environment for all.

Former party leader visits Long Crendon



An audience of about 50 people turned out to hear ex-Green Party leader Natalie Bennett (pictured) speaking at Long Crendon Library in early December.

Natalie is a natural speaker with loads of enthusiasm.

Natalie is particularly focused on the need for all of us to be unashamedly political. Her catch phrase is “make politics something you do” and she talked about the value of individual action but also

the real power of taking part in political activity and how important that is in a democracy.

If you would like to get involved with the Green Party as a member or would be willing help us out locally as a volunteer, please email info@aylesburyvale.greenparty.org.uk.

Greener Living Fair returning in May

AVGP hosted its second Greener Living Fair on Sunday 11th December. We welcomed back some old faces and greeted new ones, with a wide variety of stalls selling everything from driftwood arts and models

to upcycled garden tools, vintage clothing and much more.

We raised nearly £300 to help with campaigning on local issues and we hope to raise even more when we host the next event on Sunday 21st

May from 2pm to 4pm in Haddenham Village Hall. If you or someone you know has a greener business, or is part of a greener organisation or charity and would like a stall, please email coral-rose@hotmail.com.