



**Councillor  
Gregory Smith**



**Green Campaigner  
Paul Norman**

# THE VILLAGE GREEN

**SUMMER 2023**

The Green Party newsletter covering Haddenham, Stone, Waddesdon, Long Crendon, Brill and surrounding villages

## FUTURE-PROOFING OUR HOUSING



Buckinghamshire Council recently held a public consultation on the objectives for their new **Buckinghamshire Plan**, the urgently needed development plan for the county. Although the plan mainly identifies policies for new development, it also envisions the future of the area and employment prospects for residents.

The Green Party was surprised to find that retrofitting older homes to reduce energy consumption and emissions was not mentioned. **Councillor Gregory Smith believes that retrofitting would provide huge numbers of jobs, lower people's energy bills and reduce our carbon output. He says "This should be a council priority. The council should be working with local colleges to make sure the skills needed for the future are being taught now. Action needs to take place fast if we want to meet our climate targets".**

## HADDENHAM'S COMMUNITY GREENGROCER



Plans for a community greengrocer to take over Blooming Fruity in Haddenham are proceeding well. The share offer will be open in July and the community will be taking ownership in September. Councillor Smith is really pleased that this project will enable people to shop locally. **Contact Gregory at [Greg.Smith@buckinghamshire.gov.uk](mailto:Greg.Smith@buckinghamshire.gov.uk) for more information about the share offer.**

## 20 MPH AT BRILL

Green Campaigner, Paul Norman, attended the Brill Parish Council to ask about their plans for speed limits. He reported on the findings from the Green Party's recent survey, especially the expressed support for **20 mph speed limits**. Brill Parish Council is considering doing their own survey to establish the level of support in the village. **Paul has also written to local Bucks councillors asking why it seems so much easier to get 20 mph limits just over the border in Oxfordshire than in Buckinghamshire.**

## WADDESDON SURVEY



In April the Green Party organised a survey in Waddesdon to find out what is important to residents there. In line with other villages, traffic and road safety were the top concerns, especially the LGVs associated with HS2. Parking is another huge problem for villagers, especially those with a school or station in the immediate neighbourhood. Our villages share many common problems that need addressing by Bucks Council. **Green Campaigner, Paul Norman, will be contacting the relevant departments and councillors to raise residents' concerns.**

**THE ONLY PARTY THAT HAS CONSISTENTLY OPPOSED HS2 IN PARLIAMENT**

## COMMUNITY-OWNED ENERGY SCHEMES

To our surprise MP, Greg Smith, spoke up in the Energy Bill's Second Reading debate in favour of the legislation that would enable community energy schemes to supply locally. Can we expect to see our MP supporting the group of residents from Long Crendon, Haddenham, and Thame who are currently developing a community energy scheme? Our Green Councillor, Gregory Smith, is following this group closely. **Councillor Smith said "As one of the MPs who did not vote to accept the report of the Committee of Privileges on Boris's behaviour, perhaps now that Boris is off the scene our MP can focus on local issues".**



## SUPPORTING OUR YOUNG PEOPLE



"I believe that young people are the solution not the problem", says Councillor Gregory Smith, following complaints of minor acts of vandalism and graffiti in Haddenham. **Gregory has met with the Youth Service to investigate getting additional sessions, because at present the Youth Club only meets one evening a week. He said "I went to the club and spoke to young people and the youth leaders. The club is very popular and does a great job. We need more sessions so that some of the young people who are struggling can also have somewhere to meet up".**

## SEWAGE DISCHARGES INTO SCOTSGROVE BROOK



Gregory has been concerned to hear that Thames Water have been continually discharging sewage into Scotsgrove brook, between Haddenham and Thame. Gregory has joined the River Thame Action Group which meets regularly with Thames Water. It appears that the River Conservation Trust regularly monitors the water but there is little Bucks Council can do. **Gregory says "This is a sad state of affairs that needs to change. It is another example of badly managed privatisation. We need to be more careful about planning applications when the sewage system cannot cope at present".**

## RESURFACING OF THAME RD, HADDENHAM

Owing to the dreadful state of Thame Rd, Haddenham, **Gregory has been applying pressure to ensure that it is at the top of the priority list for resurfacing. He says "This is now scheduled for the autumn with minor pothole repairs as a temporary measure until then".**

## BRILL BEES ARE BUZZING



Brill Council have left some patches of grass unmown on their green spaces to allow bees to forage. This is a great idea for our wildlife. We love their sign.

## ACTIVE AGEING



Concerned about reports of loneliness and isolation for some seniors across the ward, Gregory has initiated discussions about active ageing. **Gregory says "I think there is a gap for some older people who are not part of existing groups or clubs. We must not accept that some elderly residents are being left for long periods of time without any contact. We need to explore new ways to keep people active and engaged".**

- You can contact Green Councillor, Gregory Smith, at [Greg.Smith@buckinghamshire.gov.uk](mailto:Greg.Smith@buckinghamshire.gov.uk) or meet Gregory at Haddenham Library on the second Saturday each month 10-12 am.
- Green Campaigner, Paul Smith, can be contacted at [paulbnorman@gmail.com](mailto:paulbnorman@gmail.com)