



Green Councillor
Greg Smith

THE VILLAGE GREEN

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Green campaigner
Paul Norman

Councillor Greg Smith: holding council leaders to account

Councillor Greg Smith is always asking questions at meetings, pushing the Council to do better. At the last full Council meeting he continued his attack on the Council for sending recycling to the Far East. He said that residents' sorting of recycling could be improved if people were reassured that all recycling is dealt with properly in the UK and not shipped abroad – where who knows what happens to it!



20 mph speed limits on Buckinghamshire estates please



Greg at the Grove, Haddenham

Cllr Greg Smith challenged Bucks Highways over their decision to adopt a 30mph speed limit along **Cricketers Way in the Grove, Haddenham**, a residential area with many young families and next to a children's playground. Despite the Bucks Local Plan (VALP) recommending 20mph speed limits for new housing developments, the Council has pushed for a higher limit, which local residents and experts argue is unsafe. Cllr Smith has pointed out inaccuracies in the council's reports, specifically their claim that a 30mph limit is as safe as 20mph near playgrounds. The policy position from the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (misquoted by the Council) is: *“the default speed limit should be 20mph. The evidence overwhelmingly supports this position.”*

Green Greg opposes cuts to adult social care

Bucks Council are currently consulting on cuts to Adult Social Care centres, with a preferred option of cutting four centres. **Greg said “I want to know what the long-term costs are of removing these services. It is the carers who will suffer, and the cuts may well just transfer much greater costs to the NHS”.** Residents should make their views heard through the Council consultation webpage. The consultation is open until January 7th.

Cllr Greg Smith has been appointed to the Board of Chilterns National Landscapes

That is the new name for Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Greg says he is delighted to take up this position. **“We are lucky to have such areas on our doorstep. The job of protecting them and restoring nature is vital to combat climate change and for our wellbeing”.**



Cllr Greg Smith and Green Campaigner Paul Norman say it is time to re-nationalise Thames Water.

Greg attends the River Thame Conservation Group, a body that holds Thames Water to account for their poor performance on sewage discharge. Thames Water has extracted vast profits from customers, while saddling the business with billions in debt. They now say they need to raise huge amounts of money from customers to fix the problems. The government wants to hold them to account through their Water (Special Measures) Bill. This would give them powers to prosecute water bosses and could restrict bonus payments. **Paul Norman says, "prosecution can't come quickly enough. The water supply is not like other utilities, all life depends on clean water. The water companies need to be returned to public ownership at no cost to the country."**

Operation Sceptre in Haddenham



Operation Sceptre is a Thames Valley Police initiative, scanning park bushes and undergrowth for hidden knives because some people who don't want to keep these offensive weapons at home will find a hiding place for them! **Greg says "I was pleased to join our local PCSOs in a demonstration of this project. Luckily nothing was found that day."**

What's going on at Aston Sandford?



Black Barn, Aston Sandford

A few months ago Aston Sandford residents were concerned at the development of a scaffolding yard on farmland that has no planning permission. Cllr Greg Smith spoke to the Planning Department and Enforcement Officers attended the site. While further development should now have stopped, the dangerous road edge has had to be 'made good' by the contractor. This is why you can see an ugly site entrance on the once hedge-lined approach to the A4129, Thame Rd. **Greg would value any feedback about activities on this site as no further development should take place without permission.**

Big improvement to Bucks roads



Cllr Greg Smith **commended** the Bucks Highways department at a recent Highways conference! Buckinghamshire Highways is an alliance between the Council and its contractors to maintain local roads...and they are making progress, innovating in lots of ways, like recycling road material to produce a reconstructed foundation layer for surfacing. **Greg says "While catching up on years of neglect on the road network perhaps attention can also focus on pavements?"**

Can you help deliver the Village Green in Haddenham or Long Crendon? If you can, please email info@aylesburyvale.greenparty.org
We would really value your help.

You can contact Green Councillor, Greg Smith, at Greg.Smith@buckinghamshire.gov.uk or meet Greg at Haddenham Library on the second Saturday of each month 10-12 am.