



The Bracknell Forest Society

AN INDEPENDENT VOICE FOR BRACKNELL FOREST

Newsletter - Issue 39 – Spring 2021

SOCIETY NEWS

Restart of Society Events

As the country starts to open up, we are starting to plan a restart of Society events beginning with our week of walks at the end of July. We have all learned that plans need to remain flexible so details may not be finalised until close to the date of the event.

Week of Walks

Mon 26th Jul to Sun 1st Aug

Outdoor walks seem to a good option for our first event. As in previous years, the intention is that these walks will be informative as well as perhaps introducing you to parts of the borough you may not know.

We are planning to limit numbers to 20 on each walk which will require booking in advance for the first time for these walks. Members will get priority for booking so please look out for emails nearer the time.

The provisional programme is:

- Mon 26th - 7pm – Borough Green
- Tue 27th - 7pm – Warfield
- Wed 28th - 10am – Lily Hill Green Corridor
- Thu 29th - 7pm – South Hill Park & Gormoor Brook
- Fri 30th - 7pm – Priestwood
- Sat 31st - 10am – Swinley Park
- Sun 1st - 2pm – Blackwater Valley

Easthampstead Park Mansion – Tour, Afternoon Tea and Talk

Thursday 2nd Sept

This event was originally planned for April 2020 and bookings were well supported. We will have a tour of the house and grounds followed by afternoon tea accompanied by a talk on the history of the park and mansion by Diane Collins at a cost of £28 per person.

Numbers are limited to 25. Please email tbfsinfo@gmail.com if you wish to book a place.

Warfield Park - A tale of India, a Country House and Cricket

October – date and location to be confirmed.

We plan to have another evening meeting in November.

Please watch for further details.

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Bracknell Forest Local Plan

The latest version of the Bracknell Forest Local Plan was released for final public consultation in March, with comments due by 17th May. This version together with comments received will be sent to a planning inspector.

The plan has evolved considerably since the earlier versions, with many changes to the sites selected for residential development in the period to 2037. During this period, the Council is required to ensure that an average of 614 dwellings are built per year. It has identified sites for 11,482 dwellings to be built over a 17-year period (3234 are for new sites that had not been previously allocated).

A substantial majority of dwellings on newly proposed sites will be either around Bracknell Town Centre and at a new Garden Village at Jealott's Hill in north Warfield with respectively approximately 1200 and 1350 dwellings built during the plan period. This will result in substantial changes to these parts of the borough.

The Society recognises that the Council has little say in the overall number of houses to be build and is required by the Government to allocate sufficient development land. Consequently, any objection to development on one site must be compensated for by allocation of an alternative site which pits one part of the borough against another. However, we commented that the plan does not adequately explain why some proposed development sites were included whilst others from earlier versions of the plan were excluded. The Society was also not persuaded that the very special circumstances had been adequately demonstrated for land to be released from the Green Belt for eventually building 2000 houses at Jealott's Hill. We hope that the planning inspector will thoroughly investigate these parts of the draft plan.

For events see our website: www.thebracknellforestsociety.org.uk or find us on [Facebook](#)

For further information, please email: tbfsinfo@gmail.com.

Neighbourhood Plans

Meanwhile, progress continues on neighbourhood plans around Bracknell Forest. Progress of each can be found on the Council website here.

Binfield was way ahead of other parishes. Their neighbourhood plan came into force in April 2016.

Crowthorne voted in favour of their plan in a referendum on 6th May this year. It is expected to come into force soon.

Bracknell Town's plan is in a late stage of the phase of being examined by a planning inspector with a referendum possible in early summer.

Warfield's plan is in the examination phase prior to a possible referendum.

Winkfield and Sandhurst are at earlier stages of developing their neighbourhood plans.

Recent Planning Applications

The Society continues to review new planning applications each week.

Proposal for 33 dwellings at land off Herschel Grange Warfield – The Warfield Village Action Group brought to our attention this proposed development. We urged the planning committee to give rigorous consideration to the representations of local people and the WVAG, and to the complex issues raised by the proposal. The application was rejected.

Extension of permission for replica World War 1 trenches at Garth Hill College – The Society made representations in support of this valuable educational resource. The application was approved.

Proposed Gymnastics Club at Great Hollands Recreation Ground – We reported last time that the Society had objected to this application because of the loss of public open space. The application was rejected. We do hope that the Gymnastics Club can find a new, more appropriate location.

Proposal for building 52 dwellings following demolition of Coopers Hill Youth and Community Centre – This is part of the planned further development of Bracknell town centre by the joint venture between Bracknell Forest Council and the developers Countryside (now known as Bracknell Forest Cambium Partnership). This detailed planning application follows on from the consultation that we reported on in the last newsletter.

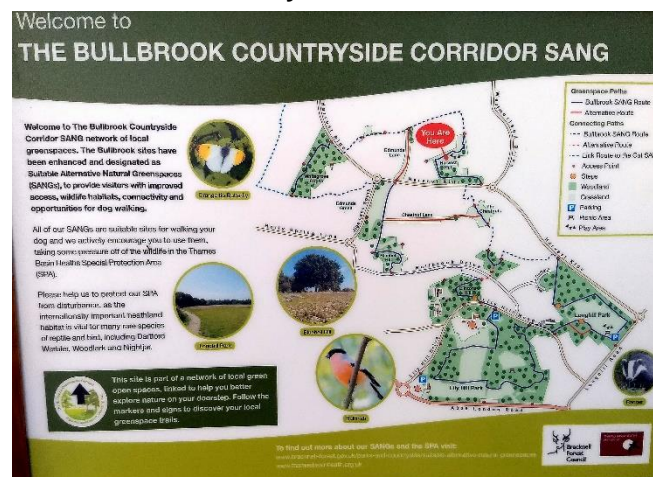
Erection of a Data Centre building on the former Hewlett Packard Site, Cain Road, Bracknell – Following Hewlett Packard moving out of Bracknell this is next proposed major change for the Amen Corner employment area. In little more than 20 years this area has seen growth and then decline of high-tech employment. It is unlikely that a data centre will provide as many jobs as Hewlett Packard did in its heyday.

Expansion of facilities at Sandhurst Town Football Club – We reported last time that Bracknell Town Football

Club has applied for planning permission to build apartments on its Larges Lane site. The club is proposing to share Sandhurst Town Football Club ground in Yorktown Road, Sandhurst. A planning application has now been submitted for substantial expansion of the facilities in Sandhurst. Both applications are pending consideration by the planning committee.

PARKS AND OPEN SPACES

The Bullbrook Countryside Corridor



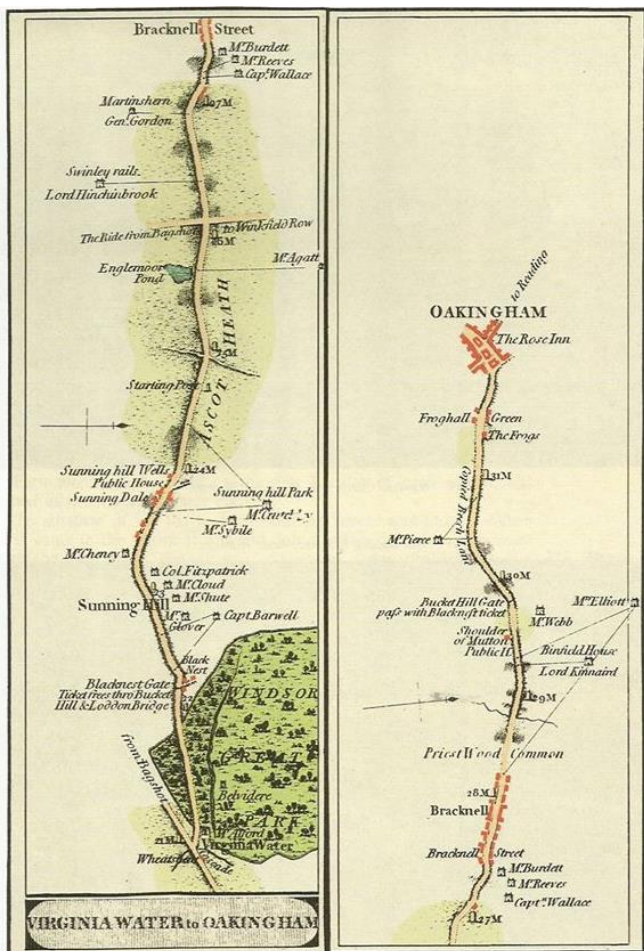
Bracknell Forest Council has installed a signposted/waymarked route around many of the open spaces in Bullbrook and Warfield. Known as the Bullbrook Countryside Corridor SANG, this 4.7mile route includes several lesser-known open spaces such as Harvest Hill and Bluebell Hill. Display boards showing the whole route are adjacent to the carparks in Long Hill and Lily Hill Parks. It is recommended that a photo is taken to help guide you. A guide will soon be on the council website.

Those of you who came to our AGM in 2020 will remember that SANGs (Suitable Alternative Natural Green Spaces) are funded by developers to help reduce the pressure on the Wildmoor Heath Special Protection Area which supports rare birds such as the Dartford warbler, woodlark and nightjar that are highly sensitive to visitors. The Council has designated many of the existing parks and open spaces so that funds for improvement are available without calling on Council Tax funds.

THE WINDSOR TURNPIKE

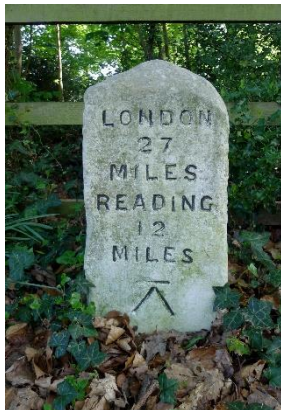
Although the arrival of the railway in 1856 had a huge impact on Bracknell, the building of a turnpike road almost a century earlier made a huge difference to the residents of the period. Bracknell's position beside the lawless heathlands of Ascot and Bagshot limited its potential. Its houses and shops lined a cart track (now the High Street), usable in the summer, but often muddy, icy or flooded during the winter months.

Creating a network of well-maintained roads was one of the major achievements of eighteenth century England. These highways facilitated the rapid and efficient transportation of goods and passengers throughout the country, reducing costs, and forming an integrated, free market. This road system was not planned centrally but resulted from local enterprise, regulated through Acts of Parliament. Bodies of local trustees were given powers to levy tolls on the users of a specified stretch of road, generally around twenty miles in length.



XIII The route from Virginia Water to Oakingham as shown in John Cary's atlas of the high-roads around London, published 1 July 1790. Travel by private coach and postchaise was slow enough for travellers to appreciate the information given about the landmarks along the way.

The Windsor Turnpike Act was passed in 1759, and the road from Reading and Wokingham (starting at The Old Gallows pub, renamed The Marquis of Granby four years later, which still stands at Cemetery Junction), was extended across the open land of Priestwood



Common and through Bracknell to Ascot and Virginia Water, a distance of seventeen miles. This is the route followed by the A329 and B3408.

There were two toll gates in the Bracknell area - one on the London Road near the main entrance to Lily Hill Park, and the other just to the west of Beehive Road. The tollgate at the former location



was demolished in 2012, but a small cul-de-sac has been named Old Tollgate Close to mark its location. The milestones near the former, and outside The Red Lion (where coaches would stop) still exist.

Allsmoor Lane was used by drovers, taking animals to Bracknell Fair, as an alternative route into Bracknell from the east without paying a toll. Similarly, and if road conditions

allowed, coaches would often use the back road to Wokingham (via Peacock Lane and Waterloo Road) to avoid the long hill up to the Coppid Beech (where the A329 crosses over the Wokingham Road).

Although starting to decline after 1840, the revenue generated for the upkeep of the turnpike dropped dramatically after the arrival of the railway, and tolls ceased to be collected after 1868.

Andrew Radgick

OTHER NEWS

Climate Change Strategy

Bracknell Forest Council 2020-2024

At the end of February, the Council approved the borough's climate change strategy for the next 3 to 4 years, which details plans to make Bracknell Forest carbon neutral by 2050. This includes actions to both reduce emissions that the council generates from its activities and changes needed by the wider community.

The strategy currently has 42 live projects such as the food waste collection to reduce methane emissions from landfill and new funding to improve the energy efficiency of schools.

The strategy document and action plans can be found here: [BFC Climate Change Strategy](#)

Annual Membership Subscriptions

Membership is for the calendar year with renewals due in January each year.

It can be renewed at a meeting or by contacting:

10 Shaftesbury Close, Harmans Water, RG12 9PX

or tbfsinfo@gmail.com.

Subscriptions may be paid by Standing Order



Bracknell's Housing Estates

Since the 1950s many housing estates have been built across Bracknell. Some have an individual style of houses. Can you identify the location of these photographs?



1. _____



2. _____



3. _____



4. _____



5. _____



6. _____



7. _____



8. _____



9. _____



10. _____