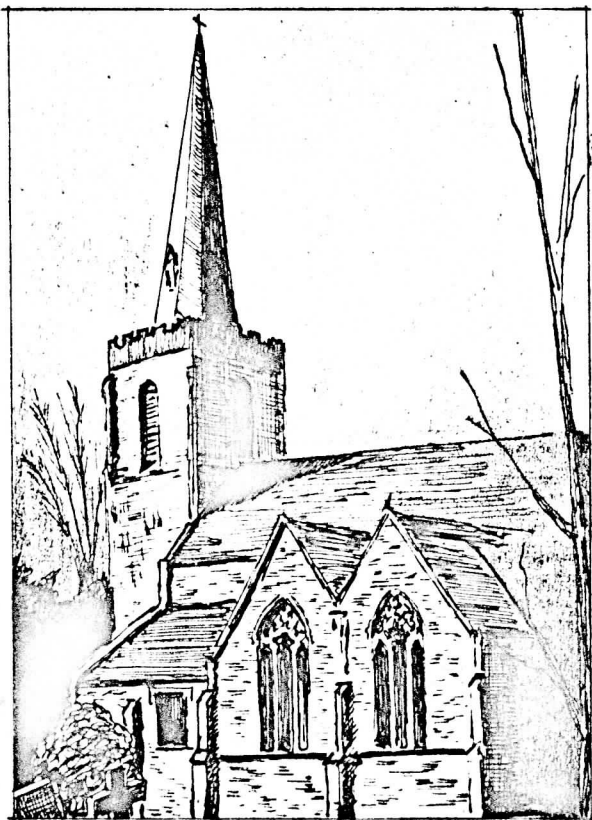
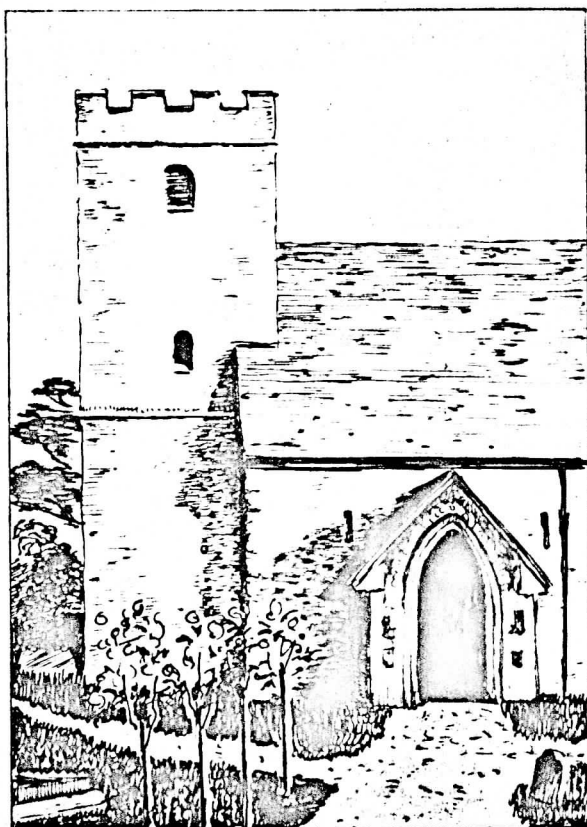


**HITCHAM
AND
TAPLOW
PRESERVATION
SOCIETY**



**NEWSLETTER
29**

**AUTUMN
1974**

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COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

Chalkpit & Brickfield Lane

The Committee has been in correspondence with various interested individuals concerning Brickfield Lane & Chalkpit Lane and the bridle path linking them. The question of planning permission for seven caravans on the north side of the link path was also raised and an enforcement order will be made for their removal. After considerable correspondence the matter was being taken up with Beaconsfield District Council and Burnham Parish Council and the Society felt it had done all in its power to expose the questions to the appropriate Authorities.

Proposed Taplow Conservation Area

A document on conservation in Buckinghamshire towns and villages has been considered by the Taplow Parish Council which felt that Taplow Village complied with the conditions for a conservation area and would apply again for it to be made such an area. Beaconsfield District Council Planning Officer has taken this up and the Society has written supporting his efforts.

Planning Applications

New arrangements came into force on 1st April 1974, whereby complete applications, including plans, are sent to the Parish Council Clerk concerned. The Parish Council then has 14 days in which to express its views. Taplow Parish Council have set up a Sub-Committee, to meet in between the monthly Council meetings to consider applications and the Society's Committee has taken similar steps.

Aircraft Noise

The Society has sought confirmation that the split Burnham route will be continued. The Minister is due to issue a consultative document about the matter, so far he has issued a report concerning only the Mole Valley which does not affect us.

A change in the direction of take-off and landing of night-flying aircraft from Heathrow has been proposed in the form of a preference for easterly take-off and landing when the wind speed was less than five knots, rather than a westerly one. Informed opinion did not consider that this would make significant difference in the level of aircraft noise over Taplow. This opinion has been expressed to Mr. Bell who has sought our views on this matter.

County Boundaries

Berkshire County Council are proposing to enlarge their area at the expense of the valuable strip of country between Slough and Maidenhead. This may jeopardise the present Green Belt restrictions and will result in the splitting of parishes. Most members of the Society objected to the proposed changes.

Skindles Inquiry

The Society was represented by Mr. C.I. Snow at the Public Inquiry on 12th September 1974 into the Appeal by Rambutan Ltd., the owners of Skindles Hotel, against refusal of planning permission for residential development of about 6 acres from the Hotel to the field north of Landsdown House.

Rambutan said that the land was little used, was not easily visible and that there was a need for housing for Maidenhead. They hoped to provide about 20 houses, or 36 flats in 3 three storey blocks. They offered to move the junction of Mill Lane and the A4 at their own expense to a position east of Skindles Garage; however the Roads Engineer for the Beaconsfield District Council said that there had only been two minor accidents in 3 years at the present junction.

The District Council, the Taplow Parish Council and the Society strongly opposed the proposed development on the grounds of the importance of the Green Belt between the A4 and Taplow Village and between Maidenhead and Slough, and this opposition was supported by a letter from the Penn Country Branch of the C.P.R.E. which was read out by the Inspector. During his evidence the Planning Officer of the District Council reported that the 7 acres immediately to the north of the appeal site was now subject to another appeal for residential development. He

questioned the need for infringing the Green Belt for housing, pointing out that Bucks and Slough had enough land for the next 7 years; and the Society referred to the Survey Report by Bucks County Council which showed that enough land had already been allocated for building throughout the County to last for more than ten years.

It was emphasised by the District Council that more and more of the land in the Thames flood plain had been covered in the past, thus increasing the risk of a flood like that in 1947. Rambutan said they would meet this objection by putting the houses on 5-ft high plinths or the flats on stilts.

The extra traffic on the A4 and the extra load on St.Nicholas' School that the proposal would involve were emphasised on behalf of the Parish Council by Councillor Mrs. Young, who also reported that the inhabitants of Taplow recently voted by an overwhelming majority to stay in Bucks in order to preserve the Green Belt.

Mr. Snow for the Society pointed out that planning permission had been granted in 1971 for extending the Hotel, following which the 'Sir Percy Flanagan' and the 200 year old 'Orkeney Arms' had been demolished, leaving some apparently derelict buildings and a site in urgent need of restoration. It was urged that if Rambutan are not going to extend the hotel they should submit alternative proposals for restoring the historic use of the site between the hotel and the garage. The Society also suggested that Mill Lane might be moved to join the A4 just west of the garage, running north to join the present lane near the gasworks site, thereby reducing disturbance to the hotel and the houses north of it by lorries serving the Paper Mills.

The report of the Inspector and the decision of the Minister are now awaited.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Appeals notified -

Land west of Hill Farm Road, Taplow - outline application for residential development - Mastercraft. This application was opposed by the Society.

Previously reported -

Hitcham Grange - land at. Demolition of existing residential building and redeveloping of site. Planning permission was rejected by ERDC. In the last Newsletter it was stated in error that the Society had objected to the application. This in fact was not the case but nevertheless planning permission was refused.

Also redevelopment of existing buildings by Plessey Co. The Society supported this and asked for trees to be preserved.

Odds Farm Caravan Site - Further period of extension of the site licence granted provided remaining caravans are transferred to approved site.

New applications -

5 Saxon Gardens - Extension to existing house. F.E.Ratcliffe. Permission refused although the application was not opposed by the Society. Later application also not opposed.

The Orchard, Hill Farm Road, Taplow - Site adjoining: A.D.M.Wood. Erection of one detached house and garage. Permission refused. Objection by the Society on the grounds of traffic hazards of entrance to Hill Farm Road.

Cedar Cottage, Heathfield Road, Taplow - Two storey extension. Mrs.J.Barrington. Permission refused. Opposed by the Society on grounds of extension forming a disproportionate part of the building.

Grovefield Hotel, Taplow Common Road - Recreational Country Club, including squash courts, sauna bath and rest room. D.Hall. Permission refused. Not opposed by the Society.

Gasworks Site, Mill Lane - Replacement hut - Sea Cadets : Conditional permission. The Society had approached Beaconsfield District Council asking that the application be deferred until the general plan for that area was known. However, as the replacement was urgent no further objection was made.

Land East of Mill Lane - Residential development by Taplow Developments Ltd. The Society objected on grounds of infringement of the Green Belt.

Taplow House - Change of use from guest house for old people to hotel. C.A.Jurgens. Not opposed by the Society or Parish Council. This change of use has been notified in the Press.

Marsh Lane - land at rear, properties east of : Outline application for 52 houses. Piersdale Securities. Opposed by the Society on grounds of infringement of Green Belt.

Maidenhead Autos - Erection of 5 flag poles. Opposed by the Society on grounds of unnecessary intrusion.

Mill Lane - plot adjacent. Bunce Brothers. Detached house and garage. The Society felt that a small house would be acceptable and wrote accordingly.

Taplow House - Application for building south and east. Senhalls (Bucks) Ltd. Withdrawn. The Society objected on grounds of infringement of Green Belt. Cedar Chase Residents Society also objected.

Poplar Farm - replacement of sub-standard bungalow. J. Shepherd. Not opposed.

Beechwood House, Bath Road. Conversion to offices. Morley & Scott. Opposed on grounds of out of character in residential area.

Sheepcote Lane. Extension to house. E. J. Heaton. Not opposed.