

Welcome to our fourth newsletter, our first since we formally became the Langford Village Community Association at the public meeting on 30th June.

Officers of the Committee are:

Steven Williams	Chairman
Allan Huddart	Treasurer
Alison Williams	Secretary
Sue Barnham	Assistant Secretary

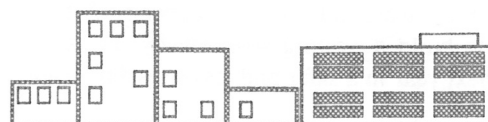
Your Road Rep will shortly be in touch to introduce themselves if you have not already met them. All residents will now be invited to become members of L.V.C.A. The committee has discussed the membership subscription in detail and has decided to charge an annual fee of £1 per household. Members will be issued with numbered membership cards and will benefit from:

- I Regular issues of the Langford Life newsletter
- II An opportunity to attend L.V.C.A. social events at a reduced rate
- III The Road Representative network - someone to speak on your behalf and ensure your personal views are heard.
- IV Management of the Community Centre
- V A corporate voice representing you at all levels in the Community at large.

Our successes so far have included the school bus service, the public bus service, litter bins, second post box & fun day. Ongoing and new undertakings include pressure for our primary school, neighbourhood watch, play areas, public house issue, dog waste bins, traffic calming and road safety and public telephones.

As you can see the roles of the Association are many and varied and we feel sure that without such a body our views would still be ignored.

We hope that you and your family will become members. Your Road Representative will call with application details.



SCHOOL

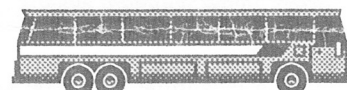
We have recently discovered that there is a strong likelihood that the building of our school *will* been further delayed. We feel we are being badly let down by our County Council who are not only responsible for schools but also for building the roads that should have connected us to the rest of Bicester. Our County Councillors are Douglas (Choppy) Spencer and Catherine Fulljames.

Rest assured we will not take this decision lying down. Our surveys have shown that we desperately need a school and that the problem will only get worse as the years go by.

We are now considering a mass "letter write" to our M.P. Tony Baldry. We hope that all residents of Langford Village will take part whether or not they have children.

Your road Rep. will advise you of what to do and will ensure that all letters are delivered to the House of Commons.

USE OUR BUSES PLEASE !



The Thames Transit Nipper Service is proving to be most satisfactory with polite and helpful drivers and punctual service - However we need to USE this service to keep it going. So go green - hop on a bus. (it costs less than a car park ticket!)

School bus - Too many parents are still congesting the roads around Longfields School by taking their cars when an excellent school bus service has been provided. Many parents have complained about the cost and we agree that as we have not been given a school we could at least have been given a free bus. However even at the cost of £25 (approx 28p per day) it still proves cheap when compared with the AAs estimated car running costs and the cost of public transport.

For the sake of parents who are not fortunate enough to own cars please support the school bus service. The children who use it recommend it !

If you have not previously had a bus pass and need to buy one for next term please ring Steven Murrell on Oxford 815639. Parents who had bus but passes last term will be contacted automatically. It is also worth noting that you can buy the pass for mornings or afternoons only. This is charged at £ 12.50 per term.

STOP PRESS: We are planning a mass demonstration on the school site. Watch out for further details!

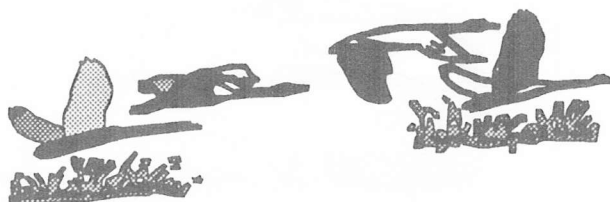
SWAN UP DATE

The sad news is that a swan expert had to remove the swans eggs as they were infertile. Cherwell District Council now propose to build a nesting platform by the island to encourage nesting next year in a safer and less stressful location.

The male swan (BSY) originates from Reading University where he was named Beasley. There he met a mate and had some cygnets last year. Sadly his mate died leaving him to bring up the cygnets alone. He was relocated to Bignell House at little Chesterton and when his parenting was over he found his new mate and moved to Jubilee lake.

We hope the pair will stay with us and breed successfully in future years. We thank *Key Webb* of swan lifeline and *Pia Leesley* of the Edward Grey Institute of Oxford University for their help.

Cherwell District Council's *John Crowther* has stressed that in order to run the lake successfully they need our help and that any concerns should be passed on to them on (0295) 252535.



Neighbourhood Watch Update

The Community Liaison Police Officer *Wally Cox* will soon be arranging two meetings to incorporate any residents who are not yet part of the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme. Your road Rep will advise you the



Please make an effort to take part as Neighbourhood Watch works best when the majority of householders are involved.

In the meantime please be vigilant. Don't forget to tell neighbours if you are going away and report anything suspicious to the police. They would rather have a wasted journey that a crime committed.



PUBLIC HOUSE

JJ Gallagher recently approached us to suggest that we back them in a campaign to change the planning permission from a Public House to high density housing on the site at the end of Merlin Way. Having canvassed the opinion of the McLean residents who are most directly affected we discovered that over 60% of them would rather have a Pub!

At the planning meeting of 29th of July *Gallagher* requested that the building of a Pub be postponed by three years. We have suggested that the preferred options would be that:

- I) The Public House should be moved to a different site.
- II) *Gallagher* should not be allowed to delay the building.
- III) The Merlin Way site be released to us as a Public open space.

The planning Committee have decided to consider our recommendations to rethink the siting of the Public House and we will ensure that the released land is used for suitable residential development in keeping with the Merlin Way area, if necessary by public enquiry.



Langford Village Hall

Our Village Hall is now almost ready for occupation and we hope it will be opening in the near future. We are currently busy kitting it out and planning events.

We have even now started to take *provisional* bookings. If you are interested booking the hall for a social group party, education course etc. Please ring our booking secretary *Sian Warriner* on 241373 between 8pm and 9pm on weekdays only.

Look out for our next newsletter. It will be a Village Hall special with times and dates of functions, courses etc.



YOUTH CLUB

We are planning to have a youth club on one evening per week at the Community Centre. There is very little for young people to do in Bicester and a local youth club on the estate would be a good start.

We are considering running 2 sessions: one for junior aged children (8 - 11) and one for secondary children (12 - 16)

This will take a lot of organisation and we would be very pleased to hear from anyone who is interested in supporting this project.

Have you any ideas or experience in youth work ? ... Are you willing to help in any way ? ... Are you a young person with an idea of what you would like from your club ?

Please contact *Diane* via the secretary *Alison Williams* (253329)



LANGFORD VILLAGE **ON THE MOVE ?**

As some of you have read in the local press, half of Langford Village is within the Bicester Town boundary and the other half comes within the Parish of Ambrosden. The boundary line actually follows the foot / cycle path that runs between the Clarke and Charles Church houses in the southern and of the village and the Westbury and McLean houses to the north. The village plan in this newsletter shows the boundary line.

This division can now and again cause problems but until recently, it looked as though we were stuck with it for a few more years. A review by the Boundary commission, was not expected to cover the Bicester area for some time. However, it now seems that there may be an opportunity to resolve this matter a lot sooner.

The LVCA has been asked to advise on the residents views with regards to the options open at this time. Three options exist, with several pros and cons:

Option 1) - To stay as we are.

Disadvantages: - The residents in the Ambrosden half are disadvantaged in the following ways:

- No bus passes for pensioners.
- No litter bins and emptying.
- Ambrosden Parish Council has always wished Langford Village to be part of Bicester and thus has never applied for a budget to cover the Langford Village requirements.

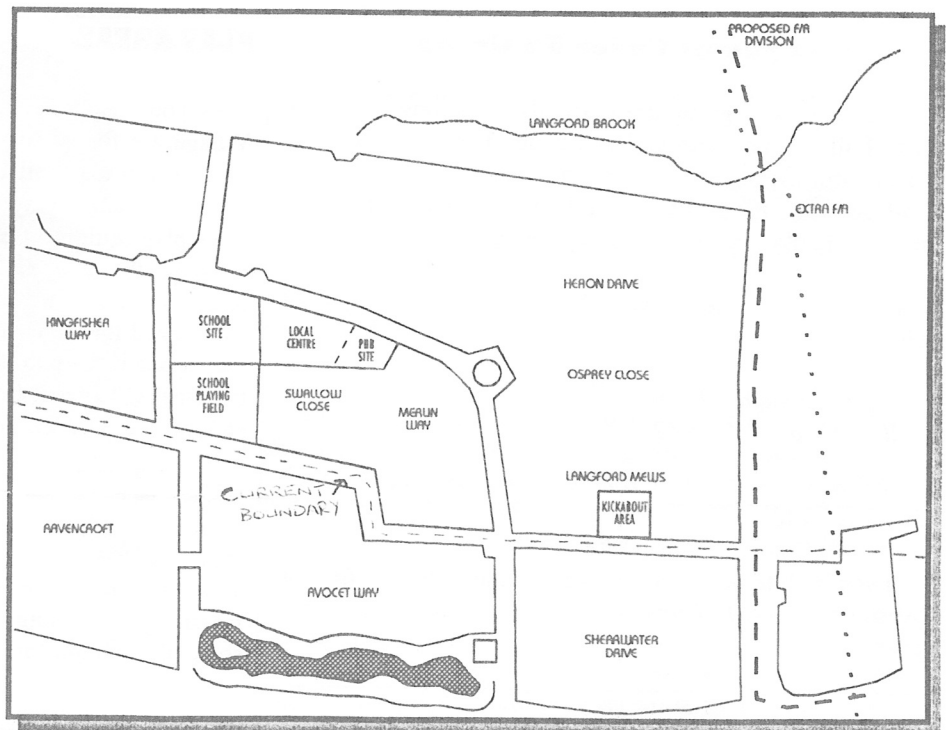
Advantages:

- Ambrosden residents pay a lower Council Tax.
- This however is reflected in the reduced services provided, If part of Langford Village were to remain in Ambrosden in the long term, the Council Tax would have to go up.
- Having Langford Village split between two areas has the side benefit that two avenues of influence (via local councillors) are available instead of one, to pressure Parish, district and County Councils.

Option 2) - All of Langford Village to move into Bicester.

Disadvantages:

- Residents in Ambrosden would have to pay a slightly higher Council tax.
- Langford Village may just become an anonymous part of Bicester, without any independence or influences.
- Some decisions on local planning, etc. could possibly be forced on us against our will.



Advantages:

- Ambrosden residents would gain the same as the Bicester residence, eg: pensioner bus passes, litter bins, etc.
- Bicester is wealthier and has more influence on local issues. Providing more facilities and services.
- Geographically, Langford Village is within the ring road which was always intended would define the Town boundary.

Option 3) - Langford Village could become a new independent Parish.

Disadvantages:

- Would require the election of formal Parish Councillors rather than just Community Association Officers. This may difficult to maintain.
- Would not have the financial strength of Bicester Town Council.
- May not be eligible for some concessions enjoyed by Bicester residents, eg: bus passes.

Advantages:

- Would enable Langford Village to evolve a real "Village" community.
- Would have a stronger and more direct say in what happens in Langford Village.
- Would allow Langford Village to set it's own Council Tax level and services to match.

The above are just our initial obvious points to consider and we are taking advise on any other important factors that should be considered. In the meantime however, we would like to know the residents of Langford Village feel about this issue, in order to gauge any strong preferences.

Please speak to your road rep or any of the committee, with regards to any comments or questions that you have.

Cygnets Under 5's Group

The cygnets group are currently compiling a mailing list of all families with children under 5, so they can send them information about under 5's activities in Langford Village. The list contains at present all children included in our school children survey in January.

If you would like to be added to or taken off this list please ring:

Bridget Clapham 246608

Sally Bishop 240642

ADVERTISING

If you wish to place an advert in Langford life please ring Alison on 253329. Costs are £10 per 1/4 page and £5 per 1/8 page.

PLAY AREAS

As you cannot fail to notice the children of Langford Village are forced to play in the streets as no play areas have been made available to us yet. We are working very hard to obtain a play area as soon as possible and to get some play equipment put on it. An area has been set aside between the two Gallagher developments of Mallards Reach and Langford Mews (see plan on page 3) and we have asked for the current pub site due to be given to us as play space if the pub is relocated. We have also applied to the District Council for some grant aid for play equipment and this has been awarded.

They have agreed to give us up to 30 % of our total project costs of £ 15000 which will amount to approximately £ 4500 of the remaining 70 %. Bicester Town Council have already set aside £ 5000 so with a massive fund raising effort from us we should soon have some play equipment.



Scout News



LANGFORD VILLAGE GIRL GUIDES - A PROGRESS REPORT

It has been agreed that the Community Centre can be used for separate units of Rainbows, Brownies and Guides.

News on Rainbows and Brownies Your response showed us that there are enough girls to start up Rainbow Pack and a Brownie Pack. The ladies who came forward willing to train to become Guiders and run these packs, as soon as they are able, will be contacting mothers of these girls with starting dates.

Guide News Your response to our survey showed that at present, there are not quite enough Guide aged girls to start a Unit. In addition, we need another Guide Leader. If anyone is interested, please contact one of the names given below.

Please keep the names coming in to keep the waiting lists topped up.

HELEN ROGERS Bic. 248082 (answerphone)

PAULINE RUGGLES Bic. 322488

Is your son aged 6-15 ?

Does he enjoy a challenge, fun and adventure ?

Would he like to be Beaver Scout (ages 6-8) , a Club Scout (ages 8-10½) or a Scout (ages 10½ - 15) ?

If so please contact me as soon as possible by telephoning or sending back the slip below.

If enough boys show an interest then we will look to setting up a Scout Group/Sections on Langford Village.

This however is only possible with adult help, so if there are any Mums, Dads or 'Old Scouts' out there who are able to spare some time then I would like to hear from you too. If you would like to know more about what is involved then I'd be happy to have a chat.

If demand is high then a waiting list will be drawn up on a 'First come, First served' basis. Looking forward to hearing from you.

Eleanor Thopson (15 Heron Drive tel. 322425)

My Son would like to be a _____
Name _____
Age _____ DOB _____
Address _____ Tel _____
I would like to help with _____ (section)
Name _____ Address _____
Tel _____