

Chesham Town Council



Bill Richards
Town Clerk

Tel: 01494 774842

Fax: 01494 582908

www.chesham.gov.uk

Email: admin@chesham.gov.uk

29th September 2008

Dear Councillor

I hereby give notice of a meeting of the **RECREATION AND THE ARTS COMMITTEE** to be held in the Council Chamber, The Town Hall, Chesham, on

MONDAY 6th OCTOBER 2008 AT 7.30PM

when the business set out below is proposed to be transacted:

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence.
2. Declarations of Interest.
3. To receive and confirm the Minutes of the Committee meeting held on 1st September 2008.
4. To receive and consider the Minutes of:
 - Friends of Moor Road Meeting of 2nd September 2008 (enclosed).*
 - 'Impress the Chess' Steering Group Meeting of 11th September 2008 (enclosed).*
 - Environmental Group Meeting of 12th June and 28th August 2008 (enclosed).*
5. Use of Animals at Circuses.
6. Chesham and 2012 Olympics.
7. Chesham Moor Gym and Swim Centre.
8. Play Area Update.
9. St. Mary's Way Raised Planters.
10. Meades Water Gardens Management Plan.

Yours sincerely,

Bill Richards
Town Clerk

Published: 29.09.2008

PTO



Chesham Town Council

continued . . .



		Circulation	
Councillor	A.K. Bacon (Vice Chairman)	Councillor	Mrs. C. Littley
"	E.L. Bamford	"	Mrs. C.M. Michael
"	M.Z. Bhatti	"	Mrs. M. Molesworth
"	Ms. J.E. Bramwell	"	Mrs A.M. Pirouet
"	Mrs. J.C. Fulford (Chairman)	"	Mrs. G. Walker
"	D.J. Lacey		

CHESHAM TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of the 'Impress the Chess' Steering Group

held on Thursday 11 September 2008 at 10 am at the Town Hall

PRESENT:	Bill Richards (BR)	Town Clerk, Chesham Town Council
	Allen Beechey (AB)	Chalk Streams Project Officer
	Cllr Mrs Justine Fulford (JF)	Chesham Town Council
	Cllr Colette Littley (CL)	Chesham Town Council
	Kathryn Graves (KG)	Chesham Town Council
	Ken Austin (KA)	Environmental Group
	Bernard Harris (BH)	Rotary Club of Chesham

Apologies for absence

Michael Browne - Meades Lane Resident, David Stowe - Chiltern District Council, Bob Ayres - Chesham Town Council.

1. **MINUTES OF LAST MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING**

(i) Grass Cutting Near the Open Air Pool

JF reported that the grass near the open air swimming pool on Moor Road is still being strimmed up to the channel's edge. She emphasised that the grass cuttings should not be allowed to enter the stream channel.

JF referred to a recent incident when the town council's Parks & Premises Department removed all the vegetation from within that stream and left it bank-side to enable invertebrates within the plants to crawl back into the channel prior to disposal. Unfortunately, local children pushed the vegetation back into the channel, which coinciding with increased flow following heavy rain, caused the channel to block, posing a flood risk. It was noted that the Environmental Group were advised to only partially clear the channel of vegetation, and that this is the preferred management for this area.

AB explained that the benefits of leaving some vegetation include providing cover for organisms and helping to narrow the channel and maintain flow, reducing siltation.

BR will request that the Parks & Premises team only partially clear this channel in future.

Action: Bill

(ii) Meades Water Gardens Opening Ceremony

Bill thanked everybody who was involved in the Meades Water Gardens Opening Ceremony, and particularly thanked KA for representing the project

at the SE Market Towns awards ceremony, at which the project won the Environment and Conservation award.

KG reported that the Thames & Chilterns in Bloom judges were extremely impressed with the regeneration project.

The Meades Water Gardens Management Plan is nearing completion.

2. **RIPARIAN MANAGEMENT AT THE OLD CROXSON'S SITE**

AB reported his observations of mass clearances of vegetation at the old Croxson's site on Moor Road. Riparian vegetation had been cleared back to bare soil and all the submerged, aquatic vegetation (including ranunculus and starwort) had been ripped out. It was noted that even vegetation on the highways side of the channel had been removed.

JF offered to make enquiries as to who may be responsible for these works.

Action: Justine

AB agreed to put together some advice for riparian plant management and pass this on to JF.

Action: Allen

3. **INVASIVE WEEDS**

(i) Himalayan Balsam

AB reported that the control of Himalayan Balsam on the Duke of Bedford allotments was not carried out this summer because of difficulties in contacting the Trust's secretary, Lesley Mountain. AB suggested that the Environmental Group now establishes a schedule for two to three work parties on site next year, from early July onwards. The schedule will be sent to Lesley Mountain in advance, so that the Environmental Group can access the site even if Lesley is away.

KG has spoken to Lesley who is happy for the work to be conducted in her absence, providing she knows when the work is carried out. Lesley has distributed the Impress the Chess' Himalayan Balsam leaflet to her allotment tenants, some of whom have been tackling the weed on site themselves.

KA will speak to Phil Folly to set the schedule for Himalayan Balsam control work parties for 2009, including a date for working on David Briggs' land. KA will notify AB and BR, and BR will formally notify Lesley of the dates.

Action: Ken & Bill

AB requested that the Environmental Group also monitor the Canon's Mill area for balsam, as one or two plants were seen growing there this summer.

(ii) Japanese Knotweed

AB and KG have put together an advisory leaflet on Japanese Knotweed for residents. This has been sent out to residents on Bois Moor Road whose properties back onto the Moor, along with a survey in order to establish the extent of the infestation.

The Knotweed leaflet will be made available on the town council's web site.

Action: Kathryn

JF reported that many children enjoy popping the Knotweed stems in the Canon's Mill area, which will promote the plant's spread, and suggested that Impress the Chess obtain permission to erect a simple sign in the area to discourage this activity. AB will speak to Mel Challis to request that she writes to Mr Rand and Greenham Developers concerning their responsibilities re Knotweed and include this request in the letter to Mr Rand.

Action: Allen

KG expressed the view that it is unlikely that any Knotweed control on the Moor will take place in this financial year. This is partly because she is still establishing how many properties and landowners are affected by the infestation. However, the land boundaries are not clear and it may be that the bulk of the infestation is on Greenham's land and not the common Moor land, leading KG to suggest that it would be desirable to see if Mel's letter to Greenham elicits a response before proceeding with any control work.

4. **MAINTENANCE OF FOOTPATHS, TREES AND WEED CONTROL IN THE WATERSIDE AREA**

BH provided the background to the Rotary's involvement in the riverside walk in Waterside and provided his observations on the lack of maintenance of the meadow area (from Canon's Mill downstream). BH expressed his concerns for public safety as a result of the lack of visibility of the footpath from the road caused by the tall vegetation.

AB explained that he and JF had met with David Stowe of Chiltern District Council and the council's grass-cutting contractor in 2007 to agree the management of that area of land as a wildflower meadow. It was decided that the vegetation would be cut twice a year (first cut in July) and the arisings removed to reduce the nutrient levels in the soil and discourage rank growth. As part of the management, the roadside verge and footpath edges would be cut more regularly to maintain visibility and accessibility. Previously the frequency of cutting the bank-side vegetation was too high to provide a habitat suitable for water voles. A water vole population is located in the vicinity and it was hoped that changing the management regime to match

that of the new regime for the meadow would encourage the population to spread upstream.

Disappointingly, this new management regime has not been adhered to. It is understood that the district council now have a new grass-cutting contractor. JF has received a large number of complaints from the public on this issue.

A fallen willow tree from Mr Rand's land is blocking the footpath and a number of trees on his land require management to ensure that they are safe.

The district council has been requested on several occasions to cut the vegetation and clear the footpath. The vegetation has since been cut once, but the tree is still blocking the footpath.

BR will write to David Stowe to express the concerns of Impress the Chess in relation to the management of this area, and to explain that the Rotary Club wishes to hold a meeting with district council officers to discuss the removal of some trees. BR will also write to Mr Rand to explain the need for the trees on his land to be brought into management to ensure public safety, including an offer by AB to provide tree management advice.

Action: Bill

It was noted that John Morris of the Chiltern Woodlands Project would be able to provide advice on tree management at the meadow.

BH confirmed that, providing the meadow area is properly maintained and monitored, he would not object to the area being managed as a wildflower meadow. Indeed, the Rotary has planted wildflowers in the meadow in the past.

5. **MEADES WATER GARDENS BOARDWALK AND PATHS**

The compaction of the gravel paths has been delayed by the wet weather. BR will contact Len Vockins for a date for the works.

Action: Bill

Upon examining the samples of non-slip decking provided by Len Vockins for the boardwalk, the group agreed with Bob and AB's recommendation of sample two and that this should be laid latitudinally.

It was suggested that the money allocated towards knotweed control in the town council's budget for 2008-09, if not used for that purpose, could be put towards funding the boardwalk, which is estimated to cost c.£5000.

Kath Daly, of the Chilterns Conservation Board has recommended that the council make an application to the Sustainable Development Fund, but that this will require match-funding. AB will determine the timeframe for the SDF funding process and BR will write to Kath regarding an application.

Action: Allen & Bill

As the Rotary have a long history of working in the area, BR will write to the Rotary asking whether they would consider helping to fund the boardwalk. BR offered to provide a sample of the non-slip decking if the Rotary wish to discuss the boardwalk at one of their meetings.

Action: Bill

6. **TROUT IN THE CLASSROOM**

AB is waiting for confirmation from Rickmansworth Park School that they no longer wish to participate in Trout in the Classroom. If this is the case, AB will provide the unit intended for Rickmansworth to Waterside County Combined School. If Rickmansworth intend to take part, possible sources of funding to purchase a unit for £1000 for Waterside were discussed, including JF's £500 District Council Community Involvement Grant. Although AB is still identifying a source of eggs, he believes that Trout in the Classroom can take place this year.

AB reported that Paul Jennings, a land-owner on the outskirts of Chesham, is willing to have school parties on his land to learn about chalk streams.

The group discussed teaching children about the traditional Chesham industry of watercress culture. School trips to the watercress farm at Sarratt Bottom were suggested, as was the reinstatement of watercress beds at Millfields (Duke of Bedford Allotments).

7. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

(i) Duck Alley

The group discussed the letter of complaint sent to Cheryl Gillan MP by a Chesham resident concerning excessive "weed" growth in the channel in Duck Alley. The group agreed that there is no excessive vegetation growth in the channel, which is in good condition. BR will write to the resident, explaining that advice is taken from the Chiltern Chalk Streams Project and the Environment Agency concerning channel vegetation management and that the presence of vegetation is important for the health of the stream.

Action: Bill

(ii) Lord's Mill

The town council receives regular complaints concerning the amount of vegetation, particularly reeds, in Lord's Mill pool. It was noted that the reeds have been beneficial in providing a habitat for waterfowl to nest.

AB, KG and Mel Challis had a site meeting with Gareth Tully from the Flood Defence Department of the Environment Agency. The flood defence works that were postponed last year are now scheduled to take place this winter. This includes willow pollarding, back channel clearance and redefining Duck Island. AB will contact Gareth for a start date and inform BR.

Action: Allen

(iii) Fish Habitat Improvements

JF and AB reported on a meeting they had held with Phil Belfield of the Fisheries Department on possible fish habitat improvement works. AB is waiting for a report from Andy Thomas of the Wild Trout Trust on this issue.

(iv) Channel Obstruction

CL observed that pieces of brickwork have been placed across the channel near the Queens Head. AB agreed to visit the site to investigate. It was noted that the Environmental Group can remove the brickwork if requested.

Action: Allen

(v) Revised Action Plan

A copy of the revised action plan was distributed. The management of the meadow near Canon's Mill will be added to the plan and the amended copy will be circulated to the group.

Action: Allen

(vi) Impress the Chess literature

The group considered the desirability of all Impress the Chess literature having a uniform look. JF agreed to ask Peter Hawkes whether he would create an Impress the Chess logo.

Action: Justine

AB will work on the riparian landowners' advisory leaflet over the next two months. It was noted that funding would be required to publish this leaflet.

Action: Allen

(vii) Open Forum

The date of the next open forum was set as Monday 10th November at 6.30 pm at the Town Hall. Suggested agenda items included:

The revised action plan
Canon's Mill meadow management
Aquatic plant management – Roger Wotton
Fish habitat improvements – Andy Thomas
Trout in the Classroom – Gideon Reeve

Meades Water Gardens – including the SE Market Towns Award

AB will approach the three potential speakers who are external to the ItC Steering Group.

Action: Allen

8. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next meeting is **Thursday 20th November at 10.00 am.**

CESHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Report of the Officers to a meeting of the **RECREATION AND THE ARTS**
COMMITTEE on Monday 6th October 2008.

AGENDA ITEM NO: 5 – USE OF ANIMALS AT CIRCUSES

Reporting Officer: Bill Richards (01494 583824)

Summary

1. To review the policy in respect of allowing animals to perform at circuses on Council land.

Background Information

2. The Council currently has a policy of allowing circus animals subject to a satisfactory veterinarian's report.

Financial Implications

3. None pertaining to the report.

Strategic Objectives

4. Accords with the Council's strategic aim 1 – *'To enable residents to enjoy high-quality social, recreational, and cultural facilities within the town and to seek the continuing improvement and development of these facilities in accordance with the desires expressed by the residents'* and 6 - *'to represent the views and wishes of the citizens of Chesham.'*

Detailed Consideration

5. For a number of years the Council has allowed circuses onto its grounds. Most recently these have taken place on Nashleigh Hill Recreation Ground. The circus which visits Chesham has used live animals as part of its performances in the past and this year is bringing an elephant for promotional purposes.
6. There has been a recent trend towards Councils banning the use of animals performing on its land. This Council has never formalised its position on this issue but has always insisted on a veterinarian's inspection if non-domesticated

creatures are involved.

7. Members may be interested to know that the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) commissioned a Circus Working Party to look at the matter of animal welfare pertaining to circuses. The remit of the group was to provide, and consider, evidence relating to the transportation and housing needs of non-domesticated species. It looked at the comparisons between the welfare standards for non-domesticated animals being kept in zoos with those being used in travelling circuses. Training was not included in the remit as it is being considered as part of the wider DEFRA review of the regulation of animals used in performance.
8. The report of the Working Party has just been published and the executive summary is **attached**. As can be seen, one of the main findings was '*there appears to be little evidence to demonstrate that the welfare of animals kept in travelling circuses is any better or worse than that of animals kept in other captive environments*'. However it concludes by stating that '*science, on this occasion, provides no relevant guidance as to the appropriate principle to be adopted*'. The full report can be viewed at: www.defra.gov.uk
9. In March 2006 the government announced it intended to introduce Regulations under the Animal Welfare Act 2006 to ban the use, in travelling circuses, of certain non-domesticated species whose welfare needs cannot be satisfactorily met in that environment. In light of the findings of the Circus Working Party, the government now wants to hear reactions to the report and consider its position accordingly.
10. One letter has been received from a local resident to date requesting that the Council reconsider allowing circuses with animals to visit Chesham.
11. As the government is going through a consultation exercise before considering whether to instigate primary legislation in banning the use of certain non-domesticated animals in circuses, Members may consider it prudent to defer any changes of policy before the government has determined its position on this matter.

Recommendation

That the Council continue with its current policy until the government has determined its policy in respect of use of non-domesticated animals in circuses

AGENDA ITEM NO: 6 – CHESHAM AND 2012 OLYMPICS

Reporting Officers: Bill Richards (01494 583824) and Danny Essex (01494 776975)

Summary

1. To receive a presentation from the Chesham Moor Gym and Swim Centre Manager and regular customer on the opportunities to develop Chesham as a focus for sports participation leading up to the 2012 Olympics in London and to discuss Council involvement thereof.

Background Information

2. Members will be aware that London will be hosting the 2012 Olympic Games. To facilitate events across the county, a Buckinghamshire Manager for the 2012 Games, funded by the principal authorities, has been appointed.

Financial Implications

3. None pertaining to the report at the current time but the Committee may wish to consider allocating funds at a future date to support future initiatives.

Strategic Objectives

4. Accords with the Council's strategic aim 1 – *'To enable residents to enjoy high-quality social, recreational, and cultural facilities within the town and to seek the continuing improvement and development of these facilities in accordance with the desires expressed by the residents'* and 6 - *'to represent the views and wishes of the citizens of Chesham.'*

Detailed Consideration

5. The Moor Road Gym and Swim Centre Manager, Danny Essex, and one of the regular and long-standing gym members, Mr George Lima, have been working on ideas already to boost both the Centre's attendance and to increase sports and fitness participation levels generally in town. They will be undertaking a 15 minute presentation to the Committee to outline these plans and to explain the benefits for Chesham.
6. Your Town Clerk has also been approached by a highly keen resident in being involved with Chesham being proactive in Olympic promotion and has written in her letter that *'this would hopefully bring the town together as it's unlikely there*

will be another chance to do this in the next century'. She suggests a number of ideas that are all worthy of investigation and consideration and her letter is duly **attached**.

7. Clearly it would be wrong to ignore the initial enthusiasm already engendered. While 2012 may seem a long way off, a great deal of planning is required. Following the presentation therefore, Members may wish to consider setting up a working party to include the Centre Manager; Mr Lima; the resident Mrs Culverhouse and a nominated Member. In officers' view, it would be worth inviting the Buckinghamshire Manager for the 2012 Games (at least for the inaugural meeting) and a representative from the District Council's Sports Development team and/or an officer from Nexus.

Recommendation

That the Council consider the presentation from the Moor Road Gym and Swim Centre Manager and colleague and nominate a Member to sit on a Olympics Working Party if deemed appropriate.

AGENDA ITEM NO: 7 – CHESHAM MOOR SWIM AND GYM CENTRE

Reporting Officer: Stephen Pearson (01494 583825)

Summary

1. To consider an update on the Chesham Moor Gym and Swim Centre and a financial report up to the 31st August 2008.

Background Information

2. At the meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on the 17th December 2007 Minute 38(1b) *'it was resolved that the Officers, in consultation with the Friends of Moor Road, produce a five year business plan and that there be regular monitoring reports to each Recreation and the Arts Committee Meetings.'*

Financial Implications

3. As outlined within the report.

Strategic Objectives

4. Accords with the Council's strategic aim 1 – *'To enable residents to enjoy high-quality social, recreational and cultural facilities within the town and to seek the continuing improvement and development of these facilities in accordance with the desires expressed by the residents.'*

Detailed Consideration

5. The attached financial report (excluding Renewals & Repairs) shows an operational deficit for the first five months of £23,634 at the end of August 2008 against the annual estimate of £66,095. The alarm expenditure figure includes the installation of the new alarm system £2,384 which was approved at the Recreation & Arts Committee on the 17th March 2008.
6. An analysis of the gym income shows the last ten months figures (excluding VAT) as follows:

	£
November 2007	3,543
December	3,297
January 2008	4,640
February	5,515
March	5,034
April	5,771
May	4,753

June	3,806
July	5,239
August	5,185

- If the average of the last five months is used as a basis for forecasting the income for 2008/09 this would equate to £59,410 against a budget figure of £70,000.
- The swimming season opened on the 1st May and details of the income (excluding VAT) to the 31st August for both 2007 and 2008 are as follows and are compared against the full season's 2008 budget:

	2007 Actual £	2008 Actual £	2008 Budget £
Adult	8,516	12,000	13,980
Junior	8,676	8,600	11,420
Senior	981	1,491	1,280
Spectators	517	690	555
Other Income-hire, lessons, etc.	<u>8,479</u>	<u>10,006</u>	<u>8,375</u>
Total	<u>27,169</u>	<u>32,787</u>	<u>35,610</u>

- The season ticket numbers are slightly down on the same period as last year but the income is up (but down against budget) mainly due to the concession price increase. Details of the ticket sales (excluding VAT) are as follows:

	2007 Tickets	2007 £	2008 Tickets	2008 £	2008 Budget £
Adult	87	5,898	78	5,880	6,000
Concession	108	4,570	101	5,600	5,875
Junior	63	2,413	57	2,391	2,500
Junior Concession	28	596	22	546	600
TOTALS	286	13,477	258	14,417	14,975

- Income from the tennis/multi-court for April 08 to August 08 is £1,534 against a budget figure of £2,000. Income for the same period last year was £750. The income and profit from the vending appears low but this will become clearer when the half yearly stock and trading account is produced.
- Despite the lack of sunshine, the overall swimming income and season ticket income shown above should come in around budget but the gym target may be harder to achieve in the current economic climate.
- The temporary agreement with the Chiltern Natural Therapies Ltd. for use of a room at the Chesham Moor Swim and Gym ends on the 30th September and a request for a similar agreement until the 31st March 2010 has been agreed by your officers. The

current monthly rent is £208 and this will be reviewed on 1st April 2009; any increase is normally in line with inflation.

Recommendation

That the financial position and the new agreement with Chiltern Natural Therapies Ltd. be noted.

At 09:15

Budget Detail - By Centre

Note: (-) Net Expenditure means Income is greater than Expenditure

	<u>Last Year</u>		<u>Current Year</u>						<u>Next Year</u>		
	Budget	Actual	Agreed Budget	Fwd/Rev Budget	Net Virement	Revised Budget	Actual YTD	Committed Exp.	Projected Actual	Next Year Budget	C/Fwd Budget
201 CHESHAM MOOR GYM & SWIM											
4001 SALARIES	0	42,130	60,000	0	0	60,000	36,925	0	0	0	0
4002 CONTRACTORS FEES	39,355	3,600	750	0	0	750	0	0	0	0	0
4004 WAGES	0	28,500	30,000	0	0	30,000	0	0	0	0	0
4008 TRAINING	0	167	500	0	0	500	0	0	0	0	0
4009 TRAVELLING	0	30	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4010 MISC STAFF COSTS	0	1,271	1,500	0	0	1,500	571	0	0	0	0
4011 RATES	0	12,496	13,000	0	0	13,000	13,675	0	0	0	0
4012 WATER RATES	0	3,037	3,500	0	0	3,500	1,779	0	0	0	0
4014 ELECTRICITY	0	3,907	5,145	0	0	5,145	954	0	0	0	0
4015 GAS	0	13,070	11,700	0	0	11,700	4,956	0	0	0	0
4016 CLEANING	0	660	1,500	0	0	1,500	959	0	0	0	0
4017 SKIP HIRE	0	197	735	0	0	735	0	0	0	0	0
4019 CHEMICALS	0	2,663	3,500	0	0	3,500	2,365	0	0	0	0
4021 TELEPHONE & FAX	0	967	750	0	0	750	423	0	0	0	0
4022 POSTAGE	0	321	500	0	0	500	0	0	0	0	0
4023 STATIONERY	0	1,214	1,000	0	0	1,000	257	0	0	0	0
4025 INSURANCE	2,400	2,675	3,500	0	0	3,500	75	0	0	0	0
4026 PUBLIC LICENCES	0	136	200	0	0	200	316	0	0	0	0
4032 PUBLICITY	0	1,762	5,000	0	0	5,000	2,273	0	0	0	0

Continued on Page 2

At 09:15

Budget Detail - By Centre

Note: (-) Net Expenditure means Income is greater than Expenditure

	<u>Last Year</u>		<u>Current Year</u>						<u>Next Year</u>		
	Budget	Actual	Agreed Budget	Fwd/Rev Budget	Net Virement	Revised Budget	Actual YTD	Committed Exp.	Projected Actual	Next Year Budget	C/Fwd Budget
4036 PROPERTY MAINTENANCE	0	4,167	5,000	0	0	5,000	3,555	0	0	0	0
4038 MAINTENANCE CONTRACT	0	3,700	4,900	0	0	4,900	1,737	0	0	0	0
4041 EQUIPMENT RENTAL	0	9,240	15,000	0	0	15,000	9,735	0	0	0	0
4042 EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE	0	3,002	2,500	0	0	2,500	3,450	0	0	0	0
4047 ALARM	0	45	0	0	0	0	3,179	0	0	0	0
4048 EQUIPMENT	0	3,215	1,000	0	0	1,000	1,089	0	0	0	0
4053 LOAN INTEREST	7,065	6,665	7,065	0	0	7,065	0	0	0	0	0
4054 P.W.L.B.	3,620	4,018	3,620	0	0	3,620	0	0	0	0	0
4056 LEGAL EXPENSES	0	540	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4059 PROFESSIONAL FEES	0	2,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4091 ADMIN STAFF RECHARGE	4,210	15,000	9,020	0	0	9,020	3,770	0	0	0	0
4092 ADMIN OHEAD RECHARGE	2,505	3,712	5,285	0	0	5,285	2,660	0	0	0	0
4093 DEPOT STAFF RECHARGE	0	0	20	0	0	20	0	0	0	0	0
4094 DEPOT OHEAD RECHARGE	0	0	20	0	0	20	0	0	0	0	0
4103 WATER CHECKS	0	290	0	0	0	0	200	0	0	0	0
4139 PITCH MARKING SUPPLIES	0	24	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4151 HANGING BASKETS	0	0	0	0	0	0	392	0	0	0	0
4152 HOSPITALITY	0	53	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4155 INSURANCE CLAIMS	0	150	0	0	0	0	4,649	0	0	0	0
4190 MANAGEMENT FEE	0	8,279	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4191 GYM MEMBERS REFUNDED	0	379	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Continued on Page 3

At 09:15

Budget Detail - By Centre

Note: (-) Net Expenditure means Income is greater than Expenditure

	<u>Last Year</u>		<u>Current Year</u>						<u>Next Year</u>		
	Budget	Actual	Agreed Budget	Fwd/Rev Budget	Net Virement	Revised Budget	Actual YTD	Committed Exp.	Projected Actual	Next Year Budget	C/Fwd Budget
4199 SUNDRY EXPENSES	0	450	500	0	0	500	267	0	0	0	0
4923 TFR TO/FR POOL FUND	0	29,243	0	0	0	0	1,006	0	0	0	0
4926 TFR TO/FR FLOWERS RES	0	3,670	0	0	0	0	-333	0	0	0	0
OverHead Expenditure	59,155	216,644	196,710	0	0	196,710	100,885	0	0	0	0
3003 COLD DRINKS SUPPLIES	0	362	0	0	0	0	1,433	0	0	0	0
3004 POOL SNACKS SUPPLIES	0	1,554	2,500	0	0	2,500	1,643	0	0	0	0
3005 POOL HOT DRINKS SUPPLIES	0	762	1,750	0	0	1,750	388	0	0	0	0
3006 POOL CAFE SUPPLIES	0	113	250	0	0	250	0	0	0	0	0
Direct Expenditure	0	2,791	4,500	0	0	4,500	3,464	0	0	0	0
1004 POOL HOT DRINK SALES	0	1,031	3,600	0	0	3,600	875	0	0	0	0
1005 POOL SNACK SALES	0	1,552	3,600	0	0	3,600	1,482	0	0	0	0
1006 POOL COLD DRINK SALES	0	274	0	0	0	0	473	0	0	0	0
1105 RENT BUILDINGS	18,875	2,352	3,100	0	0	3,100	1,150	0	0	0	0
1177 GRANTS & DONATIONS	0	3,670	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1187 INSURANCE CLAIMS	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,979	0	0	0	0
1197 OVERS/UNDERS	0	-109	0	0	0	0	79	0	0	0	0
1199 SUNDRY INCOME	0	0	0	0	0	0	26	0	0	0	0
1500 CVS LA TRANS FUND	0	29,243	0	0	0	0	1,006	0	0	0	0
1501 ADULT SWIMMING D01	0	8,944	12,000	0	0	12,000	11,665	0	0	0	0

Continued on Page 4

At 09:15

Budget Detail - By Centre

Note: (-) Net Expenditure means Income is greater than Expenditure

	<u>Last Year</u>		<u>Current Year</u>						<u>Next Year</u>		
	Budget	Actual	Agreed Budget	Fwd/Rev Budget	Net Virement	Revised Budget	Actual YTD	Committed Exp.	Projected Actual	Next Year Budget	C/Fwd Budget
1502 JUNIOR SWIMMING D02	0	8,192	9,500	0	0	9,500	8,599	0	0	0	0
1503 SENIOR SWIMMING D03	0	1,253	1,280	0	0	1,280	1,491	0	0	0	0
1504 SPECTATORS D04	0	570	555	0	0	555	690	0	0	0	0
1505 LEISURE ADULT SWIM D05	0	1,238	1,980	0	0	1,980	0	0	0	0	0
1506 LEISURE CHILD SWIM D06	0	1,500	1,920	0	0	1,920	0	0	0	0	0
1507 POOL HIRE D07	0	6,164	5,440	0	0	5,440	7,283	0	0	0	0
1508 SWIMMING LESSONS D08	0	923	900	0	0	900	466	0	0	0	0
1509 AQUA AEROBICS D09	0	1,872	1,950	0	0	1,950	2,210	0	0	0	0
1510 GYM D10	0	26,982	40,000	0	0	40,000	14,090	0	0	0	0
1511 SUNBED	0	72	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1512 TENNIS COURT D12	0	1,640	2,000	0	0	2,000	1,534	0	0	0	0
1513 CAFE D11	0	495	360	0	0	360	635	0	0	0	0
1514 FOOTBALL PITCHES D14	0	1,764	1,700	0	0	1,700	0	0	0	0	0
1515 PILATES CLASSES D15	0	230	120	0	0	120	0	0	0	0	0
1516 PERSONAL TRAINING D16	0	85	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1517 SHOWERS D17	0	45	10	0	0	10	33	0	0	0	0
1518 BARBECUE HIRE	0	6	5	0	0	5	14	0	0	0	0
1519 POOL INFLATABLE	0	70	70	0	0	70	0	0	0	0	0
1520 ROOM HIRE	0	326	50	0	0	50	-148	0	0	0	0
1601 ADULT SEASON TICKETS	0	5,898	6,000	0	0	6,000	5,880	0	0	0	0
1602 ADULT CONC S/TICKETS	0	4,570	5,875	0	0	5,875	5,600	0	0	0	0

Continued on Page 5

At 09:15

Budget Detail - By Centre

Note: (-) Net Expenditure means Income is greater than Expenditure

		<u>Last Year</u>		<u>Current Year</u>						<u>Next Year</u>		
		Budget	Actual	Agreed Budget	Fwd/Rev Budget	Net Virement	Revised Budget	Actual YTD	Committed Exp.	Projected Actual	Next Year Budget	C/Fwd Budget
1603	JUNIOR SEASON TICKETS	0	2,413	2,500	0	0	2,500	2,391	0	0	0	0
1604	JUNIOR CONC S/TICKETS	0	596	600	0	0	600	546	0	0	0	0
1701	TR GYM RECEIPTS	0	1,704	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1702	BGC GYM RECEIPTS	0	18,732	30,000	0	0	30,000	10,664	0	0	0	0
	Total Income	18,875	134,299	135,115	0	0	135,115	80,715	0	0	0	0
201	Net Expenditure	40,280	85,137	66,095	0	0	66,095	23,634	0	0	0	0
	Total Budget Expenditure	59,155	219,435	201,210	0	0	201,210	104,350	0	0	0	0
	Income	18,875	134,299	135,115	0	0	135,115	80,715	0	0	0	0
	Net Expenditure	40,280	85,137	66,095	0	0	66,095	23,634	0	0	0	0

AGENDA ITEM NO: 8 – PLAY-AREA UPDATE

Reporting Officer: Bill Richards (01494 583824)

Summary

1. To consider recommendations from Play-Area Working Party.

Background Information

2. At the Council meeting of the 22nd September 2008, it was reported that the Council's Play-Area Working Party had short-listed two play company suppliers, both of whom would be presenting to the Working Party on Monday 29th September.

Financial Implications

3. To be confirmed following firm proposals from the companies.

Strategic Objectives

4. Accords with the Council's strategic aim 1 – *'To enable residents to enjoy high-quality social, recreational, and cultural facilities within the town and to seek the continuing improvement and development of these facilities in accordance with the desires expressed by the residents'* and 6 - *'to represent the views and wishes of the citizens of Chesham.'*

Detailed Consideration

5. A full report, including a recommendation from the Working Party on its preferred company and a synopsis of its proposals will be written and circulated before the Committee meeting.

AGENDA ITEM NO: 9 – ST. MARY’S WAY RAISED PLANTERS

Reporting Officer: Kathryn Graves (01494 583798)

Summary

1. To provide information on the current maintenance of the raised brick planters along St. Mary’s Way and plans for their future care.

Background Information

2. As part of the highway, the raised beds are the property of Buckinghamshire County Council. Historically, the County Council has provided no budget for the maintenance of the beds, resulting in their gradual deterioration in appearance and the proliferation of weeds.
3. This Council has regularly received complaints from members of the public concerning the appearance of the beds. Officers historically passed the complaints on to the Buckinghamshire County Council. This would result in a contractor applying herbicide to the beds approximately once a year. This would provide temporary weed control, but made no long term improvement to the appearance of the beds.

Financial Implications

4. None pertaining to the Council.

Strategic Objectives

5. Accords with the Council’s strategic aim 1 – *‘To enable residents to enjoy high-quality social, recreational and cultural facilities within the town and to seek the continuing improvement and development of these facilities in accordance with the desires expressed by the residents.’*

Detailed Consideration

6. In 2007, the Chesham in Bloom working group approached the Buckinghamshire County Council with a view to taking over the management of the beds. The County Council stipulated that, due to their location, the beds should only be worked on by professionals who had conducted a satisfactory risk assessment for working on the highway and had the requisite insurance cover.
7. Mr. Len Vockins, of Len Vockins Garden Services Ltd., is a member of the Chesham in Bloom working group. Mr Vockins has supplied the County Council

with a satisfactory risk assessment and will provide voluntary labour as a contribution to Chesham in Bloom to refurbish the beds in autumn 2008. It is intended to refurbish the beds using a weed-resistant membrane and to plant species that will tolerate the extreme conditions of the roadside environment.

8. As a one-off, Buckinghamshire County Council has made £250 available to cover the cost of the plants and materials to refurbish the beds through the Getting Closer to Communities initiative.
9. From 2009, the Chesham in Bloom working group will be responsible for raising the funding to continue the management of the raised beds.
10. Buckinghamshire County Council currently has no sponsorship scheme for sites of this nature and have no objection to Chesham in Bloom organising sponsorship for the beds as a means of raising funds for maintenance. However, because of their highway location and the resulting safety implications, the County Council does have specifications for the type of signage that could be used to display sponsorship details. It has also been agreed that should it enter into an agreement with a third party for highway verge sponsorship at any point in the future, the Chesham in Bloom sponsorship scheme would end immediately.
11. The Policy and Projects Officer, who administers Chesham in Bloom, has approached the Chamber of Trade and Commerce with a view to gauging interest in sponsorship by local companies and has received positive feedback.
12. The Policy and Projects Officer is currently obtaining information on estimated maintenance costs and the details re signage design, size and quantity before developing a sponsorship scheme with the Chamber. It is hoped that the sponsorship scheme will generate additional funding for Chesham in Bloom projects, in addition to enabling continued maintenance of the raised beds to a satisfactory standard.

Recommendation

That the report be noted.

AGENDA ITEM NO: 10 – MEADES WATER GARDENS MANAGEMENT PLAN

Reporting Officer: Kathryn Graves (01494 583798)

Summary

1. To provide information on the management plan for Meades Water Gardens.

Background Information

2. As part of the council-led Impress the Chess initiative, over £60,000 of funding was raised for the regeneration of Meades Water Gardens, a public space located off Red Lion Street.
3. Meades Water Gardens features a stretch of the River Chess, which as a chalk stream, is a globally rare habitat with potential for harbouring species characteristic of the Chilterns, including water voles.
4. The Meades Water Gardens regeneration work was carried out between 2007 and 2008 and saw improvements to the gardens for the benefit of both humans and wildlife.

Financial Implications

5. None pertaining to the Council.

Strategic Objectives

6. Accords with the Council's strategic aims 1 – *'To enable residents to enjoy high-quality social, recreational and cultural facilities within the town and to seek the continuing improvement and development of these facilities in accordance with the desires expressed by the residents.'* and 3 – *'To preserve the unique identity of Chesham and promote its heritage.'*
7. Also accords with the Council's Environmental policy.

Detailed Consideration

8. At the completion of the regeneration project, the Impress the Chess steering group agreed that a management plan for the gardens should be devised to specify a management regime to safeguard both the amenity value and biodiversity value of the newly restored site.

9. The management plan was devised by the Council and the Chilterns Conservation Board (Chilterns Chalk Streams Project) and a copy is **attached**.
10. The management plan details the maintenance regime, plus voluntary contributions by the Chesham Environmental Group, to ensure that the long term management vision for the site is adhered to, regardless of any future staffing changes.
11. When research on the site's history was conducted for the new interpretation board, it was found that information from the 19th and 20th centuries was patchy. It was, therefore, decided to collate the information in a Site History section of the plan, to ensure that information on the site's history and development is easily accessible.
12. The final version of the management plan will include a site map.

Recommendation

That the Management Plan be approved and adopted.

Bill Richards
Town Clerk

Meades Water Gardens Management Plan



© Chesham Town Council



Chesham Town Council



Contents

Site History	1
Management Vision	4
Environmental Policy Compliance	4
Maintenance Regime	5
Appendix 1 – Site Map	



Site History

Meades Water Gardens was once the site of the millpond of Amy Mill (also known as Amies, Amen or Ameer Mill). It is not known when Amy Mill was built; the first record of the mill in the Chesham Bois parish registers was in 1616 (the site belonged to Chesham Bois parish until 1934). However, it is possible that it was one of the two mills included in the Domesday Book (1086).

Amy Mill was powered by the River Chess for flour production, which was Chesham's primary medieval industry. In the Buckinghamshire Posse Comitatus of 1798 (a survey of all men capable of acting in a military capacity, plus the numbers of horses, wagons and carts available) Amy Mill was recorded as being one of the smaller mills in the town, with a weekly production of 20 quarters. The mill had two carts, but no horses or wagons, compared to a production of 200 sacks, with 7 horses, 2 wagons and 3 carts at Cannons Mill.

In the 19th Century, Amy Mill was operated as a corn mill by the Rose Family. In the 1840s, the Roses installed an innovative steam-powered mill on the other side of Amersham Road. But this was not without incident, as in January 1845, shortly after the opening of the Bois Steam Mill, George Rose was tragically killed following an accident with the steam machinery. However, the steam technology superseded Amy Mill, which was demolished by the end of the 19th Century.

The miller's house, known as Amy Mill House, remained following the mill's demolition and was later extended. The house even acted as a sick bay during World War II. However, the house was damaged in 1970 when a lorry crashed into it and eventually the house was demolished to make way for the Friedrichsdorf Corner roundabout at the bottom of Amersham Hill. The only remainder of the site's milling heritage is the sluice gate.

After Amy Mill ceased operating, the mill pond was replaced by watercress beds, an important Chilterns industry that supplied the London market. However, at some point in the 20th Century, the farming of watercress ceased at the site and the beds were abandoned.

The land was donated to the town by the Garrett-Pegge family. In 1979, the town council converted the disused watercress beds into formal water gardens, named the Meades Water Gardens. This scheme received a Civic Trust Commendation for the conversion of a neglected space into a recreational area. The watercourse was altered to establish a broad-water with the flow splitting downstream to create an island feature.



Daffodils were planted to spell out the initials of the late Cllr Robin Groves, chairman of the committee that planned the gardens. Other spring planting was carried out, including cowslips and bluebells, and wildflowers were sown in the area adjacent to 33-35 Red Lion Street. A flint gazebo was moved into the gardens from the town centre. The building commemorates Benjamin and Dinah Grove, woodturners of Waterside. Stones commemorating the opening of the gardens and the Civic Trust award were placed in gardens.

In the following years, long-term sustainability issues arose with maintaining the site as formal water gardens. The creation of the lake had reduced the speed of the water flow, which caused silt deposition. As the lake became heavily silted-up over time, its wildlife habitat value decreased and the area became aesthetically unappealing. The weirs that maintained the water level of the lake periodically collapsed. From 1992 onwards, various plans were mooted to de-silt the water body and make other improvements to the site. The site was de-silted in the mid-1990s. In 1996 a new information board was installed at the Red Lion Street entrance to the Gardens, to provide site information to visitors.

However, the water body soon silted up again and the process of de-silting was considered too expensive to be carried out regularly to maintain the gardens in their existing form. Periods of drought caused the river to dry up, exposing the silted bed. A lack of tree management reduced light levels, making the place unwelcoming to the public and attracting antisocial behaviour. The gazebo was boarded up following extensive vandalism.



The site before regeneration (February 2006) - ©Chilterns Conservation Board



In 2004, the Impress the Chess campaign was launched; a partnership between local authorities, conservation bodies, local groups and residents, to conserve and enhance the River Chess. Improvements to Meades Water Gardens were identified as a high priority and a plan was formulated to improve the site's recreational and wildlife value and to make the gardens sustainable in the long term. The plan was developed by Chesham Town Council, the Chilterns Chalk Streams Project and the River Restoration Centre.

On the 9th June 2006, Meades Water Gardens was designated an alcohol-restricted area in an attempt to help curb antisocial behaviour. Following over £60,000 of fundraising, work to renovate the gardens was begun with tree work in 2007 to increase light levels and improve tree health. In 2008, the artificial lake was restored to a chalk stream channel, characteristic of the River Chess, creating valuable habitats for riparian Chilterns' wildlife. The narrow, fast-flowing channel will not experience high levels of silt deposition. A wetland area was also created to benefit wildlife associated with slower moving water. Footpaths were upgraded and bridges refurbished to improve the site's accessibility. The stones commemorating the previous opening of the gardens in the 1980s were removed and donated to Chesham Museum. A new interpretation board was installed at the Red Lion Street entrance, providing information on the history and biology of the site, plus a description of the regeneration project.

The site was officially opened on the 11th July 2008 and the Meades Water Gardens Regeneration Project was awarded the 2008 South East England Market Towns Environment and Culture Award.



The newly regenerated water gardens in July 2008
© Chesham Town Council



Management Vision

This Management Plan has been devised by Chesham Town Council and the Chilterns Chalk Streams Project.

The gardens have been regenerated to provide an urban space of benefit to both wildlife and the public. The management regime has been devised to ensure that both the recreational and conservation value of the area are maintained. It is recognised that in the urban environment, one of the major benefits to the public is the ability to observe and enjoy wildlife, and Meades Water Gardens will be managed to maximise such opportunities for residents and visitors to Chesham.

The paths have been renovated and are to be maintained at a standard that permits access by a broad range of people with differing levels of mobility, whilst retaining the informal, woodland feel of the site. Part of the route of the Chess Valley Walk runs through the gardens and access to this route will be maintained.

Management of the site, whilst ensuring its accessibility to the public, will also safeguard wildlife. The town council reserves the right to temporarily close-off sections of the site, for example, to protect nesting birds.

Environmental Policy Compliance

The town council adopted its Environmental Policy in 2006. In the policy, the council acknowledges that the River Chess, as a chalk stream, is a globally rare habitat that is important for the characteristic wildlife of the Chilterns. The Council has made a commitment to the conservation of this habitat.

The water gardens will be managed in line with the Environmental Policy, to enhance and protect the river habitat and promote local biodiversity.



Maintenance Regime

Regular maintenance tasks are carried out by Chesham Town Council's Parks & Premises Department. Volunteer works are kindly carried out by Chesham Environmental Group and the Rotary Club of Chesham.

Horticultural Tasks

(i) Grass care

Red Lion Street Gardens are immediately adjacent to the water gardens and has a formal setting. This area receives 'fine turf' cutting treatment.

The water gardens are treated as a 'utility area' which is more in-keeping with a riverside & woodland setting and a more informal mowing regime is adopted with fewer cutting frequencies per annum. The frequency of cuts cannot be dictated and is determined by the growing conditions each year. The **maximum height** that the grass will be allowed to reach before cutting will be no more than **3in (76-mm)**.

Many areas are left uncut to provide natural, undisturbed areas as habitat for wildlife. A buffer zone of uncut vegetation will be maintained along the river banks. This uncut zone can be 'scaloped' to provide varied buffer zone depth. The buffer zone will be cut once or twice through the summer to provide a relatively tall sward, but staggering the time of cutting to allow continuity of the habitat (i.e. cut one bank, but leave the other and vice versa). Some tall herb vegetation will be allowed to overwinter uncut to provide continuous habitat for invertebrates and mammals. To prevent riparian areas becoming dominated by 'rank' vegetation, all arisings resulting from buffer zone cuts, will be removed from site.

Operational Details:

- Frequency – approximately every 3-4 weeks (mid March – end October)
- Grass collection – N/A as a utility area, except for removal of arisings from buffer zone cuts
- Action – town council

(ii) Hedge & Shrub Maintenance

There is one formal hedge on the site, i.e. the mature laurel hedge dividing the water gardens from Red Lion Street Gardens. This hedge was allowed to grow very tall to form a screen between the residential properties in Meades Lane and the busy Red Lion Street.

It is now agreed that the trees in the water gardens form an effective screen themselves, and the laurel hedge has been reduced to approximately **8ft (240cm)**.



This height still provides an effective screen to the traffic, but the reduced height also helps to thicken the hedge that had become bare in places, whilst allowing more light into the gardens. This hedge will be maintained at its new height.

Operational Details:

- Frequency & time of cutting – once annually, in Spring after flowering
- Action – town council

There is a bamboo hedge at the rear of the veterinary centre adjacent to the footpath, possibly planted to form a screen. This does not require regular pruning, but will be cut as necessary to keep the footpath clear.

There is a mix of shrubs on the western boundary of the site bordering Meades Lane. Those on the outside of the perimeter fence were planted by the Meades Lane Management Company (Residents Association) and will be maintained by that association. Those shrubs on the inside of the perimeter fence will be maintained by the town council.

Operational Details:

- Frequency – as necessary to suit the different growth habits
- Action: - town council and Meades Lane Management Company

(iii) Tree Care

Although the trees will be monitored by the various interested parties, all trees on the site will be formally inspected by the town council each winter. Basic tree works, e.g. dead-wooding, removal of suckers and ivy, raising of low branches, etc. will be programmed into the town council's winter work schedule, with assistance from Chesham Environmental Group. A professional arboriculturist will be contacted to inspect any tree that is considered to be diseased or dangerous, and the appropriate action taken.

A number of trees have been pollarded for safety reasons, to promote healthy growth, and to open up the previous dense tree canopy. This practice will be continued as necessary, usually 4-5 years after the previous cut.

Operational Details:

- Frequency – winter and 'as found'
- Action – town council and Chesham Environmental Group.



Other Works

(i) Litter-Picking and Bin Emptying:

Carried out weekly by the town council, usually on Mondays. During the summer, a further litter-pick will be scheduled but, realistically, will be dependent on time constraints.

In-stream litter constituting a flood risk will be removed as a priority. Large items that pose a flood risk, such as fallen trees, will be reported to the Environment Agency for the Agency to remove.

Chesham Environmental Group will carry out work parties to clear litter, paying particular attention to in-stream litter.

(ii) Dead Wood

A woodland environment will naturally accumulate an amount of fallen dead wood. In a wild wood, this would lie in the undergrowth and rot, effectively returning to nature. The Meades Water Gardens is a relatively small woodland area, within an urban setting, and naturally attracts a lot of interest from local children. Part of their games is often to attempt to dam the river, float logs, etc. and for this reason, this wood needs to be removed from site.

(iii) Signs and Interpretation Board

These require a periodic clean by rinsing with clean water. This is carried out as necessary. Graffiti will be removed as soon as possible after discovery. Offensive graffiti, particularly racist graffiti, will be removed within 24 hours of discovery where possible. If damage to the board is severe, a replacement board will be installed.

Operational Details for all ancillary works

- Frequency – as specified above
- Action - town council with the Environmental Group assisting. Environment Agency to be informed if obstructions to channel constitute a flood risk.

(iv) Public Footpaths

The footpaths were renovated in 2008 using consolidated aggregates which, once weathered, will have a 'rustic' appearance. This will provide a solid footing that will enable visitors to walk the site from Friedrichsdorf Corner to Duck Alley and Red Lion Street (the route of the Chess Valley Walk), regardless of wet conditions.

Maintenance will be minimal, any unevenness to be raked level and reconsolidated. Accumulations of leaves in autumn/winter will be removed.



Operational Details:

- Frequency – as necessary
- Action – town council

(iv) Perimeter Fencing

The old chestnut fencing between the water gardens and residential properties in Meades Lane has been replaced with a new 4 ft (1200 mm) tall weld-wire fence, and double-gate entrance for works vehicles. The new fence is green in colour, to be in-keeping with its environment.

Maintenance will only entail repairs if vandalism occurred and removal of any tree branches that may encroach on or into the fence.

Operational Details:

- Frequency – as necessary
- Action – town council

(v) Foot Bridges

There are two wooden bridges connecting the East and West banks. In June 2008, Chesham Rotary Club kindly refurbished these and future maintenance will only consist of an annual clean, with an application of teak oil every two to three years. Non-slip footboards for both bridges have been purchased as part of the renovation project, and will be installed by the town council in Winter 2008/09.

Operational Details:

- Frequency – cleaning annually, in spring. Apply teak oil every two – three years in spring
- Action – town council and possibly a volunteer group

(vi) River Banks

The make-up of the river banks vary. Large sections are natural grass covered earthen banks, whilst sections have been reinforced with concrete. One or two small sections have wooden shoring.

Maintenance consists of the monitoring of the natural banks for areas of collapse and deterioration of the existing reinforcements. Collapses in the earthen banks require shoring, and back-filling with consolidated aggregate. Existing reinforced shoring requires repairs/replacement as soon as discovered.

Operational Details:

- Frequency – as necessary, and immediately if this constitutes a safety hazard
- Action - town council

