



PITSTONE PARISH POST

PPP is produced on behalf of Pitstone Parish Council and distributed quarterly, free to every household, PPP aims to keep members of the local community

informed about events and news that may affect them.

If you would like to help with the distribution of the PPP then please contact the distribution manager (see below).

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be distributed at the Beginning of October (last before Christmas).

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Other useful numbers see pages 35 - 39

Cover illustration: Stephanie Nicholls

Deadline for next edition: 30th

September 2022. The magazine will



A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Dave Nicholls, Chairman Pitstone Parish Council



PITSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

Laurie Eagling, Parish
Clerk

Thank you to our PPP Editor
Our thanks to our Editor, Sue Nicholls, who is retiring from her role. We wish Sue all the very best for the future and thank her most sincerely for all the time and commitment she has dedicated to the magazine. As we have not been able to find a replacement volunteer editor, the parish council has taken production of the Pitstone Parish Post in-house and will be producing the magazine ourselves.

Skatepark

The skate park event was very well received, with 25 young people enjoying free lessons, and everyone receiving some giveaways and chances to win merchandise. We received many positive comments and praise for providing the facility from children, teens, adults and parents alike, so it is wonderful to know that the new facilities are very much appreciated. It is particularly lovely to see whole families enjoying the facilities together and benefitting from outdoor physical activity with all the emotional, mental and physical benefits that brings. The park continues to be very well utilised, from toddlers right through to

mature adults.

The ground renovation works continues and is being monitored on a regular basis by the council and ground keeping staff with further actions taken where necessary. We hope to get the football pitch back into playable standard ahead of the upcoming season. Two further joint litter & recycling bins have now been installed. As has a memorial bench, in memory of Matt Court & Jake Saintey, facing into the skatepark.

Parents should be aware that wheeled sports class as dangerous activities and accidents are inevitable, though RoSPA concluded that accidents were less likely with a skatepark facility provided than if young people were trying to free skate. RoSPA produce useful information on the types of accidents likely to occur at a skatepark, and how you can help protect your child, which can be found here: <https://pitstone.co.uk/ppcinfo/sport-and-recreation/> Please make sure your child wears the recommended personal protective equipment, carries a mobile phone & basic first aid supplies with them and knows your number in case

you need to be contacted.

On a negative side, the near neighbours are being disturbed by unacceptably high-volume music being played by users of the skatepark, ball court and recreation ground. Please remember that your choice of music may not reflect the tastes of others, and that the recreation ground is not licenced for the broadcast of music. So please either play music through your headphones or keep the volume so low that only you can hear it. No music should be played after 8pm. Additional signage will be erected, asking users to be considerate. Thames Valley Police are patrolling the area.

Multi Use Games Area and replacement car park

Discussions are ongoing with Nicholas King Homes and Buckinghamshire Council regarding these facilities. We will provide any further updates whenever we receive them.

Double Lane Cricket Practice Nets for the Recreation Ground

We are pleased to let you know that the planning application has now been approved by Buckinghamshire Council. The funding proposals are already in place, so the parish council is now working closely with the Ivinghoe & Pitstone United Cricket Club to finalise the logistics of the installation of these nets. The installers currently estimate a March 2023 installation.

Fibre to Property Broadband

The deadline has now passed to register your initial interest. The details are being submitted to OpenReach who will now evaluate whether there is enough interest to undertake a scheme

installation. As soon as we hear back from them, we will keep you advised.

Children's Competition to help

combat escalating levels of litter
We are delighted to share with you the winning entries in our latest competition:

Our congratulations to Rue, Alexandra and Freya for producing this colourful artwork (see page 14), which is being converted into signs that we can display around our open spaces over the summer to encourage everyone to act responsibly, not to drop litter & to pick up dog fouling. Sadly the volumes of litter have soared in the last 18 months. At the start of the Covid pandemic, there was a short period where the village remained very clean, but now the problem is worse than ever, and it is sad to see that so many people have such little respect for the natural environment and the facilities provided within our community. We wholeheartedly thank our staff members and the many volunteers who litter pick within Pitstone to keep our community tidy.

We need your time & help to keep the youth café running

Café is once again proving very popular with the year 6 cohort that are shortly moving up to secondary school.

However, some of our original volunteers that had to step down during the pandemic have been unable to restart, and we desperately need more adult volunteers (must be at least 18 to count towards the legal adult:child ratios) to come forward to enable us to continue providing this much needed facility.

We welcome volunteers of all ages and with a wide range of interests/abilities. Many are retired, so age is no barrier. Some volunteers like to teach the young people crafts or board games, some help supervise console games and indoor activities, some prefer to join in physical activities such as rounders. Whatever your interest/ability, we are bound to have a role for you, so if you are free on a Wednesday evening **between 6.30pm and 8pm (you don't have to come each week, as we produce a rota)**, please do get in touch with us as soon as possible.

Memorial benches

Our thanks to the families of William Ruck and Matt Court & Jake Saintey for the kind donation of the two new memorial benches which have now been installed at the junction of Glebe Close/ Marsworth Road and looking into the skatepark. These facilities have been added to our asset register and will be monitored and maintained by the parish on an ongoing basis.

Policies

Wondering if you can use the village green for a commercial class? Or whether you can put a poster in the noticeboards for a community event? Want to know the procedures the council must follow at a meeting? All the parish council policies can be found on our website – www.pitstone.co.uk
Calling parents of children with disabilities

We try to ensure that all our playgrounds are both accessible and include a range of play features that is designed for use by a wide variety of children with a variety of disabilities.

Features in our parks include play equipment such as an extra wide slide so that you can travel down with a child, rocking equipment, sunken trampoline with wheelchair access or the basket swing. Ancillary equipment includes benches with back rests and arms, contrast-coloured gateways or a wide variety of colours and textures for the visually impaired. If you are a Pitstone parent and your child has a specific need, please contact the parish council on parishclerk@pitstone.co.uk so that we can take this into consideration whenever we next plan any playground renovation work.

Criminal Activity

Sadly, the parish has been experiencing a spate of increased criminal activity including thefts of/from motor vehicles, burglaries, vandalism of parish council & other property and repeated instances of graffiti all around the village. Even sadder, is that some of this behaviour has been undertaken by children as young as 12 or 13 years. Thames Valley Police are aware, are increasing patrols in the area and building intelligence towards carrying out an operation.

Annual Parish Assembly 19-5-22

Thank you to everyone that attended **this years' annual assembly, and to all our** guest speakers. The draft minutes are available to view on the website.
Pitstone Volunteer of the Year 2022

We would like to congratulate Howard Jones, who was awarded Volunteer of the Year 2022 at the annual assembly in May for his outstanding contribution to the Pitstone Community Car Scheme.

Reaching hospital and healthcare appointments was as important as ever to residents during Covid, but many previous volunteers were unable to assist during this time, and Howard



handled over half of all the requests we received. The Chairman presented Howard with a framed certificate, card and £50.00 (below).

The Parish Council runs the Volunteer of the Year scheme to celebrate the unsung heroes within our community. If you know someone who goes that extra mile and provides an outstanding voluntary service to the residents of Pitstone, please submit your nominations to the parish clerk so that they can be taken into consideration for the 2023 award.

If, like Howard, you could spare some time to join the scheme as a volunteer driver, please do get in touch with Stephen Davies on communitytransport@pitstone.co.uk

Can you help the hedgehogs? Hedgehogs are in decline in Britain and **are now listed as “Vulnerable” on Britain’s red list of mammals. According to the latest State of Britain’s hedgehogs report, numbers of hedgehogs have fallen**

by up to 30% in urban areas and 50% in rural areas since the Millennium. There are a number of ways that you can help.



One of the best things you can do for the local Hedgehog population is allow them access in and out of your garden. A 12cm x 12cm hole is all they need. Encourage neighbours to do the same. Why not frame your access hole with one of our Hedgehog Highways, just £5 per surround? Please get in touch to order yours today:

parishclerk@pitstone.co.uk or
01296767261.

Westfield Road

Buckinghamshire Council installed pneumatic speed monitoring strips to capture a snapshot of vehicle classifications and speeds. The report can be viewed on our website via this link: <https://pitstone.co.uk/ppcnews/westfield-road-pneumatic-strip-speed-classification-report/>. In summary, the average recorded speed was 37/38mph and the 85th percentile speed (ie the speed at which 85% of vehicles will be travelling at, or slower than, slower than) was 45mph.

The Parish Council asked for the report to be referred to the Road Safety Team who investigated and reported **back that “Unfortunately we would not look to install any remedial measures here as there is no injury collision history.” However, they agreed that the speeding did represent an enforcement**

issue and the data was passed to the **“police authority with a request for tasking.** It will be up to the police authority to determine if they will make **Westfield Road an enforcement site.”**

Thames Valley Police carried out their first speed enforcement activity w/c 15/6/22 and we hope this location will become part of their regular patrols.

We have also sought the input of the Buckinghamshire Councillors/Community Board, relaunched an appeal for volunteers to operate a Community Speedwatch program (further details are below), and asked Taylor Wimpey to cut back the shrubs/scrub in front of the village gates to improve visibility.

Is reducing speeding through the village important to you?

Would you be willing to volunteer as a Community Speedwatch operator?

On a number of previous occasions, the parish council has investigated whether there is a sufficient volume of local residents for whom speeding through the village is a concern, and whom are willing to volunteer to join a Community Speedwatch project. Historically, few volunteers have come forward, and a scheme has not been able to be implemented. As part of Westfield Road has now been adopted, so could be included within any scheme, we are once again gauging if any residents would wish to participate.

What is Community Speedwatch, what is involved, and how much time would you need to commit?

The parish council would loan the camera kit from Buckinghamshire Council. The kit contains: hi-vis and jackets, signs for the road, the camera,

tripod and ancillaries. The camera is set up at the side of the road, facing oncoming traffic, in locations that have been previously assessed and approved by Thames Valley Police and Buckinghamshire Council. Two large community speedwatch signs are placed 20-50 metres from camera point (and locations would be agreed by TVP/BC as part of the review process). The camera is calibrated to catch speeders 150 metres up the road, there is a 20% allowance on the

speed. For example, in a 30mph zone, vehicles exceeding 36 mph will be recorded.

You need a minimum of 2 (and maximum of 4) volunteers to set up and carry out the Speedwatch each time it is operational. Recommended duration of the camera is up to 2 hours at the site (so you would need to be available for 2.5-3 hours to include setting up and packing away the equipment). The volunteers then need approximately the same amount of time again (ie 2 hours) to process the data and submit it to Thames Valley Police within the subsequent 48 hours.

Whilst monitoring the traffic, for each speeding vehicle detected, the volunteers need to fill in the data sheet, recording the following information:

- * Registration number
- * Speed
- * Vehicle Colour
- * Make
- * Model
- * Offence Time
- * Comments

Every volunteer would also need to attend a training session on how to use

the

camera, the setup, understanding the risk assessments, and protection of personal data, before joining the scheme.

What do Thames Valley Police (TVP) do with the information?

When the information is passed to TVP an initial letter is sent to the driver informing them that they have been captured speeding. If they are caught again within three months, a second letter is sent, if they are caught again within 6 months, the driver is visited by TVP. Offenders do not receive fines or points on their licence, as they would if captured via TVP operated speed traps or official cameras.

- * 1st letter – 3 months

- * 2nd letter – 6 months

- * 3rd letter hand delivered by police

What is the aim of Community Speedwatch?

The aim of the Community Speedwatch is to educate drivers about the dangers of speeding in the location they were caught.

If enough volunteers come forward, what will the parish council need to do next?

* We would need to work with Thames Valley Police and Buckinghamshire Council to identify locations on our through roads that would meet their criteria and be approved.

- * Arrange suitable training for all volunteers.

- * Arrange to be included in the schedule of loan equipment.

- * Agree participation in the scheme with the TVP data processing team.

- * Arrange suitable insurance cover

for the loan equipment and volunteers.

- * Arrange safe storage for the equipment when not in use, and collection/return facilities/process for the volunteers.

- * Purchase the necessary dedicated laptop, with encryption, to keep Speedwatch data separate from other data and set up a dedicated email address for the transfer of data to TVP.

- * Put in place all the necessary measures to ensure compliance to GDPR re the storage and wiping of the data collected.

More information about Community Speedwatch can be found here: <https://communityspeedwatch.org/FRONT-v2-Home.php>

How do you register an interest in volunteering for this scheme?

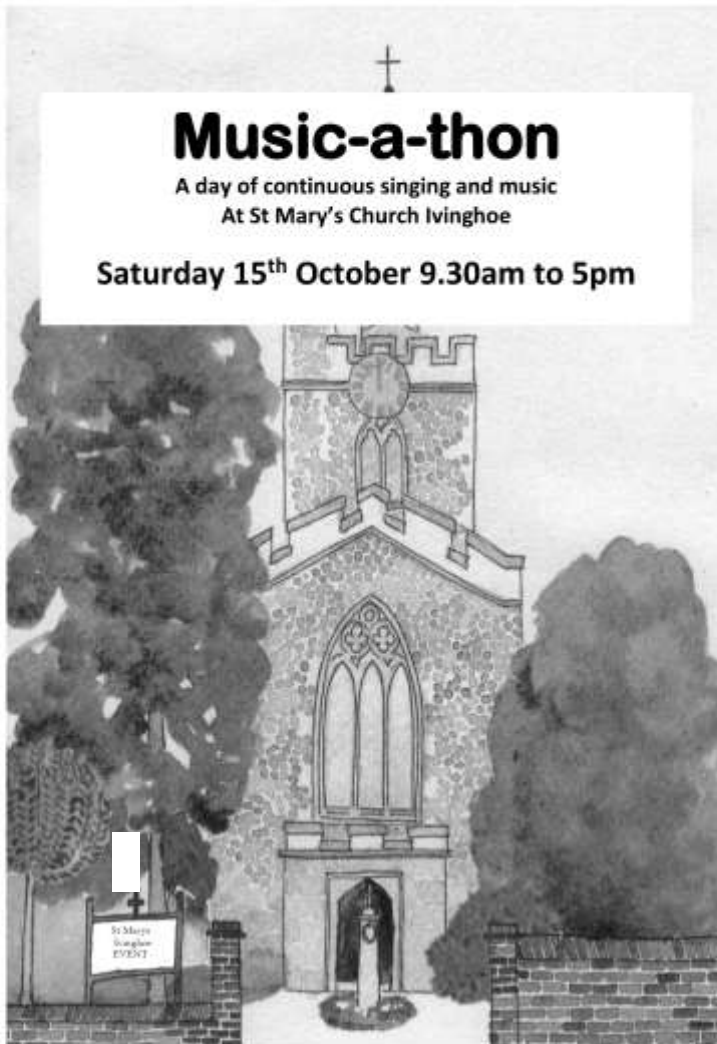
If you would like to register your interest in volunteering for such a Community Speedwatch scheme, and can commit to the above hours, please email your contact details and any other relevant information to:

parishclerk@pitstone.co.uk by the middle of August 2022 (which enables this information to be printed in the next edition of PPP and hand delivered to every home and business in Pitstone so we can make sure that everyone has been reached).

The parish council can then review the level of interest to see whether a Community Speedwatch scheme is important to our residents and viable to operate.

Ivinghoe & Pitstone Safety Scheme works to commence over the summer

Following a public consultation in the



Music-a-thon

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For further information please email or telephone **Sandra Green:**

sandragreen20@hotmail.com 01296 668648

spring, Buckinghamshire Council will install the proposed safety scheme measures along Marsworth Road by Brookmead School over the summer holidays. The proposed changes for Maud Janes Close will follow later in the year. These works have been jointly funded by Ivinghoe and Pitstone Parish Councils, and the Buckinghamshire Council Community Board.

And an update on local matters within the control of Buckinghamshire Council: Castlemead

Buckinghamshire Council adopted the section of Westfield Road that lies between the gates and the Marsworth Road junction, including the immediate grass verges (but not the grass banks) and some of the internal estate roads from phases I-III. Taylor Wimpey have yet to complete the remaining remedials, so the remaining residential roads and the business park, remain their responsibility. Buckinghamshire Council will not be devolving power to the parish council to cut these grass verges during the current season, and **they have been added to BC's rural** grass cutting program. BC have yet to determine any devolved service offering for Town/Parish Councils for subsequent years, so we hope that there may be an opportunity for the parish to undertake these verges in the future (which would enable a greater number of cuts per season).

Croudace, Bellway and Nicholas King Homes Developments All still fall within the care and maintenance of the respective development companies and have not yet been adopted.

Highways/paths updates

Marsworth Road does not yet qualify for resurfacing. The sunken footpath along Queen Street remains outstanding, as does the cutting back of the vegetation and siding out along the footpath between Pitstone and Marsworth. Any resident can report a defect with the highway (eg pothole) or footpath to Buckinghamshire Council via their website <https://www.buckscc.gov.uk/services/transport-and-roads/report-a-highways-problem/> or via the Fix My Street website.

The parking restrictions near the quarry have been approved and implemented.

The Buckinghamshire Council Freight Strategy looks is likely to be adopted and implemented by the autumn.

Planning

There are several local planning applications for which we are still waiting for Buckinghamshire Council to provide a determination including submissions relating to the commercial areas within the Nicholas King Homes development (their application sought to convert these sites to residential use, and their first application has subsequently been referred to the Planning Inspectorate for consideration (to which the parish council has submitted further objections)), the additional properties by The Haldi and the business park development off Westfield Road. As always, you can find full details of all planning applications on the Buckinghamshire Council Planning Portal.

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Annual Report and Accounts for Pitstone Parish Council Year Ending 31-3-2022

	To 31-3-21	To 31-3-22	Variance to previous year
Total Receipts	£1,176,635	£394,221	-77%
Total Payments	£1,134,862	£366,469	-78%
Balances Carried Forward	£122,902	£150,655	

The parish council is financially secure with no loans or debts. The majority of our capital projects progress with a high level of external grant funding, thus the rise and fall in receipts corresponds with the rise and fall in capital projects being undertaken.

Our accounts are subject to three layers of audit each year. The first is carried out by council members. The **second is conducted by an 'internal auditor' appointed by the parish council.** The parish council and the internal **auditor's findings are then submitted to an 'external auditor' appointed to us,** in our case PKF Littlejohn. Members of the public can view all audit reports on our website.

During the financial year, we undertook the long-awaited installation of the concrete skatepark, which has proved to be very popular with people of all ages. Further enhancements were made to the new community facilities at the Pavilion including relaying the front car park, installing a section of path, converting the shutters to electric operation, installing black out blinds and providing additional tables and outdoor bins. At our other sites, we installed thermoplastic graphics at the Windsor Road playground, installed picnic tables at the Hever Close playground, installed a noticeboard outside the Pavilion and purchased

additional Christmas lights for the Recreation Ground. These capital projects account for £241,303 of expenditure (vs much higher levels the previous year to undertake the Pavilion renovations/extension, complete the Recreation Ground play space installation and replace both swing sets in the Windsor Road play space).

The normal council operations continue, and these receive no external grants, so are funded via the precept (or partially offset via income generated from hire of our facilities or advertising in our magazine). This includes maintaining streetlights, converting lighting to LED, litter picking, emptying dog bins, maintaining play equipment and open spaces, producing Pitstone Parish Post, supporting local community groups with grants, running the Volunteer of the Year Scheme, running the youth café and **community car schemes, annual children's competitions,** operating our two mVAS units, running the allotment site, maintaining parish assets, maintaining the Pavilion etc.

In line with the above, the capital projects delivered last financial year generated £1,017,313 of receipts in grants, donations, and the release of Section 106 funding. The equivalent level of receipts to support the capital projects delivered in the financial year ending 31-3

-2022 totalled £212,225, giving rise to a reduction of £805,088. Like many organisations, there was also a reduction in Coronavirus government grant funding between the two years. However, the new Pavilion facilities became increasingly available as the pandemic restrictions lifted, and income is continually improving.

Devolved Services

The parish council undertakes some right of way maintenance, grass verge cutting and siding out on behalf of Buckinghamshire Council (BC) under powers they have devolved to us for these purposes. They pay a contribution of £3,552 towards the delivery of these services, which cost the parish £6,147 to deliver. However, it does mean that our grass can be cut more frequently, works carried out more efficiently, and we have more control over delivery of these services. Buckinghamshire Council extended the last contract for a further

year to cover 2022, but have yet to confirm what, or if, there will be a devolved service offering for 2023 onwards, so we will keep residents advised in due course.

Ongoing Projects by Other Bodies/ Tiers of Government

Hertfordshire County Council continues to work with the Canal & River Trust and Buckinghamshire Council to specify possible cycle route improvements towards Tring station.

Buckinghamshire Council continues to work with developers (Taylor Wimpey, Croudace, Nicholas King Homes and Bellway) to fulfil their highway and leisure obligations including the issues surrounding the multi-use games area.

Buckinghamshire Council continues to work with both Pitstone and Ivinghoe parish councils re the Safety Scheme, Freight Strategy and parking by beauty spot proposals.

Pace

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Did you know that your local churches in Ivinghoe, Slapton and Marsworth run a Food Bank?

Do you know of anyone who is in need of food or are you short of food yourself?

Please call Babs on 07860 780127 or for other enquiries for St. Mary's Church Ivinghoe, 01296 668648

All calls will be dealt with confidentially and we will arrange for a box of food to be left on the doorstep

If you would like to donate food, please leave it in the porch behind the war memorial.

Thank you!



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IVINGHOE AND PITSTONE HAND BELL RINGERS

Alex Wynne



Ivinghoe handbell ringers will restart their Monday afternoon practices on Monday 5th September at 1.30pm. New members are

welcome. They will be playing in St. Mary's Church Ivinghoe on 15th October at the Musicathon so come and see if it may be something you would like to join. We are a friendly group and hope to be able to brush up our skills in order to be able to resume our ability to entertain others from time to time. Please contact Eilish on 01296 668 122 if you would like to come for a taster session.

NEWS FROM THE LIBRARY

Janet Page, Secretary, BVCL



The Beacon Villages Community Library AGM was held on Saturday 3rd July. At that meeting the reports from the Library Manager, Chair and Treasurer were agreed by the meeting and the committee for 2021/21 was elected. Avril Davies, Colin Arney and Janet Page remain as Chair, Treasurer and Secretary respectively and committee members Gillian Arney, Derek Peverill and Dave Frearson are continuing

for a further year.

Despite all that has been happening, the news from the Library is good and we are enthusiastically supported by our members who are pleased to see us able to continue to offer this valuable resource.

All the reports, including financial statements, are available to view on our website BVCL.org.uk

If you wish to view the plans for any planning application currently under consultation by AVDC, please visit www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk

FORD END WATERMILL

IVINGHOE, **BUCKINGHAMSHIRE**

The mill, recorded in 1616 but probably much older, restored by volunteers and run by Ford End Watermill Society, retains all the atmosphere of a small farm mill of the late 1800s.

Stoneground wholemeal flour is for sale on milling days.

OPENING TIMES 2022

Afternoons 2.00–5.00pm

Bank Holiday Monday: **2nd May**

Sunday afternoons: **8th May** - National Mills Sunday, 5th June, 17th June, 3rd **July**, 24th July, 14th August

Bank Holiday Monday 29th August Sunday afternoons: 11th September, 9th October as part of Tring Apple Fayre.



MILLING DEMONSTRATIONS (water level permitting)
between **2.30pm–4.30pm approx**

Last **admission 4.30pm.**

Admission: Adults: £3 children (5–15) £1

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PITSTONE AND IVINGHOE FOOTBALL CLUB

Bob Beesley

Hi, I am Bob Beesley, chairman of Pitstone and Ivinghoe FC. A football club currently plying its trade in Division 2 of the Spartan South Midlands League. We are on a journey to enter the football pyramid proper, but we really really need your support and help!

In order for the football club to progress from Division 2 to Division 1 and beyond, our facilities must be upgraded, with the introduction of floodlights, barriers, walkways etc. With these upgrades the club will then no longer be recognised as being **'grassroots' instead entering the football pyramid. It's hugely exciting and all** involved with the club are working tirelessly to make this dream a reality.

Last season was a success, we finished 3rd in the league, just six points off top of the table. However, this season coming is probably the most important in the clubs history, and we want as many people and businesses to be a part of this journey.

As a club we run very hand to mouth, and without the contributions of a few

select individuals we would not be on this journey today. We need this to change and are now openly asking for businesses, individuals, whoever you may be, to come along on the ride with us and look at the many options for sponsorship, support, donations etc. that **you may be able to offer to us. It's all** about helping us kick on and make our way into the football pyramid proper, imagine the possibility of Pitstone competing in FA Cup Qualifying!

We are extremely excited about next season but we want all of Pitstone, Ivinghoe, and the surrounding villages to be as excited as we are, so if anybody can offer us financial backing, donations of food & drink for matchdays, their voluntary services on matchdays, please get in touch and get involved.

We are all on a journey here at the club and we want you along on that **journey with us, I can't wait to hear and** speak to so many more local people over the coming weeks, months and into next season.





IVINGHOE AND PITSTONE WI

Kay Ison

Ivinghoe and Pitstone's WI has started its new membership year with 50 members. A great start to the year. The new Officers of the Committee have completed their training and familiarised themselves with the running of the WI and events have been running smoothly.

Our April meeting was our final meeting on Zoom as our speaker, Jane Napier lived too far away to convert to a face to face meeting. Jane is a Chocolatier who discovered the art of tempering chocolate when she attended a course run by Mark Tilling, award winning Chocolatier and Pastry Chef. Jane has been tempering chocolate and giving demonstrations and talks ever since. The talk was interesting and very informative. The Easter eggs and filled mini eggs that Jane made looked beautiful and delicious. We now have plenty of time to practise making our own eggs for next Easter.

Our May meeting was all about celebrating our 105th birthday in Pitstone Pavilion Hall. We had a bring and share meal with every member bringing either a savoury or sweet dish to the table. this resulted in a lot of different tastes and options for our members to enjoy. This was followed by



a Birthday toast and a slice of the beautiful cake made by 2 of our members.

We then enjoyed some entertaining games which brought laughter to our tables. Our President announced that one of our members, Fran Booth, won an award to recognise her outstanding community contribution from the Proud of Bucks Awards - Wing and Ivinghoe. Well done Fran!

June was all about celebrating the **Queen's Platinum Jubilee**. Our Knit and Natter group of ladies have been spending the last few months planning and making bunting and red, white and blue decorations that adorn our two villages fluttering in the breeze. We have received many positive comments from the villagers. Our meeting was a lovely **celebration of the Queen's 70 years on the throne**. It was a great pleasure to invite members from surrounding WIs to

join us and included members from Marsworth, Long Marston and Puttenham, Edlesborough and Buckland, Drayton Beauchamp and Aston Clinton **WI's. A comment by one of our visitors summed up what we were all felt. "It is really lovely to do something different and meet other members in our group. We have missed getting together".**

Everyone enjoyed a tea party with finger sandwiches and a selection of cakes which included both vegan and gluten free options. The Queen was of course, too busy to attend our party but



we did raise our glasses to toast her health and give our thanks for the marvellous job and sacrifice she has made for us all over the last 70 years. The fun continued with our competition for the best decorated hat which was a hard job to decide as there were so many beautifully decorated hats in red, white and blue and a quiz which tested our knowledge about the Queen and Royal Family.

Our clubs continue to meet up. Supper club meets up once a month on the third Thursday evening of the month and participants have enjoyed meals at

The Bell in Aston Clinton, The King's Arms in Tring and The Greyhound in Aldbury. Our Craft group members meet at the Hub on the last Wednesday of the month and over the last 3 months have made beautiful Easter Wreaths, painted tea light holders and fabulous flower arrangements. Random Readers meet at the Hub on the first Wednesday of the month between 19:30 and 21:00 while our popular Board Games club have moved location to Pitstone Pavilion and meet twice a month on the second and fourth afternoons in the Hub from 13.30 to 15.30.

The Walking Group have now completed 3 stages of Greensand Ridge Walk with the final walk being completed in July. The walkers have enjoyed the beautiful scenery of Bedfordshire and the weather has mostly been good which has been an added bonus. The Knit and Natter group also meet once a month and are responsible for the beautiful bunting and decorations around the village.

We have lots of exciting events planned for the rest of the year. In July we are discussing the possibility of a venue change. In August we have our summer outing and are looking forward to an evening of fun at Tring Bowling Club. In September our guest speaker will be Dr Chris Beach who will inform us all about acupuncture.

Further details of these events and if anyone is interested in joining our Group and would like a trial or further information, please contact Annette Hutchinson email:

annetteipw@btinternet.com

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Sponsor forms will be on the table in Ivinghoe Church in August.

Don't fancy walking or cycling? You can sign up to welcome visitors to the Church on the day, the rota will also be on the table in Ivinghoe Church in August.



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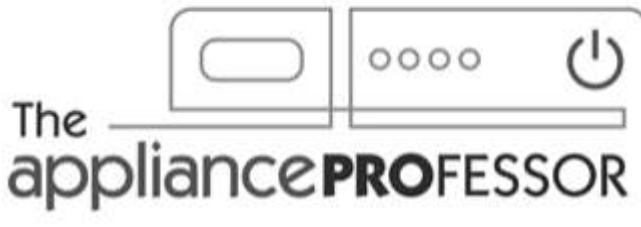
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Pitstone Church

Pitstone Church will be open on Sunday afternoons and Bank Holidays from 2.30 – 5.00 from May to September. We welcome everyone who would like to visit and enjoy the history and atmosphere of the church.

We also have events planned for this year:-

Monday 29th August Tea with Music. 2.30 – 4.30. Katharine Arney will be returning with her harp to entertain visitors enjoying tea in the church.

There will be a Communion Service in the Church on Sunday 11th September. Sunday 18th September 3.00pm The Beacon Villages Choir will be singing with tea and cake to follow . Tickets £10 available on the door.

Please note that we do not have a card reader. Money for refreshments or donations must be cash or cheque. The CCT accepts mobile phone payments through a QR code displayed in church

We hope you will be able to attend at least one of these events. Volunteers to help with events or Sunday afternoons will also be welcome. If you can help please ring Jean Booth 661745.

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ASHRIDGE RAMBLINGS

Rikki Harrington

LOCATION, LOCATION AND DESIGNATION

I heard recently that all building applications in the area are on hold whilst potential impacts on a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) are considered. The SAC concerned is the Chilterns Beechwoods SAC, specifically the Ashridge Commons and Woods area which forms 50% of the Chilterns Beechwoods SAC.

An ecology report undertaken on behalf of Dacorum Borough Council has identified that additional residential development around Ashridge will lead to more visitors and an increase in adverse activities such as trampling, mountain biking and dog fouling. The circular so-called “**zone of influence**” reaches Leighton Buzzard in the north, Harpenden in the east, Amersham in the south and Aylesbury in the west. This does not mean that residential development in this area cannot ever happen, but it does mean that mitigation measures must be agreed in consultation with Natural England and the National Trust. These measures might include provision of green spaces that will divert



people away from Ashridge.

It is good to know that Ashridge is thus protected, but the various designations can be quite tricky to get **one’s head round, so here is a brief** summary of those found on the Ashridge Estate.

Special Area of Conservation (SAC) This is the only designation in the UK which is based on European law, transferred to UK legislation since we left the EU. Sites covered by this designation are recognised as being of such importance for wildlife that they are significant in the context of Europe, not just within the UK, and they are afforded the highest level of protection in planning law as seen from the example above.

(Continued on page 30)

“REFLECTIONS”

BEACON COMMUNITY CHOIR

JUDITH SHERIDAN - CONDUCTOR
MARIA MILANOVA - PIANO

SUNDAY 18TH SEPTEMBER

3.00PM

ST MARY'S CHURCH, PITSTONE

The Beacon Community choir reflect on the past year's performances and present extracts from their concerts including music from “Yvingho Tales”, “Stabat Mater” and Music on the Lawn.

Tea and cake will be served after the concert.

TICKETS £10 AVAILABLE ON THE DOOR

**ALL PROCEEDS IN AID OF ST MARY'S CHURCH,
PITSTONE**

For further information, please contact: gilarney2@gmail.com

Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)

Under the Wildlife and Countryside Act, SSSIs are notified by the government for areas of special interest because of flora, fauna or geology. In England, it is the responsibility of Natural England to designate these areas. The designation recognises that a site has significance at a national level within the UK and affords some planning protection and protection against operations that may cause damage. Ashridge Estate contains six different SSSIs.

Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)

AONBs are designated by Natural England for their scenic beauty. They have equal status with National Parks when it comes to planning applications. National Parks and AONBs are part of a network of more than 100,000 sites worldwide that are designated by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) as protected areas. Parks and Gardens of Special



Historic Interest

The Historic England 'Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in England' covers over 1,600 sites,

including the area around Ashridge House which is registered as a Grade II* Park and Garden. This offers no official statutory protection, but the advice of Historic England will always be considered extremely important.

Ancient Woodland

Ancient Woodland is defined as an area of land where there have been trees since 1600. This is only 2% of UK woodland, and includes much of Ashridge. Much of the rare wildlife in ancient woodland is related to the soil which contains specialised woodland flowers and fungi. The categorisation does not provide any statutory protection.

County Wildlife Sites (CWS)

These sites are designated for their important wildlife value. Although not conferring any statutory protection, this **designation does affirm a site's** importance for wildlife at a county level, and they are often exceptionally rich in wildlife.

Various other designations such as BAP (Biodiversity Action Plan) Priority Habitats, Green Belt, Scheduled Monuments and Listed Buildings, all of which are present at Ashridge, help to preserve wildlife, archaeology, and geological and architectural assets.

It is clear that Ashridge has massive protection against damage to its many wonders. These can sometimes be challenging to navigate and can make it very complex to carry out improvements to car parking facilities for example. As always, there is a delicate balance to be struck between conserving our natural and manmade treasures and making them accessible to visitors.



Ask me how you can become a Community Advocate

Do you want to play your part and build the confidence of your local community with first aid skills? If so, why not become a Community Advocate volunteer with St John Ambulance?

What? Community Advocates deliver free first aid awareness sessions to their local communities. The aim is to provide skills, challenge myths and grow participants' confidence.

Where? Community Advocate sessions have been held in community centres, youth groups buildings, faith meeting places and sports halls, but they can be held wherever there is an interest from the community.

Sessions The sessions are informal with no prior learning or literacy needed, and no assessments or practical elements, making it inclusive for all. They can be held face to face or virtual, depending on the wishes of the group and social distancing measures in place.

Value and Impact Community Advocates develop knowledge and skills in first aid, presenting, speaking, and networking. Sharing first aid information enables people to become proactive health citizens by giving them a greater understanding of first aid and how to respond to first aid needs. Further, it significantly improves confidence to react in an emergency and helps saves lives.

Email community.engagement@sja.org.uk for more information
on the Community Advocate programme.

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Pitstone Parish Council Community Car Scheme

If you have difficulty getting to your medical appointments, our volunteer drivers could help

To cover volunteers' expenses, we make a charge of 45p + 45p per mile (Minimum £1.00). Typical return costs from Pitstone are;

Yardley Avenue Surgery, Pitstone £1.00
Stoke Mandeville Hospital £9.50

Rothschild House Surgery, Tring £4.50
Wycombe Hospital £18.50

Call Stephen on 01296 767116 communitytransport@pitstone.co.uk



Pitstone Parish Council Community Car Scheme

Please join us to drive local residents to their medical appointments

- No commitment to number or type of trips you take.
- Mileage expenses paid.
- Simple text notification of trip requests from our coordinator.

For more information, please contact Stephen on **01296 767116**
email: communitytransport@pitstone.co.uk

Pitstone Parish Post is promoted and published by Pitstone Parish Council, Pitstone Pavilion, Marsworth Road, Pitstone, Beds, LU7 9AP - Printed by Almar (Tring) Ltd, 24 High Street, Tring, Herts HP23 5AH



Cheddington Pre-School



Do you want the best start for your child?
Do you want a confident, independent and happy child?
Do you want your child to be school ready?

If you answer yes to the above, then Cheddington Pre-School is the place for you!

Our fully qualified staff are warm, friendly and welcoming and offer a high-quality pre-school education. We are situated on the grounds of Cheddington Combined School. We have a purpose-built building and our own well-equipped outdoor learning environment including a vegetable patch, mud kitchen and sandpit plus access to many of the school's facilities. We offer a great variety of activities each week including PE, library time and woodland visits, ensuring your child is familiar with the school grounds, helping with their transition in preparation for Reception.

We have limited spaces so please remember to register your child from 18 months old. We take children from 2 years up until they start school. For further information or to register your child with us please contact Michelle Andrews, Manager 01296 662292

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PITSTONE PAVILION



New building with community room overlooking the sports ground. Kitchen with external serving hatch. Toilet facilities & changing village connected by a covered walkway. Dedicated parking for >40 vehicles & 8 bicycle racks. Full disabled access & induction loop. Wi-Fi. Widescreen TV also enables PowerPoint presentations for meetings. No bar. Contact Dave Burton, Facilities Manager, email pavillion@pitstone.co.uk, telephone 07939 809281 767261 or visit <https://pitstone.co.uk/ppcinfo/sport-and-recreation/>



**PITSTONE TOWN
LANDS CHARITY**

*Supporting
People in Need
in Pitstone*

The Pitstone Town Lands Charity aims to support people living in the parish of Pitstone who are in need, hardship or distress.

The Charity makes discretionary payments to Pitstone residents, especially those of pensionable age and to organisations supporting the people of the parish. The charity also owns 4 flats and provides local, affordable accommodation.

If you or someone you know is in need of help. Please contact Gill Lowe, Chair of PTLC Trustees
tel: 01296 668809,
email: Gill.lowe@pitstone.email

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LOCAL INFORMATION

LOCAL VENUES (SUBJECT TO ANY COVID RESTRICTIONS)

Ivinghoe Old School Community Hub: A large hall for hire for private events, clubs, classes or simply for a get-together - the room can be divided into two smaller rooms. email: secretary@ivinghoehub.co.uk or treasurer@ivinghoehub.co.uk.

Ivinghoe Town Hall: Historic and user-friendly hall in the village centre, with awards for best managed small hall in the country. Modern facilities for local events. Equipped kitchen, stage, chair lift.

Contact: Stephen Swinbank 01296 660680, spswinbank@gmail.com

Pitstone Memorial Hall: 3 various sized event rooms including large hall with integrated cinema screen and raised stage. 2 kitchens, modern refurbished bar, Wi-Fi, disabled access throughout, ample car parking. Contact: pmhbooking@gmail.com 01296 661271. Also Home to Curiositea Room.

Pitstone Pavilion: Newly renovated and extended building with community room overlooking the sports ground, kitchen with external serving hatch, toilet facilities and changing village connected by a covered walkway. Dedicated parking for >40 vehicles plus 8 bicycle racks. Full disabled access and induction loop. wi-fi. Widescreen TV also enables powerpoint presentations for meetings. No bar.

Contact: Dave Burton, Facilities Manager, email pavilion@pitstone.co.uk, telephone 07939 809281 767261 or visit <https://pitstone.co.uk/ppcinfo/sport-and-recreation/>

LOCAL CLUBS

Beavers: (aged 5¼ - 8): Watermill Lodge, 6-7pm, Monday Leader: Tom. Tuesday Leader: Jakki

Contact: Andrew Woods (Group Scout Leader) by email:

Ivinghoe.pitstone.scouts@gmail.com

Cubs: (aged 8 - 10½): Windmill Pack, 6:30 - 8:00pm, Wednesday leader: Dan Lee (Akela), Thursday leader: Rob Mercel (Shere Khan)

Contact: Andrew Woods (Group Scout Leader) by email:

Ivinghoe.pitstone.scouts@gmail.com

Scouts: 7-8:30pm, Friday, Leader: Andrew Woods

Contact: Andrew Woods (Group Scout Leader) by email:

Ivinghoe.pitstone.scouts@gmail.com

Guides: Tuesday 7 - 8:30pm The Hub, Ivinghoe, Leader Rebecca Capron.

Contact: 07545 347787

Brownies: Monday 5:45 - 7:15pm, Pitstone Memorial Hall, Guider Elaine Thorogood

Contact: 01296 661540

Rainbows: Monday 4:30 - 5:30pm, Pitstone Memorial Hall, Guider Elaine Thorogood

Contact: 01296 661540

Pitstone Youth Café: Ages 11-18yrs/school years 7-13 Wednesday 6:30pm to 8pm (term time) Pitstone Pavilion, <http://pitstone.co.uk/ppcinfo/youth-cafe/>

Women's Institute: Monthly meetings held in Ivinghoe Town Hall. Other entertaining activities. Contact: Annette Hutchinson annetteipwi@btinternet.com

Beacon Villages Community Library: Run by the community, for the community www.bvcl.org.uk

General enquiries: info@bvcl.org.uk 01296 387890

Committee enquiries: secretary@bvcl.org.uk

Opening times: Tues 2pm - 5pm Wed 10am - 12noon Thur 2pm - 5pm Fri 2pm - 7pm Sat 10am - 1pm

Ivinghoe and Pitstone Royal British Legion: Chair, TBC

Beacon Community Choir: A choir which sings a wide variety of repertoire, and

where all are welcome.. Rehearsals Thursdays (term time) at 8.15 in St. Mary's Church

Ivinghoe. Leader Judith Sheridan. Contact Lindsay Hewlett 01296 660670

lhewlett@btinternet.com

EDUCATION

Pitstone and Ivinghoe Baby and Toddler Group: Thursdays 9.30am to 11am at Pitstone Memorial Hall. Warm welcome, hot drinks and a variety of fun activities for the little ones. More info and updates via the Pitstone and Ivinghoe Baby and Toddler Group Facebook page: Pitstone and Ivinghoe baby and toddler group

Brookmead School: (est. 1967): Head Teacher Esther Taylor, Foundation Primary School for children aged 4 - 11. Bringing learning to life and life to learning.

Contact: Brookmead School, High Street, Ivinghoe, LU7 9EX,

www.brookmead.bucks.sch.uk, 01296 668543, office@brookmead.bucks.sch.uk

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Friends of Brookmead textile recycling: Please put your unwanted textiles i.e. **adults' and children's clothing, shoes, hats, belts, handbags, ties and soft toys into the bins** at Colbree Engineering, Pitstone Green Business Park to help raise funds for the school

Windmill Pre-school: (children aged 2 - 5 from Pitstone, Ivinghoe and surrounding areas): One of the top pre-schools nationally and highest rated locally. Purpose built premises behind Brookmead School, open 5 full days per week. Mornings 9am - 12pm, Afternoons 12pm - 3 pm (Includes Lunch Club), Lunch Club 12 - 1pm (subject to availability) Contact: admin@windmillpreschool.co.uk, 01296 661031 (during sessions)
SPORT

Cheddington Bowls Club: The Recreation Ground, High St. LU7 9AA one of the best bowling greens in the area. Tuesdays at 2pm or Friday at 6 pm, May to Sept. www.cheddingtonbowls.org.uk Contact: Diane Benford 01296 661381

Pitstone and Ivinghoe Junior Boys' and Girls' Football: School years 1 to 13. If you are interested in playing football, having fun and making new friends, get in touch, no experience needed. All our coaches are FA Level 1 or 2 qualified and DBS checked. Email: development@pandifootball.net www.pandifootball.net.

RELIGION

Ivinghoe and Pitstone Chapel Fellowship:

Sunday Services on third Sunday of each month, 12 Church Rd, 10:30. Over 60s Club on third Thursday of each month, Pitstone Pavilion, 2-4pm, join us for varied programmes of speakers, quizzes and entertainment.

Contact: 01296 668005

Churches Conservation Trust (St Mary's Pitstone) visitchurches.org.uk or phone Jean Boothe 01296 661745

St Mary's Ivinghoe: Contact: Sandra Green (Lay Minister) 01296 668648

Tring and Berkhamsted SGI Buddhists: A lay humanist organisation. The SGI is a global movement of people connected by Buddhism and the shared commitment to **realise a future where life's inherent dignity blooms.**

Contact: Sue Nicholls 07788 662349 or check out <https://sgi-uk.org/>

HEALTH

Village Health Centre: Yardley Avenue, Pitstone. LU7 9BE Opening hours 9am - 12pm and 2pm - 6pm except Wednesdays 8 - 12pm and closed pm and Fridays, 9am - 12pm and 2 - 5pm

Contact: www.pitstonesurgery.co.uk and 01525 223211

Little Rothschild Surgery: 71 Marsworth Road, Pitstone LU7 9AX Opening hours: Monday - Thursday 8am - 1pm and 2 - 4:30pm Friday 8am - 1pm closed in the afternoon Contact: www.rothschildhousesurgery.co.uk, 01296 662800

Nifty Fifties Plus: Keep fit for older folk followed by optional gentle sport. Not for profit. Cheddington Village Hall. Thursdays 10 - midday. Contact: Chris Hall, 01442 824350

PLACES TO VISIT

Ford End Watermill: The only working watermill to survive intact, in the county. Restored and run by Ford End Watermill Society. Open Easter and bank holidays.

Adults £3, children £1. For further details go to www.fordendwatermill.co.uk

Contact millman@fordendwatermill.co.uk or tel. 01442 825421

Ashridge House: Set in 190 acres of gardens, Ashridge House is majestically nestled in National Trust woodland in the rolling Chiltern Hills in Hertfordshire. Tours available. Find out more at <http://www.ashridgehouse.org.uk/about-ashridge-house/>

USEFUL NUMBERS

Report a Right of Way Issue: <https://www.buckscc.gov.uk/services/environment/public-rights-of-way/report-a-rights-of-way-issue/>

Street light problems: Castlemead lights – email: CCSouthMid@taylorwimpey.com

Marsworth Road lights – Bucks Council online: <http://www.transportforbucks.net/report-it-street-lighting.aspx>

Other Pitstone lights - email: parishclerk@pitstone.co.uk

Report a pot hole, blocked drain or other highway problem: Bucks Council online: <http://www.transportforbucks.net/Report-it-pothole.aspx>

Castlemead highway issue? Email: CCSouthMid@taylorwimpey.com

Missed bin collection or to find out about recycling: Bucks Council online: <https://www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/section/recycling-and-waste>

Dispute with your neighbours about their high hedge: Bucks Council offer more information and a complaint service. For more information go to: <https://www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/high-hedges>

Other nuisances causing problems e.g. smoke, air pollution etc: Visit Bucks Council website: <https://www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/section/nuisance> or <https://www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/section/environmental-problems>

Bothered by aircraft noise: Email Luton Airport noise@ltn.aero

Need details of a planning application: Details of all local applications are published online by Bucks Council: <https://www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/search-planning-licensing-applications> Want to know if you need planning permission? Visit: <https://www.planningportal.co.uk/>

Illegally parked: Report problem vehicles to Thames Valley Police on telephone: 101

Faulty electronic bus stop signs: passtrans@buckscc.gov.uk

DATES FOR TRING FARMERS MARKET

Twice a month on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays at the Market Place in Brook Street, Tring.

Except in December when it is on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays . Next ones are:

14th and 28th May, 11th and 25th June, 13th and 27th August, 10th and 24th September, 8th* and 22rd October, 12th and 26th November, 3rd and 17th December

*Denotes Special Apple Fair Market

Sign up to newsletter www.tringfarmersmarket or follow Instagram and Facebook @tringfarmersmarket to keep up to date with all the latest news and events.

PITSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

<p>Chairman, Cllr Dave Nicholls</p>  <p>T: 661910 E: dave.nicholls@pitstonepc.org Chair of Parish Council, Chair of Pitstone Parish Charity Committee, Staffing, Planning, Youth Café and Village Web Site.</p>	<p>Vice Chairman, Cllr Bob Saintry</p>  <p>T: 668633 E: bob.saintry@pitstonepc.org Chair of Sports & Leisure, Staffing, PDA, Youth Café, AVALC, BALC, Community Board, Pitstone Hill.</p>
<p>Cllr Margaret Crutchfield</p>  <p>E: margaret.crutchfield@pitstonepc.org Chair of Planning Committee, Sports & Leisure, Pitstone Memorial Hall Charity, Pitstone Parish Charity and Community Board.</p>	<p>Cllr Ben Blunt</p>  <p>T: 660702 E: ben.blunt@pitstonepc.org Chair of Staffing Committee, Planning, PDA & Minerals & Waste.</p>
<p>Cllr Jack Heyman</p>  <p>T: 07966040638 E: jack.heyman@pitstonepc.org Sports & Leisure, PDA & youth café.</p>	<p>Cllr Rob McCarthy</p>  <p>E: rob.mccarthy@pitstonepc.org Strategic planning, Tring station and Community Board.</p>
<p>Cllr Alistair Kirk</p>  <p>T: 07534 135539 E: Alistair.kirk@pitstonepc.org</p>	<p>Cllr Kris Weber</p>  <p>T: 07710088624 E: kris.weber@pitstonepc.org Sports & Leisure and Planning</p>
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If you wish to view the plans for any planning application currently under consultation by Buckinghamshire Council, please visit <https://www.aylesburyvaldec.gov.uk/search-planning-licensing-applications>