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Cheddington Station Booking Office closure proposed. (result unknown at time of writing)

Many people including myself have written to deplore these proposals. Not only had the booking office been recently refurbished with toilets – more than can be said for Tring station – but the office provides a warm and sheltered place to wait, pick up a newspaper and a coffee, also better than Tring. Most importantly, not everyone is happy to use ticket machines. They are difficult to see in certain lights, slow, confusing, occasionally out of order, and above all don't sell season tickets. And buying a ticket on the train you run the risk of getting fined.

Home to School Transport – Bucks County Council want changes to save £1.8M

At the time of writing changes to eligibility for free transport to school are being proposed by Bucks County Council in an effort to save £1.8M. By the time you read this, changes may already be decided, or the whole thing called in. Pupils travelling to Cottesloe School are unaffected and I have had it in writing that free transport to Tring School from Ivinghoe and Pitstone will also not be affected, nor from Marsworth where the walking route is just short of three miles and considered unsafe. This is because Tring is the nearest secondary school. There is a 'line' in Cheddington however where Tring School and the Cottesloe school are equidistant, and I have requested clarification. I have also written to protest at the ridiculous proposal to provide free transport ONLY to the nearest school in a catchment area. This means that from this side of Aylesbury, grammar school pupils opting for the Henry Floyd would not get free transport, although had they opted for the High or Aylesbury Grammar they would. From the Haddenham side of Aylesbury, the position would be exactly in reverse. Additionally any changes would be applied to existing pupils even though last year it was made quite clear when choosing schools that transport to all three schools of more than 3 miles was free. This has caused a big stir especially in the south of the County, where



parents have enlisted the help of their MP, Dominic Grieve, the Attorney General, and may be calling for judicial review.

The Scrutiny Committee of which I am a member, has heard from parents affected, and criticised the way the consultation was inadequately publicised, difficult to access, and will be questioning the cabinet member concerned at a special meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> April.

### Pitstone Quarry2 Application for landfill turned down

The long history of the quarry under Pitstone Hill completed another chapter in March when Bucks County Council refused planning permission for the quarry to be used for the disposal of inert waste. A site such as this in the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty can only be used when there is inadequate provision in the County plan for waste disposal for the next 15 years. The County were able to show that there is enough landfill capacity elsewhere within the County, to prove there was no need to use Pitstone.

Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty were designated alongside National Parks, and have the same status, the difference being that AONBs are closer to centres of population.

### Local Initiatives

I expect there will be an account elsewhere in the magazine of the actions being taken to support Ivinghoe Library. The County Council, as part of its economy drive has proposed that 14 rural libraries become community owned and managed. After several exploratory meetings following on from a presentation from the Library service in December, the Friends of Ivinghoe Library have re-formed, and the Ivinghoe Town Hall trustees have agreed to carry work forward. The new post office and shop in the building is really welcome.

The first meeting of the local Freight Quality Partnership pilot took place in February and again in April, and has set up a working group. The Partnership has members from most Parish Councils in the Great Brickhill, Wing and Ivinghoe Area, AVDC and Bucks County Council, the Police, the freight industry associations, and the Council for the protection of Rural England. The working group is currently collecting information, setting up a website, and making contact with adjacent counties, with a long term view of providing the tools to better manage freight journeys for the benefit of local residents and the freight operators.



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