

## Big Brother & PPP (26<sup>th</sup> April 2008)

The new powers given to the Borough Council only go to reinforce my view that if something is possible, then it will end up being used.

Technology gave us CCTV to 'make our town centres safer'. I recall when I expressed concerns, then if I had nothing to hide, there would be nothing to worry about. Ten years on, the very same CCTV system, can be used to send you a fine if you overstay parking in the High Street for just a minute or not park correctly within the marked parking bay. You can now be identified, either by your vehicle or by facial recognition, and be followed as you go about your lawful business without you even being aware. Throw away that cigarette end, sweet wrapper or bus ticket and in the post will be the summons together with the fine for dropping litter.

You may think I'm being paranoid, but when the 'parking attendants' were first introduced, I thought that as the idea was to reduce illegal parking and that it would be revenue neutral, it wouldn't work. Now we find the income has to be increased due to increased costs. No one seems to remember that the idea was to improve parking in the town, but things have got worse with no real effort by either the Town or Borough Councils to resolve the situation. It appears that it's more important (and easier) to increase income, rather than identify who parks where and why and find ways to alleviate the problem.

How many 'school children' drive into town and park all day or why are so many vehicles allowed to pavement park? Answering these simple questions would enable an 'action plan' to be drawn up as we can't continue to ruin our town by allowing 'commuters' to park all day within easy walking distance of the station (aka town centre) and slowly kill the retail centre. Just look at Lower Kings Road at the moment!

This also reminds me of the time the County Council computer suggested that a new road layout will be acceptable as even the largest vehicle would have ONE CENTIMETRE to play with and I suggested it really wasn't fair to expect anyone to drive to that tolerance. Naturally, I was ignored.

At the end of April, the latest meeting of the Parish Paths Partnership (P3) confirmed that the kissing gates had been installed on footpaths 41 and 42 which are near to Haresfoot Farm up near the Chesham Road junction of the by-pass as well as a 'marlow' gate on footpath 47 with the junction with the road which was used the grant money for 07/08.

For the current year (08/09), to make life easier, two benches will be installed on paths FP2 and FP26 (on the common side of town) to take advantage of the views across the valley.

Future projects include improving signage, the surface of some of the more popular walks and even looking to see if additional paths could be usefully provided to link existing paths.

The Citizens Association and Chiltern Society have some very useful maps for those interested in leaving the car at home for a change.