

## **Havering-atte-Bower 5 year plan – Proposals by Habcos updated Oct 2009**

The aim of the society is to preserve and particularly to enhance the village both for the present and for future generations. This village is very special.

The village has a considerable history, much not yet researched. It has traditions, some lost, some recoverable, some active. It has a conservation area at its midst with some interesting architecture.

Purpose of the plan

1. To preserve and enhance the visual appeal of the village
2. To discover the history of the village and make it accessible to all, to take advantage of this history visually
3. To maintain and improve the community of the village

### **To preserve and enhance the visual appeal of the village**

To maintain a tidy environment throughout. **The ducking pond will soon be cleaned up**

To develop a co-ordinated design for the public space within the Conservation area

To install lighting of a style and standard appropriate to the historic situation **The committee has researched the options and come to a conclusion as to what they would like to see when finance can be obtained. Information will be presented at the AGM.**

To reassess the various restrictions on traffic type and speed

To reduce the signage on or near the village green to a minimum and to ensure that what remains is appropriate visually. **So far, the only matter that has been changed has been the painted yellow lines on the village green roadway as these needed attention. After representation it was agreed that these could and should be in the primrose colour and the thinner format that is allowed in conservation areas**

To investigate ways of improving the chicane system in North Road and Orange Tree Hill to make it more effective while reducing the intrusive visual impact it now has. By the village green, this needs to include possible repositioning of the northbound bus stop.

To repair and, later, replace the railings around the village green. **Repairs effected**

Plant daffodils around the village green **Done**

To install security lighting near Bower Hall

Attend to all the issues raised in LB of Havering Character Appraisal and Management Proposals for the village (published in February 2007)

### **To discover the history of the village and make it accessible to all, to take advantage of this history visually**

To research the village history, possibly with aerial photography and modern investigation techniques to discover the original building sites – we know that there has been a royal palace in the village for hundreds of years up to 1600, there was Pyrgo Palace and several mansions since destroyed. The village has a history from Saxon times and we expect to find a Roman site. There are rumours of underground tunnels.

On the village green, there are stocks that need maintenance. **Maintenance planned for winter 2008/9** The pond nearby has long been called the ducking pond, though as yet no hard evidence for this has been found. Construction of a replica ducking stool would be educational. **Advice from the council is that this might be inappropriate.**

To provide an appropriate village sign at all entry points and, on the green, provide signage to describe the stocks and ducking stool. **After further thought, a village sign to be erected on the green has been commissioned for installation during the 2009/10 winter..**

In general, a visit to the village should be a valuable history lesson for all children in the borough

To work together with the planned Museum of Romford. **Ian Wilkes, Chairman of the Museum, gave the presentation at the first Habcos AGM. A summary of the talk is presented at this AGM and is also available on the Habcos website.**

To encourage and aid the public opening of the historic properties in the village that are not now accessible

The long-standing tradition of a Horseman's Sunday service on the village green should be revived. **The second annual event has just been held with 60 horses attending.**

### **To maintain and improve the community of the village**

To foster neighbourliness particularly to reduce crime, to support the Community Police Service. **At several meetings of the committee, the officers have attended. And the neighbourhood watch scheme has now been extended**

To recognise the importance of the village school in this community, to support and encourage its success. To improve safety at and around the school

To maintain and improve the bus service. **With the Society's very active campaigning, support was obtained from many politicians resulting in the retention of the service at a time it was proposed for closure.**

To recognise the importance of the horse related facilities including the Havering Park Riding School and the various stables to the village economy. To facilitate the improvement and management of the bridle paths that are essential to their success and the enjoyment of riders – remembering that the village has far more horses than people

To promote and assist the other village businesses – St Francis Hospice, the Orange Tree and Royal Oak pubs and Simply Asia, the restaurant

Should the opportunity ever arise, to back the opening of a village shop/post office/café

### **LB of Havering Historic Forum**

This newly formed body should be the link to enable the desires of the village to be brought to effect by advising and providing means of access to funding for the proposals. A long-term funding plan is needed and Habcos will need to discuss how

to set this up with the council. Historic Forum meetings have been attended and the profile of the village has now risen greatly within the borough.

## **Update**

This village plan will be updated as and when appropriate

In addition to the items in the original 5 year village plan, the following matters have been added.

The committee has agreed to support the council's scheme to provide a heritage walk leaflet for the village – this being one of three within the borough. Nicola Houseago from LB of Havering will be speaking about this at this year's AGM.

The committee has met with the managing director of CPRE to discuss whether the village should become an exemplar for a national rollout of ideas for local community action. This is now under consideration.

A most successful quiz night has been held in the village hall with another scheduled for this December.