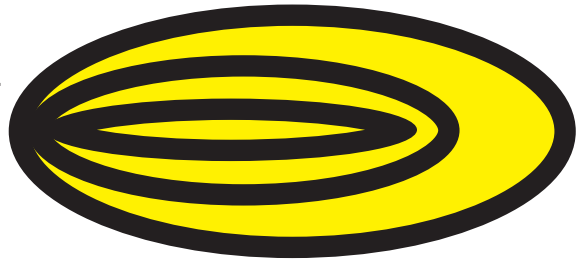


Hamstead *Hornet*



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Planning applications: more houses, barns... *holiday huts* for Hamstead?

Elm Farm is awaiting permission to replace a redundant twentieth-century barn with a four-bedroom house. The barn stands behind the farmyard and is not visible from the road. Hamstead Marshall Parish Council has objected to the proposal on the grounds that it could lead to the creation of a "high-end enclave", and would like the barn to continue to be used for agricultural purposes.

Nine local residents, including the household which would have sight of the new house, have written in support of the application.

*The White Hart Cottage garage in the foreground,
Elm Farm behind*



White Hart Cottage is re-applying for permission to develop the garage across the road from the pub into a two-storey, two-bedroom house. (Permission for this was granted in 2016, but lapsed unused.) The present building appears on an OS map of 1909 and was said to have been the pub's bowling alley long ago. The proposed

house will extend the existing building's footprint by 17 square metres. The parish council has not commented, but Elm Farm, the immediate neighbour, is concerned about being overlooked.

In a separate application **Elm Farm** recently gained permission to remove an existing window and instal a new window on the south-eastern wall of the former ORC office and laboratory building (facing the White Hart Cottage garage), now residential. The parish council offered no opinion, but an objection was received from White Hart Cottage on the grounds of the window overlooking the former garage, which is the subject of the planning application detailed above.

Dreamlodge Ltd, a company founded by the late Tim Gwyn-Jones, was refused permission from WBC to develop the **former Sovereign garages site** between Waverley and No.1 The Village, but won the application on appeal last year. The house will be two-storey, with two-bedrooms. The site ceased to be used by Sovereign around 2006, and in 2007 changed hands for £35,000, having failed to gain planning permission for development. It was sold again to an as-yet-unknown buyer on 2nd March, fetching £169,000 at auction.

An earlier proposal to rebuild the **Barn House**, formerly part of Holtwood Farm, was withdrawn, but it has since been revised and resubmitted, this time with support from a nearby resident.

Enborne Equestrian's application to replace the present owner's mobile home with a permanent house was approved in 2016, but has since been held up for agreement on landscaping and materials details. These details have now been approved.

continued overleaf

continued from front page

The new owner of the **field between Warwick Hill and Park Lane**, alongside Craven Keep, has applied for permission to instal a shepherd's hut and a Gypsy caravan, with toilet and shower facilities, for short-term hire. The 10-acre field (which was lot 8 in the 2019 Elm Farm sale) is currently used to graze horses belonging to the Kennet Horse Boat Company, which has been unable to run its usual tourist trips during lockdown. Objections have been submitted by the parish council and an anonymous person.

Foxlee Farm in Watery Lane, Holtwood, wants to build another agricultural barn. The parish council has not commented, but four neighbours have objected that activity at Foxlee is not agricultural, and the new barn might be for commercial purposes, or be intended for conversion to a new house.

Summary of current and recent applications

Details taken from <https://publicaccess.westberks.gov.uk> on 5th March 2021.

To see more details visit this site and search on the application number.

APPROVED

20/02586/LBC2 validated 6th Nov 2020
Hamstead Lock
Erection of safety signage.

20/02012/LBC2 & 20/02011/FUL
validated 4th Sep 2020
Elm Farm RG20 OHR
Installation of window and filling-in of existing window.

17/02878/FULD validated 18th Oct 2017
Mobile home at Enborne Equestrian Centre,
Proposed dwelling to replace existing mobile home (Section 73A application to vary conditions 2 - Approved Plans).

AWAITING DECISION

21/00098/FUL validated 25th Jan 2021
Elm Farm RG20 OHR
Full planning permission for the partial demolition and conversion of a barn to a single residential dwelling.

21/00047/FULD validated 18th Jan 2021
Garage serving White Hart Cottage RG20 OHW
Conversion and extension of existing garage to two-bedroom new dwelling.

20/02934/COMIND validated 19th Jan 2021
Land adjacent to Craven Keep, Park Lane
Proposed shepherd's hut and traditional Gypsy caravan for short-break hire.

21/00256/FUL validated 15th Feb 2021
Foxlee Farm, Watery Lane, Holtwood
Erection of storage barn for agricultural purposes.

21/00247/FUL validated 22nd Feb 2021
Barn House, Watery Lane, Holtwood RG20 OJH
Erection of replacement dwelling, following substantial demolition of existing dwelling.

9 Salters RG20 OHH
20/02067/HOUSE validated 11th Sept 2020
Proposed two-storey side and rear extension to house. Demolish garage and summer house and erect new detached timber frame garage.

21/00516/AGRIC validated 5th Mar 2021
Land near No.3 Elm Farm Cottages (lot 7 in the 2019 Elm Farm land sale)
Proposed barn 20x10x7 metres.

New parish clerk

Following the resignation of Sarah Bosley, Hamstead's parish clerk since 2012, the parish council has appointed Sarah Jones. She lives in Kingsclere, and has been clerking for four years.

As well as Hamstead, Sarah is clerking for Ecchinswell, Sydmonton and Bishops Green, and recently finished a brief stint clerking for Kingsclere as a locum covering a gap.

She can be contacted on the same email address: parish_clerk@hotmail.co.uk.



Local community champion

Poppy Morton of Marsh Benham has received the Pat Eastop MBE Junior Citizen of the Year award in WBC's Community Champion awards of 2020. She was nominated by Kintbury volunteers and Susie Aromando for her work in baking and distributing cakes, biscuits and muffins to more than 30 families who were receiving food parcels from the Kintbury Volunteer Group, and she also delivered her home-baked treats to numerous households in Hamstead Marshall during lockdown.

Thirteen-year-old Poppy was taught to bake by nurses while she was recovering from a brain tumour. Her mother, Fonny Morton, formed and ran Team Bakers in and around Hamstead Marshall during the first lockdown.

Relief for cheesaholics

Tony Hammond, the Cheese Agent who regularly appears at the (pre-Covid) monthly village market, is now supplying the village via the fortnightly pop-up shop at the village hall.

He offers two purchase options:

1) Cheese Club: a fortnightly or monthly delivery of four cheeses: a blue, a brie, a cheddar and a guest cheese. 140 - 200gm of each, total price £14.

2) Cheese Board: choose your own three or four cheeses for £12 or £16, about 200gm of each. Check his website and click the cheeseboard-orders-2021 tab to see what's currently on offer. (Everyone gets cheddar with the four-cheese option.)

Orders need to be placed by Monday, via the website contact form, for village hall collection the following Thursday. Tony regrets that he cannot supply customers beyond Newbury and surrounding villages.



Oil group

Lanie Allen reports that she has been ordering oil almost daily since November, as drip-feed orders to the oil companies seem to work better than bulk. She has not had time to send out an email to members, but if anyone wants oil they can email her in the usual manner (ie, putting *March Oil xxx litres* in the subject line).

Crossing closure

WBC reports that Park Lane will be closed overnight on Sunday 14th March from half-past midnight until 8.30 the following morning, for maintenance on the level crossing. It is presumed that this means Milkhouse Road from Morewood to the crossing.

PCC election

The village hall will be open from 7am until 10pm on Thursday 6th May for voters to elect the next police and crime commissioner. Anthony Stansfeld, who has been Thames Valley Police PCC since 2012 is standing down.

Candidates have not been officially declared but Laetisia Carter announced her intention to stand for the Labour Party in November 2020.

Mobile library resumes

Newbury Library hopes to reopen to the public on 12th April, but meanwhile the mobile library van is expected to resume visiting Ash Tree Grove on Thursday 11th March, stopping from 10.40 to 11.10 am, and thereafter at three-weekly intervals. Borrowers can order books, audiobooks, DVDs and magazines in advance from the online catalogue. If you don't know exactly what you want you can specify a type and a selection will be chosen for you. You can collect either from the mobile van as above, or direct from Newbury Library. If you can't get to either because of age, disability or shielding, you can register for the At Home service, and books will be delivered to you at three-weekly intervals. E-borrowing is also available.

Visit info.westberks.gov.uk/libraries for details of these and other services.



Feeding the deer in Hamstead Park. from the Illustrated London News, 12th January 1866

Henry III was entertained by William Marshal (the younger) at Hamstead in 1228 and 1230, and a royal grant of 20 does made to William in 1229 marks the first known reference to a deer park in Hamstead. The park has been home to a deer herd ever since.

In medieval times Hamstead Park was a fraction of its present-day size, bordered by the pale, which was a boundary of fence, bank and ditch. Traces of the pale are still clearly visible, for example from the footpath leading from the mill to the big house, and it is now a Scheduled Historic Monument. The park later expanded to over 500 acres.

The deer were originally for food as much as for sport, but the Craven family were fond of fieldsports, and maintained the herd, as is obvious from the illustration above. Hamstead Park was at one time famous for having Berkshire's only red deer herd outside Windsor Great Park, numbering 200 to 300.

But by the 1950s the red deer herd had gone. One local theory was that they were eaten by the American troops encamped in the park during World War II, their rations apparently having been nothing like as generous as was popularly supposed. This story was vehemently denied by a veteran, who said that such poaching would have been far too serious an offence to contemplate.

An article in the *Daily Mirror*, 22nd December 1947, gives the lie to any theory of soldiers' illicit venison. In this, it is clear that the park fencing had been taken down, allowing the deer to escape. They made the most of their freedom, causing havoc by foraging in villagers' vegetable gardens. A mass shoot was planned, under the appropriately named Craven agent, Mr Gunning.

Today, red deer are not seen in Hamstead, but their place has been taken by roe deer and muntjac, which make equally free with local garden produce.

Hamstead Hornet

The *Hamstead Hornet* is published quarterly online, in March, June, September and December.

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