

Meeting with Chiltern Railways 23-Feb-23

The Clerk and Assistant Clerk met with Rob Munday who is the Area Manager for North Bucks. Two large trees on the green area in front of Stoke Mandeville Station have been cut down recently on safety grounds and there is now a fairly large green open space. Chiltern Railways are looking to work with the local community to develop and maintain the space. They will continue to maintain the area and do have some funding available for new initiatives but are looking for the community to get involved and want idea on how to use the space. Some things that were discussed during the meeting and after were:

- Planting a tree to commemorate the coronation. Chiltern Railways could source, pay for and plant the tree. Perhaps SMPC could source and fund a plaque like the one on the Much Wenlock Oak.
- There is a neglected flower bed. Perhaps a local business could sponsor than and get it planted and maintained.
- Rob would prefer something easily maintainable with more of a natural woodland feel rather than anything too formal.
- Rob wondered if the school might be interested in doing any projects there.
- There is a bench there so additional benches are probably not required but it is probably a bit quitter sitting there than on the village green.
- There is a large manhole raised from the ground and if we had plans to use the area on a regular basis it would be good to raise the ground level around it.

There is also a large area of ground on the other side of the railway, beyond the step free access slope, which Chiltern Railways also plan to clear of brambles and undergrowth at some point but that would be left as a woodland style area.