

Gerry and the five bollards

There are now five bollards outside the Cherry Tree pub. Gerry Knowlden got exasperated with lorries and cars being parked on the pavement right up against the wall of his pub which not only blocked the view from the bar windows but also forced mothers with buggies into the middle of the road. Often Gerry or his customers have had to direct elderly or disabled people in their electric wheelchairs out into the road and round blocking lorries. It was also dangerous for pub customers exiting from the pub car park because they could not see traffic coming from the right.

Gerry took it up with the Residents Association and through them, the Police. Lorries can park on double yellow lines for 20 minutes while delivering but it is illegal for them to park on the pavement. However, the police would not help.

Gerry contacted Bucks Highways Department. They came to have a look and although they agreed there was a problem they had no funds and anyway it was a police problem. They might be able to do something if Gerry would contribute £1000. Gerry was quite clear (and in the circumstances very polite); he and the people of Flackwell had paid their rates and he expected the County Council to keep the village's pavements open.

Then just before Christmas Bucks Highways found they did have some money after all. They have now installed the bollards and Gerry has rung to thank them and they in turn are pleased to have been of service to the rate payers of Flackwell Heath. And everyone lived – and it is to be hoped they lived happily ever after.