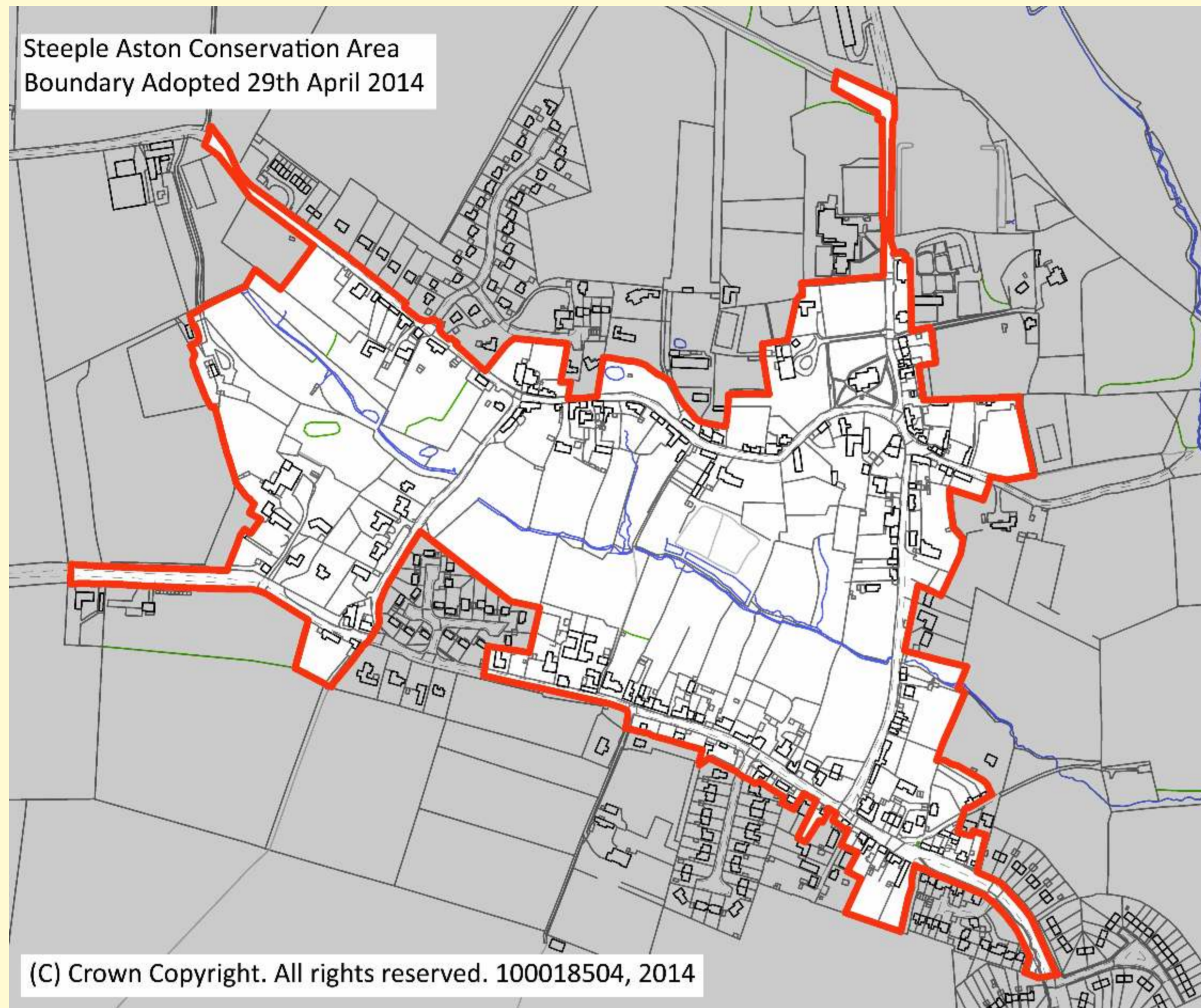


# DEVELOPMENT IN THE VILLAGE: 3

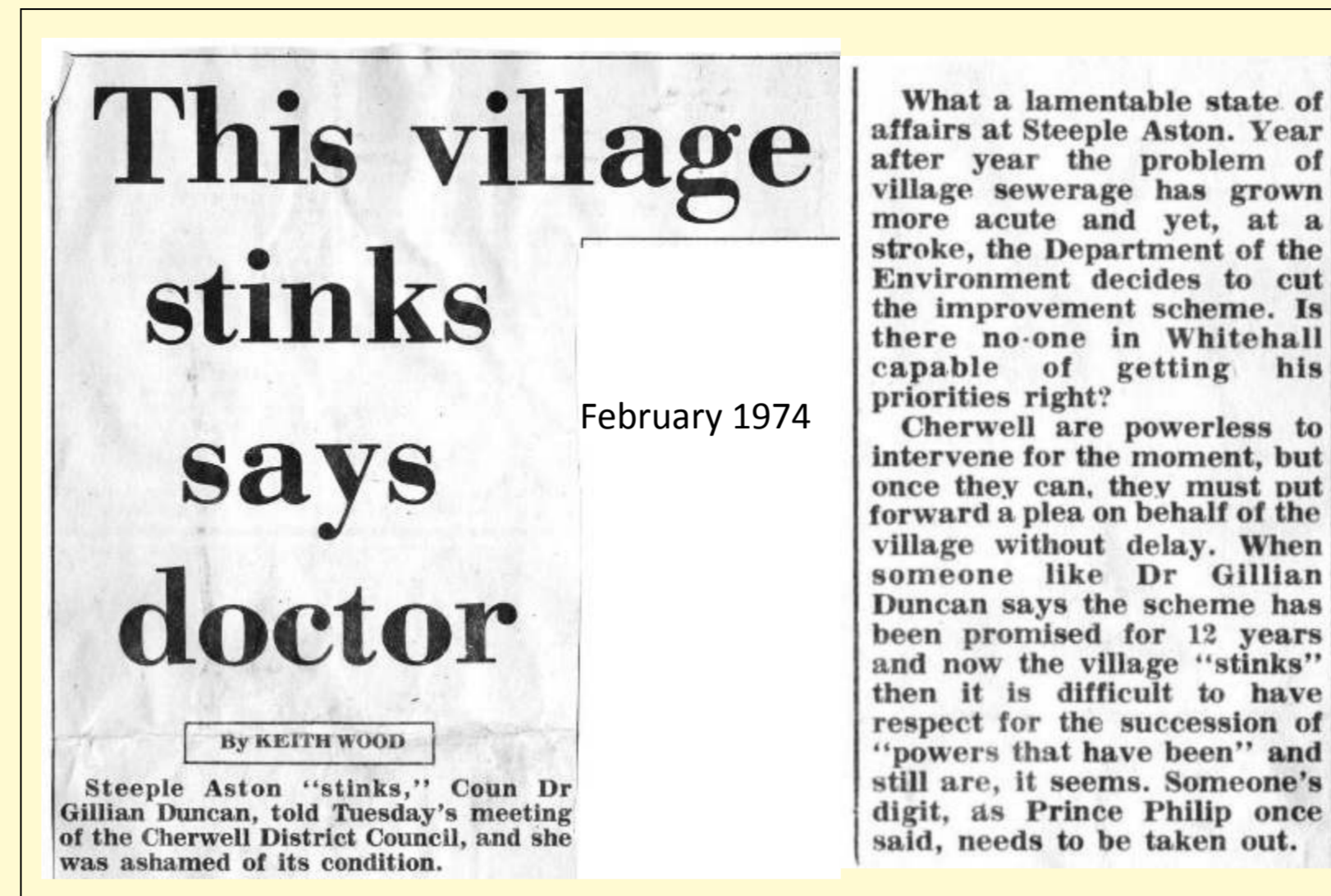
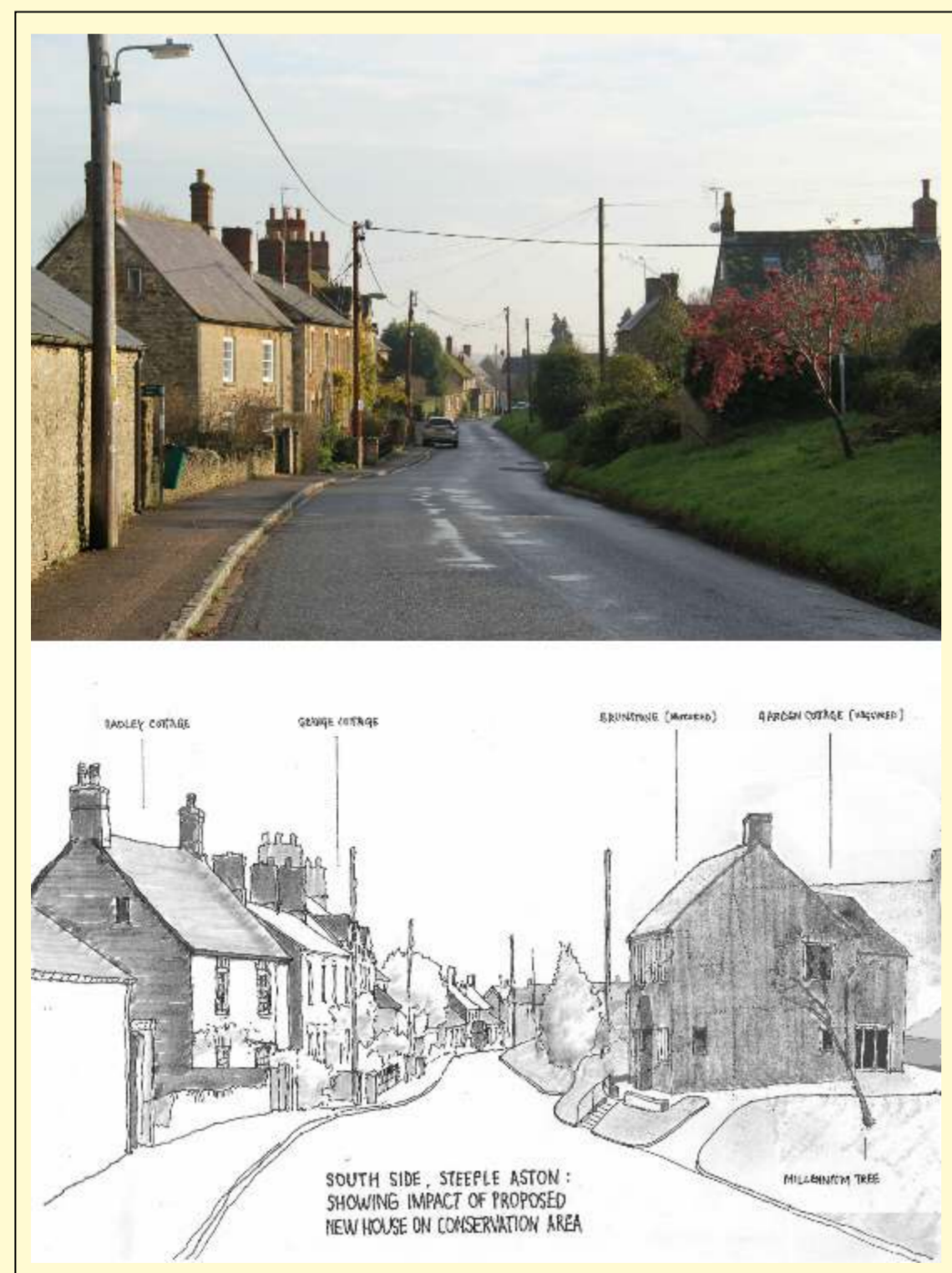


## CONSERVATION AREA

Legislation to protect the character of the village was first proposed by Cherwell Council in April 1981. Major Scott and others wrote in support of the idea to SAL. But not everyone was supportive. So the Parish Council held a referendum in June 1984, with the outcome: 196 against, 124 in favour. There was much correspondence in the pages of SAL over the next few months, and then things went quiet for a bit.

In May 1986, having apparently consulted the community on the matter, Cherwell District Council decided to designate the village as a Conservation Area, which came into being officially in 1988. In 1996 there were some adjustments to the boundary, and in 2014 a full-blown review took place. A well-attended public meeting in the village was overwhelmingly in favour, and several people who had previously opposed the scheme actually recommended that the boundary be further extended. The Council duly did so. Perhaps, as villagers observe the loss of countryside and traditional village character elsewhere, they have come to value it more.

Despite this “protection”, Cherwell recently permitted development of a new house on South Side (artist’s impression, left) in the face of local opposition.



Every so often the village takes stock of itself with questionnaires, meetings and plans for the future. SAL has reported on three such projects in recent years. First there was the

### 1993 VILLAGE APPRAISAL. So what did the village say?

There was concern about:

- road safety, speeding traffic, the state of footpaths, vandalism and dog fouling.
- the future of Upper Heyford
- the need for a village play area
- the village becoming just a dormitory
- the relative isolation of the communities at each end of the village
- there being no facilities for the youth of the village
- the future ownership of the village hall and other facilities

### Then in 2009, there was the PARISH PLAN and what did the village say?

There was concern about:

- whether the shop and both pubs would survive
- speeding traffic (although more than half were against traffic calming measures)
- street lights being on all night
- people not making use of bins for dog mess
- unsocial car parking
- the need for more affordable housing
- the speed of broadband and poor mobile phone reception

### And in 2016, we will have the NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

#### What will the village say this time?

So far, we know that there are concerns about:

- the impact of new development at Upper Heyford
- the future of our bus services
- speeding traffic
- etc, etc.....

## DRAINAGE

In February 1974, the village’s drains were not coping with the winter rainfall, and sewage was backing up. Gill Duncan was an elected member of Cherwell District Council, and voiced her feelings at the Government shelving the remedial works - the Heyford Sewage scheme costing £186,000 had been deferred due to the economic crisis.

Eventually, in 1975 work started on new main drainage. North Side was closed for six weeks while they laid the pipes. In October 1975 the works were finally completed ready for people to apply to be joined up to the system. There were complaints about all the mess left behind by the contractors.

## LIGHTING

In January 1974 the Government declared a state of emergency because of the Miners’ Strike and the 3-day week. Our Parish Council responded by turning off the footway lighting in the village. It saved £6 in electricity consumption, but cost £28 to have it turned off and on again!

