



LITTLE CHALFONT PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER APRIL 2013

You are invited to attend the
Annual Parish Meeting
in the Village Hall

on Wednesday 15th May at 7.45 p.m.

(a glass of wine or soft drink will be available from 7.30 p.m.)

This is an opportunity to meet your Parish Councillors, hear what has been achieved over the past year and plans for the future, including:

Proposed Community Centre Parking issues

Your views and suggestions for improvements in the village will be welcomed.

Guest speakers:

Cllr. Nick Rose

Leader, Chiltern District Council, who will be speaking (promptly at 7.45 p.m.)
on key issues e.g. Green Belt, employment land, town centre boundaries, Gypsy & Traveller sites

Suzy Talbot

Editor, Amersham & Little Chalfont Examiner

Helen Petty

Manager, Chiltern Dial-a-Ride

Parish Precept

This is the amount of money Parish Councils receive as their part of Council Tax. Little Chalfont Parish Council decided that, after holding the precept at the same level for three years, it needed to increase the amount for the 2013/2014 financial year by just under 2%. The new annual figure is £212,600. However, because of the increase in the number of dwellings in the village, individual householders will pay slightly less than in the previous year.

Little Chalfont Parish Council will receive about £1.25 per week from a band 'D' property and approximately £2.08 per week from each band 'G' property.

Parish Council Planning Committee

The Planning Committee meets every third Tuesday at 7.30 p.m, usually in the Village Hall. Planning applications for this area are decided by Chiltern District Council but every Parish Council has a right and a duty to comment on local applications. The Committee discusses all full applications that have been submitted in the two Little Chalfont wards (and any that are in neighbouring wards but would have an impact on Little Chalfont) and either objects, with reasons, or offers no objection. Each Councillor is responsible for a number of roads in the village so he or she can examine each application in depth and report to the committee. At the beginning of the meeting there is an opportunity for members of the public to speak about any planning application that is being discussed or any other relevant subject.

In recent months the Committee has commented on applications such as the Donkey Field development and the proposed Waste Transfer Site on the A413.

The agenda for each meeting is published on the Council's notice boards at least three working days prior to the meeting.

Next Planning Committee in the Village Hall - Wednesday 8th May 7.30 p.m.

Westwood Park



Visitors to the Park will have noticed a new entrance sign. The Parish Council is grateful to the Westwood Park Football Club which has kindly donated the sign.

The generosity of local businesses and organisations (The Entertainer, Citygate Little Chalfont, Chiltern District Council and the Little Chalfont Community Association) will soon enable the Council to install a new play item called "Little Miss Muffet" for young children. This will be in the playground near the Woodland Express, which was donated by GE Healthcare.

The Parish Council has been successful in a bid to the Local Area Forum for a grant of £5000 which will allow the MUGA (Multi-user Games Area) to be re-surfaced with a softer material than the previous tennis court quality. The tennis courts have recently been resurfaced, ready for the summer.

The local Churches opened the pavilion on four days following Easter Monday, serving refreshments and this enabled the toilets in the pavilion to be open for public use. It is hoped that this facility will be available again on some days in the summer holiday period.

The possibility of having permanent public toilets in the Park has been considered but the installation and running costs are currently considered to be prohibitive.

Drainage work was recently carried out at the Chessfield Park pedestrian entrance but this has not solved the flooding problem. Further work will soon be done.

Local Area Forum

The next meeting is in Little Chalfont Village Hall on Wednesday 22 May at 7.00 p.m.

This is an open meeting which anyone may attend.

Farmers' Market & Craft Fair

This is held on the 2nd Saturday of each month at the Village Hall from 9.00 a.m. - 1.00 p.m.

Next dates: 11 May, 8 June and 13 July

Little Chalfont Parking Survey

The Parish Council agreed twelve specific actions to follow-up the results of last year's parking survey. Seven were outside our remit and involved liaison with Bucks County Council or Chiltern District Council. The current status on these issues is as follows:

We will commission a feasibility study, required by BCC, on our recommendations for extending double yellow lines (in Burtons Lane, Bell Lane and Elizabeth Avenue), extending the coverage of the 11.00-12.00 parking restriction, a proposal for residents' only parking in Chalfont Avenue (supported by the great majority of residents), reducing the parking limit at Chenies Parade from two hours to one hour and to extend a parking bay in Cokes Lane to include a disabled bay.

In view of the responses received from CDC, which indicate an unknown but probably significant increase in the cost to the Parish Council in year two and thereafter, the proposal for one hour free parking in Snells Wood car park is temporarily shelved, but discussions have been opened with the traders on the possibility of a cost-sharing arrangement.

BCC has provided a hotline telephone number (see page 4) for action on serious parking offences and we have provided a list of priority locations to be monitored regularly.

BCC has agreed to replace the damaged bollards in Burtons Lane in a more robust material.

The five other issues that were within our remit have been actioned:

1. In its proposed Delivery Development Plan Document ("DDPD"), CDC has been asked to designate the dilapidated garaging site between Citygate and Chenies Parade as restricted use, only for parking, as a first stage in resolving the current impasse.
2. We have followed up with local shops/businesses, cited by survey respondents, concerns such as delivery vans blocking spaces at peak times.
3. We have requested local schools to issue regular reminders to parents about consideration when parking at drop off and pickup times.
4. Four suggestions (including reduced car park charges and the management of Station Parade) were made to Transport for London but all were rejected.
5. The possibility of extending the Chenies Parade parking area by narrowing the grass verge to allow provision of marked chevron parking bays on one side (between the shopping Parade and the A404), and adding bicycle racks alongside the bus shelter. New bicycle racks have been agreed but, on the advice of BCC of the likely high cost, the PC has shelved consideration of redesigned Chenies Parade parking for up to a year, pending any clarification of the proposed designation of the dilapidated garaging site in the DDPD.

Have your say on local planning policies

Chiltern District Council is asking for comments on two important policy documents, the Delivery Development Plan Public Participation Document and a Draft Residential Extensions & Householder Development Supplementary Planning Document. Such issues as the green belt as well as land for additional housing, are under consideration and you can help influence the final policy. Further details and the Public Participation Document are available to view online at: www.chiltern.gov.uk/planning/deliverydevelopmentplandocument

Parking Enforcement “Hotline” Number

Several respondents to the recent Parking Survey complained about abuses of parking restrictions, including disabled parking spaces, and parking across (and on!) dropped kerbs. There was also perceived inadequate monitoring.

Such abuses can be reported to the County Council's parking enforcement contractor NSL, via the telephone number 08432 085544 *; subject to the availability of relevant staff in the area, corrective enforcement action can be taken.

Note that NSL is empowered to take enforcement action only where there are formal restrictions, such as yellow lines etc. Obstructive parking where no formal restrictions apply remain the responsibility of the police. Limited parking for dropping off is permitted even on double yellow lines. Also, only blue badge holders' parking spaces with the appropriate signage evident at the space are enforceable; non-signed bays are informal and not enforceable.

**NB This is not a freephone number – charges will be made.*

Your new and improving waste and recycling service

A new waste and recycling service will start this summer. All residents will receive an enhanced recycling service with the aim of recycling 60% of your waste by 2015. You will soon receive a welcome pack through your door explaining what to expect. Please read your pack and, if you have any questions, call 01494 586550 or email the Chiltern and Wycombe waste team on wasteteam@chiltern.co.uk

Details of any changes to your collection day when the new service starts will be delivered to you when you receive your containers during June and July. For now, your current collections carry on as normal. Please continue to place your containers out by 7.00 a.m. on collection day.

If you would like to find out more about the new waste and recycling service, please come along to the roadshow being held in Little Chalfont where you can meet the waste team and ask them any questions you may have.

Monday 13th May 1pm – 4.45pm at Little Chalfont Village Hall, Cokes Lane,

Proposed Community Centre

Following last year's overwhelming vote in favour of a new Community building, discussions have been held with both County and District Councils, concerning the leases on the Village Hall and the library.

All parties are agreed that there is a way forward. It is likely that the library building would be left intact but extended; the Village Hall would be demolished to allow for a new larger building. Architects will soon be invited to express an interest in being considered for the job of producing a design which can accommodate the requirements. A full consultation with the community will then follow.

New Seats

Two new seats will soon be installed in the village; one at the bottom of Chalfont Avenue. The position of the other one is yet to be decided.

Both seats have been donated by our County Councillor, Martin Tett, from his community fund budget.

Review of County Council divisions, impact on polling stations and wards.

The recommendations of an electoral review of Buckinghamshire County Council by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England have been approved by Parliament and come into force at the next elections for Buckinghamshire County Council on 2 May 2013. The north eastern section of the village will now fall within a new county division called Chess Valley division. This area includes Westwood Drive, the eastern ends of Elizabeth Avenue and Amersham Road, the Oakington Avenue area and down Lodge Lane to just south of the former golf club. The remainder of the village will be within the Little Chalfont and Amersham Common division. With effect from 2 May 2013, electors living in the new Chess Valley division will vote at Little Chalfont Primary School. The remainder of residents will continue to vote at the Village Hall. At the next Parish Council elections in May 2015, the number of Parish Councillors will increase from 8 to 9 and the number of wards from 2 to 3. (See web-site for map and further details.)

Bollards in Burtons Way

The bollards on the east side of Burtons Way, close to the Village Green, were funded by a grant from the Local Area Forum. The Parish Council had received a number of complaints about inconsiderate parking; some vehicles were blocking the footpath forcing pedestrians in to the road. Most of the original bollards have been damaged or removed but we are pleased to be able to announce that the County Council has agreed to replace these in a more robust material. The Parish Council will pay for replacing the undamaged ones to ensure there is symmetry of design; and additional ones will be fitted to extend the line closer to the junction with Chalfont Station Rd.

News from the Community Association

Development of the Donkey Field

The Association has learned that Countryside Properties is revising its plans, taking into account the response of the community to its first Planning Application. The latest advice is that a new Planning Application may be submitted shortly.

Proposed Nature Park

The Action Group, formed to draw up proposals for presentation to the community, reports that positive progress continues to be made. It hopes to arrange exhibitions in the autumn and to be able to advise the arrangements in the Community Association's Newsletter, due at the beginning of July. If you would like to become a **Nature Park Champion**, be one of the first to see the final plans and play a part in supporting the promotion of the proposals, please email communitypark@btinternet.com to express your interest and you will be sent further details.

Christmas Concert

The Association has an ambition to organise a Christmas Concert for the Village and is looking for someone (or a group of residents) to take on the organisation. If you believe that you may be able help, please email chairman@littlechalfont.org.uk.

Village Day - Saturday 15th June 2013

Fun Run (10.00 a.m. in Westwood Park), Beer Festival (Sugar Loaf), Dog Show (new for 2013), BBQ, Teas, Stalls (12.00 - 4.00 p.m.) and much more.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

For more information please contact Alison Smith a405smith@btinternet.com

Your Parish Councillors:

Brian Drew (Chairman) John Hinkly (Vice Chairman)
Michael Parker (Chairman - Planning Committee)
David Rafferty (Vice-Chairman - Planning Committee),
Lesley Hunt , Vinny Patel, Janet Walford OBE
One vacancy

Your District Councillors are Don Phillips and Peter Martin

County Council elections are being held on May 2nd.

See page 5 for details of new ward boundaries and voting arrangements.

Parish Council meetings, held in the Village Hall, are open to the public although occasionally confidential items are discussed in private.

Full Council meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month (not August) at 7.30 p.m. Planning Committee meetings are held every three weeks, usually Tuesday evenings at 7.30 p.m.

Minutes of meetings are published on the Council's web site. Minutes and agenda are displayed on the notice boards outside the Village Hall.

Dates of future meetings are on the Council's web site.

New Parish Councillor

We are pleased to welcome a new Councillor, Mrs. Janet Walford OBE, who was co-opted to the Council on 13th March 2013

This fills the previously vacant position in the Little Chalfont North Ward.

Cllr. Sheila Keighley

It is with deep regret that we announce the death of Sheila Keighley. Sheila had been a Parish Councillor for only a few months, having been co-opted in September 2012, but she had proved to be a valuable member of the team and will be sadly missed.

Your views are important.

Please let us know what you would like the Council to do (or at least try to do) by sending comments to the Parish Clerk, Janet Mason, by letter or e-mail.- clerk@littechalfont-pc.org.uk

Additionally, you are entitled to address the Council in the short public session at each Parish Council meeting - contact the Parish Clerk for more information.

Parish Council Office:

This is located at the back of the Village Hall in Cokes Lane.

Please call if you have any queries. The telephone number is 01494 766655. If unattended, please leave a message on the answerphone and a response will be made as soon as possible.

You can also e-mail - clerk@littlechalfont-pc.gov.uk.

The office is normally open from 9.00 a.m. - 3.00 p.m. Monday – Friday.

The Council's web site is: www.littlechalfont-pc.gov.uk

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