

LITTLE CHALFONT PARISH COUNCIL

Newsletter – Autumn 2022



Threat to green belt Council rejection goes to appeal

The campaign to protect the beautiful area of green belt on the south eastern border of our village continues.

Earlier this year, Buckinghamshire Council refused the application to build a large housing development on the land between Lodge Lane and Burtons Lane. The developers subsequently lodged an appeal against that decision.

The appeal will be heard by a government planning inspector at a public inquiry beginning on 8 December 2022. The inspector's decision will be final.

Representatives of the parish council and the Little Chalfont Community Association (PC/LCCA) will be attending the inquiry. We expect an opportunity to make comments to the inspector on behalf of the community early in the proceedings.

The objection and professional supporting studies that the PC/LCCA produced and sent to Buckingham-

shire Council in response to the original planning application are now with the inspector, who will take them into account when considering the appeal.

Objections updated

In addition, the PC/LCCA have sent to the planning inspectorate a new document updating and supplementing the earlier objections.

A copy can be viewed on our website: savelittlechalfont.org.uk under the 'planning application' tab. Our document has also been published on the Buckinghamshire Council planning website.

We welcome the other updated objections, which were filed with the appeals inspectorate by members of our community before the 12 September 2022 deadline.

However, we have not asked for a full renewed campaign of objections. The approximately 1,100 objections



The green belt site proposed for development (boundaries shown approximate), and the ancient woodland affected therein

made by local residents to Buckinghamshire Council before the application was refused will be taken into account by the inspector.

At the inquiry, Buckinghamshire Council's legal team will argue their case to have the appeal dismissed. We expect the inspector's decision to be announced in the early part of 2023.

Important updates will be reported on savelittlechalfont.org.uk and on the Save Little Chalfont Facebook page. ■

Environment cafe

Some great ideas

Meetings of our Environment Cafe have helped to bring together local people who have come up with several ideas that the council and LCCA hope to take forward.

We have talked about many local issues, but top of the list is always litter, traffic pollution and footpaths, with food waste, home insulation, public transport and how we can work with neighbouring villages and towns also being addressed.

At the most recent café meeting there was a lot of discussion about the beautiful River Chess chalk stream – how to protect it and how to save water. This comes from the groundwater held in the chalk of the Chiltern Hills.

The Chess is fed by springs that form where the water table reaches ground level. The subject of planning enforcement also arose,



The beautiful River Chess, above, narrowing at Chenies. Picture courtesy of Chiltern Conservation Board

specifically in relation to the chicken farm that has popped up on Latimer Road, which threatens to pollute the Chess.

The next environment café meeting will be held on Saturday 3 December 2022 in the village hall in Cokes Lane, from 10am-12pm.

If you are interested in the environment, do come along, have a cup of tea and a biscuit and get involved! ■

Nature park update

Stunning autumn colours

With autumn well and truly with us, the trees in the nature park were putting on their usual spectacular annual show of colour during the season.

The autumn sunshine helped to show these colours to their best, standing out well against the greenery as you will see from our picture.

The nature park has played host to many types of wildlife during the year and now, with winter approaching, it's a good time to look back over 2022 and consider some of the birds that have been spotted in the park.

One pair of blue tits nested and reared young that flew the nest in June; another pair tried but were, sadly, unsuccessful. A great tit also reared young in one of the boxes at the far end of the park and a robin reared three young in early April.

Another one of the robin boxes was taken over by a swarm of honey bees and magpies also nested



high up in the woodland.

The owl box was used occasionally by a tawny owl, but no eggs laid.

The kestrel box has been taken over by a squirrel so no sign of the raptor has been spotted.

One early evening in July, two pipistrel bats flew into the meadow, hopefully to use one of our bat boxes. Other birds seen or heard during the year have been great spotted woodpecker, jay, buzzard, kite, various tits and finches, chiffchaff, wren, song- and mistle thrush, nuthatch, crow and on one occasion a raven flew across the park, calling.

Winter visitors also use the park, such as redwing and fieldfare, but we need a lot more bushes producing berries to attract them further.

Despite the cooling weather, there is still plenty to see in the nature park as it changes from season to season, so don't put off visiting just because it's turning colder – there is still lots of activity if you stop to look! ■

Westwood Park news

Vandalism again

The condition of Westwood Park is now unrecognisable from a couple of months ago – a little rain has transformed it from something resembling an African savannah to its normal green lushness.

After the brutal summer, with very little rain, the grass looked like it would never recover but, fortunately it has proved to be very resilient.

Sadly, the same cannot be said of Westwood Park Pavilion, which has been the subject of several vandalism attacks, when two reinforced windows were smashed, as shown in our picture above.

Disappointingly, this was watched without any reaction from various members of the public who were nearby at the time.

After the vandals left the pavilion damaged, some young children decided to climb into the pavilion through the broken windows. As a



result, one youngster suffered cut injuries to her legs.

Please remember it is your council tax that pays for the facilities in Little Chalfont, so in the end everyone has to pay for any repairs at Westwood Park. Vandals who are not challenged immediately become bolder in their attacks. Please don't approach perpetrators directly but contact the police either on the emergency 999 number if warranted, or the 101 line if it is not an emergency.

It's your park – take care of it! Because of this act of vandalism, and other incidents at Westwood park, the parish council is planning to

From the chairman



While I was acting chairman of the parish council, Her Majesty the Queen

sadly passed away. This happened on a Friday, after the parish council offices had closed for the weekend.

Despite this, the two parish council clerks overcame all obstacles and managed to organise a book of condolences and flowers in the village hall, so that the people of Little Chalfont could come and sign the book that weekend. I would like also to thank Councillor Mike Crowe, who lowered the Union flag outside the parish council office to half mast.

Despite Little Chalfont being a desirable place to live, we have unfortunately had some incidences of vandalism in the village, as have other villages in Buckinghamshire.

For example, the lights on the underpass from Marygold Walk to Beel Close were damaged, needing a prompt repair for safety's sake. I would like to thank Pauline Hulme on behalf of the parish council for regularly picking up broken glass at the entrance to the underpass to avoid injuries to those who regularly use this valuable facility to and from the village.

Of particular sadness was the damage to the memorial stone on the village green. The stone was repaired but unfortunately it has been damaged again. It is hard to understand this mindless vandalism against a simple stone that commemorates those who have given their lives in the pursuit of peace.

On a lighter note, the community project committee is considering various options to provide and improve facilities in the village. There have been many really helpful suggestions on what we can provide for the village and, once final decisions have been made, we will notify residents in our regular newsletters.

As the newly elected chairman, I would like to conclude with my thanks to all the parish councillors for their support and advice given in managing the parish council.

Vinny Patel

install an upgraded CCTV and ANPR (automatic number plate recognition) cameras based on evidence of successful applications at other local parks. ■

Speeding drivers update

Data show mixed results

The parish council has two movable vehicle activated signs (MVAS) available to place alongside local roads recognised as black spots where drivers are known to be regularly breaking the speed limit. The purpose is to remind drivers of the speed limits when driving in the village.

Both MVASs have most recently been sited in Elizabeth Avenue, one in each direction. Despite past readings showing much speeding along this road, the period when the MVASs were last sited there seems to show some improvement. However, these recorded figures, (rounded) unfortunately show that a considerable percentage of drivers are still breaking the speed limit:



● From Amersham Road to Bell Lane, July to September 2022:

Number of vehicles recorded:	62,343
Under 30mph:	47,521 = 77%
30-40mph:	13,998 = 22%
40+mph:	824 = 1%

Of these figures, **14 vehicles were recorded as travelling over 60mph**, and four over 75mph.

● From Bell Lane to Amersham Road, July to September 2022:

Number of vehicles recorded:	43,431
Under 30mph:	35,121 = 82%
30-40mph:	6,836 = 15%
40+mph:	1,474 = 3%

Of these, seven vehicles were recorded as travelling over 55mph and one vehicle at over 60mph.

The MVASs are currently deployed along the Amersham Road; one heading towards Chorleywood is positioned just before the Chessfield Park turning, and the other MVAS is sited outside one of the houses on the opposite side of the road.

The next roads to be targeted with the MVASs will be sited on the White Lion Road in both directions. ■

Little Chalfont Farmers Market

For the autumn/winter 2022/23, the farmers market will be held in the village hall car park from 9am-1pm:

Saturday 10 December 2022
Saturday 14 January 2023
Saturday 11 February 2023
Saturday 11 March 2023

If you are interested in taking a stall at the farmers market, please contact the organiser at info@tvfm.org.uk or call 01235 227 266.

For the craft fair please contact Jan Purcell at jan.pursall@ntworld.com

Briefly...

Good Companions – can you help?

Good Companions was an award-winning social club established for older people in Little Chalfont, which met in the village hall on a couple of afternoons each month for a programme of activities and entertainments.

Sadly, it folded because of the pandemic but, to revive it or something similar, it needs helpers with a variety of skills to make it work. If you are interested in helping to run it then please phone Shirley Strange on 01494 583394 for more information. Leave a message and she will get back to you.

Anti-social behaviour

If you have experienced anti-social behaviour in any of the Bucks green areas, you can use the new Bucks Council online tool to report incidents easily. Just go to: www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/asb-reporting

Free parking days for Christmas

As usual, the parish council has arranged for free parking days in Snells Wood car park in the run up to Christmas. The dates are shown below and we hope you will take full advantage of these arrangements to use the local shops of Little Chalfont:

Saturday 3 December
Saturday 10 December
Saturday 17 December
Saturday 24 December

In addition, Cytiva has offered to make available its front car park (opposite Chenies Parade) every day from Monday 21 December – Wednesday 4 January inclusive, from 9am–6pm.

Warm spaces

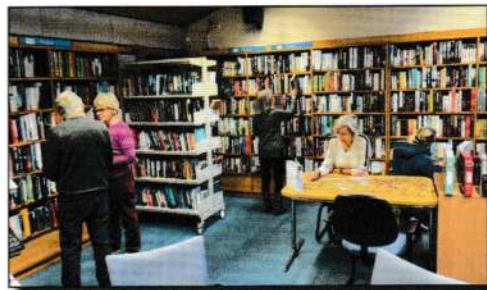
Local library to offer welcome

In light of the potential this winter for some people to be unable to afford sufficient heating in their homes, Little Chalfont Community Library has been designated as a warm and welcoming space for the local Community and we encourage you to come and visit our lovely warm library.

Run by volunteers the Library has a computer room with free wifi access, tables to work or study from or to read the range of magazines and newspapers that we have on offer.

There is a jigsaw 'on-the-go' for you to complete and a huge range of adult and children's jigsaws to borrow.

The Library is known for its great



The Little Chalfont Community Library, left, showing just a small proportion of the books available to borrow and other activities. We hope to see you there soon

selection of books – fiction, non-fiction, audio and large print – as well as its weekly children's 'storytime' each Thursday morning plus regular film showings.

Do pop in and enjoy the warm welcoming space that the library offers, and all the interesting pastimes that we offer to anyone who is interested.

We are situated next door to the village

hall in Cokes Lane. Our telephone number for enquires is 01494 764602.

The library opening hours are as follows:

- Monday: closed
- Tuesday & Wednesday: 10am – 5pm
- Thursday & Friday: 10am – 1pm
- Saturday: 10am – 3pm

For more information about the library, visit our website at: littlechalfontlibrary.org.uk ■

Remembrance Day

Moving local service

The annual Remembrance Day parade and service was once again held on the village green on Sunday 13 November 2022. Although we were not blessed with sunshine this year, there was still an excellent turnout, as you can see from our picture.

The service was preceded by members of the scouting and guides movements, with raised flags and colours parading through the village. They were accompanied by the



Reverend Adam Wells, minister of the Little Chalfont Methodist Church, part of the Methodist Church Amersham

Circuit, who led the service.

The sacrifices of generations who fought and died in the pursuit of peace were recalled and the Act of Remembrance and Exhortation were recited by scouts Kieron Ross and Alex Bull.

Trumpet soloist Ryan Bunce played the Last Post to mark the two minutes' silence at exactly 11am and flags were lowered in respect and remembrance.

Wreaths were laid at the war

memorial stone on the village green by Vinny Patel, chairman of Little Chalfont Parish Council on behalf of the parish council; by Martin Tett, local councillor and leader of Buckinghamshire



Council on behalf of Buckinghamshire Council. Wreaths and memorials were also laid by members of the uniformed services and others.

The service included a reading of the poem *In Flanders Fields*, written by John McCrae, and readings from St Paul and the gospel of John.

The singing of hymns during the service was accompanied by the excellent Chesham Wind Band.

Reverend Wells led those gathered in prayer and a renewed commitment to achieving peace and justice.

The service concluded with a blessing and was followed by the national anthem. ■

Little Chalfont Farmers Market

A valuable local resource

As many of you will know Little Chalfont has its own farmers market, part of Thames Valley Farmers Markets, held in the village hall car park on the second Saturday of each month.

Most of the food and drink sold at the market is produced within a 30 mile radius of the market, which means that you can be sure you are buying products from the people who have grown, reared, baked and made them, all to the highest standards.

Buying at farmers markets helps to support local farmers and producers – there are no middlemen involved.

Here we profile two more individual regular stallholders:

The Mediterranean Pie Co

Stallholder Neil McCredie (pictured right) started his company about four years ago. After being made redundant he decided that he wanted a new direction for his life.

Neil had always enjoyed cooking vegetarian food, but found there was not much choice when it came to vegetarian pies, so decided to start making his own and selling them at farmers markets.

He started with just four varieties, but now the total range is 20, all using seasonal veg – apart from spinach,

where he has found the best results are from frozen spinach.

In any one month, he makes nine different varieties for the farmers market, plus one special. For the



Christmas farmers market (10 December) the special will feature roasted parsnips and carrots,

chestnut puree, puy lentils and herbs.

The pies are all part cooked, and for best results he advises that they be heated. Where a recipe requires eggs, he uses only free range. He can also produce vegan and gluten free pies if ordered in advance.

Edwin's Classic Flowers

Edwin Rye (pictured right) is the second of the two different flower stalls that sell their wares at the Little Chalfont Farmers Market.

Edwin trained in horticulture at Writtle Horticultural College and

then at Cambridge Botanic Gardens & Plant School.

He then spent three years in New Zealand working for the Auckland Plants Department

After retiring early he won BBC Gardener of the Year in 2002.

His flowers are available from the November to April markets. He sells perennial plants, which are mainly grown at a friend's nursery in Quainton. During the winter months he will have a large selection of winter flowering plants including pansies, cyclamens, violas, and Christmas roses.

Edwin also makes up presentation planters in boxes and pots, concentrating on lots of seasonal white arrangements. He also creates

winter hanging baskets and patio pots. During the 10 December farmers market he will have a large selection of festive holly and door wreaths. ■





Community improvement plan (CIP)

The Little Chalfont Community Improvement Plan (CIP) represents the views and aspirations of the community. All the current projects are joint initiatives between the parish council and the community association.



Climate change/ environment

Please see article on front page regarding our Environment Café.

Sustainable Little Chalfont was launched on 1 September 22. For more information please visit: www.sustainablelittlechalfont.org.

To play a part, email the group on environment@littlechalfont.org.uk.



Dementia friendly village

Café 22 has now reached capacity and plans are being made to expand by running a second session on a different day of the week. In addition, the team is liaising with friends in Amersham and the community board, with the ultimate aim of a memory café being reactivated in Amersham. The intention is that both cafes will operate under a new charity, which will cover the community board area. ■

Cost of living and fuel crisis



If you are in need of help or wish to assist someone in need, read on.

First ports of call

- Bucks Helping Hand: 01296 531151 or website tinyurl.com/BucksHelp
- Citizens Advice Bureau: 0808 278 7938

If either are unable to help directly, they will have details of where to find the assistance needed.

Fuel help

The Citizens Advice Bureau also has a very good website at tinyurl.com/CitizensFuel. The UK government's factsheet on support for energy bills is set out on its website tinyurl.com/GovEnergyHelp

Foodbank voucher

If you are in a crisis situation and require food, phone the dedicated food voucher number: 01494 785660 then press option 3.

Other resources

A food hub is available at St Georges Church on the White Lion Road. The church is excited to be working with Family Food Hub UK and Amersham Kids Together.

Its church hall is open every Monday and Wednesday between 9am – 11am. Food items are available and for further information, email foodhub@amershamkidstogether.com

Legal position on energy disconnection and pre-payment meters

The Good Law Project, a not-for-profit campaign organisation, has issued a series of articles on energy issues.

Its latest, available from goodlawproject.org/cost-of-living/ will be of interest to those worried about the possibility of disconnection or the rules on pre-payment meters. ■

Little Chalfont Community Association news

LCCA website: www.littlechalfont.org.uk

Village Day returns in 2023

We are delighted to announce that Village Day is back next year. Please put the date of Saturday 17 June on your calendar now!

As before, it is to be a celebration of our community and the organisers will be looking for all our clubs, societies, uniform groups, voluntary organisations, schools and many of our shops to take part and join in the celebration.

The organisers will be in touch in the coming months but we would encourage you to put your thinking caps on now, to decide how you would like to participate.

For the time being, all enquiries should be emailed to: villageday@littlechalfont.org.uk
The village day Facebook page, www.facebook.com/lcvillageday/ will update you with progress.

Christmas lights

In view of the energy crisis we have given much thought to whether or not we should go ahead with Christmas lights this year.

We have decided that, on balance, we will all need cheering up by the time December comes around, and so we are going ahead with the arrangements.

We hope too, that they will encourage you to support our local shops and businesses.

The lights will be switched on from Sunday 27 November but they will remain lit each day for a shorter period than in the past.

Dates for your diary

Food donations to Chiltern foodbank

- 3 December – Christmas Hamper appeal
- 10 December – Usual monthly food priorities
- 8 January 2023 – Usual monthly food priorities.

Drop-off to the gazebos in the village centre between 9am and 12 noon

Village Day 2023

Saturday 17 June 2023, 12 noon to 4pm, village centre

Environment café

Saturday 3 December, 10am to 12 noon in the village hall - see item on page one of this newsletter.

The Harbour

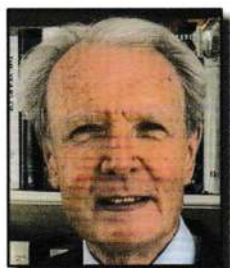
The Harbour is a group established for parents of children who have additional needs, diagnosed or undiagnosed. It is run by carers for carers and preschoolers are very welcome. The next meeting of The Harbour is on 6 December at St George's Church, Little Chalfont, from 9.30am – 11am. ■

About Little Chalfont Parish Council

Your parish councillors



Vinny Patel
Chairman



Brian Gallagher
Vice chairman



Chris Holmes
Chairman, planning committee



David Nussbaum,
Vice chairman,
planning committee



Mike Crowe



Novia Henry-Ames



Chris Ingham CMG



Doug Silverstone



Janet Walford OBE
Newsletter editor

Parish council meetings:

Parish council general meetings:

Usually held on the second Wednesday of each month, except for August, in Little Chalfont Village Hall in Cokes Lane, Little Chalfont, commencing at 7.30pm.

The meetings are always open to the public, so why not come along to a meeting and see your parish council in action? Local residents have the opportunity to express their views and to ask the council for support in relation to various matters.

Planning committee meetings:

Usually held every four weeks, starting at 7pm or 7.30pm – see website or notice boards for details.

The committee considers planning applications made for Little Chalfont and advises Bucks Council, the planning authority, of any local or community issues that it should take into account. You can make comments, then hear the committee's discussion.

Parish council office

The parish council office is located at the rear of the village hall in Cokes Lane.

Contact details for enquiries:

TELEPHONE: 01494 766655. If unattended, you may leave a message on the answerphone and we will respond as soon as possible.

EMAIL: clerk@littlechalfont-pc.gov.uk

OFFICE OPENING HOURS:

Monday – Friday, 9am – 12 noon.

COUNCIL WEBSITE: www.littlechalfont-pc.gov.uk



Sallie Matthews
Parish clerk



Sam Butcher
Assistant clerk



Sharon Chapman
Accounts assistant

Newsletter distribution

The parish council is indebted to Adrian Lockyer, membership secretary of the community association, for organising the distribution of the newsletters and to the volunteers who deliver them, ensuring that all homes and businesses in Little Chalfont receive a copy.

Publication date 16/11/22

Any comments or suggestions?

If you have any comments or suggestions to make about this newsletter or its contents, please contact the parish clerk on clerk@littlechalfont-pc.gov.uk. We welcome all feedback

Where to go for help:

Parish council: 01494 766 655

Bridleways; commons and open spaces; community transport schemes; community safety and crime reduction measures; events and festivals; footpaths; leisure facilities; litter bins; neighbourhood planning; street cleaning; tourism activities; traffic monitoring; village greens; residential street lighting, woodlands; youth projects.

Bucks council: 0300 131 6000

'A' road lighting; bus shelters; car parks; council tax collections; education; fire and public safety; fly tipping; housing; libraries; planning applications; public toilets; recycling; rubbish collection; trading standards; transport; social care; waste management.

Other contacts

Police emergency: 999
Police non emergency: 101
NHS healthline: 111
Banks fraudline: 159
Unsolicited marketing calls: 0303 123 1113
Illegal parking: 0333 121 0031
Dial a ride: 01494 766 123
Helping hand team: 01296 531 151
Helping Hand emergency: 0800 999 7677
Citizens Advice Bureau: 0808 278 7938