



LITTLE CHALFONT PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER MARCH 2011

Local Elections

Elections for Parish Councillors will be held on May 5th. For more details, including information on how to stand for election, please see Page 5. District Council elections and the Referendum on the voting system for the UK Parliament will take place on the same day.

Old Sawmill site (Bell Lane)

Work has now started on the first phase of this new housing development. A total of 250 homes, varying from 1 bedroom flats to 4 bedroom houses will eventually be built.

The contractors have to abide by strict conditions and should cause the minimum of disruption. If you live close to the site, or are passing, and notice unacceptable working practices e.g. excessive mud on the road, please contact the Parish Clerk. It is expected that heavy vehicles will approach the site via White Lion Road and Bell Lane (south) i.e. not using Elizabeth Avenue or the northern part of Bell Lane.

The Community Association is setting up a liaison group to work with the developers and contractors, which will also be a point of contact; more details will follow in the Association's next newsletter.

Bell Lane School

At the time of writing, the future of the school remains uncertain. The consultation on possible closure has finished and we now await a decision by the County Council. The Parish Council has responded with a plea not to close the school. Assurances have been received that all children who currently attend the school can be accommodated in schools within what is regarded as a reasonable walking distance. However, many people including Parish Councillors are concerned about young children walking along White Lion Road to schools in Amersham.

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Parish Meeting

Wednesday April 6th at 8.00 p.m.

This will take place in the Village Hall and is an opportunity to meet your Councillors and hear what has been achieved by the Council over the past year. There will be plenty of time for questions.

Additionally, Lynn Johnson, Community Relations Manager of GE Healthcare will be giving a short presentation on the work of the company which has its global headquarters in Little Chalfont.

A glass of wine or soft drink will be available from 7.30 p.m. Do come and join us.

New Parish Councillor

We are delighted to welcome Vinodchandra (Vinny) Patel to the Council. Mr. Patel, who owns the newsagents in Elizabeth Avenue, was co-opted on November 22nd.

Parish Council's Planning Committee

Planning applications are decided in this area by Chiltern District Council, but the Parish Council has a duty to comment on local applications and is consulted on wider planning policy. The Planning Committee meets every three weeks and a number of residents have taken the opportunity to address the committee, in the ten minutes allowed at the beginning of each meeting, about planning applications which affect them.

Agendas for all meetings are published on the Council's notice boards (outside the Village Hall and on Chenies Parade) at least three working days prior to the meeting.

Chiltern District Council Core Strategy

The proposed core strategy is now with the Planning Inspectorate. The Examination in Public commences on April 11th and the Parish Council will be participating in some of the discussions to ensure its point of view is heard.

Westwood Park

By the time you read this, it is likely that the preferred bidder will have been selected for the new play area in Westwood Park. Ten tenders have been received and the outline design has been chosen by people representing the Parish Council and the Community Association plus a Trustee and founder of Sport Junction Foundation, a charity with specific interest in encouraging children to pursue healthy active living.

It is hoped that the installation will commence soon and be completed during the summer.

The project, paid for by the national Playbuilder Fund, is designed for the 8 - 13 age range. It is hoped that at least some equipment for younger children will be installed alongside, at least partially funded by the Parish Council.

If you would like a preview of how the site will look, this will be available on our web site and notice boards within the next few weeks. It will also be possible to view the plans, by prior appointment, at the Council's office.

Vehicle Activated Sign in Elizabeth Avenue

Speeding has been an issue in Elizabeth Avenue for many years. Residents carried out an exercise using a SID (speed indicator device) which showed many vehicles exceeding the 30 mph speed limit often by considerable amounts. This was later confirmed by a County Council assessment paid for by the Parish Council.

A permanent speed indication sign will soon be installed near the junction with Chenies Avenue.

These signs have been proved to help reduce average speeds. The cost of the sign is being met by Bucks County Council from the delegated budget allocated to parishes and agreed by the Local Area Forum.



Lighting for underpass from Beel Close to Marygold Walk

The VAS (above) is being funded from the 2010/11 budget. Subject to final surveys and costings, it is hoped that part of the 2011/12 budget will be used for some form of lighting for the footpath as it goes under the railway.

Grit Bins

Three new grit bins have recently been installed - the ones on Burtons Lane and Elizabeth Avenue have been funded by the Parish Council. The one on Chenies Parade has been funded from County Councillor Martin Tett's community budget.

Village Day - Saturday June 11th 2011

(Organised by the Community Association)

After the disappointment of 2010 when there was no Village Day, we are pleased that Alison Smith has agreed to organise the 2011 Day. This will be a community affair, going back to the original idea of providing a showcase for local groups etc. Offers of help welcome, especially volunteers to help on the day.

Please contact Alison - Tel. 01494 766785 or 07711 022807

e-mail - a405smith@btinternet.com

The Day will include the inaugural **Little Chalfont Beer & Cider Festival** sponsored by the Sugar Loaf Inn.

Little Chalfont Community Library

The Community Library in Cokes Lane, with support from the Parish Council, continues to thrive and has recently attracted much media interest as a model for other communities. The library, which has just celebrated its 4th year in operation, offers all the facilities of a Council-run library and more. You can use your Council library card to borrow books and other items from their stock which is regularly updated. You can also take advantage of the free public access PCs and Wireless Broadband. Take the opportunity to visit this great facility. You will not regret it.



The library frontage is currently being landscaped

Allotments

A site, behind Sandycroft Road, has been identified as a possibility for allotments. Surveys and feasibility studies are under way and more news should be available soon.

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 by letter or e-mail
- Speaking in the short public session at a Parish Council meeting
- Using the message board of the Community Association - www.littlechalfont.org.uk

Elections - May 5th

Parish and Town Councillors are usually elected for a period of four years. Councillors receive no remuneration but can claim legitimate expenses incurred when carrying out their duties.

Little Chalfont has two wards. Little Chalfont South ward, covering the area previously in Chalfont St. Giles, has two seats. Little Chalfont ward, the part of the village previously in Amersham, has six seats.

In 2007, when the Parish was first formed, only two people stood in the South Ward so were returned unopposed; in the Little Chalfont ward, there were nine candidates so an election took place.

Anyone wishing to stand for election must satisfy certain criteria but does not necessarily have to be a local elector. The Parish Clerk can give full information to anyone interested.

Councillors are expected to attend Parish Council meetings, although an occasional absence for good reason is understandable. Full Council meetings are held once a month (except August) on Wednesday evenings. All Councillors are members of the Planning Committee which meets every three weeks on Tuesday evenings. To keep to a minimum the number of evening commitments, in weeks when there is both a full Council and a Planning Committee meeting, these are held on the same evening.

Most Councillors also are members of other committees e.g. Village Hall and working parties e.g. Westwood Park, or act as liaisons with other bodies such as the Community Association and the Library. So, there is quite a commitment but the position can be very rewarding and worthwhile.

Please consider putting yourself forward or suggesting to someone you know that they might make an ideal candidate.

Nominations close on April 5th.

Polling Stations

Following public demand, the Parish Council is able to announce that all voters in the Parish, including those living in the Little Chalfont South ward, will be required to vote in the Village Hall, Cokes Lane.

This ends the previous situation of some residents in the Parish having to go to Chalfont St. Giles to vote.

However, Little Chalfont South residents will still be voting for different District Councillors from the ones voted for by the rest of the village. It is hoped that this anomaly may change in the not too far distant future.

Your Parish Councillors:

Brian Drew (Chairman) Gary Smith (Vice Chairman)
Christopher Ingham (Chairman - Planning Committee)
Lesley Hunt (Vice Chairman - Planning Committee)
Martin Dale Peter Martin Michael Dear Vinny Patel

Your District Councillors are Don Phillips and Mike Smith

All the above subject to change after May 5th

Your County Councillors are Martin Tett and Tim Butcher

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 (except August) at 7.30 p.m.

Planning committee meetings are held every three weeks, usually on Tuesday evenings at 7.30 p.m.

At the beginning of both meetings there is a 10 minute period when members of the public can speak on any relevant subject. In the past, people have spoken in favour of, or in opposition to, planning applications and on subjects such as vandalism, state of the roads etc.

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

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

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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