



LITTLE CHALFONT PARISH COUNCIL

NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2012

New Community Building for Little Chalfont?

The Parish Council, the Community Library and the Community Association have been discussing a possible new community centre for Little Chalfont.

No decisions have yet been made. We are now consulting the local community to discover if there is support for such a scheme. If there is, it will be some time before any plans can be produced for further consultation.

The current **Village Hall** has many limitations, for example, there is only one room for hire. This can be unnecessarily large for a small meeting and means that, when booked, there is no room for other users. The Parish Office, which uses the only other space (apart from a kitchen) is tiny and is often inconvenienced by noise when the hall is in use.



Storage, in the wooden sheds behind the hall, is inadequate.



The **Community Library** needs more shelf and storage space. Expansion would also improve the computer and film projection facilities.

In view of all these needs it was sensible to look at the possibility of finding a joint solution.

A series of presentations, shown recently in the Village Hall, gave an opportunity for local people to understand these issues.

The estimated cost of the development is about £1m, which amount could be funded by grants, loans, public donations, Parish Council reserves and the Parish Council income from Council Tax.

A voting leaflet is being delivered, with this Newsletter, to all homes in Little Chalfont and you are asked to indicate whether or not you would, in principle, support the idea of a community centre.

Please return the completed form - your opinion matters.

Parking Survey - Key issues from the survey and possible action points can be seen on page 3.

A full report is on the Parish Council notice boards and web site - www.littlechalfont-pc.gov.uk

Parish Council's Planning Committee

Planning applications are decided in this area by Chiltern District Council. The Parish Council comments 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.

Next Planning Committee in the Village Hall - Tuesday October 16th 7.30 p.m.

Development of the Donkey Field

The latest information from Countryside is that by the time that you are reading this Newsletter (or soon thereafter), the full Planning Application may be available on the Chiltern District Council web site.

This will be discussed by the Parish Council Planning Committee.

Westwood Park

The Parish Council continues to look at ways to improve facilities in the Park.

The second half of the MUGA (multi-user games area) will soon be installed, funded by a grant from Bucks CC through the Local Area Forum. Having goals and basketball nets at both ends will allow a full game to be played.

During the summer school holiday period, St. George's Church opened the pavilion for refreshments each Tuesday, allowing the toilets to be open, which was appreciated by many people. We hope to find ways to provide this service on additional days next year.

The Park is now very well used and appreciated by young and old. Cricket and football clubs use it at weekends. Westwood Park Football Club now has a membership of over 300 children aged 5 to 12.

During the autumn, improvements at the park will include drainage work at the Chessfield Park pedestrian entrance and planting of the borders in the play area.



New Parish Councillor

We are pleased to welcome Mrs. Sheila Keighley who was co-opted on to the Council on September 12th. This fills the position, in Little Chalfont South Ward, vacant since the last election. However, a vacancy now exists in Little Chalfont ward following Michael Dear's recent resignation.

Little Chalfont Parking Survey

Thank you to the 356 people who responded to this survey and to the volunteers who delivered forms to homes in the area.



The responses have now been analysed and have been posted on the Parish Council's notice boards and website - www.littlechalfont-pc.gov.uk.

The Survey was successful in eliciting an impressively large 356 responses, clearly demonstrating the strength of residents' feelings on the parking issues.

Highlights of the survey results are as follows:

95% of respondents are concerned about Little Chalfont parking issues, in particular, road safety and anti-social behaviour. Of 35 locations identified, Chenies Parade, Nightingales Corner and Burtons Lane were the most frequently cited. Commuter parking in residential roads close to the station is a major annoyance. The commuter day and shop hours were identified as being very problematic for parking as are school drop off and pickup times.

The Parish Council has established a list of follow up actions, set out below:



The Parish Council will press Bucks County Council on a number of issues including the extension or addition of double yellow lines in Burtons Lane, Bell Lane and Elizabeth Avenue, the revision of parking restrictions in other residential roads within half a mile of Chalfont and Latimer station; a reduction to the parking time allowed at Chenies Parade from two hours to one together with an introduction of the same one hour limit on the stretch of Burtons Lane (south side) nearest to the shops and the possibility of extending the Chenies Parade parking area.

There will be separate discussions with Chiltern District Council about the possibility of one hour ticketed free parking at Snells Wood Car Park. CDC will also be asked about the designation for parking only of the site between Citygate and Chenies Parade.

Other concerns expressed will be raised with parties identified in the survey such as local schools, businesses that are deemed to over-use the parking bays and TFL/ London Underground to discuss enhancements to the parking provision at Station Approach.

The full survey results are on the village notice boards and the Parish Council website.

Overhanging trees and bushes

Residents are reminded that it is their responsibility to ensure pedestrians are not inconvenienced by overhanging vegetation. If you have trees or bushes overhanging a public boundary, please keep them cut back. They are a particular hazard to children and the visually impaired

Street lights

Now that the evenings are becoming darker, street lights are important. If you spot a light that is not working, please contact the Parish Council office giving the number of the lamp and the road it is in. Lights on the A404 and a few close to Nightingales Corner are the responsibility of Bucks CC but the Parish Council is responsible for all others in Little Chalfont. We aim to get lights repaired very quickly but rely on residents to report problems.

Waste Transfer Station

The Parish Council strongly opposed the siting of the proposed transfer station on London Road. Although outside our Parish boundary, the station would have had an effect on many people in Little Chalfont. The Council was especially concerned with the traffic problems that would have been caused. A local group, calling itself 'The Wasters' was also active in its opposition. We are pleased that the application was refused.

Local Area Forum

The next meeting is on Wednesday October 17th in our Village Hall. This is an open meeting and anyone may attend.

Little Chalfont Nature Park (the possible new name of the Community Park)

The Action Group is making progress on developing the detailed project. This is to be shared with the community in due course and will be used to seek out the grants that will be needed to implement the plans.

There is no completion date available at this time but the Action Group is hoping to have completed its plans by next spring.

Christmas Market 2012

The Christmas Market is again to be arranged by the Community Association

Saturday morning December 8th - in the Village Hall

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: October 13th, November 10th, December 8th (Farmers' Market only).

Village Day 2012

Congratulations to the Little Chalfont Community Association, especially Alison Smith and her band of helpers, for an another excellent day in June.

Village Day 2013 will be held on Saturday June 15th



Little Chalfont Primary School singing the Olympic anthem



The Village Green was full of people enjoying the entertainment



Demonstration of Taikwondo



Vintage cars in the Village Hall car park



The day started with a Fun Run in Westwood Park



Chris Hare (GE Healthcare) with his Olympic torch

Your Parish Councillors:

Brian Drew (Chairman) John Hinkly (Vice Chairman)
Michael Parker (Chairman - Planning Committee)
Lesley Hunt , Vinny Patel, David Rafferty, Sheila Keighley

Your District Councillors are Don Phillips and Peter Martin

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.

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.

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.

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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