

## Parking update

### More problems to address

It is often said that actions to address parking problems usually only succeed in transferring the problem to another location – so it has proved in Little Chalfont.

The wide-ranging changes to waiting restrictions in the village centre have generally been effective and well received but, in some instances, the changes have simply transferred the problem to another nearby location.

As an example, our picture shows how Linfields has been transformed into a car park for most of the working week, with cars obstructing some driveways in the process and sometimes blocking access to emergency and delivery vehicles.

In response to representations made by residents of such affected locations, the parish council has agreed to



Commuters parking in Linfields have clogged the road and obstructed driveways

submit proposals to Buckinghamshire County Council (BCC) for further waiting restrictions.

These will be in **Linfields, Harewood Road, Yarrowside, Cokes Lane and Chessfield Park** and to extend the residents-only restriction in **Chalfont Avenue** to include a restriction on Saturdays.

The first stage of the process of establishing new restrictions will be a localised consultation survey to assess the extent of local agreement for change.

It has also been agreed in principle that the funding of the review and implementation of any/all subsequent changes will be shared equally between the parish

## Little Chalfont Community Association updates

LCCA website: [www.littlechalfont.org.uk](http://www.littlechalfont.org.uk)

### Village day - 16 June 2018

Our annual celebration of the community will be held in the village centre from 12 noon until 4pm – there is still time to book your stall to promote your club or organisation.

There will be the usual fun run in the morning in Westwood Park; register from 8.30am, the run starts at 10am.

Please support the new village day raffle! Tickets will be on sale soon, with prizes donated by local businesses and proceeds to good causes.

There will be a bake-off in the village hall, and the dog show returns on the village green alongside other entertainments. This year's scarecrow competition has the theme 'women in history', with further details and an entry form available from our website: [www.littlechalfont.org.uk/vday](http://www.littlechalfont.org.uk/vday)

Help is always welcomed and if you are able to give an hour of your time please contact Paul Nicholls by email to [villageday@littlechalfont.org.uk](mailto:villageday@littlechalfont.org.uk)

### Village centre developments

**Chenies Mews (end of Chenies Parade)**

The latest advice is that the work will be completed within the next two months and that the contractors

expect to leave the site soon after the end of May.

It is understood that some of the flats have been sold and that the first occupants will be moving in on 31 May. As the newsletter goes to press there is no information available about who may be taking over the ground floor units.

**The Sugar Loaf pub**  
Present information from the owner of the freehold, the brewer Charles Wells, is that the company is planning a major refurbishment,



which it will undertake alongside a new tenant.

The company is currently seeking the tenant. Once a tenant has been found, the company is expected to approach the Little Chalfont

GE Amersham Place news  
We are advised that the refurbishment and creation of the additional car parking spaces at the front of the building are on schedule and that the staff will be moving in during May and June.

GE has stated that it is prepared to open the new car park for local residents at the weekend, although this may not be until late summer. ■

## Defensive planting

In a green and leafy village like Little Chalfont, gardening is obviously a passion for many people. Sadly this has not gone unnoticed by criminals. Garden crime is a reality.

According to police statistics, the most likely items to be stolen are mowers, strimmers, chain saws, hedge trimmers, garden furniture and plants. You can reduce the risk of becoming a victim of garden crime, while at the same time creating an



Prickly plants can help to stop garden thefts

attractive garden by planting an impenetrable hedge, which can be just as effective as a fence.

Planting prickly shrubs around

vulnerable windows can also serve as a deterrent to the burglar. So you can create a beautiful garden and reduce the risk of being the next victim of

police identify them.

For a full list of defensive plants

please visit either:

[www.chiltern.gov.uk/homesecurity](http://www.chiltern.gov.uk/homesecurity)

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## From the chairman

I was pleased and honoured to be elected chairman of Little Chalfont Parish Council at our February 2018 meeting, having previously been vice chairman. I hope I can continue the excellent work of my two immediate predecessors in the role, Gill Roberts and Brian Drew.

My wife and I are both originally from Merseyside, but have lived in the village for nearly 40 years. My two daughters both went to primary and secondary schools here.

The next year will be an extremely challenging one for me and my fellow councillors.

The major challenge, of course, is the threat to our green belt with the proposals to build 700+ houses on land between Burtons Lane and Lodge Lane. Our village has grown hugely over the past few years, and the suggestion that it can take something like a 30% increase in housing stock, with all the attendant problems that that will bring, is a very worrying situation. The parish council is doing its utmost to ensure that the interests and preferences of Little Chalfont residents are represented in challenging this threat.

We are also trying to get a new village community centre built on the site of the present one, but are meeting strong opposition from the district council. The parish council has worked tirelessly on the new hall proposals for the past five years but, sadly, we are still some way off getting anything agreed.

Again, this will take a lot of time and effort on the part of the parish council to deliver something that the Little Chalfont residents are very keen to have. It will provide our village with a much-needed resource both for present and future needs.

I hope very much that you will be able to join me and the other parish councillors for our annual meeting, to be held in the village hall on Wednesday 16 May. We not only have guest speakers but you can also hear about the works undertaken by your parish council on behalf of the village.

I look forward very much to serving as parish council chairman and helping the local community in future projects.

Ian Griffiths

## Role of the parish council

### What we can do for you

Little Chalfont was formally a ward of Amersham Town Council. However, Little Chalfont has always been regarded as a separate community and the Little Chalfont Parish Council was formed in 2007 to best serve the local residents.

There are several different types of council throughout England, and each has its own responsibilities for different kinds of local services.

At the parish council, we are often asked why we do not provide more money for care of the elderly, for example, or to repair the roads.

The reason is that these are not the sorts of powers that are vested in the parish council. To better help residents understand what we can and cannot do, below is an explanation of the different councils' powers.

However, please note that this will be subject to substantial change if the current proposal for a single or dual unitary council for Bucks is passed (see page 1).

All parish councillors are volunteers and are not paid for their time.

#### County councils:

These are responsible for services across the whole of a county, like:

- Education
- Transport
- Fire and public safety
- Social care
- Libraries
- Waste management
- Trading standards

#### District, borough and city councils:

These cover a smaller area than county councils. They are the local planning authority and also usually responsible for services like:

- Rubbish collection
- Recycling
- Council tax collections
- Housing

**Parish, community and town councils:** These operate at a level below district and borough councils and, in some cases, unitary authorities. They are elected and can help on a number of local issues, like providing:

- Allotments
  - Public clocks
  - Bus shelters
  - Community centres
  - Play areas and play equipment
  - Grants to help local organisations
  - Consultation on local planning
- If you are interested in taking a stall either at the farmers' market or at the craft fair, please contact the organiser, Carolyn Towner at [info@tvfm.org.uk](mailto:info@tvfm.org.uk) or call on 01895 677455

fixed penalty fines for things like litter, graffiti, fly posting, dog fouling offences.

#### Funding the parish council

Parish councils are funded by levying a precept, collected with the council tax paid by the residents of the parish.

The item on page 4 of this newsletter gives details of the parish council precept and where the money is spent.

#### Parish councillors

Parish councillors are elected to serve for four years, unless a casual vacancy arises that may be filled by a by-election or by co-option.

A parish council consists of the chairman and not fewer than five elected parish councillors; a quorum of the main council committee is at least one-third of the members, or three members, whichever is the greater.

All parish councillors are volunteers and are not paid for their time.

#### Attending meetings

Every parish council meeting – and planning committee meeting – is open to the public, and we encourage you to attend and see how we serve the community.

Before each meeting starts, members of the public have 10 minutes in which to address the parish council on any topics on the agenda that are of interest to them.

However, please note that there are some agenda items where the council formally excludes the public and press on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest, because of the confidential nature of the business. This latter also applies to any sub-committee of the parish council.

#### Little Chalfont farmers' market

For spring/summer 2018, the farmers' market and craft fair will be held in the village hall from 9am-1pm:

- Saturday 12 May
- Saturday 9 June
- Saturday 14 July
- Saturday 11 August

If you are interested in taking a stall either at the farmers' market or at the craft fair, please contact the organiser, Carolyn Towner at [info@tvfm.org.uk](mailto:info@tvfm.org.uk) or call on 01895 677455

## Threat to our green belt

### New moves to save it

Chiltern and South Bucks District Councils are still preparing their emerging local plan, which includes proposals for 700+ new dwellings in the green belt between Lodge Lane and Burtons Lane.

Later this year they will publish the draft plan for public consultation. Local opposition is massive. Of all the replies received to the councils' last consultation on their 15 'preferred options' – green belt sites for possible development – nearly a third were objections to the Little Chalfont site.

In January about 500 local residents attended our meeting to protest to the district councillors elected for Little Chalfont.

They were left in no doubt about the strong local opposition to the plan.

In March 2018 we wrote to both councils giving details of the

weaknesses that we and our professional advisers found in the evidence so far presented to justify release of the site for development.

Our letter gave notice that, unless the Little Chalfont site is withdrawn as this community wishes, we shall bring those weaknesses to the attention of the government inspector who vets the draft plan next year.

The result could be that the whole plan is found unsound.

Please visit the new campaign website opened in February at [savelittlechalfont.org.uk](http://savelittlechalfont.org.uk). It has a copy of the letter, and a list of ways that you can help the campaign run by the parish council / community association coordination group.

Our Save Little Chalfont facebook page is popular for its up-to-date information and good pictures of the site.

A new application will soon be submitted. There will be little change in the design of the building but some minor changes to the entrance from the road and the parking layout will be incorporated.

#### New 20mph zone for Bell Lane

A part-time school advisory 20mph zone is to be installed on Bell Lane.

The new signs are intended to alert drivers to consider their speed in the vicinity of the school, a measure welcomed by residents and school alike.

#### New cherry trees to be planted

New cherry trees will be planted along the Amersham Road to replace the ones that died. Pictured above is one of the cherries just coming into bloom in Chenies Parade. This is a joint project by the LCPC and the LCCA.

creatively, plan your garden planting design for spring and summer, or wish to go further? Why not try one of the new courses starting in 2018.

Courses vary in length from 31 weeks, 10 weeks or starter courses between 6 sessions to one-day workshops, so there is something to suit everyone.

Want to learn how to write For further information, go to [www.adultlearningbcc.ac.uk](http://www.adultlearningbcc.ac.uk)

## Little Chalfont Nature Park

### Spring is here!

As we leave the cold, the snow, the dark nights and the wet weather behind us, we hopefully look forward to the start of spring.

The arrival of British Summer Time is an ideal time to think about planning a visit to the Little Chalfont Nature Park. Come and admire the space for the peace, quiet and tranquillity, to see the daffodils in spring, orchids in early summer, unusual trees, wild flowers, beetles, bugs and butterflies, as well as seeing and hearing birds.

The nature park boasts rare wild flower meadow, a woodland walk, and ancient woodland. If you haven't already discovered it, the entrance to the nature park is on the approach



A young kestrel perched alongside a carved owl on one of the nature park benches

order for the purchase of a wooden den to be installed in the play area and log seating for the teaching area. It is expected that work can be started by early May.

So, if the sun is shining and the weather is pleasant and warm, and you are wondering what to do with yourself or the children, don't forget you have Little Chalfont Nature Park on your doorstep just waiting for your visit. For further information on the nature park, please go to the website: [naturepark.littlechalfont.org.uk](http://naturepark.littlechalfont.org.uk)

## Parish council precept

### What happens to the money?

#### annual budget.

This is the main income for the parish council, supplemented mainly by fees for the use of the village hall plus Westwood Park football and cricket pitches.

Bucks County Council will pay us a little over £8,000 pa towards the devolved services eg, grass cutting. The total income for the 2018/19 year is budgeted at £279,000.

Where does the money go? Over half of the income is spent on a combination of office costs including staff salaries, maintaining Westwood Park, the village hall, the nature park, grass verges and street lighting.

£9,500 pays for the one-hour free parking in Snells Wood car park and £25,000 has been budgeted for improvements in Westwood Park, especially the pavilion.

£5,000 has been set aside in support of the action to try to stop the loss of our green belt in the area between Lodge Lane and Burtons Lane. Additionally, the parish council is still hopeful that a new community centre will be built in the next year or two and has therefore transferred £25,000 to the building reserve. The balance goes on smaller items including grants to local organisations.

#### The following is the fifth in an occasional series of articles about groups that regularly use the village hall



Village Hall; the computer group meets in the Little Chalfont Community Library; and the wildlife group meets at nearby Amersham Common Village Hall.

The branch is a registered charity and is responsible to our members and to the Charities Commission. The annual membership fee of £20 entitles members to attend the activity groups of their choice, as well as the monthly general meetings. These meetings, with an invited speaker, are held on the second Thursday of each month at the Broadway Baptist Church, Broadway, Chesham.

A quarterly newsletter is distributed to all members giving full details of each of the group's activities as well as reviews of past events and other items of interest.

Further details and a list of local activity groups is available on the Chess Valley U3A website at [www.chessvalley-u3a.org.uk](http://www.chessvalley-u3a.org.uk)



are given. All you need is interest and enthusiasm!

Chess Valley U3A, based in Chesham, was formed in the autumn of 2008 and now has over 700 members with over 40 interest groups. The groups meet at a variety of locations ranging from village halls down to members' own homes. Three of these groups meet locally in Little Chalfont.

Membership includes many with experience and expertise in almost all walks of life. Members share their knowledge and experience and develop their own capabilities by learning from each other. No qualifications are required, and none