

# LITTLE CHALFONT PARISH COUNCIL

Newsletter - Autumn 2015



## Curbing traffic speed in the village

### Initiatives working

THERE HAVE BEEN three separate initiatives recently to try to curb excessive traffic speed in the village, and they appear to be having good results. The following is a report on each of these initiatives.

#### Speedwatch update

Most of our nine volunteers have received training and will undertake their first Speedwatch sessions in October and November.

It is hoped that, with both Speedwatch and the MVAS (mobile vehicle activated sign, see below) being used in different locations around the village, people will become more speed aware and that current speeding problems will be reduced.

Anyone interested in volunteering should contact the parish clerk on 01494766655.

#### MVAS results

The mobile vehicle activated sign (MVAS) is a device that can be sited anywhere in the village where speeding is felt to be a problem.

The device was located first at the entrance to Little Chalfont on Amersham Road (30mph speed limit) for approximately five weeks in each direction.

The large volume of statistics provided is still being analysed but daily volume of traffic along Amersham Road passing the MVAS on a weekday was up to 7,000 vehicles. Of those, 3% of vehicles were exceeding 50mph when they passed the sign. About 70 drivers were speeding at over 70mph with two recorded at around 85mph.

Generally, for traffic entering the

village, the average weekday speed was 30mph rising to 40mph on average overnight and in the early morning.

However, for traffic leaving the village, the average weekday speed was between 30-35mph but overnight, the average speed increased to between 35-45mph.

The device was then moved to Bell Lane, again spending a few weeks facing in each direction. The volume of traffic averaged about 2,000 vehicles per day with only a small percentage exceeding the speed limit.

However, one vehicle travelling from the White Lion Road end towards the Elizabeth Avenue junction managed to reach 70mph by the time it passed the device.

The MVAS is presently in Cokes Lane, near the junction with Linfields.

Once we have collated the data we will be passing it to Thames Valley police, who will then consider making Cokes Lane a target site for a month for all of its roads policing officers.

After Cokes Lane, the MVAS will be moved to Burtons Lane, near the entrance to the Donkey Field development. The planned extension next month of the yellow lines on Burtons Lane, while helping alleviate some of the parking problems, may result in increased traffic speeds.

The MVAS will help to prove if this actually happens.

#### Radar trap in Cokes Lane

On Friday 21 August Thames Valley Police (TVP) set up a radar trap along Cokes Lane, targeting traffic towards Nightingales Corner.

The check ran from 8am to 11am and 42 motorists were caught speeding. Officers found an additional eight offences in those that they stopped, including a person, living locally but driving on an expired Australian driver's licence, who had been in the UK for 16 months – four months over the entitlement for a valid Aussie licence.

The highest speed recorded was 49 mph.

If motorists are caught speeding the police issue them with a 'report ticket'. The fixed penalty department process the reports and drivers can be issued with a fine (£100 + three points on their licence), a court summons, or offered a speed awareness course.

These options are based on their speed and/or any existing points on their licence. It is TVP policy to educate rather than prosecute, so the course is offered as an option. ■



*The MVAS sign lights up whenever a vehicle approaches at more than 30mph*

## From the chairman

NOW THAT AUTUMN is here, the busy schedule of summer work that has been undertaken by the parish council will start to ease up, especially now that the grass no longer needs to be cut. Spruced Up, our contractors who undertake this work, have done an excellent job and the village this summer has looked especially good.

I am delighted to report that, during the summer, we also achieved a full complement of councillors. Three people came forward to volunteer their services with a view to being co-opted on to the council.

This means that, for the first time since it was created in 2007, Little Chalfont has nine councillors. Until last year, we were allowed a maximum of eight. However, changes to local boundaries meant that the village has an additional ward and, as from this year, an additional council member.

Chris Ingham CMG was one of the original members of the parish council. He served a full term of four years but decided not to stand for re-election in 2011. Chris has now rejoined us and has become a valuable member of the council.

Ian Griffiths and Melanie Davis responded to our appeal for people to apply for co-option and are both now on board, learning the ropes but already taking a full part in discussions and decision making.

We have also had to replace our assistant parish clerk. Susan Owens had proved an excellent choice but, after only a short time in the role, was offered a position that better suited her. We are now looking for a replacement for Susan.

Don't forget that all meetings of the parish council are open for anyone to attend. Full council meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month (except August) at 7.30 pm. Planning committee meetings are held every three weeks, usually on Tuesdays at 7.30 pm. Why not come along and have your say?

*Brian Drew*

## Update on community centre Progress slowed by negative feedback

REGRETFULLY, progress on plans for a new community centre, to replace the existing village hall, has been slower than anticipated.

A pre-planning consultation with the district council's planning department resulted in some negative feedback: the planning officer's report stated that the proposal would "constitute inappropriate development in the green belt".

Other objections included the fact that the car parking provision fell well short of the 150 spaces that the planning authority would expect.

The parish council accepts the community centre working party's recommendation that very special circumstances can be demonstrated to justify the size and position of the proposed building. Also, that the

suggested number of parking spaces by the district council is excessive, bearing in mind the proximity of a public car park and a number of on-street parking spaces in the approach road to the girls' high school.

Another objection made by the planning officer involves the loss of ancient woodland. This is a reference to the rather unsightly piece of land between the village hall and Snells Wood car park.

Further expert advice is being sought to help our case but it is unlikely that a planning application will be made before the end of the year.

It is important that we can demonstrate public support for this project, and a further consultation may be held in the next few months. ■

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## Parking survey

### Increased restrictions called for

THE PARISH council would like to thank all residents who responded to the parking survey undertaken by the council in partnership with Transport for Bucks (TfB).

One thing that was obvious from an early stage is that 'you can't please all the people all the time'. Therefore, to try to ensure that a democratic decision was made when there was any doubt, an additional survey was undertaken in Westwood Drive, (including Westwood Close and Farm Close), Beechwood Close and Chenies Avenue (north end).

In each of these roads, residents were given a choice of scenario and

asked to vote on their preferred option. The vote was split in each case but all three roads had a majority of at least two-thirds in favour of the option that would increase the amount of parking restrictions.

A meeting between representatives from the council and TfB will take place soon so that final decisions can be made on proposed changes to parking restrictions throughout the village.

These will then go to public consultation, providing another opportunity to give your opinion. It is likely to be late 2016 before the finally agreed changes are implemented. ■

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## Nightingales Corner

### New village sign

THE PROMISED improvements to this rather sad space are still being discussed.

We have to ensure that nothing we do interferes with the several utility services (electricity etc) that are beneath this surface. Nevertheless, we expect the new village sign (pictured right) to be in place in the near future. ■



# Remembrance Day

## Sunday 8 November 2015

A SHORT SERVICE of remembrance will be held at the new memorial stone, by the village green, on Sunday 8 November at 10.45 am.

The Reverend Anne Ellis, superintendent minister for Amersham Methodist Circuit, assisted by other local clergy, will conduct this.

Prior to this, at 10 am, a service will be held at

the Methodist Church in Chalfont Avenue, to which everyone is invited.

At approximately 10.30 am, the uniformed organisations will lead a procession from the church to the village green for the remembrance service.

This will include the laying of wreaths at the memorial stone. ■



*Laying a wreath at the new memorial last year*

## WI first centenary

### 100 years of service

THIS YEAR SEES the Women's Institute (WI) celebrating its first centenary.

So popular is the movement in Little Chalfont village, that there are two WIs, an afternoon and evening WI.

The evening WI has been actively looking after and developing the War Memorial flower bed in the village centre. A floral 'WI 100' was planted in the spring and has blossomed to make the centrepiece for a yarn bombing display during the centenary week in September.

Mysteriously, a monkey appeared on a swing hanging from the tree and numerous animals could be seen hiding in the undergrowth. Pompoms adorned the bushes, tree and lampposts and the bollards were adorned with hats and scarves.

The WI is renowned for its wide ranging campaigning, both locally and nationally and a selection of campaign signs was displayed amongst the plants.

The WI also had a stall at Little Chalfont farmers' market, exhibiting



*The mysterious monkey that appeared over the WI centenary planting in the village in the summer*

storysacks for local schools and a craft stall in the Red Kite craft market. This was showing a variety of craft skills that have been acquired over the years plus articles for sale.

Both WIs meet on the second Tuesday of the month and are keen for new members. ■

If you would like further details of the WI's activities, or would like to join, please contact 01494 763879 or [www.littlechalfonteveningwi.weebly.com](http://www.littlechalfonteveningwi.weebly.com) [www.facebook.com/littlechalfonteveningwi](http://www.facebook.com/littlechalfonteveningwi)

## Parking enforcement hotline number

THE PARISH COUNCIL receives a number of complaints about abuses of parking restrictions, including in disabled parking spaces, and parking across (and on!) dropped kerbs. There was also thought to be inadequate monitoring.

Such abuses can be reported to the county council's parking enforcement contractor NSL, by telephoning 08432 085544\*. Subject to the availability of relevant staff in the area, corrective enforcement action can be taken.

NSL can take enforcement action only

where there are formal restrictions, such as yellow lines etc. Obstructive parking where no formal restrictions apply remains 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. ■

## Briefly...

### Superfast broadband for Little Chalfont

Connected Counties, sponsored partly by Bucks County Council, has been working with BT to achieve countywide superfast broadband coverage of at least 90% by the end of March 2016.

We are very happy to inform you that, thanks to this programme, a number of premises (residential and business) in Little Chalfont can now order superfast broadband.

This will increase internet speeds with all the advantages that this entails. Please see [www.connectedcounties.org](http://www.connectedcounties.org) for more information.

### Village hedges

The parish council is trying to ensure that hedges are not encroaching on highways and pavements. Where a problem is encountered, residents may have received a letter requesting them to do some trimming.

We have been very pleased with the response and are grateful to those residents who have taken prompt action where appropriate.

If you have a hedge or overhanging tree, please check it regularly so that it is not a nuisance or dangerous in any way.

### Community library extension

Little Chalfont Community Library is getting bigger. Building work started on 12 October 2015 on an extension to house a purpose-designed computer suite.

The new computer suite will be located immediately in front of the children's section of the library and will house an increased number of computers available for use by the public.

The library will remain open during the building work, but some of the access paths will be closed for safety reasons

### Street lamps

The parish council is responsible for most of the street lamps in the village, except the ones on the A404, which are the responsibility of Bucks CC.

If you see one of our lamps not working, please report it to the council's office quoting the road name and the number of the lamppost.



# EA withdraws objections to waste site

## Decision now with secretary of state

THE ENVIRONMENT Agency has formally announced the removal of its objection to the proposed waste transfer station (WTS) on the A413 at the bottom of Cokes Lane.

Whether or not the WTS will be built is now in the hands of the secretary of state.

Bucks County Council (BCC) approved the planning application in May 2015, subject to the withdrawal of an objection to the application by the Environment Agency. The EA objection was withdrawn in a letter on 11 September 2015 and, as it is required to do for developments of this nature, the application has been submitted to the secretary of state.

However, the final decision rests with the secretary of state only if, within 21 days of receiving the application (unless formally extended), he decides to 'call in' the application for consideration.

Requests for him to do this have already been submitted, but the contents of the Environment Agency's letter raise further concerns.

### Additional reasons highlighted

These have prompted both the Little Chalfont Parish Council (LCPC) and the Little Chalfont Community Association (LCCA) to write and highlight additional reasons why the application should be called in.

In addition to the many other reasons for objecting, the underlying and vital issues of concern are the protection of the River Misbourne and the underlying aquifer from possible pollution.



*Red outline shows the area by which the current London Road waste site is to be extended if permission is granted*

We have strong doubts that appropriate protection will be achieved but the final decision must be made by a completely independent body, with the appropriate expertise.

However, the Environment Agency felt able to withdraw its objections to the proposed development because the attenuation drainage pond is now to be relocated to prevent contamination of the water.

Attenuation ponds or tanks are designed to control water in cases of extreme rainfall. The control comes by collecting the water from the ground or built structures and releasing it back into the local watercourse in a controlled way.

The withdrawal by the Environment Agency of its objection is, nevertheless, subject to several conditions that need to be met by the applicants (FCC Environment).

At face value, this seems

reasonable, but the judgment as to whether or not the conditions have been met has been left for BCC to decide.

### Necessary expertise needed

Not only is BCC an interested party in this application, it is also questionable whether it has the expertise to make the necessary judgments.

Residents who are following this proposed development can view the letter from the Environment Agency on the BCC website by following the links under 'waste & recycling' to the Amersham WTS application. Copies of the letters from the parish council and community association are available on their respective websites.

Even if the secretary of state approves the WTS proposals, as the district council (DC) owns the site, the county council will need a lease from the DC to build the WTS.

It is possible that the DC will not agree to the lease, as some members of the district council are opposed to the plans.

The final outcome may still be several weeks away, as it is understood that the secretary of state's support team for such matters is inundated with work but, when the decision is known, the community will be advised at the earliest opportunity. ■

## Westwood Park news

### New storage unit added

THE FOOTBALL season is now well under way and it is good to see the park well used for this activity. The Westwood Park Football Club, which meets on Saturday mornings, has over 400 members aged from 4 –17.

It has secured planning permission to erect a storage unit close to the pavilion, which will enable the club to keep onsite many of the items that coaches now have to take home eg, nets, footballs and cones. The



*The new storage unit for the football club at Westwood Park, ready to be painted to match the pavilion*

structure has been installed and the final work will be completed shortly.

It will also mean that the football posts, presently stored in the open next to the pavilion, can out of sight and made more secure.

The parish council has approved the funding for three exercise stations, which will form the start of a 'trim trail' around the park. These are wooden structures intended for adult use and should be installed during the next few months.

The multi use games area (MUGA), which had to be closed during much of the summer, has now reopened following the installation of new fencing. ■

# Beel Close underpass

## Lighting needed

THE UNDERPASS that connects Beel Close to Marigold Walk is a very useful cut through for residents walking to and from Little Chalfont village.

However, even on a sunny afternoon it can be gloomy, and at night time and on winter evenings it can be very dark and forbidding, so

*Beel Close underpass – gloomy even on a sunny day*

people tend to avoid using it.

The parish council and the LCCA are trying to find funding to allow suitable lighting to be installed.

This is London Transport property so we are looking to that body for permission and also a financial contribution. We hope to have more news soon. ■



## Updates from Little Chalfont Community Association

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

### Donkey field update

The development in Burtons Lane, now named formally as Harvard Grange, is broadly on schedule.

The liaison group, through Michael Cohn, continues to be able to influence aspects of the development to the benefit of the community, although parking in Burtons Lane has remained an ongoing issue, despite regular attempts to eliminate the problem. The revised double yellow lining in Burtons Lane, a condition of the planning approval, is scheduled to be completed towards the end of November.

### Village Day 2016

Following the very successful event this year, next year's village day will be held on Saturday 18 June 2016. It will again be organised by Paul Nicholls.

If you are willing to help, please contact Paul on 01494 762053 or email him at [paul@leystar.net](mailto:paul@leystar.net).

### Small Business Saturday

Another date for you to put in your diary and for you to support our local shops and businesses is Saturday 5 December. See you there!

### Little Chalfont farmers' market

For autumn/winter 2015/2016, the farmers' market and craft fair will be held in the village hall from 9am-1pm:

Saturday 14 November  
Saturday 12 December  
Saturday 9 January  
Saturday 13 February

[info@tvfm.org.uk](mailto:info@tvfm.org.uk). Tel: 01235 227266  
If you are interested in taking a stall at the craft fair, contact the organiser, Carolyn Towner on 01895 677455

### Nature park news

The trustees and action group continue in their efforts to achieve an opening of the nature park next spring. Despite the wonderful support from the community, a major challenge remains to raise the balance of the money needed to install the access road and paths.

Tenders for the work have now been received but the cost has turned out to be rather more than estimated.

However, an application has recently been submitted to SITA Trust under its 'accessing nature' fund, for a grant that will cover all of the necessary work.

If the application is accepted in principle, the final decision will not be known until February next year.

Monthly working parties from the 'friends of the nature park' continue to undertake some excellent work in both keeping on top of maintenance issues and preparing the woodland. In addition, the Scouts, Beavers and Brownies have provided help, together with a team from GE Healthcare.

The annual autumn cut of the meadow has been completed and the planned cherry and fruit trees were planted last month with their sponsors in attendance.

Other sponsorship of planned features has gone well but there are still opportunities for you to sponsor features needed before opening. Contact: [naturepark@](mailto:naturepark@)



*Beavers help with clearing the nature park*

[littlechalfont.org.uk](http://littlechalfont.org.uk).

The legal arrangements with the parish council are progressing and an agreement for a lease between the Little Chalfont Charitable Trust and the parish council is expected to be completed shortly.

A dedicated website for the nature park is under development and will include a

lot of educational material for use by local schools.

Escorted tours continue to be available @ 11.00 am on the second Saturday of each month and at other times by arrangement.

To book yourself into a tour, please email Rob Rolls at [parkfriends@littlechalfont.org.uk](mailto:parkfriends@littlechalfont.org.uk)

### Chenies Parade land

A revised planning application has been submitted to Chiltern District Council and it is expected that this will be approved in November.

It includes only minor changes to the plans that were accepted by the planning inspectorate on the earlier appeal, albeit with fewer public parking spaces.

The community association has already established contact with the developers. It has their agreement to hold discussions, together with the shopkeepers in Chenies Parade, for arrangements to be made that will keep the inevitable disruption to an absolute minimum.

The intention is that this agreement will be in place before any material work commences. ■

## Chiltern emerging local plan, 2014-2036

IN THE COMMUNITY association's newsletter in July, it was reported that there would be an options consultation in October/November this year.

In the meantime, the coordination group, set up by the parish council and community association to monitor and advise on proposals, would review any supporting evidence documentation that was published.

There has been no documentation

yet released and it is understood that the timetable has now been changed.

We can now expect the options consultation to take place over a six week period in January/February 2016, with the evidence documentation becoming available to read a little in advance.

This will include the green belt review, which could be available in December.

Developers will certainly try to persuade the district council to release green belt areas near Little Chalfont.

However, the outcome will only become clear when the review becomes available.

The next community association's newsletter is due in January 2016 and will be timed to provide the community with a detailed update. ■

## About Little Chalfont Parish Council

### Parish councillors



Brian Drew  
Chairman



Gill Roberts  
Vice chairman



Michael Parker  
Planning committee  
chairman



David Rafferty  
Planning committee  
vice chairman



Melanie Davis



Ian Griffiths



Chris Ingham CMG



Vinny Patel



Janet Walford OBE

### Parish council meetings

Parish council general meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month, except for August.

The meetings are held at Little Chalfont Village Hall, Cokes Lane, Little Chalfont, HP8 4UD, commencing at 7.30 pm. 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 frequently take advantage of the opportunity allowed at all meetings for public comments, to express their views and to ask the council for support in relation to various matters.

The next meeting of the parish council will be held on Wednesday 11 November 2015.

Planning committee meetings are usually held every third Tuesday. At these meetings you can hear discussions of planning applications submitted for Little Chalfont, and whether the parish council agrees that a planning application should go ahead.

The next meeting of the planning committee will be on held on Tuesday 3 November 2015.

### 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](mailto:clerk@littlechalfont-pc.gov.uk)

**OFFICE OPENING HOURS:** 9am – 3pm, Mon – Fri.

**COUNCIL WEBSITE:** [www.littlechalfont-pc.gov.uk](http://www.littlechalfont-pc.gov.uk)



Natasha  
Meldrum  
Parish clerk

### 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.

### 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](mailto:clerk@littlechalfont-pc.gov.uk). We welcome all feedback!