



Community improvement plan (CIP)

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



Litter picking
The aspiration for regular litter picks also falls within the wider priority of our community board for the environment and climate change. Please see the article below on how we can tackle this as a community, and advise your interest in regular litter picks to the 'environment' email address.



Nature friendly village
The four wildflower patches are now being prepared for the spring and summer next year. Our verges have the potential to provide 'our biggest nature reserve hiding in plain sight'. The parish council is therefore looking

to the community to nominate verges where any cutting regime will be much reduced. This will allow wildflowers to grow and help the pollinators on whom we all depend. Please send your nominations to: environment@littlechalfont.org.uk by 15 December 2021.



Little Chalfont Good Neighbours
There is general concern about the potential of flu and Covid-19 to create problems over the winter. Members of the good neighbours team are prepared and willing to assist if needed. The number to ring is 01494 762395.

Dementia friendly village
This initiative was reported in the community association's July 2021 newsletter and many residents have come forward with offers of help. From the initial meeting on 13 September this year, it was agreed that the first project will be to set up a café as a regular meeting place for those

with memory issues and their carers. Although the plans have moved forward quite quickly, opening the café may not be until early 2022. There will be an update in the community association's January 2022 newsletter. If you would like to help and have not yet advised Helen Tyers, who is leading the project, please email her on: goodneighbours@littlechalfont.org.uk



Encouraging visitors
This is now to be progressed under the wider 'Visit Bucks & the Chilterns' strategy and linked to the short to medium term priority of the economy within the county. Over the coming months we will be looking at increasing our offering of walks within and around the village, the provision of a notice board with a map, to be positioned on the shops side of the station and considering any improvements to the signage in the village. ■

Tackling the challenges together

Our community spirit in the village continues to grow but the challenges that we face, whether for the environment, climate change or the economy, will be increasing. The parish council (LCPC) and community association (LCCA) have many initiatives and projects in mind but will be unable to deliver them alone. It is proposed to set up steering groups, led by the LCPC and LCCA and, knowing

that you will share the view that there is a need for action, ask for you to step forward to help. The time commitment will not be onerous and the more residents that take part, the easier it will be to tackle the challenges together. Do, please, offer to help and use the email addresses below to let us know the areas in which your interests lie. We will

then respond to let you know how the steering groups will operate.

- ◆Environment and climate change: environment@littlechalfont.org.uk
 - ◆Helping the economy: economy@littlechalfont.org.uk
 - ◆Visitor strategy: visitors@littlechalfont.org.uk
- The Amersham and Villages Community Board will also be supporting us and making grants available for projects that fit these priorities. Thank you! ■

Little Chalfont Community Association news

LCCA website: www.littlechalfont.org.uk

Village day 2022

"It would be good to have village day again", voiced this year by a number of local residents, who miss this summer annual event.

Indeed it would be good to hold another village day in 2022 and we are hoping that this will be possible. In anticipation, we are starting to build a team to organise it and would welcome offers of help.

If you would like to be part of the organising team, please email villageday@littlechalfont.org.uk to let us know. The likely date will be Saturday 18 June 2022

Christmas lights

There will be a change in the motifs on the street light columns this year as we trial a different design.

The date for lights to be switched on is Sunday 28 November.

Chiltern foodbank donations

The dates for the remainder of 2021, when donations can be dropped at the gazebos in the village centre are as follows:
◆ Saturday 27 November – including the Christmas appeal.
◆ Saturday 4 December. ■

About Little Chalfont Parish Council

Parish councillors



Mike Crowe
Chairman



Vinny Patel
Vice chairman



Chris Ingham CMG
Planning committee
chairman



Chris Holmes
Planning committee
vice chairman



Brian Gallagher



Novia Henry-Ames



David Nussbaum



Doug Silverstone



Janet Walford OBE
Newsletter editor

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. 10/11/21

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



Assistant clerk
vacancy to
be filled



Sharon Chapman
Accounts assistant

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; 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.

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

LITTLE CHALFONT PARISH COUNCIL

Newsletter – Autumn 2021



Threat to Little Chalfont green belt Proposed development of former golf course and farm

Local residents will no doubt be well aware, by now, that developers wish to build on green belt land south east of Little Chalfont, between Lodge Lane and Burtons Lane.

Developers intend to apply in November 2021 for permission to build up to 380 homes, a 100-unit retirement village and community facilities on green belt land shown on the map, right. In fact, the planning application may have been made by the time you read this.

The site is part of the plot that our community fought to protect against allocation for development in the Chiltern & South Bucks Local Plan, withdrawn in 2020.

What is at risk?

The openness and tranquillity projected close to the village centre by this unspoiled green land, with its woods and wildlife, are greatly valued by local residents.

If the developers can convince Bucks Council that 'very special circumstances', which government rules require in order to permit building in the green belt, exist at this site, this development could be the thin end of a dangerous wedge.

Once the principle of releasing our green belt is yielded, building applications may well follow for other sites around the village.

No 'very special circumstances'

There is a general need for more housing in the south east of England. In the past few years Little Chalfont has helped by absorbing two large new developments totalling about 300 new homes, at Turners Field



Site of the proposed development (left) and some of what the village would be losing if planning were approved (right)

in Bell Lane and at Harvard Grange in Burtons Lane.

However, we do not accept that the housing need is so especially acute in Little Chalfont that it would amount to 'very special circumstances', justifying destruction of green belt at the local site proposed.

Traffic from the new housing would further congest Little Chalfont centre. Do we want the cars from several hundred new dwellings queuing by our shops? Would there be more danger to children who walk through the centre to school?

There are many more reasons for objection, summarised on our website: savelittlechalfont.org.uk.

How to make your views heard

The parish council and the Little Chalfont Community Association will submit to Buckinghamshire Council a joint objection to the planning application.

We plan to send, with the objection, professional studies of the landscape, ecological and traffic harm that the proposed development would cause.

Once submitted, the objection and the professional studies will also be published on our website:

savelittlechalfont.org.uk

After the application appears on Buckinghamshire Council's planning website, we will distribute a leaflet to all homes in Little Chalfont with more information, and details of how residents can submit their own views directly to Buckinghamshire Council. Please read the leaflet, and support our campaign.

The six Buckinghamshire councillors who represent parts of Little Chalfont have already made a strong statement opposing the proposed development. The text is on savelittlechalfont.org.uk

Why no public meeting?

In the past we have held public meetings to discuss how to deal with threats to our green belt.

These were attended by large – and unpredictable – numbers, sometimes more than could fit into the venue.

We do not want to put residents at risk of Covid 19 infection by holding such a meeting at present. ■

Beautiful floral displays

Thanks to Simon Collins

Over the years, the community has been proud of its many hanging baskets, arranged by the Little Chalfont Community Association (LCCA), with major contributions to the costs of the 56 hanging baskets also coming from the parish council and GE Healthcare.

Since 2003, these beautiful displays have been supplied by Simon Collins from his nursery in Chesham and they have helped to brighten the village over many years.

Simon has also been a friend to the village and, until a few years ago, helped in arranging for the plants in the basket's winter/spring displays to be saved, repotted and sold at the Little Chalfont annual village day for the benefit of the (LCCA).

He has also provided voluntary help



to the village in many other small ways. Simon has now retired and, so typical of his approach, he has assisted the LCCA in arranging a very smooth transition to a new supplier of his recommendation.

On behalf of the whole community, we would like to thank Simon, and we wish him and wife Marianne a long and happy retirement.

Windowflowers Ltd, one of the largest providers of hanging baskets in the country, took over on 1 October 2021. The summer flowers (pictured above) have now been replaced by the new winter/spring flowers and plants, which have yet to come into their full glory. However, residents will soon be enjoying the new displays. ■

From the chairman



After the local elections in May 2021, a number of long-serving parish councillors stood down and my thanks to them for all their contributions and help in running the parish council over previous years.

The parish council now has five new councillors, and my thanks to them for the useful and positive input they have made so far, taking on enthusiastically various tasks that have been assigned to them.

The parish council is run purely by volunteers – parish councillors do not get paid for their roles. We have, at present, two salaried professional staff to run the parish office.

The role of a parish council is limited; our parish clerk is dealing with more and more queries locally that should be directed to the new Bucks Unitary Authority.

While we will try to help by pointing people in the right direction, the parish council cannot take on issues that are outside its direct responsibility.

We do have a useful link on the parish council webpage, littlechalfont-pc.gov.uk that will give information about contacts, and a link to these organisations. I intend shortly to add a 'parish council responsibilities' to the LCPC web page so that the parish council role is more defined for the local community.

Included on the back page of this newsletter is a brief list of contacts for commonly raised questions to the parish council.

Finally, I am pleased to welcome Sallie Matthews to the role of parish clerk. Sallie had been our assistant clerk since joining the parish council six years ago, so brings a wealth of experience to this role that has been invaluable to councillors and the public during these Covid 19 times. ■

Mike Crowe

Little Chalfont Nature Park

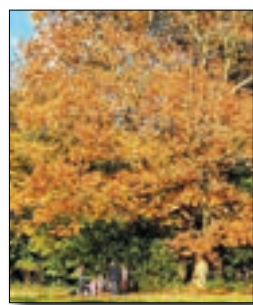
Autumn arrives

The golden colours of autumn have arrived at the nature park. The meadow was cut in late summer and we had a lovely display of common spotted orchids, which have now spread across the meadow.

To protect all the wildflowers we asked everyone to stay on the footpaths during summer, as visitor numbers had increased since Covid-19. Now, the logs and signage marking the paths have been removed and visitors are free to wander.

With the cutting of the meadow the noise of the grasshoppers has died down, but there is still plenty of wildlife in the park. Recently spotted have been squirrels – taking advantage of the hazel trees – a roe deer and muntjac, a green woodpecker and a kestrel. The best time to see the wildlife is early in the morning.

The display of autumn leaves is just starting and the American oak, *Quercus Rubra*, (see picture) is quite spectacular and worth a visit.



Fungi of all kinds are appearing on the trees, rotten wood and the grass. Be careful, though, as they are mostly poisonous and should not be picked or eaten.

Schools visit

We were very happy to have lots of visiting schools during the summer term. This included Stoney Dean and Chalfont St Giles Nursery but also schools from further afield. We hope that schools continue visit during the autumn term.

Details of school visits can be found on the website at: naturepark.littlechalfont.org.uk. We have resources available to enhance your experience. The nature club – a parent and toddler group – continues to run on Tuesday mornings in the park.

This term they were hunting for spiders, animal homes, picking blackberries and scavenging for coloured leaves. They will be running throughout the winter with the shelter of the trees in our log learning circle. ■

Community boards

Updates for Little Chalfont

Amersham & Villages Community Board has set up four action groups, all of which met throughout August and September. Earlier this year the board set up a stand on the village green (pictured right) to meet local residents and answer any queries.

◆ **Economic regeneration action group:** Focusing on support for our local towns and villages to thrive, from introducing new racks and amenity stations for bikes, to providing better signage to key points of interest or places to sit along the way. The group also talked about supporting local businesses to become greener or more accessible and supporting young people to develop new skills.

◆ **Health & wellbeing action group:** New ideas were shared from supporting people suffering from long Covid to introducing new



defibrillators in the area and, more importantly, making sure people know where they are.

The group also discussed projects to support older people in our area or perhaps those with dementia, as well as younger adults with learning disabilities, to increase their physical activity.

◆ **Environment action group:** A great discussion including everything from increasing habitats for pollinators, litter and recycling, allotment space and community grow schemes, to reducing use of disposable cups and plastic bottles.

Briefly...

New MVASs arrives

The parish council has taken action to try to curb speeding drivers in the village by purchasing two new mobile vehicle activation signs (MVAS).

The first one will be installed in Cokes Lane by mid November, and will show the speed of passing drivers, rather than just the speed limit.

This should provide a more accurate picture of the problem, to pass on to the police. The gadgets will be moved around other speeding black spots in the village.



Parking at Cytiva

Our friends at Cytiva have confirmed that its front car park will continue to be available for 7 days a week – 8am to 6pm, two-hour stay – until the end of this year.

This will be reviewed again at that time but the offices are already being used more extensively and a return to weekend only use may not be far away.

Free Christmas parking days

The parish council has once again arranged for five free parking days in the village car parks in the run up to Christmas this year. These will be as follows:

- ◆ Saturdays 4th, 11th, 18th December
- ◆ Thursday 23rd December
- ◆ Friday 24th December.

◆ **Transport action group:** This has focused its discussions on exploring ways to make our roads safer, addressing areas with speeding concerns and reducing problems caused by on-street parking.

The community boards are always keen to hear new project ideas – if you want to help and have thoughts on how to tackle some of these issues in Little Chalfont, do get in touch. It has developed a 'simple ideas' form, so that anyone can share an idea that the relevant action group will discuss and look for ways to make it happen: forms.office.com/r/Nuk90YR599

We're really pleased to have received some ideas from local people in Little Chalfont and will be exploring these further as part of the relevant action group. ■

Westwood Park news

Recycling with a difference!

Westwood Park has enjoyed a good year, but there are always subtle, and sometimes surprising, changes to the park.

This year we sadly lost a big beech tree on the edge of the park, felled by the high winds and wet conditions earlier this year (see picture). Counting the tree's trunk rings, we found that the tree was 80+ years old!

This tree, which has been part of our local history, is still with us, however, – the logs have been left in the park and serve as an ad hoc place to sit, have a picnic and enjoy the views over Westwood Park.

Speaking of views of the park, autumn is now well and truly with us, bringing with it brilliant sunshine and long shadows across the parkland.

The deluges of rain that swept the

park earlier in the autumn months turned many areas into mud baths, but these quickly dried out after the 'monsoon season' had passed and normal park activities were quickly resumed by everybody.

Because of the problems caused by the extreme weather, the parish council decided to install a ramp and steps up to the multi user games area and tennis courts.

This, hopefully, will make it safer and easier to gain access to these areas in the coming wet season.

Waste bins on the park have been upgraded to much larger capacity and the design is such that the rubbish deposited is kept secure and dry and is easier and more hygienic for emptying. Why not come along and see for yourself! ■



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.

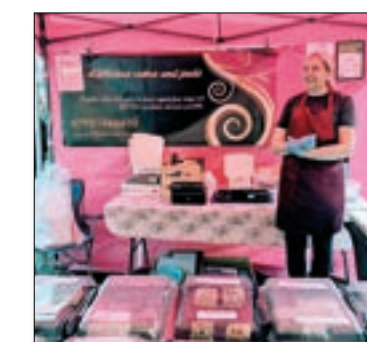
Now that lockdown restrictions have eased, the number of stalls is almost back to normal and our shows just how popular it was during the October market.

Here we profile two more individual regular stallholders:

Lipilicious Cakes

Carole Preedy started her business some 30 years ago. She runs the company single-handedly from her home, licensed by Ealing Council, having received a 5* rating for hygiene.

She uses only the finest ingredients she can – for example, all the eggs she uses are free range – sourced



from a local farm.

She has been selling her wares at local farmers markets for the past 15 years, and will take orders for individual occasions.

In addition to the usual cupcakes and sponges, she also makes flapjacks, tray bakes, biscuits and so on.

Griffiths Brothers Distillery

Started in 2017 in the Beaconsfield area, and now based in Penn Street, the distillery is owned and run by the Griffiths Brothers, Alex and Kieran.

Traditional copper stills used to make mass market gins usually use heat to deliver flavour, but the heat tends to cook the ingredients, altering their original taste.

The Griffiths brothers, however, decided to specialise in 'cold distilled' gin, boiling it cold (in a rotary

evaporator named 'Roberta' by the brothers!) to reduce the atmospheric pressure.

As the pressure is lower it drops the boiling point of alcohol so it boils at room temperature, said to produce a more natural taste.

The company makes a variety of different gins, sourcing the botanicals for them from all over the world.

For example, their original gin contains orange blossom, barbary passion berry, and grains of paradise amongst others to provide its unique flavour.



There are seven gins currently in the range, three original and four limited editions ones at present. Visitors are welcome to visit the factory in Penn Street with tours every Thursday. ■

More stallholders will be covered in the spring 2022 issue of this newsletter

Hedge cutting

Thanks everyone!

The parish council keeps an eye out for places where hedges or trees have grown out over roads, pavements or paths around the village. This can obstruct the view for drivers, or reduce accessibility for people walking, in wheelchairs, or pushing children's buggies etc.

If councillors identify places where vegetation from a particular property is causing an obstruction, a letter from the council will request that the owner or occupier to deal with the issue, (under section 154(1) of the Highways Act 1980.)

The council has been encouraged to see how local people have responded to such requests – cutting back the vegetation so that others can enjoy



Overgrown hedge before (left) and after trimming

public facilities more safely and comfortably.

Above is an example of 'before' and 'after' photos to illustrate the good work that has been done: we all appreciate the efforts of those who have dealt with their growing vegetation to help the community. Thank you. ■