

LITTLE CHALFONT PARISH COUNCIL

Newsletter – Spring 2025



Little Chalfont Park Progress so far

Activity in recent months by the team at the Hill Group on the development of Little Chalfont Park has continued to focus on obtaining the required approvals to enable construction to start later this year.

Following two public consultation events held in the village hall last year, in May and September, the Hill team submitted its first set of four reserved matters applications (RMAs) in mid-December. This covered the main access road into the site from Burtons Lane, to be known as The Avenue, and the suitable alternative natural green space (SANG).

New footbridge

The illustration top right shows the site of the proposed pedestrian and cyclist bridge, linking the development to Oakington Avenue.

The parish council and Little Chalfont Community Association (LCCA)

undertook an extensive review of these applications, including comments made by the community in person and through the planning portal, with a joint submission made to Bucks Council at the end of February 2025.

The timeline for review by Bucks Council of the submitted RMAs is not clear at present but is likely to be delayed slightly by the upcoming council elections in May.

Nevertheless, it is expected that review of the planning applications will be concluded some time in the middle of this year, after which on-site construction activity is expected to commence.

A third public consultation event covering the fifth RMA – housing within the eastern and northern areas of the site – took place in February 2025 and the consultation period ended at the end of that month.



Illustration of siting of combined footpath and cycle footbridge from Little Chalfont Park to Oakington Avenue in yellow, centre

Once community comments have been assessed by the Hill team, a formal RMA submission will follow, probably in the coming months and, as before, this will be the final opportunity for Little Chalfont residents to comment on the applications.

Critical phase

This is now a critical phase and the Little Chalfont Park Liaison Group (LCPLG) has and will continue to hold monthly meetings with the Hill team to ensure that the community's views are represented in the developer's plans for the site.

As such, the LCPLG continues to maintain a website, (littlechalfontparkliaisongroup.co.uk) showing details of work in progress and a summary of the minutes of the monthly meetings.

Residents can also use the site to contact the LCPLG with concerns that they feel are not being satisfactorily addressed via direct contact with the Hill team.

The Hill Group will deliver a presentation on the development at the parish council annual meeting to be held on 30 April 2025. ■

You are invited to attend the

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2025

to be held in Little Chalfont Village Hall, Cokes Lane
on Wednesday 30 April at 7.30pm

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Guest speakers:

Dan Massie of Hill Group on Little Chalfont Park
Keith Bennett on farmers market benefits

There will be opportunities for you to put questions to speakers and councillors at the meeting. Alternatively, you may submit your questions in writing before the meeting via email to clerk@littlechalfont-pc.gov.uk or post them in the letterbox next to the front door of the village hall. Please include your name and address. If you do not want your name and address made public, please state this clearly.

Westwood Park

Upgrades latest

We are pleased to report that the first part of renovation of Westwood Park has been completed.

This involved clearing trees and bushes around the sports courts and the installation of new sports fencing, as shown in our picture below, and power washing equipment for the court surfaces.

This has meant that courts could be used over the winter months, but poor weather has prevented repainting of court surfaces and lines. Weather conditions permitting, we hope to have the courts fully operational by May.

Part of this renovation is the conversion of one of the tennis courts into two pickleball courts, one of the fastest growing sports in the country.

Once the courts are painted we plan to hold a special event with demonstrations and instructions on how to play the game. Watch out for announcements about this on the parish council website and on social media.

Next stage

Work is now beginning on plans for a new pavilion with improved facilities for sports teams and perhaps a cafe and toilets for use by the general public. We will also review how we can improve the sports pitches and drainage.

We will also be looking at the provision of a meeting/work area in the pavilion for use by community groups. We are already in discussion with some groups, but if you are a member of a group that might use this facility, please contact the parish council.

The park will be playing its part in the Little

Chalfont centenary celebrations on Village Day on Saturday 21 June 2025, when it hosts the fun run.

We will be marking out the course for this, with white lines and distance points posts, and keeping these up for use after the event for the keen athletes, fun runners, dog exercisers and just leisurely strollers, amongst you... ■



The new fences around the refurbished tennis courts at Westwood Park

Nature Park

Spring is in the air

As the growing season begins after the poor weather we've had, the ongoing work of the nature park management group and its volunteers begins to show itself.

The new sensory garden has now been planted and we look forward to it growing over the coming months. The garden enables visitors to enjoy the senses from the plants across the changing seasons and provides a separate area to sit quietly.

Meanwhile, the volunteer group has been out working to ensure the rest of the park can be enjoyed as much as possible as summer approaches. In addition to clearing



Spring crocus at the nature park

older and dying material, and repairing seating areas, work has been undertaken to clear and make safe trees in the park, as well as ensuring that the new paths are cleaned and cleared.

The management group has also been busy developing a new strategy to communicate news about the park, with a new leaflet setting out information about the park and the benefits of visiting. A new production technique will also enable this leaflet to be updated on a much more frequent basis.

We are also working on the development of an improved website to show the park's seasonal

From the chairman



Spring flowers are now blooming and the recent long

spell of sunny weather makes everyone feel better and brighter. As usual, the parish council has been very busy, but we have a particularly busy schedule ahead of us over the coming summer months.

The ongoing major work undertaken at Westwood Park continues apace, with the tennis courts being refurbished and new fencing erected to prevent stray tennis balls! This first phase of upgrades is nearly complete and phase two should start shortly, and all the courts will be open for use soon.

Little Chalfont, like most other local councils, is holding elections for officers on Thursday 1 May. I am grateful to all the current councillors who have taken up the slack caused by our being two councillors short, and this especially applies to planning applications.

The parish council sees all the planning applications in the village. Although Bucks Council decides what is permitted and what is not, it takes into account the views of the parish council when making a decision. Being 'local' to the area, the parish council offers invaluable observations to help Bucks Council make its decisions.

We have all been busy and not noticed where four years have gone. My hope is that all the current councillors will continue to stand for election, and continue their huge contribution to the smooth running of the place where you have chosen to make your home.

Our work is extremely varied and very interesting. If you are interested in a role at the parish council, do please contact our parish clerk who will be happy to provide you with any information.

Vinny Patel

changes and new signs are being planned. It has also commissioned a team of students from Dr Challoner's High School to create a new video of the park, which will then be added to the new website.

More details of these developments will be released in the coming months, and at the stall that the park will be having at this year's Little Chalfont Village Day event on June 21st. ■

Little Chalfont Centenary

We're 100 years old!

Did you know that Little Chalfont village became 100 years old on 15th January 2025?

Little Chalfont is a 20th-century creation triggered by the coming of the Metropolitan Railway. A railway station called Chalfont Road was opened in 1889 at the northernmost point of the Chalfont St Giles Parish, where the parishes of Amersham, Chenies, and Chalfont St Giles met.

At that time, the area was remote from the centres of the villages and towns, and consisted only of isolated farms and cottages, and did not have a specific name.

Metro land

The coming of the railway eventually brought local housing development, and a community developed around the station, which was renamed Chalfont & Latimer station in 1915, a name that it retains today.

In 1915 the publicity department of the Metropolitan Railway coined the term 'Metro Land' and this was depicted in the 1973 film by John Betjeman.

The first appearance of the name

The current Little Chalfont village sign at Nightingales Corner



Little Chalfont is in the minutes of the Chalfont St Giles Parish Council on 15 January 1925, when, at the request of the inhabitants, it was agreed that the group of houses near the station should be named Little Chalfont instead of 'Chalfont Road Village'.

For many years, Little Chalfont was split mainly in the Amersham Town Council area, and partly in Chalfont St Giles parish.

Following a period of campaigning by local residents, the village was awarded separate parish status in 2007. Most of the new parish came from Amersham, but a small part – in area rather larger in population – of Chalfont St Giles was also included.

The first chairman of the Little Chalfont Parish Council when it was founded was Mr A S H Tate who served from 2007 to 2008. ■

Briefly...

Local elections

Don't forget to cast your votes in the forthcoming local elections, to be held on Thursday 1 May 2025.

Elections will be held for all local councils, including our own Little Chalfont Parish Council. At present we have two vacancies – no special qualifications needed so why not join us to ensure that Little Chalfont gets the best possible service?

Access all area

How accessible is our village? The High Street Accessibility project aims to transform our village into a more inclusive space for all residents and visitors. The project aims to ensure easier navigation for those with mobility challenges.

The goal is to foster an accessible village that accommodates everyone and promotes businesses and encourages visitors.

We will be visiting local shops and businesses in the coming months to try to establish where there is the greatest need for increased accessibility. ■



From Martin Tett

All change

I thought I should update you on local plans in Buckinghamshire, which specify what should be built and where.

Since 2019 we have introduced new Local Plans for the former Wycombe District and all of the north of the county. In the former Chiltern District, the Local Plan is older, but the area has been very well protected as most is in the green belt and area of outstanding natural beauty (AONB).

Of course, the council has been working on a new Local Plan for all of Buckinghamshire. This was about to go out to consultation on options for future housing growth just before the general election last year.

Since then, the new government has changed virtually every aspect of local planning, with new enormous,



compulsory housing targets and the introduction of the vague concept of 'grey belt'. We also have new top-down policies requiring land for data centres, the government's industrial strategy and the so called 'Oxford to Cambridge Arc'.

As if that isn't enough, we also have the government looking at plans for a number of new towns of at least 10,500 people, many of which are being proposed for Buckinghamshire, and which will be on top of existing housing targets.

The total number of houses that we will be legally required to plan to ensure are built will almost certainly be in excess of 105,000. That's equivalent to a new Milton Keynes!

All this change, and it just keeps on coming, means that we have had to scrap our previous draft proposals and go back to the drawing board for the new Local Plan.

Work on this is progressing but we do need some stability in the demands from central government before this can really move ahead.

Local elections coming up

We are holding local elections on Thursday 1 May 2025 for Buckinghamshire Council and councillors to town and parish councils where these are being contested.

Please do make sure that you are registered to vote and that you're ready to take your voter ID to the polling station with you. ■

Speeding drivers

Shocking figures from Nightingales Lane

Our four MVAS (movable vehicle activation signs) continue to be moved around the village to try to get speeding drivers to slow down. Sadly, as our figures show, many drivers still continue to exceed the limit:

● Cokes Lane, towards

Little Chalfont, Nov – Dec 24:

up to 33 mph	82,665	84.5%
34 – 40 mph	11,655	11.9%
41 – 45 mph	2,744	2.8%
46 – 50 mph	615	0.6%
51 – 60 mph	156	0.16%
61 – 70 mph	11	0.01%
Totals	97,846	100%

● Cokes Lane, away from Little Chalfont, Nov – Dec 24:

up to 33 mph	29,754	68.4%
34 – 40 mph	10,277	23.5%
41 – 45 mph	2,888	6.6%
46 – 50 mph	613	1.4%
51 – 60 mph	180	0.4%
61 – 70 mph	20	0.05%
Totals	43,732	100%

● Amersham Road, away from Little Chalfont, Nov – Dec 24:

Up to 33 mph	149,105	76.9%
34 – 40 mph	38,819	20.0%
41 – 45 mph	5,202	2.7%
46 – 50 mph	676	0.35%
51 – 70 mph	74	0.04%
Totals	193,876	100%

● Amersham Road, towards Little Chalfont, Nov – Dec 24

Up to 33 mph	144,787	77.6%
34 – 40 mph	28,289	15.2 %
41 – 45 mph	10,265	5.5%
46 – 50 mph	2,584	1.4 %
51 – 60 mph	574	0.3%
61 – 80 mph	22	0.01%
Totals	186,521	100%



During the early part of 2025, the speed of traffic along the section of Nightingales Lane towards Little Chalfont, where the road changes from 40mph to 30mph, continues to cause concern. 20 drivers were registered travelling at up to 80mph with six

speeds over 81mph:

● Nightingales Lane, towards Little Chalfont, Jan – Feb 25

Up to 33 mph	26,749	30.9%
34 – 40 mph	32,285	37.3%
41 – 45 mph	18,784	21.7%
46 – 50 mph	6,526	7.5%
51 – 60 mph	2,133	2.5%
61 – 70 mph	174	0.2%
71 – 80 mph	20	0.02%
Over 81 mph	6	0.01%
Totals	86,677	100%

● Nightingales Lane, away from Little Chalfont, Jan – Feb 25

Up to 33 mph	53,940	54.6%
34 – 40 mph	31,338	31.7%
41 – 45 mph	11,177	11.3%
46 – 50 mph	1,910	1.9 %
51 – 60 mph	349	0.4%
61 – 70 mph	8	0.01%
Totals	98,722	100 %

● White Lion Road, away from Little Chalfont, Jan – Feb 25

Up to 33 mph	145,466	69.9%
34 – 40 mph	51,959	25.0%
41 – 45 mph	9,095	4.4 %
46 – 50 mph	1,299	0.6%
51 – 60 mph	289	0.14%
61 – 70 mph	21	0.01%
71 – 80 mph	1	
Totals	208,130	100%

● White Lion Road, towards Little Chalfont Jan – Feb 25

Up to 33 mph	75,374	85.96 %
34 – 40 mph	10,992	12.54 %
41 – 45 mph	1,171	1.34 %
46 – 50 mph	130	0.15 %
51 – 60 mph	20	0.02 %
61 – 70 mph	2	
Totals	87,689	100%

The parish council will continue to site the MVAS in problem roads and will next be installed in the White Lion Road and the Amersham Road. ■

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.

Here we profile another regular individual stallholder:

Kitchen Preserves

Mike Allison, the proprietor of Kitchen Preserves, started the business in 2017 with his wife Gillian.

Gill was a chef for 40 years before setting up this business from her own kitchen.

All Kitchen Preserves' jams, marmalades, chutneys, pickles and relishes are handmade by Gillian, using only traditional, domestic methods and simple, natural ingredients.

All of the fruits and vegetables used are grown as locally as is possible and are freshly picked. They are then



Preserves available at the Little Chalfont Farmers Market by Kitchen Preserves

hand cut, hand stirred and poured, before each jar is hand filled and capped the old fashioned way.

Using only fresh seasonal produce captures all the flavours, colours and textures in a wide selection of family recipes blended with innovative new ideas.

All Kitchen Preserves' produce is also free from artificial preservatives, colourings and additives. ■



100 years of Little Chalfont!

We are delighted that four volunteers have come forward to organise the 100th anniversary village day on 21st June this year. The picture (below) was taken at our last event and we are hoping for an even bigger turnout this year.

It should be an exciting afternoon with a great list of stalls and performers already signed up.

There will be a fun run in Westwood Park in the morning and, at 12 noon, village day will be opened in the village centre by Buckinghamshire Lord Lieutenant, Countess Elizabeth Howe. Look out for more details of the programme on our website, www.littlechalfont.org.uk nearer the date.

Those already signed up include Amersham Men's Sheds, Little Chalfont Tennis Club, all our local schools, the community library, Café 22, the Chiltern Leisure Centre, Restore Hope and Cytiva.

There will also be food and drinks available (pizza and bbq) and an

exciting list of events and performances, including a dog show, ballet and dancing performances, and of course our very own 'Elvis'.

However, it's not too late to get involved – so please do contact villageday@littlechalfont.org.uk if you would like to be part of this great local community event.

Please also consider supporting the event on the day – we are keen to hear



Enjoying a previous Little Chalfont Village Day

from anyone willing to offer support for

an hour or so on the day, with any of the following activities:

- Raffle / programme sellers
- Help with marking out stall positions
- Furniture removal and gazebo erection
- Car parking and traffic marshals
- Litter pickers

LCCA website: littlechalfont.org.uk

Local foodbank donations

The generous donations by local villagers are very much appreciated, but your help is still needed. The drop off dates for the next four months are as follows:

- Saturday 12 April
- Saturday 10 May
- Saturday 14 June
- Saturday 12 July

Gazebos will be sited in Cytiva's front car park and on Chenies Parade between 9am and 12 noon. Last year Little Chalfont residents donated over 3,300 kgs!

LCCA membership

To join the Little Chalfont Community Association you may use the QR code above. Subscriptions are £10 pa.



'What's on' page

We hope you have seen the new 'what's on' page on our community association website.

We are aiming for this to be a comprehensive list of everything taking place in Little Chalfont and are keen to hear from local organisations with details of any events you would like us to feature.

Please send suggestions to chair@littlechalfont.org.uk. ■

Roger Funk 1942 – 2025

The LCCA is sad to report the death last month of our former chairman, Roger Funk. Roger was a conscientious and hard working chairman from 2010 until 2024.

He increased our profile in the village and exemplified the importance of working in partnership with local bodies and of communication in the village.

Roger led objections to planning applications where appropriate and where there would have been negative impact on Little Chalfont.

He played a leading role in the campaign against development of the former golf course and, while this development goes ahead, his work has underpinned the liaison activities with the developer

to ensure the best outcome for the village. Roger ensured the continued delivery of Christmas lights, hanging baskets, Village Days and a twice yearly newsletter. Under his leadership the LCCA initiated projects that contributed significantly to our community.

This included spearheading the purchase of the sculpture field, which became the Little Chalfont Nature Park.

He also chaired the Little Chalfont Charitable Trust that was set up to manage the park and oversee its future development into the beautiful space it is today. He had the vision, also, to lead the creation of the Café 22 dementia café.

Little Chalfont Farmers Market

For autumn/winter, the farmers market will be held in the village hall car park from 9am-1pm:

**Saturday 12 April
Saturday 10 May
Saturday 14 June
Saturday 12 July**

If you are interested in taking a stall at the farmers market, please contact the organiser at info@tvfm.org.uk or call 01235 227 266.

For the craft market, held in the village hall on the same day each month as the farmers market, please contact redkitemarket@gmail.com

The benefits of Roger's work in Little Chalfont will continue to be appreciated for many years to come. We send our deepest condolences to his wife, family and friends. ■

About Little Chalfont Parish Council

Your parish councillors



Vinny Patel
Chairman



Brian Gallagher
Vice chairman



Chris Holmes
Chairman, planning
committee



David Nussbaum
Vice chairman,
planning committee



Vic Davies



**Tina Gatherum-
Reading**



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.

Publication date: 21 March 2025

Parish council meetings:

General committee 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.

OFFICE OPENING HOURS:

Monday – Friday, 9am – 12 noon.

Contact details for enquiries:

TELEPHONE: 01494 766 655. If unattended, you may leave a message on the answerphone and we will respond as soon as possible.

EMAIL: clerk@littlechalfont-pc.gov.uk

WEBSITE: littlechalfont-pc.gov.uk



Sallie Matthews
Parish clerk



Sam Butcher
Assistant clerk

Any comments or suggestions?

If you have any comments or suggestions to make about this newsletter or its contents, please email 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; community transport schemes; community safety and crime reduction measures; events and festivals; footpaths; leisure facilities; litter bins; neighbourhood planning; street cleaning; tourism activities; traffic monitoring; village greens; residential street lighting, woodlands; youth projects.

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
Citizens Advice Bureau: 0808 278 7938