

LITTLE CHALFONT PARISH COUNCIL

Newsletter – Autumn 2016



Threat of 1,000 homes for Little Chalfont's green belt

Help save our village
Come along to the public meetings:
24 and 26 November

Read the leaflet delivered with this newsletter for details

How we got here: the emerging joint local plan

- Chiltern and South Bucks District Councils are under pressure to find space for more housing.
- They are reviewing the green belt to assess whether any of it can be released for building homes or for employment.
- Last January-March they consulted the public on sites selected as 'options for testing,' including five in, or adjacent to, Little Chalfont.
- At public meetings in the village hall it was clear that Little Chalfont residents did not agree that housing need could justify release of green belt in Chiltern District. There was also dismay at the likely impact of further development on local infrastructure.
- The parish council and the community association responded jointly to the consultation with a full case against release of all five sites from the green belt. Our case was supported by hundreds of letters to the district council from residents.
- In the latest stage of the plan four of those sites are no longer proposed, although developers might try to reinstate them.
- Disastrously, the fifth site, incorporating the former golf club and more green belt land bounded by Lodge Lane, Long Walk, Burtons Lane, Loudhams Wood Lane, Village Way and the railway, is now put forward as

- one of the 'preferred options' in Chiltern District.
- It is proposed that this site could take up to 1,000 homes and other facilities.
- All the preferred options are subject to further testing for deliverability and infrastructure, but are presented for comment in the current public consultation, which will close on 12 December.

How YOU can help

- Read the leaflet delivered with this newsletter.
- Attend one of the public meetings where more detail will be provided about the plan's implicationsthen respond to the consultation with your views.

1,000 new places to live would increase the number of homes in our village by about 30%

Could we cope?

From the chairman

My first few months as chairman of Little Chalfont Parish Council have put me on a very steep learning curve!

There are many complexities to this important role, and I am grateful for the invaluable support of the parish clerk and assistant parish clerk, and for the help of my parish councillor colleagues. Many people don't realise that we are unpaid volunteers who give up a lot of time for the benefit of the village.

Since the last newsletter was published, the village is now facing a potentially huge change to its identity. While the parish council will object strongly to the latest proposals from Chiltern and South Bucks District Councils, if the recently announced preferred option, from the Emerging Local Plan, brings the size of development to the village that is currently proposed, it is imperative that the community has an input into what it would like included in that development.

There is undoubtedly a need for affordable homes, jobs and improved infrastructure but, if you don't tell us what you want us to fight for or against, we can't know.

Don't bury your heads and then blame everyone else – get involved and say what you want. The village has proved what it can achieve through community involvement and, over the coming months, there will be more opportunities to get involved and help mould our future.

On a lighter note, volunteers are needed throughout our community to assist with many different aspects of village life and in 2017 we are hoping to have an event expanding on all the different opportunities.

Especially thanks to Little Chalfont Evening WI, which does a fantastic job maintaining the War Memorial flowerbed in the village. It is clear that their efforts are very much appreciated, given the number of people who stop to say thanks to those working on the flowerbeds. If you would like to volunteer to help the village, please see details in the *Briefly* section on page 3.

Gill Roberts

Land at Chenies Parade

Work finally started in mid October

Work finally commenced mid October on the redevelopment of the land at the end of Chenies Parade.

The site of now-derelict garages that has been an eyesore for some years is being redeveloped into a building containing two shops, eight two-bedroom flats and 15 parking spaces for residents only. Building work is expected to last approximately 14 months.

The developer, Landlink Ltd, has been liaising with the parish council, the Little Chalfont Community Association (LCCA) and local residents on measures to ensure that disruption is kept to a minimum.

Construction workers have been requested to park their personal vehicles in the public car park at Snells Wood rather than parking in front of the shops.

Site traffic will be controlled, with staging of lorry deliveries to avoid peak times and minimise queuing on public roads. The site manager will be responsible for liaison with shop owners to avoid clashes with their delivery schedules.



The Chenies Parade site is to be redeveloped into shops, flats and parking spaces

The construction work is likely to be noisy at times, but heavy plant will be operated only during normal working hours (Monday – Friday 8am to 6pm, Saturday 9am to 1pm) and radios will not be played onsite. These measures are intended to minimise noise. Waste material will be bagged and removed from site regularly.

Should local residents have any concerns about the development that cannot be resolved by the site manager, they should inform the parish council or LCCA for discussion

Our proposed new community centre

Obstacles still to be overcome

It is now some time since the public consultation proved that the vast majority of residents were keen to see a new community centre replacing our rather dilapidated village hall.

The current hall, built in the 1950s, is no longer fit for purpose; in addition problems with maintenance of the building continue to persist.

Among these problems is the floor. On occasions it has been affected by weather conditions, the repairs for which entailed a great deal of expense to the parish council.

These problems have, of course, caused considerable upheaval for the hirers.

Progress on the much-needed new building has been slow, partly because of issues over land ownership.

The strip of land between the village hall and Snells Wood public car park

is required in order to accommodate the proposed design. Chiltern District Council (CDC) owns this land and we need CDC to agree to its use for our purposes.

There is also the problem that the site is currently in green belt and is believed to be designated as 'ancient' woodland.

Nevertheless the land ownership problem must be resolved before we can proceed to planning.

Our architects are now preparing a final design that depends on these obstacles being overcome.

The parish council has decided that, when agreement has been reached, another public consultation will be held, hopefully early in 2017.

This will provide residents with a final chance to air their views before a planning application is submitted. ■

Speeding a continuing problem

Most offenders are local

The problem of motorists speeding through our village continues to be a major concern of our residents.

Over the past six months both the neighbourhood police team and the roads policing officers have carried out various speeding operations on the main roads and some of the minor roads in Little Chalfont.

Excessive speeding is regularly recorded in Burtons Lane, Cokes Lane, Elizabeth Avenue, and the Amersham Road on entering or leaving the derestricted zone.



The MVAS lights up when vehicles approach at over 30mph

vehicles were measured, with 59% travelling at under 30mph, but 11% at over 40mph and five vehicles recorded at speeds of over 60mph.

It is disappointing to find that, according to Thames Valley Police, the majority of those exceeding the speed limits are local residents.

PLEASE consider your own speed when driving and be part of the solution, and not part of the problem.

Speedwatch initiative

The community speedwatch volunteers have also been out with their equipment capturing speeding vehicles' licence numbers and speeds, and passing these on to the police.

If a motorist is caught speeding by the speedwatch team, the information is passed on to the Thames Valley Police. They will issue a letter to the offending driver, giving details of the speeding incident.

They will also be advised that, if their vehicle is again detected speeding in any Thames Valley speedwatch area by road policing officers, details will be passed to the roads policing department, which may take further action.

Road safety is everyone's responsibility, so please consider joining our local speedwatch volunteer group.

For further information on this, please contact the parish council. ■

Briefly...

Looking after the village

If any individual or group wishes to adopt an area of the village to look after, please let us know; with continued pressure on finances, not everywhere gets as well looked after as it should.

You or your group may have great ideas that no one has thought of. This is your village, so please help us make it the best place to live.

To get more involved please contact the parish clerk 01494 766655.

Remembrance Sunday

At 10am on Sunday 13 November all are invited to attend a half hour united parade service at the Methodist Church, Chalfont Avenue.

Afterwards, at 10.45am, there will be a procession to the Memorial Stone beside the village green, for an act of remembrance of the people who have died in the cause of peace. This will include the observance of 2 minutes' silence at 11 am. After this, coffee and tea will be served in the village hall.

Stony Lane footpath

As reported in the spring edition of this newsletter, a new footway is to be constructed on the west side of Stony Lane, from Amersham Road to the footpath that goes through to Chessfield Park. The work is expected to start soon and will make it safer for pedestrians to walk up this short stretch of road. Funding for this project has come partly from Bucks CC Local Area Forum.

The MVAS

The movable vehicle activation sign was most recently sited in Burtons Lane and then Elizabeth Avenue.

For **Burtons Lane** coming into the village, 48% of the 4,987 vehicles measured in one average week were travelling at under 30mph, so the majority of drivers were exceeding the speed limit, three recorded at over 60mph. In the other direction, 63% of 4,889 vehicles were driving at under 30mph, but four drivers were logged at over 55mph.

For **Elizabeth Avenue**, 9,087 vehicles were measured travelling towards Bell Lane. Of these 72% were travelling at under 30mph, but three vehicles were logged at over 60mph, with one driver recorded at over 70mph at 4.30am.

In the opposite direction 9,532

Parking update

Revised waiting restrictions

The long, drawn-out project of reviewing and implementing revised waiting restrictions in the village is nearing completion.

After the successful introduction of new waiting restrictions in Burtons Lane in January, the parish council has continued to work with Transport for Bucks (TfB). Having completed all the necessary advertising, informal and formal consultation and payment processes, we have now an agreed list of intended changes.

There are still formalities to complete, including formal approval

from TfB senior management, the cabinet member for transport and TfB's appointment of contractors. However, these steps should be routine.

Subject to cancellation in extreme weather conditions, TfB has confirmed that the intended implementation, including signing and lining, will be done in the period from the end of November to early December. TfB will prioritise works on the A404 and at locations near shops such as Chenies Parade, Nightingales Corner and Elizabeth Avenue, in hope of avoiding any Christmas embargo, when it is unable to carry out works in the

Cars queueing to get into Chenies Parade often cause jams in the main road



run up to Christmas.

Work on the residential areas will follow such prioritised work. Before then, residents of properties with direct frontages to any revised restrictions will receive a letter informing them of the proposed signing and lining works and also the proposed operational date for the new restrictions.

Similarly, residents who are to be eligible for residents' parking permits will be invited to apply for a permit before the operational date. ■

Wellbeing and safe place scheme

Local help for vulnerable people

A recent wellbeing seminar held at Chiltern District Council (CDC) highlighted the financial pressures on services and encouraged communities to actively support their more vulnerable residents.

It is clear that there are already many organisations offering assistance to people but there is a lack of coordination of everything available.

The LCCA is attempting to rectify this by trying to catalogue all those offering assistance so that there is one place to go to obtain information.

The Chiltern and South Bucks Safe Place scheme provides reassurance to vulnerable people, and to their families and carers, so that they have a means to alert someone of any potential risk or emergency if they are out alone. For full details of the scheme go to www.chiltern.gov.uk/safeplace

A sticker in the window of a business identifies the premises as a safe place. Vulnerable people in the community will be told about

the scheme so that they know where they can go for help and will be given a card that they carry with them that shows they are a safe place scheme member.

If a vulnerable person seeks help, members of staff would be expected to make a phone call if necessary, provide a temporary safe haven for them and also to reassure them and keep them safe until help and support arrives.

Premises taking part in the scheme in Little Chalfont are:

Nightingales Parade/ Nightingales Lane:

- Chalfont Hearing Centre
- Little Chalfont Community Library
- Mangal Express
- McParland Pharmacy

Chenies Parade:

- Iain Rennie Hospice At Home
- Little Chalfont Post Office
- Village Wine

Station Approach:

- Robsons Estate Agents ■

Westwood Park

A popular place!

The park continues to be well used with our seven football pitches fully booked at weekends throughout the season by local teams both junior and adult.

Chorleywood Cricket Club plays cricket most Saturdays of the season. The children's play area, tennis courts and separate games area are well patronised and continue to be amongst the most popular in the area.

Recent additions to the facilities include a measured 1 km running line with 100m markers, which circles the field, together with a trim trail consisting of monkey bars, chin-up bar and sit-up equipment. It should be noted that this equipment is designed for adults and supervised children over 12 years.

The park continues to be popular throughout the week with both casual strollers and dog walkers.

Unfortunately we do have to report some acts of mindless vandalism in the park, both to the pavilion and the tennis court fencing. The parish council is taking measures to increase security in these areas. ■

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

The Women's Institute

Joining the WI provides the opportunity to belong to something special in our community, to make friends and have fun. There are two options for meetings, so why not pop in and see for yourself what is on offer?

The afternoon WI

Have you ever wondered who installed the clock on the corner of Cokes Lane? Well, it was the then newly opened Little Chalfont afternoon WI, some 70 years ago. We also initiated the building of the village hall for what was then a much smaller community.

We also involve ourselves in activities with nearby WIs. We are a friendly group and any new members will be more than welcome.

At our monthly meetings we discuss various WI projects, hear interesting speakers and enjoy a typical WI tea. Our year includes an annual picnic, some coffee mornings and lunches.



'Yarn bomb' at the village green flowerbed, courtesy of the Evening WI

The evening WI

Originally started for working women and mums at home with their children, this group has been a busy and active part of Little Chalfont for many years.

We are, perhaps, best known to the local residents for providing tea and homemade cakes every month in the village hall for the farmers' market and for village day.

But we also maintain the village green flowerbed – we substantially replanted it with pollinator-friendly plants, giving much pleasure to everyone. We even 'yarn bombed' it last autumn with an animal hide and seek for the children.

But there is much more to us than that. We organised the popular

scarecrow competition for village day, we have worked with Chalfont Valley Academy, and St George's School, making many story sacks to encourage the enjoyment of books and reading.

We raise money to help fund various community projects and we have craft mornings, walks, social events and an interesting speaker at our monthly meetings.

We also participate in events organised by Bucks Federation, from science days to art talks, food security debates to talks by Inspiring Women.

The WI continues to campaign on a wide range of issues from climate change to ending violence against women to food waste and the plight of the honeybee. And we even have our own educational college.

● The WIs meet in the village hall at 2pm and 7.45pm on the second Tuesday of every month. Contact Beryl Lane on 01494 876602, email beryl@oldmanssecsg.plus.com for afternoon WI, or Gill Glover on 01494 763879, email gill.glover@gmail.com for evening WI. Annual membership is currently £37.50. ■

Nature park

Autumn arrives

The autumn cut of the meadow was completed in early October and, until spring next year, walking around the park is not restricted to the grass paths.

Each month continues to bring different things to see – the trees as their leaves turn and fall, the several types of fungi, particularly in the meadow and the ant hills, which attract the green woodpeckers and maintain a habitat for the common blue butterfly.

The summer's warmth may be absent but the park is still a great place for that daily walk.

There is now more toadstool seating

and look out in particular for the new story-telling chair, sponsored from the funds raised by the children at Little Chalfont Primary School. Do take the children, so that they can search for the carved owl family, recently installed.

By springtime next year, there will also be a slide in the woodland and a new sensory display board in the picnic area.

The new management group, set up to help the parish council run the park, has now been formed but some roles have yet to be filled.

Do you have marketing or communication skills? Could you help organise the occasional exhibition or educational tour? Are you a whizz at social media? If so, please let the parish clerk know of your interest and a member of the team will contact you.



Tel: 01494 766655, email clerk@littlechalfont-pc.gov.uk. Don't forget to visit our extensive website at naturepark.littlechalfont.org.uk or Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/littlechalfontnaturepark/>. Keep up to date from the news section and continue to like and share on Facebook. ■

Simply Walk

A chance to get fit

Simply Walk is a scheme that provides volunteer-led walks that operate throughout the year.

There are over 500 walkers taking part on a weekly basis and currently the scheme has 67 walks across Bucks. The purpose of the programme is to develop a series of new, short walks across Bucks to increase the number of people exercising, particularly those



who are less active or inactive.

There are still over 20% adults in Bucks who are considered inactive, putting them at increased risk of ill

health. Simply Walk, in conjunction with Active Bucks, would like to introduce weekly, short, sustainable walks in Little Chalfont, lasting 30-45 minutes. All the walks are free and are led by volunteers.

Simply Walk already has three volunteers for Little Chalfont, but is looking for more people to come forward and train as walk volunteers. If you walk regularly and are interested in taking part in this exciting scheme, please contact Abi Parveen on 01296 387031 or abiparveen@buckscc.gov.uk. ■

Little Chalfont Community Association updates

LCCA website: www.littlechalfont.org.uk

We continue to be pleased to work with the parish council in addressing issues related to the Emerging Local Plan and the development at the end of Chenies Parade. These items are covered elsewhere in the newsletter.

Waste Transfer Station

As this newsletter goes to print, there continues to be no news about the Waste Transfer Station proposed for the site adjoining the London Road Depot.

Disappointingly, there is also no information available about why a decision is being delayed. We shall continue to monitor the situation and report developments when they occur.

Donkey field development (Harvard Grange)

The end is in sight! The bulk of the construction work will be over shortly and the developers advise that the

contractors should have left the site by the end of the year.

There will still be a developer's presence on the site for a month or two into 2017. However, most of the units have been sold and we can expect to welcome the new residents to the village.

Small Business Saturday

Once again, Little Chalfont will have its own Small Business Saturday, this year to take place on **Saturday 3 December**.

Our traders in the village centre are all aware of this national event and, as in previous years, have been given the opportunity to promote themselves.

As the date approaches, look out for special offers that could be available on the day, but do make a point of shopping locally, to help keep our village centre vibrant.

Little Chalfont farmers' market

For autumn 2016/winter 2017, the farmers' market and craft fair will be held in the village hall from 9am-1pm:

Saturday 12 November

Saturday 10 December

Saturday 14 January

Saturday 11 February

Farmers' market: info@tvfm.org.uk.

Tel: 01235 227266

Craft fair If you are interested in taking a stall at the craft fair, contact the organiser, Carolyn Towner on 01895 677455

As an encouragement, there will be free parking all day in Snells Wood car park.

Our community action plan

This was created some seven years ago, based on the outcome of a market town health check and input from the community.

It is time for this plan to be refreshed and, by way of advance notice, a consultation is planned for the end of January 2017. ■

Overgrown hedges

We are fortunate to live in a village with plenty of greenery around but we need to ensure that it is kept neat for public access and safety.

Residents need to keep their garden hedges trimmed, where they adjoin walkways and roads, for everyone's benefit.

We are grateful to all residents who keep their hedges tidy, as it makes a difference both aesthetically and

from a safety point of view.

However, some hedges are still causing problems, as you can see from this photograph, which shows a garden hedge spreading out on to a large part of the footpath.



Parish councillors often walk the roads of the village to check that hedges are not causing problems, but your help is always appreciated.

If you have any problems with your overgrown hedges,

you may call the parish council clerk on 01494 766655, or email clerk@littlechalfont-pc.gov.uk.

Please note that, if you do not keep your hedges in order, and they are creating a nuisance, the parish council may cut it back and charge you for the cost. ■

Dr Challoner's Christmas Fayre

Please note that Dr Challoner's High School Christmas Fayre will be held on Sunday 20 November 2016 from 11am – 3pm. The date was incorrectly stated in the last LCCA newsletter

About Little Chalfont Parish Council

Parish councillors



Gill Roberts
Chairman



Ian Griffiths
Vice chairman



Michael Parker
Planning committee
chairman



David Rafferty
Planning committee
vice chairman



Melanie Davis



Brian Drew



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 meetings of the parish council will be held on 9 November and 14 December 2016.

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 22 November 2016.

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:

Mon, 9am-3pm; Tue-Fri, 9am-1pm.



Natasha Meldrum
Parish clerk



Sallie Matthews
Assistant 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.

JW/10.16

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!