

LITTLE CHALFONT PARISH COUNCIL

Newsletter - Autumn 2019



New community access points

How this affects Little Chalfont

When the new Buckinghamshire Council comes into being on 1 April 2020, among the many proposals are plans for residents to be able to access information, advice and support on a range of topics in their local area through community access points.

In addition, community boards will be established to give local people a voice in their community.

Community access points (CAPs)

Residents will be able to drop in to existing council buildings, such as council offices and libraries across the county for face-to-face advice and information about all council services.

The locations of these will be confirmed and promoted as part of the launch of the new council in April 2020. For Little Chalfont the nearest CAP will be the district council offices at King George V Road in Amersham.

Once the CAPs are up and running, the new council will start work on the next phase. The ambition is to evolve the access points to create wider one-stop community hubs based in multi-purpose buildings at the heart of community life.

Residents will be able to access information about a wide range of topics and get support from different services such as the police, town and parish councils, visitor services and community groups all in one place. The new council will ask residents and communities to help codesign these facilities to meet local needs.

The five current council main offices in High Wycombe, Capswood, Amersham, Aylesbury (2), will become 'access plus' centres, offering extra services from Monday to Friday to handle more complex enquiries.

Community boards

Community boards would bring together the new council councillors and local communities to help solve local issues.

A public consultation on their set up closed on 30 September 2019. Results are currently being analysed and a consultation response anticipated from the shadow executive in December 2019.

The new council's preferred option is for 14 community boards across the county, shown in our map inset, but this is open for discussion and there may be more or fewer.

You will see from the map that Little Chalfont will be included in the Amersham board, but if there were 11 boards (one of the proposals) Little Chalfont and Amersham would be included with Chesham.

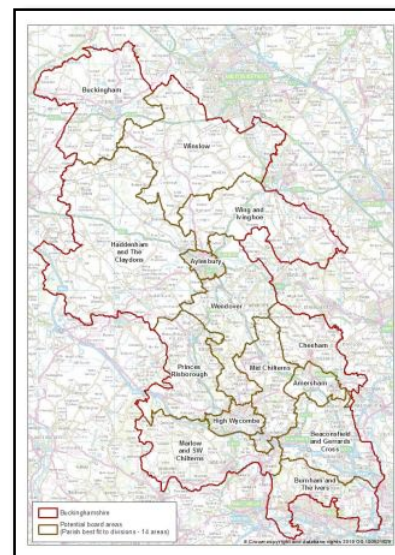
The aim of the new community boards will be to:

- Enable the new council councillors to take decisions on local issues, alongside other community representatives.
- Empower the new council councillors and communities to influence service design and delivery on local issues.
- Bring communities together with Bucks Council councillors to find local solutions to local issues.

Who will be on the boards?

The council wants community boards to involve everyone in the local area who wants to make a difference and work with the new council to do this.

It is proposed that county councillors from the local area would sit on their local board. To



Map showing the preferred Buckinghamshire Council option of 14 community boards

be effective community boards would also need to include people and organisations from the local community.

This is expected to include town and parish councils, but could also include other public services such as fire services, police and health, residents, parish and town councils and young people.

Decisions will normally be reached by consensus. There will sometimes be a need for a vote for example on community grant applications.

Further information about the new proposals can be found at unitarycomms@buckscc.gov.uk. We will keep residents informed as and when we get more information. ■



From the chairman

If you are reading this column, you probably live in Little Chalfont.

As you may know, the village has grown hugely since its original small population of just 2,000 to something like 6,000 today.

It is now a thriving place to live, with a wide variety of successful shops and restaurants, green spaces, good schools, a nature park, with the open countryside of the Chiltern Hills surrounding us.

But the village faces several challenges in the future, among them the proposed building of a huge number of homes on the outskirts of the village in green belt, so the work of the parish council is even more vital today than before.

To keep the village thriving and to continue to improve the place where you have chosen to live, it takes a team of dedicated volunteers who are part of your local parish council.

Next year will see elections for, among others, the parish council. A few of the current members have indicated an intention to retire at that time, so there will be vacancies that we need to fill to keep Little Chalfont running successfully.

Details of the work of the parish council are given opposite, so do take a minute to read it and see if you might care to join our dedicated team and help make a difference to where you live.

I also am very sad to report that our current excellent parish clerk, Natasha Meldrum, who has served the parish council so well over the past five years, will be leaving us at the end of the year.

We will be very sorry to see her leave, and wish her all the best for the future.

We are therefore now searching for a new parish clerk to work with the parish council, and the position will be advertised in the Bucks Free Press and on the parish council website.

Ian Griffiths

Make a difference to your village Parish councillors needed

The current Little Chalfont Parish Council will end its term of office in May 2020 when an election to vote in a new council will take place.

It is likely that some councillors, who have successfully served the village for many years, will stand down in May, so new volunteers will be needed.

The parish council is responsible for a number of services in the village, including street lighting and maintenance of the grass verges as well as management of the village hall, Westwood Park and the nature park, and is funded by a contribution from the council tax, called a precept.

Why not help to decide how that money is spent in *your* village?

The small print

- All parish councillors are volunteers.
- The parish council is independent and not affiliated with any political party.
- Parish councillors are usually elected for a four year period.
- No experience is necessary – training



will be given where required.

- Minimum commitment required of parish councillors is to attend two meetings a month, held during the evenings.

If you think you might enjoy this worthwhile challenge, why not come along to observe one of our monthly meetings to see what is involved?

These are usually held on the second Wednesday of each month in the village hall, commencing usually at 7.30 pm.

Alternatively, contact the parish office (01494 766 655) for further details. ■

Local plan update

Independent planning inspectors appointed

This summer Chiltern and South Bucks District Councils held their final public consultation on a new draft local plan, containing proposals for housing and other development until 2036.

In spite of massive and well-founded opposition from local residents, the draft plan put to consultation still includes a proposed development of about 700 dwellings, a gypsy / traveller site, community facilities etc, on green belt land in Little Chalfont between Lodge Lane and Burtons Lane.

Our community answered the consultation with hundreds of individual objections from residents to the proposal (SP BP6), supported by a 19-page joint representation from the parish council and community association.

The representation explains in detail why SP BP6 meets neither the government's requirements for effectiveness and consistency with the National Planning Policy Framework, nor the needs and wishes of our village community.

Our representation was

accompanied by two technical studies supporting our case, on the landscape and on local road traffic, prepared by professional consultants. All this material may be read on our website savelittlechalfont.org.uk/key-documents.

The government has appointed two independent planning inspectors, Matthew Birkinshaw and David Troy, to decide whether the draft local plan is sound or not. They will consider the evidence produced, including the responses to the public consultation.

The procedure will include an 'examination in public,' to be held this winter, at which the parish council and community association will take every opportunity to reinforce our opposition to the proposal. A final decision on the plan is likely in late 2020.

The parish council and community association thank all our supporters for their efforts so far, and for the funding that has helped pay for valuable professional advice. Progress reports will appear on the 'Save Little Chalfont' website, Facebook page and in future newsletters ■

Nature park news

Glorious colours



Autumn returned to the park last month, bringing some wonderful colours, as shown in our picture. Winter may be almost upon us, but the park still

offers plenty of interest as seasons change. Why not visit soon and see for yourself?

Park footpaths

The Little Chalfont Charitable Trust, which is responsible for the remaining capital projects for the park, has made progress on the type of path to be

provided and on the funding. It hopes to be in a position to provide details of the plans early next year.

Get friendly!

Did you know that most of the upkeep of the nature park is handled by a small band of volunteers called friends of the nature park?

Approximately once a month, on a Saturday morning – weather permitting – the friends meet in the park to carry out essential work to keep the park looking its best.

The work is not arduous and it is very rewarding but we would really appreciate some more help, all ages welcome! ■

Speeding reduced - in places

Signs encourage drivers to slow down

One of the parish council's two MVASs (movable vehicle activated sign) was placed in Burtons Lane in the summer and the results were encouraging for the periods recorded.

For the week of 17 June, 5,313 vehicles were shown travelling out of the village on Burtons Lane near the junction with Long Walk. Of these, 54% kept to the speed limit, with 4% (212) exceeding 45mph.

In the opposite direction, of the 4,892 vehicles recorded, 61% kept at or below the speed limit with 3% (159) driving in excess of 45mph.

The second MVAS was placed further up Burtons Lane and situated

by Burtons Farm. 5,014 vehicles were recorded travelling out of the village, with 54% keeping to the speed limit and 3% (158) exceeding 45mph.

4,662 vehicles were recorded travelling into the village, with 57% keeping to the speed limit but 2% (101) exceeding 45mph.

These figures are more encouraging than past measurements, and we will shortly be moving the MVAS to other roads in the village where speeding is still a problem. ■



Briefly...

Finch Lane pond

The pond in Finch Lane was restored earlier this as our picture



shows. With the arrival of winter there is now a little water in the pond so we hope it will soon fill and bring with it the return of the ducks!

Nightingales/Cokes Lane corner

A feasibility study, funded by the BCC local area forum (LAF) in 2018/19, was conducted at this dangerous junction to assess the safety issues and suggest solutions.

An application to carry out safety improvements has been submitted to the LAF and a decision about the best way forward will be made following receipt of a detailed breakdown of costs.

General election

Please note that the Little Chalfont Community Library will be closed on Thursday 12 December as it is being used instead as a polling station on that day.

New village hall

At the time of going to press – 15 November 2019 – the parish council was still awaiting the outcome of its appeal to allow the building of a new village hall on its current site.

Patient participation group for Little Chalfont

Have your say at your local surgery

Little Chalfont Surgery, situated in White Lion Road, has recently started a patient participation group (PPG).

As part of a national healthwatch initiative to involve patients more actively in healthcare arrangements, practices have established PPGs to work with their local practice.

A group of patients, which each represents a different group registered at Little Chalfont Surgery, has agreed to form the board of the new PPG. The objectives of the

PPG panel include:

- Regular communications with patients;
- Advising the practice on the patient point of view; and
- Being a critical friend to the practice.

The PPG currently has 26 members but hopes for more before finalising its first PPG meeting. At this meeting, Dr Bajwa and Dr Burr from the surgery, plus the PPG panel, will



outline how you can get emergency appointments and hear from patients about what more is needed.

If you would like to join the PPG, please send your name, address, phone number and email address to: little.chalfontppg@nhs.net

A member of the parish council, who is also a patient of the surgery, has already volunteered to be part of the PPG. ■

Westwood Park news

Over the rainbow

As another summer passes, Westwood Park has slipped slowly into autumn. The recent stormy weather has been welcome for the park, creating a green jewel in heart of the village, with the occasional rainbow to provide extra colour!

The parish council is always looking at ways to improve the Westwood Park facilities for the village. For example the installation of a temporary toilet near the children's play area has now been made a permanent fixture and a second one will be installed for the summer months. The car park has also been re-gravelled.

Future work planned includes the installation of a full fire alarm right through the pavilion, which contractors will be installing very shortly.

Other improvements proposed include the provision of a new waste bin in the car park close to the footpath leading into the woods and the repositioning of the Womens Institute park bench further in to the park.

If you would like to sponsor a memorial bench in Westwood Park, please speak to the parish clerk (01494 766655) who will be pleased to give you details of our scheme.

The issue of flooding at the



A rainbow over this autumn turned Westwood Park into a green jewel and added extra colour

Chessfield Park entrance was investigated during the summer and blocked drainage pipe was located and cleared. We will continue to monitor to see if this has resolved the flooding problem. ■

Remembrance Day

Another sunny sermon

For the third year running the Little Chalfont Remembrance Day gathering enjoyed glorious sunshine on the village green on Sunday 10 November.

The Reverend Adam Wells, superintendent minister of Amersham Methodist Circuit, conducted the service.

The hymns were accompanied by the excellent Chalfont Wind Band.

The soloist Ryan Bunce played The Last Post in a moving tribute to all those who lost their lives in the cause of peace.

At the memorial stone on the village green, overseen by the metal model of a soldier, wreaths were laid by the uniformed services, a representative of Dr Challoner's High School, the parish council Chairman



Ian Griffiths, by BCC and CDC representatives.

There was a very large turnout for the service and readings were given by a variety of participants. ■

The following is the eighth in an occasional series of articles about groups that regularly use parish council facilities

Westwood Park Football Club

Westwood Park Football Club is proud to be the junior football club for Little Chalfont and has enjoyed a long and successful association with the parish council.

The club now has around 300 playing members, starting from humble beginnings with three dads and 10 children in 2006. The club was formally incorporated in 2008 and is affiliated to the Berks and Bucks FA.

Such is the success of the club that we now run waiting lists at several age groups. We run age groups from U5 to U17; a total of 21 teams, with many age groups having multiple teams.



Under-16s cup winners, 2018/19

We have a wealth of volunteers that help to run the club with around 50 managers, coaches and other helpers.

The club trains every Saturday morning and plays matches in three different local leagues, Chiltern Church Junior Football League, South Bucks Mini Soccer Conference and Wycombe & South Bucks Minor Football League. We estimate that over 800 players have passed through the club since 2008.

We proudly have Westwood Park as our home, using pitches managed by the parish council. The club is financially self-sufficient, despite having the lowest membership fees of any local club.

Until recently, we benefited from a generous sponsorship from CleanEvent, a leading supplier of cleaning services to major sporting venues, enabling us to fund an equipment storage facility in the park.

The club proudly wears its green & black striped kit, redesigned this year as part of our new partnership with MX Sports based in Chorleywood, which now stocks all club kit.

Recent highlights include having four teams in five cup finals at the Chiltern Church League Finals Day in 2018-9. We are equally proud of Fair Play league wins for several age groups over the years and look forward to many more successful seasons. ■



Community improvement plan (CIP)

The Little Chalfont CIP was originally adopted in 2009, following a market town health check plus results from a consultation with the community in 2017. There are four underlying themes:

- Improvement of community assets.
- A clean and well maintained village.
- Improving the appearance of the village centre.

• A focus on attracting visitors. Future newsletters from both the parish council (LCPC) and the community association (LCCA) will report on progress of these various targets.



Encouraging visitors

The LCPC and the LCCA have started work on developing a strategy to encourage visitors to the village.

This is alongside the development of such a strategy for the whole of the Chilterns. In turn, the Chiltern strategy comes under the umbrella of increasing tourism throughout the whole of Bucks.

Although the initial project will be the promotion of walks around our village, priority is currently being given to the creation of a dedicated page for Little Chalfont on the Visit Bucks website. This will be within a section

covering market towns and villages. The page is likely to be uploaded during November and accessed via www.visitbuckinghamshire.org/plan-your-visit/market-towns

Our village is a good starting or finishing point for many walks and blessed with a good selection of places for refreshment, along with its own nature park attraction.

One of the principal aims is to help our economy and maintain the vibrancy of the village centre.



Good neighbour initiative

This initiative was announced by the community association in its July 2019 newsletter and, together with the parish council, a programme on community care and safety is now being developed.

Details of the plan will be included in the community association's January newsletter.

However, with the approach of Christmas as a special time of caring, we would like to encourage readers to make contact with the organising team now, to learn more about how they can play their part.

Please email goodneighbours@littlechalfont.org.uk.



Underpass lighting - Beel Close to Marygold Walk

Following completion of a tendering process, the parish council is considering the contractors to undertake this work, which it is hoped will be completed early in 2020.

In addition to the tunnel lighting, there are to be lamp columns installed at each end of the underpass and there is also provision for CCTV.

The parish council is leading on this project, but there will be contributory grants from the BCC Local Area Forum, Chiltern District Council and the community association.

Future projects

There is plenty to keep us busy with the projects on hand but there are already tentative thoughts on the next project. This could be one that looks at different ways of enhancing the appearance of our village.

Many residents included this idea when the community association consulted on the review of the CIP. If you were one of these and would like to volunteer to help, particularly in the areas of tidiness and improving our green spaces, please email chairman@littlechalfont.org.uk or clerk@littlechalfont-pc.gov.uk. ■

Little Chalfont Community Association updates

LCCA website: www.littlechalfont.org.uk

Many of our updates are incorporated in the community improvement plan section above.

Christmas lights

The third and final stage of the three year improvement programme is to be implemented shortly.

When the Christmas lights are turned on (1 December 2019), four of the trees on the Chenies Parade verge will have lights to match those on the rest of the trees that are lit each Christmas.

Overall, the programme, which also included improved infrastructure – eg, wiring and timers – will have cost some £15,000.

We are grateful for all the grants and donations that we have received but we have dipped into our reserves to complete the programme and will

continue to seek funding in the coming months.

This will be particularly from those businesses and traders that have not yet contributed as one of the principal aims of the lights is to attract residents and others to spend their money in the village!

Village day

A date for your 2020 calendar. Little Chalfont Village Day will be held on Saturday 20 June 2020.

Volunteering opportunities

These include the following:

Community association:

- Minutes secretary
- Editor for the newsletter
- Committee member for shops and businesses.

Little Chalfont Charitable Trust:

- Vacancies for two new trustees
- If you would like to learn more, please email chairman@littlechalfont.org.uk ■

Little Chalfont farmers' market

For autumn/winter 2019/2020, the farmers' market and craft fair will be held in the village hall from 9am-1pm:

- Saturday 14 December 2019
- Saturday 11 January 2020
- Saturday 8 February 2020
- Saturday 14 March 2020

If you are interested in taking a stall at the farmers' market, please contact the organiser at info@tvfm.org.uk or call 01895 677455. For the craft fair, please contact Jan Purcell at jan.pursall@ntlworld.com

GE Healthcare news

Earlier this year, GE Healthcare reported that it was selling the biopharma part of its business to Danaher, a global science and technology company.

The sale is expected to be completed by the end of the year and the practical implications are already being addressed.

The biopharma business operates from Amersham Place and, in addition to its employees transferring to Danaher, the property is being sold to Danaher. Remaining GE Healthcare employees will be redeployed at Pollards Wood.

Amersham Place will house employees from Danaher involved in

its existing biopharma business, which will be operating the merged businesses under the new name of Cytiva. Some refurbishment has taken place at Pollards Wood for the return of GE Healthcare employees.

With regard to the Grove Centre, the decommissioning of the site is progressing on schedule. ■

About Little Chalfont Parish Council

Parish councillors



*Ian Griffiths
Chairman*



*Mike Crowe
Vice chairman*



*Michael Parker
Planning committee
chairman*



*David Rafferty
Planning committee
vice chairman*



David Alexander



Brian Drew



Chris Ingham Councillor



Vinny Patel



*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.

Parish council meetings

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

The meetings are held at 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 at all meetings 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 Monday 9 December 2019.

Planning committee meetings: Usually held every four weeks, starting at 7pm or 7.30pm – please check website or notice boards for details. At these meetings local residents can hear discussions on planning applications for Little Chalfont, comment on any that are of interest to you, and hear whether the parish council agrees that a planning application should go ahead. The next meeting of the planning committee will be on held on Monday 25 November and Wednesday 18 December 2019.

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

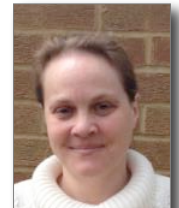
OFFICE OPENING HOURS:

Mon: 9am-3pm. Tue-Fri: 9am-1pm.

COUNCIL WEBSITE: www.littlechalfont-pc.gov.uk



*Natasha Meldrum
Parish clerk*



*Sallie Matthews
Assistant parish
clerk*

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!