



The Big Vision For Little Chalfont

The Market Town Health Check (M.T.H.C)

During the **Community Appraisal**, which is the **first part** of the MTHC process, Little Chalfont has grasped this unique opportunity to influence and shape the future of the Village. All areas of the Community in Little Chalfont have been heard throughout the course of 2008 ; families, children and teenagers, businesses, churches, schools, professionals and retirees. They have given their views on every aspect of community life. We have sought the views in many ways in order to capture all members of the community : a message board on the Village Web Site (www.littlechalfont.org.uk), a physical message board in the Community Library, direct canvassing of views from local schools, clubs, sports events and businesses – and by approaching local residents on Village Day last year.

By adopting this approach, we have collected close to 850 comments and views. You can find all these comments, together with a summary of the Top 10 Likes and Dislikes, on the Village Web Site.

With this representative body of comments and views, together with several big vision ideas for the Village, we are able to piece together **The Big Vision for Little Chalfont**, which is the **second part** of the MTHC. We have prioritised those issues that are most important to the residents – and also identified some of the Big Vision ideas.

Although the UK is experiencing very difficult economic times, we feel it is important to bring you **The Big Vision** now :-

- This has been Little Chalfont's first opportunity to create its own **Big Vision**, as a separate Parish Council for Little Chalfont was only formed in Spring 2007.
- We have been greatly heartened by the interest shown by a high proportion of the members of the community during the Community Appraisal. Your comments and views are fresh and needed to form an Action Plan now.
- We can use this recessionary period to fully develop the **Big Vision** projects, so that we are in a position to tap into the required funding as soon as the economic situation improves or allows.
- Many of the improvements for the Village identified in the Big Vision are not big ticket items, but are merely "Quick Win" issues that can be tackled by finding out where the ultimate responsibilities lie and by ensuring improved execution. These improvements can be started immediately.

The Next/Third Stage - The Action Plan : February to March 2009



There will be an "OPEN DAY" on **Saturday 7th March**, from 10:00 am until 3:00 pm in the **Village Hall in Cokes Lane**, when everyone is invited to drop by and give us their comments on the contents of this **Big Vision** document for Little Chalfont.

This MTHC process is a vital factor in the way that local government and other bodies allocate funding for local community projects. The **Action Plan** is where we put the necessary steps in place to ensure that the **Big Vision for Little Chalfont** is realised. "Quick Win" issues can be prioritised and for the larger Big Vision projects, we will develop the ideas to an actionable stage and explore the best way to draw on the local funding required to give them life.

THE MARKET TOWN HEALTH CHECK PROCESS is being carried out by five Residents of Little Chalfont, supported by representatives of Little Chalfont Parish Council, Chiltern District Council and Bucks County Council.

Village Environment

"I would like the entire Village centre to be tidied up and given a facelift. If we want to attract people to the Village and generate civic pride, then we need a Village that is attractive and something to be proud about"



An imaginative landscape architect should be appointed, to prepare **a grand landscaping plan to transform the look of Little Chalfont**. Little Chalfont no longer needs to be the ugly sister of the historical Villages in the area, but can complement the beautiful surrounding open countryside and woodland. This re-landscaping would include :-

- An avenue of tall trees along Chenies Parade in place of the existing lollipop trees and with more trees elsewhere along the main Village thoroughfares.
- Improvement of the grass areas, with more comprehensive grass cutting.
- More signposts, particularly at the station to welcome visitors.
- More attractive Village Green.
- Improved co-ordinated street lighting, particularly at Station Approach.

Also there is a need to :-

- provide more litter bins and to address dumping at the charity shops when they are closed.
- Tidy up the route from the Station to the Village, as this is the first impression presented to visitors to the Village and also to commuters.
- Transform the disused car park and garages at the end of Chenies Parade into much needed parking for the Village shops, or into shops, flats or affordable housing. All of these suggestions should be explored further through discussions with the owners of these sites and with the appropriate councils.
- A comprehensive management exercise and clean-up of Snells Wood needs to be undertaken as a matter of high priority to make it an amenity that all residents will want to use.



Village Safety, Transport and Accessibility

"Let's turn walking to Little Chalfont Village from being a dangerous and noisy endeavour into an enjoyable experience"

- There is a need for lower speed limits, such as along White Lion Road and particularly outside our schools – and to better enforce existing speed limits.
- Consideration must be given to the installation of pedestrian crossings to improve safety across the A404 opposite the shops in Chenies Parade, at the Village end of Burtons Lane, outside the Library and outside our schools.
- The dedicated cycle paths in the Village should be reviewed to create a safer route for both pedestrians and cyclists.
- The use of street furniture, such as bollards should be expanded to combat inconsiderate parking, especially at the Village end of Burtons Lane and at both ends of Chenies Parade.
- Discussions should be held with the appropriate Station authorities on extended opening hours of the gate on the south side of the station, for the convenience of commuters and on the provision of better facilities for the disabled (including the installation of a lift).
- CCTV cameras should be installed in appropriate areas of the Village such as Chenies Parade, the Village Hall and Library area and Westwood Park.



- Discussions should also be held with Dr Challoner's High School to either persuade pupils to use public transport to get to school or to provide car parking facilities for their students on the school site – rather than students parking on nearby public roads. Parking restrictions should be introduced on the residential roads around the Village centre, off White Lion Road and on Burtons Lane to discourage all day parking by commuters and pupils. Parking Permits should be made available to residents in these roads.
- Access to all the Village facilities should be improved for residents of neighbouring communities such as Latimer and Chenies through the provision of better bus services.

Village Social and Community

"We do not capitalise on one of the best areas that we have in the centre of the Village – the area around the Village Hall, the Community Library and of course the wooded area up to Dr Challoner's High School"

"We need more for young people. It's very boring living here if you're in your teens or early twenties"

Bring **Snell's Wood**, a wood in the heart of our Village, much more into use by making it a safer and more cared for environment.

One of the strongest suggestions from the Little Chalfont community has been **the desire for a proper Village Centre**, which everyone will recognise as the heart of the Village and which would become the focal point for many of the Village activities.

The suggestion is to locate a **new Village Community Centre** at the corner of White Lion Road and Cokes Lane – in the area currently occupied by the Village Hall, Community Library, Car Park and Toilets.

The new Village Community Centre buildings would be sympathetic with its woodland surroundings and would include facilities such as :-

- An expanded library (our Community Library was amongst the Top 10 Likes about the Village).
- A versatile space with different sized rooms to allow for small and large groups to pursue their particular interests and activities.
- A place for the elderly to meet and for social functions.
- An Internet Café and coffee shop and a Youth Centre.
- Indoor sports/keep fit facilities for all ages.
- Parish Council Offices including Tourist / Visitor Information point.
- Affordable housing or additional business or retail premises.

Outside, the new Village Community Centre would include a new car park, possibly underground, a children's playground and a relaxation area for the elderly, perhaps at the edge of Snell's Wood.

Improve the facilities at Westwood Park – a beautiful stretch of park bordered by West Wood :-

- Renovation or replacement of the Sports Pavilion.
- Upgrading of the children's play equipment.
- New facilities for older children and teenagers.
- Resurfacing of the car park and the access road.

Availability of Affordable Housing should be helped by the plans already approved for 253 houses on the former Bell Lane Sawmill Site. (including up to 89 affordable units)



"The Village Day illustrates the popularity of Farmers' and Craft Markets and you only have to look at the footfall encouraged into places like Wendover when they have such events, to see how the whole area can benefit"

Create a more motivated, all-inclusive organisation to represent the shops, businesses and other local organisations in the Village in order to :-

- Attract and retain a wider range of shops and organisations.
- Lobby for and provide improved car parking facilities in and around the centre of the Village.
- Lobby for and provide special events to attract shoppers and visitors to the Village.
- Use the meeting facilities provided by the new Village Community Centre, for business meetings and home workers networking and training sessions.
- Special events could make better use of the Village Green, for example, establishing a local Produce and Farmers' Market and/or local Craft Fair on a regular basis.



We want to know your views - It's your Village

This Big Vision document is being delivered by hand to every household in Little Chalfont—so that everyone has the opportunity to comment on its content and has the chance to air their own views.

Come along to the Open Day on Saturday 7th March, 2009 in the Village Hall between 10:00 am and 3:00 pm and let us have your comments on this **BIG VISION**.

If you can't make it on the 7th March, then let us have your comments by completing the Form below and sending it to :- The Community Appraisal Team. Little Orchards. Cokes Farm Lane. Little Chalfont. HP8 4TU — or by posting it in the MTHC Response Box at either Tom Robertson's Butchers or The Community Library before the 7th March.

My Details :-

Name :

Post Code of your Home Address :

Phone Number :

E-Mail Address :

My Response to the Big Vision Document is :- (Tick and complete as appropriate)

I support the aims and key themes of the Big Vision. You have got it just about right.

I'm mainly in agreement but would suggest that :- (Use separate sheet if necessary)

.....

You're completely wrong. We should be focusing on :- (Use separate sheet if necessary)

.....

I would like to get involved. Please contact me.

