



LITTLE CHALFONT COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

23 MARCH 2011

Introduction

I am writing this Report some weeks in advance of the AGM, to allow time for printing and delivery. It will accompany the formal notice of the AGM, together with a Bulletin that provides more information on the issues in which the Association is currently involved.

Our activity in 2010 has been rather dictated by events but there were two underlying themes; our strategic review and issues that came under the broad heading of planning.

Strategic Review

Following last year's AGM, your committee reviewed the role of the Association and made some key decisions that would enable us to meet the challenges that the community will face in the future. These included:

A new structure that would reduce the size of the committee but, at the same time, increase the number of individuals and groups that would provide help in addressing the many aspects of the Association's role.

A higher profile within the whole of the community, coupled with a re-branding.

Increased communication, both within the membership and to the community at large.

Actions to materially increase membership and to get closer to our businesses and voluntary organisations.

Whilst other issues have restricted the progress that we would have like to have achieved, nevertheless, progress has been made.

Planning and Other Issues

We continue to check all planning applications but now restrict comment to those that have wider implications for the Village – leaving the Parish Council to respond to every application, as it is required to do under statute.

The major items with which we have been involved are:

Chiltern District Core Strategy

Development of 250 dwellings on the former Sawmill Site, off Bell Lane

Land at Snells Lane (The Sculpture Field)

Proposed Closure of Bell Lane School

All of these have made considerable demands on our time and they remain 'work in progress', potentially requiring our attention, during 2011.

Finance

Our finances remain stable and the Treasurer's Report and Accounts will be available at the AGM.

We anticipate being affected by the economic constraints and are already planning ways to ensure that we are able to continue and expand our activities.

Membership

As with our finances, membership is broadly stable (c740), including businesses, traders, clubs and other voluntary organisations.

Events and other activities

Our second **Christmas Market** was held successfully last December. The Library was our nominated charity and from the profits the Association has purchased a bench that will form part of the landscaped area, due to be completed in the Spring.

A team under the leadership of Alison Smith is arranging a community focused **Village Day** (Saturday 11 June 2011) and once again, we have been pleased to have been involved in the organisation of the **Christmas Lights** and **Hanging Baskets**.

Our sincere thanks are due to Tom Robertson and his team for the Lights and Baskets and, indeed to Nina Harrison and her team of helpers for the Christmas Market.

Community Action Plan

Implementation of the Plan is still very much the responsibility of the Association but mainly due to limited resources, we have not made progress in 2010 in addressing the outstanding items. The shortage of volunteer help apart, grant funding for major projects has become less available. We continue to monitor the position closely.

Charitable Status

We have recently begun to explore this option again.

Future Plans

In 2011, we aim to have most of new structure in place and to increase the membership. Communication will also be maintained through our Newsletters and Bulletins. There will doubtless be challenges to face, including the ongoing input on the major planning and other issues. In addition, the implications from The Big Society & Localism appear to be gathering pace, which we may not be able to ignore.

To conclude, what we have been able to achieve in 2010, has been down to the help that has been received and I wish to record my sincere personal thanks, not only to the committee members for their sterling support but to everyone who has provided willing assistance.

Roger Funk
Chairman

February 2011