



# LITTLE CHALFONT COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

January 2012

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## PROPOSED COMMUNITY PARK

The Trustees of Little Chalfont Charitable Trust have confirmed that the freehold of the land has been acquired; however there are still some legal aspects to be addressed that will take a little longer to resolve.

The next steps for the Charitable Trust are:

- to work out precisely what clearance and preparation work needs to be undertaken.
- to develop options for the ultimate use of the Park, within the proposal to create a tranquil Nature Park.
- to prepare specifications and obtain competitive quotes for the work.

To this end, it is proposed to set up a small sub-committee of the Charitable Trust that will have the necessary skills to take matters forward. In particular, it is looking for volunteers with the following experience:

**Land Surveying:** Helping to identify what can or cannot be removed, other preparation work and drawing up a specification of work.

**Arborist/Forestry:** To work with the Chiltern District Council's Tree Officer on making the woodland safe, creating a pathway and a future management programme.

**Landscape artist:** To prepare drawings for a formal proposal document based on some initial conceptual ideas that the Trustees have been considering.

**Project Manager:** To co-ordinate the project, liaise with contractors and prepare a proposal document.

WOULD YOU BE WILLING TO HELP (OR KNOW OF SOMEONE YOU COULD RECOMMEND)? If so, please email [communitypark@btinternet.com](mailto:communitypark@btinternet.com)

The sub-committee will work closely with the Parish Council, bearing in mind that the future running of the Park will be the responsibility of the Council. Whatever is proposed must be viable for the Parish Council and it will have representation on the sub-committee.

The funds raised from the Appeal have all been utilised for the purchase and the associated costs. Further funds will be needed to create the access and prepare the land for use. The Trustees will not address this challenge until a Proposal Document has been completed and all the necessary costs identified. It is hoped that it will be possible to obtain grants for at least part of the work.

## GOOD NEWS FOR SNELLS WOOD!

### Improvement Works

After many months of discussion between the Community Association and Chiltern District Council (owners of Snells Wood), we are pleased to report that a management and improvement programme is planned to start before the end of March this year.

The programme will be spread over 2 to 3 years, in order to minimise the disruption to wildlife and other ecological considerations. Once completed, the woodland will have a much more 'open' aspect.

The initial work will include material thinning out of young trees and removal of holly and other non-native bushes.

This is one of the few outstanding items in the Little Chalfont Community Action Plan still to be addressed and the Community Association's Committee is delighted to have played its part in securing these improvements.



## WASTE TRANSFER STATION

*Your views are required!*

**If you are unaware of the proposal to build a Waste Transfer Station, operated by a commercial company, on the land adjoining the Re-cycling Centre on the London Road (A413) – please read on.**

To briefly describe the overall proposal, Bucks County Council wish to implement a new strategy for dealing with the County's waste to mitigate an ever increasing Landfill Tax. Future waste will be transported to and burnt at a new Energy from Waste plant in north Buckinghamshire having been taken first to Waste Transfer Stations at London Road, Amersham and High Wycombe.

The committee of the Community Association has no argument with the strategy but, after very careful consideration of the rather complex proposals, has reached the conclusion that the London Road site should not be used as a Waste Transfer Station. The principal reasons are as follows:

- There will be many very large Heavy Goods Vehicles entering and leaving the site with a potential increase of accidents.
- Heavy Goods Vehicles carrying commercial and industrial waste from outside the District could be routed through Little Chalfont.
- The construction of an inappropriate waste processing building on land

that is in the Green Belt and designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

- Potential contamination of the River Misbourne plus noise, lighting and smells.

For the proposal to proceed, Chiltern District Council as owners of the land, would have to grant a lease to Bucks CC and there are two options that it can pursue:

- A. To issue a lease, with very stringent conditions that take into account concerns held by District Councillors and residents - Or
- B. Decline to issue the lease – effectively forcing an alternative site to be found.

The committee of the Community Association has made representation to Chiltern District Council **NOT** to grant the lease. This is despite the fact that there may be cost implications.

Members of the Community Association who are on our email list have already been given the opportunity to express which of the two options they prefer. **If you would like to express your own opinion please email the Community Association on [chairman@littlechalfont.org.uk](mailto:chairman@littlechalfont.org.uk) by 31 January and just state your choice of either Option A) or Option B).**

### HS2

Your local Action Group is **Chalfonts NO to HS2** for more information contact [deanne.chalfonts@gmail.com](mailto:deanne.chalfonts@gmail.com)

## DIGITAL SWITCHOVER

The TV signal for Little Chalfont will switch to digital in April 2012. The current analogue signal will be switched off. This means that anyone with a TV that receives an analogue signal via an aerial will need to connect a Freeview box to receive the digital signal. It also means that anyone with a Freeview television or Freeview box will need to retune to receive the new signal.

Please try to identify neighbours, particularly the elderly or vulnerable, who may need help with the switchover. They may not understand what they need to do and they are at risk from unscrupulous persons.

For further information about the switchover please click on [http://www.digitaluk.co.uk/what\\_and\\_why](http://www.digitaluk.co.uk/what_and_why)

## IMPORTANT DATES IN OUR VILLAGE!

March 20th  
LCCA AGM

June 16th  
VILLAGE DAY



## A HISTORY OF LITTLE CHALFONT

### The late Ivor White

The Association was very sad to learn of the passing of Ivor White last November.

Ivor was Secretary of the Little Chalfont Rural Preservation Society for 11 years (a forerunner of the Community Association) and very much a committed community man at heart.

In 1993, he wrote and published 'A History of Little Chalfont' and it is through this excellent book that he will forever be remembered. It is his legacy to the Village.

The book is still available and can be obtained through the Community Association at a cost £10. To register your interest, please email your name, address & telephone number to [secretary@littlechalfont.org.uk](mailto:secretary@littlechalfont.org.uk) or, if you do not have access to email, telephone Jim Brooks on 01494 762328.

### From our very own Tennis Club

**A very active club with excellent facilities and an exciting ALL YEAR programme.**

We welcome all ages and abilities. Come and join in our **Pay & Play** on Saturday mornings. There are sessions for Juniors and Adults, along with a very popular Cardiac session.

And **Friday Night is Juniors Night** (6 to 7.30)

For more details, contact Paul Dent, Head Coach on 07973 751462 or email him on [paul@pauldent.co.uk](mailto:paul@pauldent.co.uk)

Little Chalfont Tennis Club – Pavilion Way (off Elizabeth Avenue).

## BELL LANE SCHOOL UPDATE

Following the successful outcome of the OFSTED inspection in July, where the school was taken out of special measures, there's more good news at Bell Lane School. Dept. of Education performance tables published in December report the rapid progress that the school has made. SATs results for Key Stage 2 confirm that the school has exceeded the 'floor targets' that the Dept expects schools to achieve, and that there has been significant pupil progress right across the school.

Plans for Bell Lane Combined School to become a sponsored academy for the start of the 2012/13 academic year have now progressed with the appointment of E-ACT as the sponsor.

With the 2012 school admissions programme open, prospective parents are welcome to visit the school and appointments can be made by calling the school office on 01494 764521. Further details about the school can be found at [www.bell-lane.co.uk](http://www.bell-lane.co.uk)

## CURRENT VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES

### CAN YOU HELP?

#### Membership

We are looking for members (or potential members) who would be willing to assist our Membership Secretary, Steve Palfreman in signing up residents who live in their road.

Contact:

[membership@littlechalfont.org.uk](mailto:membership@littlechalfont.org.uk)

#### Web Site

We are looking for someone to act in a volunteer capacity as our Web Administrator, working with our Committee member for

Communications to assist with upgrading our Web Site and a new Facebook page.

Contact:

[dedukhan@hotmail.com](mailto:dedukhan@hotmail.com)

#### Christmas Fair

We are looking to put together a small team of 3 or 4 volunteers to run the event in 2012 and beyond.

Contact:

[chairman@littlechalfont.org.uk](mailto:chairman@littlechalfont.org.uk)

#### Prize Draw

We are seeking someone who will help the Association to develop a fundraising prize draw.

Contact:

[chairman@littlechalfont.org.uk](mailto:chairman@littlechalfont.org.uk)

## Planning Strategy to 2026 adopted

The expected outcome of the Core Strategy was reported to the community in a leaflet, issued jointly by the Parish Council and the Community Association last July. Various changes were sought by the Planning Inspector and, following his eventual recommendation to the Secretary of State, the Core Strategy was formally adopted by Chiltern District Council last November.

The further changes did not alter the key elements of the Strategy (including those directly affecting Little Chalfont) and by way of a reminder, these are:

No change in Green Belt Boundaries – leaving the Stony Lane & former golf course 'safe' for the time being.

The strategic site of the Donkey Field (off Burtons Lane) to be developed but with a formal acknowledgement that 'the site offers the potential for a well designed, high quality housing development, that will respect the character of the surrounding area.'

The next stage is for Chiltern District Council to prepare its specific plans, based on the Core Strategy and this will be in the form of what is defined as a Delivery Development Plan Document. The Community Association and Parish Council will be monitoring its production, particularly in the areas of roads, transport and potential

zoning of other possible 'infill' development sites in the Village. Ultimately, we understand that there will be a further Public Consultation but proposals will begin to be produced during 2012.

### Development of the Donkey Field

Again, as reported last July, the Community Association has been liaising with the developers of the Donkey Field and an Exhibition & Consultation of the proposals has now been arranged with Countryside Properties PLC.

Being so close to the centre of the Village, we are sure that you will wish to view and comment on the plans **before** the developers submit a Planning Application. You will be able to see the intended layout, numbers of dwellings proposed, their design and the access proposals.

**For the dates and venue, please see the formal Notice from Countryside, included in this Newsletter.**

Whilst the Community Association has no details of the plans, we are pleased to report that Countryside has been receptive to the various issues and suggestions that we have raised and we are encouraged by its willingness to work with the community, albeit within certain parameters that will be a consequence of the Core Strategy requirements.

***Please put the dates on your calendar!***

### SNOW CLEARANCE

Mild weather so far this winter does not mean Little Chalfont could not yet have a repeat of last year's heavy snow conditions. Your neighbours, particularly the elderly or vulnerable, may need help with transport or snow clearance. Please offer help to those who need it.

In addition Buckinghamshire County Council is seeking volunteers with four-wheel-drive (4WD) vehicles to help reach vulnerable people during heavy snowfalls. Even if you don't have a vehicle you can still help by volunteering to help clear paths at the homes of vulnerable people.

If you can help please call the County Council's Localities Team on 01296383409 or email [locality-services@buckscc.gov.uk](mailto:locality-services@buckscc.gov.uk) with your name, where you live, contact details and whether you can help with snow clearance or whether you have a 4WD vehicle.

Government advice issued last winter: [http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/N11/Newsroom/DG\\_191868](http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/N11/Newsroom/DG_191868) should allay concerns volunteers might have about clearing snow. You won't be in trouble for clearing snow sensibly.

visit us at

[www.littlechalfont.org.uk](http://www.littlechalfont.org.uk)

## **PUBLIC EXHIBITION**

Countryside Properties plc are holding a public exhibition and would like you to come and give your opinion on a proposed residential development at Burtons Lane ('The Donkey Field Site'), Little Chalfont.

Location: Village Hall, Cokes Lane, Little Chalfont

Date: Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2012 from 4pm to 8pm and

Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2012 from 9am to 12pm

*Help shape the future of your village*



**Countryside**  
**Properties**

## WHY BE A MEMBER OF THE LITTLE CHALFONT COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION?

The LCCA's mission is to strengthen Little Chalfont's identity as an independent village and encourage more community spirit through events and community projects.

The association also works to provide an **independent voice** for our community on planning matters that affect the character of our village.

In 2011, we are pleased to have initiated the acquisition of land in the centre of the village that can now **never be developed**.

We have provided detailed responses to the Draft Core Strategy on housing developments and obtained numerous concessions and mitigating features from developers and the District Council.

Our signature event, **Village Day**, was attended by hundreds of people, providing the perfect opportunity for residents, traders and social organisations to come together and show support for our community.

All of these and many, many more activities are carried out by local volunteers, but with more help we could do so much more!

Please join us today by becoming a member or helping with an event or project.

### **Special Offer! Join now for 5 years for just £20.**

Simply fill out the application below and return it, with a cheque payable to the Little Chalfont Community Association, to the address shown.

**JOIN US! Cost: 1 year - £5 or 5 years - £20 (Covers 2 adults in each household)**

Please fill in

NAME(S) \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

email address \_\_\_\_\_

Send  
completed  
form with  
cheque to:

Steve  
Palfreman,  
4 Loudhams  
Road,  
Little Chalfont,  
HP7 9NY

I would like to help out by volunteering