

# LITTLE CHALFONT PARISH COUNCIL

Newsletter – Spring 2023



## Development to go ahead Appeal allowed by planning inspector

The developer of the proposed building of 480 dwellings and other facilities on green belt land between Lodge Lane and Burtons Lane has successfully appealed against Buckinghamshire Council's refusal of the outline application.

The government's appeals inspector has given outline permission for the whole development, as well as final approval of the use of Lodge Lane and Burtons Lane for access, so the development is now likely to go ahead.

The inspector's full report (appeal decision notice) of 8 March 2023 may be viewed on [savelittlechalfont.org.uk](http://savelittlechalfont.org.uk)

The parish council and the Little Chalfont Community Association (LCCA) have worked hard together for several years to oppose this application, and previous proposals for a development which included this site.

Full written objections were lodged, supported by professional studies that we commissioned on landscape, roads and ecology.

We took part in the appeal process, with documentary and oral input to the public inquiry in December 2022 where Buckinghamshire Council defended its decision to refuse the application.

However, the inspector decided in favour of the developer.

### What next?

As Bucks Council has not found grounds to seek judicial review of the procedure used in the appeal, the next stage will be a planning application by the developer for approval by Bucks Council of



*The green belt site proposed for the development, boundaries shown approximate*

'reserved matters' – that is, those details not included in the original outline application because they will be determined by a future planning approval.

The parish council and the LCCA will be able to comment on community interests in the reserved matters application, including the need to minimise construction nuisances.

The outline approval includes various facilities on the site, such as a 'community hub', which will need to be well related to the ideas in our present community improvement plan – particularly our project for a new community building, incorporating the library and the village hall, in Cokes Lane.

Please view [savelittlechalfont.org.uk](http://savelittlechalfont.org.uk) for future updates. We will also provide updated information, when available, in the LCCA newsletters and ours, and the free magazines that circulate in the village on a regular basis. ■

You are invited to attend the

### ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2023

to be held in Little Chalfont Village Hall, Cokes Lane  
on Wednesday 3 May 2023 at 7.30pm

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#### Guest speakers:

**Mark Dormer, chairman, Mark Flys, deputy chairman; and Lizzie Wright, manager, of the Amersham & Villages Community Board**

There will be opportunities for you to ask questions of speakers and councillors at the meeting. Alternatively, you may submit your questions in writing before the meeting: via email to [clerk@littlechalfont-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@littlechalfont-pc.gov.uk) or post them in the letterbox next to the front door of the village hall. Please include your name and address. If you do not want your name and address made public, please state this clearly

# Community board news

## Neighbourhood benefits

Our local community board is undoubtedly making a difference in the area as will be seen from its activities in the past year:

- 31 new projects supported financially by the board, including benefits for Little Chalfont.
- £67,133 in total allocated to projects (including the new bench on Oakington Avenue in Little Chalfont, (pictured right).



Although the budget priorities have not yet been finalised, the current suggestions are likely to be:

- Health and wellbeing.

- Strengthening the community.
- Improving the environment.

All three are designed to embrace a range of projects. And encourage initiatives. Views were sought at the board's engagement event at the Chiltern Lifestyle Centre on 22 April 2023.

● We are pleased to announce that the speakers at our annual parish meeting will be Mark Dormer and his team from the Amersham & Villages Community Board, part of Bucks Council, which also covers Little Chalfont. (See notice on the front page of this newsletter). ■

## Thoughtless parking Still a problem

We have highlighted this problem in past newsletters but, sadly, drivers still park without any thought for pedestrians, especially those who use walking aids, or are in wheelchairs, or have children in pushchairs.

We do realise that parking in the village can be fraught, but we ask again that drivers leave disabled bays for genuine blue badge holders, and that they think of pedestrians when parking their cars.



*A mini recently photographed completely blocking the dropped kerb alongside Nightingales Corner*

Blocking a dropped kerb is a parking contravention for which **a penalty charge notice can be issued of up to £90.** ■

## Village hall Plans progressing

At its meeting on 8 February 2023, the parish council agreed to the outline plans for the community centre. Detailed proposals are now being progressed, including discussions between the council, the trustees of the community library and the architects.

It remains the intention of the council to consult with the community, when detailed plans have been prepared but it is too early at this stage to be in a position



*The present village hall and community library to be included in plans for the new community building in Cokes Lane*

to advise the likely date(s). Any further updates will be supplied in the parish council and community association newsletters and free magazines. ■

## From the chairman



From time to time, as people and circumstances change, a new chairman needs to be elected and this duty fell to me when I was elected chairman of the parish council following the resignation of the previous chairman, Mike Crowe in September 2022.

In addition to the normal workload of the parish council, the application to build over 400 homes on Homestead Farm and the former golf course between Lodge Lane and Burtons Lane has added additional pressure on our limited resources.

As you will know from recent announcements, and the story on the front page of this newsletter, the appeal against the refusal of the application by Bucks Council was granted and the project is now likely to go ahead.

Along with most Buckinghamshire villages, Little Chalfont sadly suffered some vandalism. There was severe damage caused in Westwood Park, with which the council had to deal as a matter of urgency.

These extra tasks proved extremely time consuming for both our parish clerks and councillors. My personal thanks go to both the clerks, who had to deal with these extra issues along with their normal duties.

Some of you may be under the impression that the planned new village hall project, to incorporate the library, has been abandoned. I would like to assure you that we are at the moment looking at new designs with the architects that are more in keeping with the local area than the previous design. Once the design has been fully drawn up there will be a public consultation before we submit the plans to Bucks Council for approval.

Finally I would like to thank all the councillors for the guidance and support with which they have provided me in running the parish council efficiently, for the benefit of all local residents.

I hope to see you at the annual parish meeting on 3 May, details of which are on the front page of this newsletter.

Vinny Patel



# Westwood Park news

## Major improvements planned

Westwood Park in Little Chalfont is a beautiful area with lots of outdoor activities to enjoy. The Chess Valley walks from Westwood Park must offer some of the most stunning views of the surrounding countryside, particularly during springtime when the daffodils and bluebells are in bloom as will be the case shortly.

To keep the park in tiptop condition, and to ensure its enjoyment by all users, the parish council is hoping to



Westwood Park on a beautiful frosty spring morning

renew the sports pavilion and upgrade the car park surface to tarmac.

We also plan to install automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) camera systems to deter vandalism, which was, sadly, a problem last summer. This should help to

make the park a safer and more enjoyable place for everyone.

The multi-user games area (MUGA) is to get a major overhaul, with new surfacing and fencing and the tennis court surfaces will be cleaned and relined this year. These improvements should help to make these areas more usable and enjoyable for everyone.

The children's play area equipment in the MUGA is to get a facelift, with some older equipment being replaced with more modern play equipment. It's important to have safe and engaging play areas for children to enjoy, and these improvements will help to ensure that the park remains a fun and safe place for families to visit.

Westwood Park is a wonderful outdoor space with lots of potential for enjoyment and recreation, the park does seem to be able to offer something for everyone. Why not come along and see for yourself? ■

### Little Chalfont Farmers Market

For the spring/summer, the farmers market will be held in the village hall car park from 9am-1pm:

Saturday 13 May  
Saturday 10 June  
Saturday 8 July  
Saturday 12 August

If you are interested in taking a stall at the farmers market, please contact the organiser at [info@tvfm.org.uk](mailto:info@tvfm.org.uk) or call 01235 227 266.

For the craft fair please contact Jan Purcell at [jan.pursall@ntworld.com](mailto:jan.pursall@ntworld.com)

## Briefly...

### Extra parking at weekends

Don't forget that Cytiva has continued to allow local residents to use its front car park, opposite Chenies Parade, at weekends, free of charge, to ease the inevitable congestion in Chenies Parade.

It is available to local residents from 8am – 6pm, for two hours' free parking on Saturdays and Sundays. Bank holidays and overnight parking excluded.

We hope local residents will make use of this valuable facility to help support local businesses.



### Taxi concessionary scheme

Do you need help with the cost of getting to medical appointments? A taxi concessionary scheme is available to residents aged 65 and over to provide transport to attend medical appointments for a number of locations.

Further information about how the scheme works may be obtained from the parish office by emailing [clerk@littlechalfont-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@littlechalfont-pc.gov.uk) or phoning 01494 766655.

## Speeding drivers update

### 15 vehicles logged at over 75mph

The latest data for speeding in the village is based on data collected by the MVASs positioned in the Amersham Road. The devices were placed in either direction for three months from mid November 2022 to mid February 2023:

#### Chorleywood direction, 252,884 speed recordings:

- Up to 30mph: 81.5%
- 30 - 35 mph: 16.0%
- 35 - 40 mph: 2.0%
- 45+ mph: 0.5%

A rather different picture emerges for drivers heading from Amersham to Little Chalfont:

#### Amersham direction, 317,020 speed recordings:

- Up to 30mph: 75.0%
- 30 - 35 mph: 15.5%
- 35 - 40 mph: 7.0%
- 45+ mph: 2.5%

What the above figures do not show is the number of drivers massively exceeding the speed limit.

The MVAS positioned to catch speeds of vehicles driving towards the village centre recorded **eight vehicles being driven at 70mph and 15 being driven at over 75mph.**



One explanation for the excessive speed could be emergency vehicles going about their lawful business. Another explanation could be reckless drivers using public highways to hold illegal races.

The MVAS has now been moved to the stretch of Nightingales Lane between Cokes Lane and Harewood Road. It is already showing results, with the above picture clearly showing a driver flagrantly ignoring the 30mph speed limit. ■

# Nature Park latest

## Signs of spring at last

Despite the recent cold weather, spring continues to advance in the park, the most obvious signs being all the daffodils appearing around the meadow.



In addition to the welcome sight of the daffs, if you look carefully you will see that lots of trees and plants are bursting into life.



We have now installed three new benches. One of these, with the rabbit carvings, has been sponsored by a local resident and the other two, with carved back seats (see picture) have been

*Native daffodils growing in the nature park (top) and one of the new benches in the park (above)*

funded by a grant obtained by the Little Chalfont Charitable Trust, which owns the park.

They will provide very welcome additional seating, especially as summer approaches and visitor numbers increase.

Several of the existing seats are now beginning to show signs of wear. Although generally made of oak, natural materials don't last forever. However, apart from one bench, which was removed for safety reasons, the rest will



undergo a programme of repair and refurbishment later in the year.

Sadly, one of the silver birch trees behind the learning circle had to be felled for safety reasons after extensive rot had greatly weakened it to the point where its root could not hold its weight.

Contractors moved swiftly to chop up the fallen tree and it was all cleared up within a couple of hours. Most of the logs were left for the wildlife, as can be seen from our picture above and the contractors used woodchips from a couple of the bigger branches to lay a softer base within the learning circle.

With the addition of the new seating and the warmer weather coming, why not grab a picnic and visit the park to see for yourself the natural changes that the seasons bring and the physical changes that are taking place! ■

## Little Chalfont Farmers Market

### A valuable local resource

As many of you will know Little Chalfont has its own farmers market, part of Thames Valley Farmers Markets, held in the village hall car park on the second Saturday of each month.

Most of the food and drink sold at the market is produced within a 30 mile radius of the market, which means that you can be sure you're buying products from the people who have grown, reared, baked and made them, all to the highest standards.

Buying at farmers markets helps to support local farmers and producers – there are no middlemen involved.

Here we profile another individual regular stallholder:

#### Mr Grumps Charcuterie & Pastries

Stallholder Nigel Craige started his pie making business 15 years ago, and has had a stall at the Little Chalfont Farmers Market for several years.



He is a one-man band and makes all his own pies, pasties and charcuterie himself.

The idea for the name of his company came originally from one of his grandchildren, who used to call him 'grumps' instead of 'gramps'. Nigel decided that that would make an excellent name for his stand,

as evidenced by the logo of a grumpy pig on his poster!

Before he started his own pie company he was a fully qualified chef and was the youngest head chef of a 5-star hotel in the Isle of Man, where he was born and raised.

He has won several awards over the years in the British Pie Awards: a Bronze Medal in 2017, Silver Medal in 2017 and 2018; and Gold Medals in 2018 and 2019. He has not entered in recent years because of the covid restrictions.

The pork meat for his pies comes from Middle Barton Farm in Oxfordshire, using Oxford Sandy and Black pigs a rare, traditional breed. All the animals are free range and all the products used in production of his goods is also free range, including the eggs for the pastry. He also uses free range lamb and mutton from a local farm in Redditch. ■





# Community improvement plan (CIP)

The Little Chalfont Community Improvement Plan (CIP) represents the views and aspirations of the community. All the current projects are joint initiatives between the parish council and the community association..



## Climate change/ environment

Sustainable Little Chalfont continues to learn from and publicise the activities of Sustainable Amersham and Sustainable Chesham.

We don't yet have a team in Little Chalfont to launch our own programme but if you'd like to know more about what we hope to do or the inspiring things already happening in Chesham and Amersham, please get in touch at [hello@sustainablelittlechalfont.org](mailto:hello@sustainablelittlechalfont.org)



## Dementia friendly village

Café 22 is now clearly a success and it reports on its first year of activities.

Café 22, which was a year old on 2nd February 2023, offers a means of improving the wellbeing of those with memory loss/ dementia and their carers.

During the year, we had events such as a competition based on the planting and growing of sunflower seeds; an exhibition of the World Wildlife Photographer of the Year Competition; craft work such as making Christmas cards and decorations and concerts to listen to and sing along with.

Our first anniversary birthday party, which was attended by nearly everyone from the café who, with visitors, totalled 45. There were savouries, cake, fruit jelly, ice cream



1st anniversary party of Cafe 22

and a birthday cake with candles that were blown out by two of our original couples.

Guests say they love coming to Café 22 and that it is a 'lifeline'. If you would like to join us, please ring Helen Tyers on 01494 762395. We meet locally every Thursday from 10 am until noon. Plans to form a charity and extend the memory café initiative into Amersham are both progressing well. ■

## Little Chalfont Community Association news

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

### Village day

Don't miss our community celebration!

The organisation is well advanced and if you wish to have a stall to promote your club, society or voluntary group, sites are still available. There is much to look forward to including:

- Performances and demonstrations on the village green
- Competitions for the whole family
- Refreshments, including a barbecue
- A raffle with prizes donated by our shops

Full details will be available nearer the time; also on our Facebook page @lcvillageday.

The usual fun run for charity is planned but we are still looking for someone willing to organise it.



Can you help?

The community has always rallied round to assist the organisers on the day and if you are able to spare an hour or two, now would be a good time to put

your name forward.

Marshals for crossing the road (to Cytiva's front car park) are of course vital but there are lots of other tasks during the event and your involvement would be very much appreciated.

Please email the organisers on [villageday@littlechalfont.org.uk](mailto:villageday@littlechalfont.org.uk) to register your willingness to help and the organisers will be in touch. Thank you.

The community association will have its usual gazebo and committee members available to answer questions on what is happening generally in the village. The parish council will also be represented, as too will be the Amersham and Villages Community Board.

### Chiltern Foodbank donations

Make a note of the following Saturdays to drop off food donations in the village centre from 9.00 am to 12 noon:

- 13 May
- 10 June
- 8 July

### Photo ID needed to vote

Did you know that, when voting at elections in future, you will need to produce photo ID?

Full details are available in the following link: [electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/voter/voter-id](http://electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/voter/voter-id) ■

# About Little Chalfont Parish Council

## Your parish councillors



*Vinny Patel*  
Chairman



*Brian Gallagher*  
Vice chairman



*Chris Holmes*  
Chairman, planning committee



*David Nussbaum,*  
Vice chairman,  
planning committee



*Mike Crowe*



*Novia Henry-Ames*



*Chris Ingham CMG*



*Doug Silverstone*



*Janet Walford OBE*  
Newsletter editor



*Sallie Matthews*  
Parish clerk



*Sam Butcher*  
Assistant 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.

Publication date 13/4/2023

## Parish council meetings:

### Parish council general meetings:

Usually held on the second Wednesday of each month, except for August, in 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 to express their views and to ask the council for support in relation to various matters.

### Planning committee meetings:

Usually held every four weeks, starting at 7pm or 7.30pm – see website or notice boards for details.

The committee considers local planning applications and advises Bucks Council, the planning authority, of any local or community issues that it should take into account. You can make comments, then hear the committee's discussion.

### 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](mailto:clerk@littlechalfont-pc.gov.uk)

**OFFICE OPENING HOURS:**

Monday – Friday, 9am – 12 noon.

**COUNCIL WEBSITE:** [www.littlechalfont-pc.gov.uk](http://www.littlechalfont-pc.gov.uk)

### 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](mailto:clerk@littlechalfont-pc.gov.uk). We welcome all feedback

### Where to go for help:

#### Parish council: 01494 766 655

Bridleways; commons and open spaces; community transport schemes; community safety and crime reduction measures; events and festivals; footpaths; leisure facilities; litter bins; neighbourhood planning; street cleaning; tourism activities; traffic monitoring; village greens; residential street lighting, woodlands; youth projects.

#### Bucks council: 0300 131 6000

'A' road lighting; bus shelters; car parks; council tax collections; education; fire and public safety; fly tipping; housing; libraries; planning applications; public toilets; recycling; rubbish collection; trading standards; transport; social care; waste management.

#### Other contacts

- Police emergency: 999
- Police non emergency: 101
- NHS healthline: 111
- Banks fraudline: 159
- Unsolicited marketing calls: 0303 123 1113
- Illegal parking: 0333 121 0031
- Dial a ride: 01494 766 123
- Helping hand team: 01296 531 151
- Helping Hand emergency: 0800 999 7677
- Citizens Advice Bureau: 0808 278 7938