

# CHEPPING WYCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

**Flackwell Heath  
Loudwater  
Tylers Green**



## View from the Vice Chairman

As you can see the heading is "View from the Vice Chairman" this is because Katrina Wood our Chairman has this year asked me as Vice Chairman to provide some comments on my view of the parish council (very daring on her behalf I must say) so here goes with a potted viewpoint.

### What is a parish council?

Although parish councils have been around in various forms for a few centuries, a parish council as it is known now is a civil local authority founded in England under the reforming Local Government Act 1894 and is the lowest tier of local government. They are an elected corporate body, and have variable tax raising powers, and are responsible for areas known as civil parishes. Chepping Wycombe civil parish was originally based on the ancient ecclesiastical parish of Chepping Wycombe. In 1894, when parish councils were introduced under the Local Government Act 1894, the original civil parish was split between the urban area of High Wycombe (Chepping Wycombe Municipal Borough) and the rural areas outside the borough to the east (Chepping Wycombe Civil Parish) the parish was reduced in size in 1901 ceding land to the adjacent High

Wycombe parish and its boundaries were further changed in 1934.

### What does the parish council do?

Our activities fall into three main categories, representing the local community, delivering services to meet local needs, and improving quality of life and community well being.

Local councils can provide and maintain a variety of local services including allotments, burial grounds, bus shelters, car parks, commons and open spaces, leisure and sports facilities, litter bins, footway lighting, traffic calming measures, village greens and youth projects. Parish councils are funded by levying a "precept" collected with the council tax paid by the residents of the parish. Parish councils have unpaid councillors who are elected to serve for four years, unless a casual vacancy arises which may be filled by a by-election or by co-option.

Chepping Wycombe Parish Council is considered to be a very well-run parish council, we are responsible for approximately £343,000 per annum to carry out our budget for the current year or our known future projects and expenditure. My main concern when I first joined the parish council was the apparent

slowness in getting things done this is due to the fact that we are responsible for spending your money in the best possible way so extra care is taken. There are at present 17 councillors, all volunteers, representing the wards of Tylers Green, Loudwater and Flackwell Heath who are, in fact, responsible for the welfare of the whole parish.

We have a very well-run office staffed by Wendy Thompson, Clerk and her assistant Suzanne Thompson. Wendy is the person who has overall responsibility for balancing the books and managing the councillors and ground staff and Suzanne is the voice that you will probably hear first if you call the office. We have three members on our ground staff Graeme, Jonathan and Darren who collectively maintain all our

open spaces, woodlands and parks etc and deal with any emergencies that may occur and work in all kinds of weather.

This year we have concentrated on updating our lamp columns and installing LED lighting which I think you will agree is a great improvement and will save a considerable amount of money over the next few years. We have been continuing to improve our playgrounds, the project is now nearing completion.

During the coming year we will be working with a revised committee and councillor structure which I believe will enable us to speed up the processing of the services we aim to provide you with.

## Changes to Chepping Wycombe Parish Council Committees



With effect from May 2018 we plan to make a few changes to the way that the Parish Council committees operate. These changes will result in the Council working more effectively and in a manner that is similar to other Parish Councils of comparable size.

### **New Planning Process**

A new, dedicated Planning Committee will be established with effect from May 2018 and will meet every 2 weeks to consider and review local planning applications. In addition, the Planning Committee will be responsible for reviewing longer term, more strategic planning matters often resulting from consultations by Wycombe District Council and Bucks Highways. As with all committees, councillors will be appointed from each Ward – Flackwell Heath, Tylers Green and Loudwater – to ensure appropriate representation.

The agenda for each meeting will be published on notice boards and the Council website and the decisions taken and the minutes of each meeting will also be recorded and made

publicly available. These meetings will take place in the CWPC office in Cock Lane and be open to the public.

### **New Open Spaces Committee**

It has been decided to combine the work of the current Leisure & Facilities Committee with that of the Amenity Land Committee and create a new Open Spaces Committee. This committee will have responsibility for the Council's activities in areas such as woodlands, commons, ponds, allotments, recreation grounds and sports grounds.

### **Increased Frequency Of Meetings**

In order to make the operation of the CWPC committee structure more effective we plan to increase the frequency of committee meetings to 5 times a year. In addition, the number of meetings of the full Parish Council will be increased to 7 each year (excluding the Annual Parish Meeting). It is anticipated that these changes will enable us to manage the business of the Council in a more effective and efficient manner.

# GDPR – General Data Protection Regulation

The principles around data collection and sharing will be changing as a new set of legislation comes into effect. As data collection has become more convenient and widespread, so the need to safeguard individual rights and privacy has become more important.

The Data Protection Act (DPA) will be replaced with the more comprehensive General Data Protection Regulation. The new Regulation is intended to expand the scope of existing regulations and strengthen the rights of data subjects and comes into effect on 25 May 2018 it will change the way every organisation - large and small – handles personal data.

Any personal data;

- ✓ must be processed lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner in relation to the data subject;
- ✓ may only be collected for specified, legitimate purposes and must not be further processed in a manner that is incompatible with the collection purposes;
- ✓ must be adequate, relevant and limited to what is necessary in relation to the purposes for which those data are processed;
- ✓ must be accurate and, where necessary, kept up to date. Every reasonable step must be taken to ensure that personal data that are inaccurate are either erased or rectified without delay;



- ✓ must be kept in a form that permits identification of data subjects for no longer than is necessary for the purposes for which the personal data are processed;
- ✓ must be processed in a manner that ensures appropriate security of that data, including protection against unauthorised or unlawful processing and against accidental loss, destruction or damage, using appropriate technical or organisational measures.

The parish council is currently reviewing all data held at the Council Offices in light of the new regulation and will be requesting consent to hold personal data from residents (eg email address, phone number, home address) and contractors who are in contact with the parish council.

## Farewell to Cllr Lenny White

Lenny was with the parish council for just under a year and it was with great sadness that we had to say goodbye to him due to pressure of work. He felt that he was unable to spend enough time on parish council matters along with his other commitments.

As most residents know he is co-owner of the very successful estate agents Keegan White and also plays a role in the Flackwell Heath Residents Association.

The parish council would like to thank him for all that he did in the time he was serving and wish him all the best in the future. The door is always open.

# Payback time

Our parish is surrounded by beautiful open countryside providing opportunities for walking and other outdoor pursuits.

However, having such a large collection of outdoor assets to maintain continues to represent a challenge for the parish. We are fortunate to have a hard working full-time grounds team of three lead by our Warden Graeme Christie to continually monitor and maintain them. This becomes particularly onerous during the summer months when everything grows so fast. Our paths and tracks quickly become overgrown such that it can make using them at best difficult and if we are not careful even hazardous.

Despite the continual hard work of our grounds team we would not be able to keep these assets safe and usable by the public without considerable external support. If you are out and about on Sundays in the parish you may have caught sight of work parties in orange high visibility vests and wondered who they are – volunteers perhaps? Well no, read on.

We are very fortunate to be able to utilise the time provided free to us by the Community Payback Service.

Each Sunday throughout the year your councillors take it in turns to brief and support a group of between 1 and 10 men (usually) managed by a professional Community Payback supervisor. The supervisor typically starts out from Aylesbury picking them up in a minibus en route to arrive at the worksite chosen by the Warden at 09.15. The Council provides some of the necessary tools, equipment and tea and coffee making facilities, and a written work brief for the day. The duty councillor walks the supervisor around the work site to ensure that the brief is understood, and revisits at 3.30 to inspect the site and collect the tools etc.. Each Sunday this Payback Service provides the parish with between 30 and 60 man hours of invaluable support cutting back brambles, nettles, small saplings and brush from the sides of our paths, tracks and other open spaces.

We are ever hopeful that we will be able to take advantage of this extra manpower for years to come, but worry that with changes in the justice system and pressure on budgets we might lose it and be faced with the huge challenge of replacing this essential work from our own hard pressed resources.

## PLAYGROUNDS

### **Straight Bit Recreation Ground, Flackwell Heath**

A boat was installed on the site in the last phase.

Further work is being undertaken to refurbish the climbing frame and install further safety surfacing. Watch this space!!!!



### **Ashley Drive, Tylers Green**

Quotes are currently being obtained for another small piece of equipment and safety surfacing to complete the pad. Following this installation quotes for fencing will be obtained so that the play area will be dog free.

# FOR YOUR PIES ONLY

The wild cherry has long been a native and well known established tree in Chiltern woods. The Romans grew cherries at their Chiltern villas and by the start of the seventeenth century the wild cherry had been tamed and cultivated as a fruit tree.

Several Chiltern villages soon realised the importance of the cherry industry. Prestwood and Holmer Green had large commercial orchards but it was Flackwell Heath which had prettier smaller fields and meadows to accommodate their many cherry orchards and was regarded as the Queen of the Chiltern cherry villages. Techniques of grafting and budding on the native cherry trees were perfected and many cultivated variants developed locally on wild rootstocks included Frognoor, Bigaroo, Blackheart, Mirella, Huny, Bastard Black, Reynold Heart, Casher and Nap. It was the blackest cherries which were favoured for making the famous Flackwell Heath cherry pies or turnovers.

There were two main events to mark the cherry season. Cherry Blossom Sunday in April would coincide most closely to the peak blossom display and visitors from Wycombe and surrounding areas would flock to the village to admire the trees. The landlords of the Flackwell Heath public houses would ensure that there was a good supply of ale to fortify the many visitors before their long walk home. In July the Cherry Fayre would mark the completion of the cherry picking season and the turnovers would be in plentiful supply on the stalls.

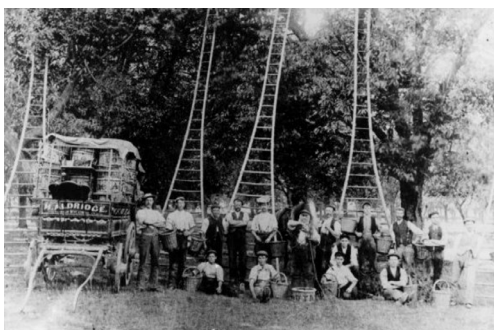
The annual Cherry Fayre was regarded as an occasion of revelry and celebration. It was well established by 1788 when a sermon preached by a visiting minister denounced the locals for their "vanity, riot, profaneness and sabbath-breaking" during the cherry season. The Fayre lapsed due to the demise of the orchards but was revived in 2005.



*Trees in full blossom line Sedgmoor Road in the 1930's.*

Most of the residents of Flackwell Heath would be involved in the cherry harvest. Many children would play truant to earn a few pennies as 'bird starvers' using anything making a loud noise to keep blackbirds and starlings away from the rapidly ripening crop. Adults would take unofficial leave from their regular employment for two weeks, as an experienced cherry picker could earn up to three times more than say a mill worker.

The last cherry orchard in Flackwell Heath was planted in 1889 and sadly none survive today due to the land rapidly being required for the post war building boom of the 50's and 60's. It would be very interesting to know if any locals still make the turnovers in the traditional way today.



*Pickers for H Aldridge with their wide based ladders in the 1900's.*



# Ashwells Field development

The planning application for the first phase of the Ashwells Field development has been submitted by Savills on behalf of Wycombe District Council (WDC), who own the land. This application deals with the outline planning permission required relating to road layout, the utilities infrastructure, the open spaces and landscaping for the site. Further detailed planning applications will subsequently be made to build up to 102 houses on the site. The existing footpath access through the site will be retained or realigned.

## The New Homes

There will be 16 x 4-bed, 59 x 3-bed, 20 x 2-bed and 7 custom-build houses, in a combination of detached houses, semi-detached houses, and terraces. Parking standards will be 2 spaces per 2/3 bed dwelling, and 2.5 per 4-bed dwelling. The visualisations show mostly traditional-looking 2 to 2.5 storey houses. The 7 custom-build houses will be encouraged to adopt more contemporary designs. WDC is looking at ways to include some starter homes/shared equity houses for first-time buyers with local connections. Because it is an outline application no detailed design is shown for the dwellings, but it is the Council's stated aim to achieve good quality design and materials.

## Cock Lane

The application envisages that the first thing completed will be the widening of Cock Lane between the pumping station/cemetery entrance and the phone mast, from approx. 3.7 m to 6.0 m. A new access road connects into the development at the mid-point, about 50 metres further down Cock Lane than previously illustrated. Once the development is completed the Ashwells junction with Cock Lane will only be used for vehicles leaving the site (apart from existing Ashwells residents who will be able to enter and exit as currently). All traffic entering the new development will be via the new access road.

Widening of Cock Lane south of the Ashwells site is not included in this application. Further details of any connection of Cock Lane to the proposed new Spine Road through to Gomm Road will be included in the Gomm Valley development application. Tylers Green residents are rightly concerned to understand the impact of any such through-road connection or widening of Cock Lane south of the new access road on the volume of traffic passing through the village. Documents in this application make it clear that there is no current safety issue for Cock Lane with only 5 slight injuries over 5 years, and none in the section we wish to retain as a single track.



### Construction Timescales

The enabling works, building the new access road and putting in groundworks and infrastructure, will all be carried out as Phase 1 of the development. It is anticipated that this work could start in early 2019 and take about 9 months to complete. Completing the works to build houses on the site could take a further 2 to 3 years.

### Middle School & New Road

Discussions are underway about proposals for much needed improvements to the pick-up and drop-off arrangements for Tylers Green Middle School and the on-road parking in this area. A central island

is proposed for Barnes Corner where the children cross, with two chicanes to slow traffic further down New Road each with illuminated bollards and signage.

### Documents & Comment

The planning application consists of more than 60 documents which can be viewed by going to [www.wycombe.gov.uk](http://www.wycombe.gov.uk) and clicking on 'Find a planning application' and using the reference number 18/05002/R9OUT. A paper copy of the documents is available for public viewing in CWPC's office in Cock Lane.



# Railway Land Public Meeting – A Year On

It is about twelve months since we held the public meeting in Loudwater and it is useful to summarise what has happened and where we might go. Time flies very quickly between meetings when there are only four a year as the time to propose, consider, consult and action at meetings means to the outsider that little seems to be going on. This is especially true if the proposed action is rejected after consultation.

The public meeting of residents with land adjoining the Railway Land wanted action on the large trees on the embankment above them as there were safety fears and also concern about loss of light. Reassurances that the safety fears were groundless and that the trees provided both an amenity value and contributed to the stability of the embankment did not persuade many of the residents who recalled days when there were no large trees at all. The problem seemed most pronounced in the eastern section.

A learning experience with a resident offering to pay for the trees to the rear of their property in the western section reminded us all that trees are both loved and hated; also that the view to the rear of a property includes neighbouring properties as well.

The plan to transfer part of the embankment with the larger trees to the adjoining properties failed simply because not all were keen to take

over the land.

The idea for the eastern section (closest to Treadaway Hill) which has yet to be considered in detail and is above our annual budget is to :

- Mark and number the largest trees on the bank
- Take views from adjoining properties
- Take views from visitors
- Invite financial contributions
- Consider the feedback

We recognise that the feedback might be inconclusive but we are thinking of trying it.

There is also a proposal in the Management Plan to meander the path in the western section as this will both make it more interesting and improve the privacy of some of the houses that are built close to the embankment.



## Loudwater Bowls Club

Loudwater Bowls Club welcomes anyone who would like to try lawn bowls, come along on a Tuesday during the season (May to mid-September) at about 5-30 p.m. in flat soled shoes, there is usually a qualified coach to help you.

The Club is situated near the top of Derehams Lane (which joins the A40 near the Loudwater mini-roundabout) before the top of the hill turn left into Derehams Recreation Ground at the Pre-School pavilion and follow the track to our car park and the Green.

Outdoor bowls is a great sport suitable for all ages with a variety of team games or singles matches. If you play a physical sport, football, cricket, hockey, etc. and have reached the age where you might have to give it up, why not try outdoor bowls. It is a competitive, tactical game with lots of team spirit and camaraderie. We are a very friendly club and we give free coaching to help beginners learn the game.

For more information please visit our website [www.loudwaterbowls.co.uk](http://www.loudwaterbowls.co.uk) or phone Cynthia on **01494 443391** or Richard on **01494 812963**.

# KING'S WOOD

We have just completed some planting of trees in the wood. These are behind what used to be known as the Recycling Car Park, to distinguish it from the other car parks serving the wood, but is clearly in need of a new name. We already have a cemetery car park in Cock Lane and Fifteen Ways so serious suggestions are welcomed. The other area that was replanted was on the north eastern edge of the wood where unknown persons reduced the trees to tall stumps that looked a bit like a war scene. We have replanted with hornbeam, field maple, common alder, english oak, and common cherry.

The all ability path that comprises a nice circular walk suitable for buggies and wheel chairs has been greatly enhanced by the work of the CP (Community Payback) teams that come and work in the parish on Sundays and there is now a glorious view from the Viewpoint as all the small growth has been cut back.

BEFORE:



AFTER:



The Council agreed the funding mechanism at the last Full Council for the glade widening that we wrote at length about in both the last Newsletter and the local Village Voice that serves Penn and Tylers Green. The project will be the beneficiary of the environmental element of a S106 funding stream that Wycombe District Council has made available to us. Boards describing the work will be going up in the affected parts of the wood as we try to ensure that both residents and visitors to the wood are aware of what is planned.



## Grants 2018/19

The Council has a budget of £2,000 for 2018/19. The monies are intended to help community based groups in our area and the Clerk has full details of our requirements for any application. Applications should always be completed two weeks before a Finance and General Purposes meeting - dates can be found on our website.

# Allotments

The shed at the Chapel Road allotment site has been replaced and this will be closely followed by the replacement of the shed at the Ashley Drive site.

This year's allotment get togethers will be held on the following days;

## **Tylers Green Picnic**

Saturday 11th August 11am to 2pm

## **Flackwell Heath BBQ**

Saturday 18th August 11am to 2pm

## Allotment Competition 2017 Results

### **Flackwell Heath**

|                   |     |                 |
|-------------------|-----|-----------------|
| Mr Gary Smith     | F33 | Master Gardener |
| First Place       |     |                 |
| Mr David Nicholls | F09 | Second Place    |
| Mrs Linda Lewis   | F28 | Third Place     |

### **Tylers Green**

|                           |      |              |
|---------------------------|------|--------------|
| Mrs Jill Grimble          | T31  | First Place  |
| Mrs Jacqueline Woodward   | T09  | Second Place |
| Mrs Christine Slingerland | T28A | Third Place  |



## Tracks on The Common

There was a useful public meeting with residents living on the tracks last October at which our plans and constraints were laid out. The plans for the track opposite the village hall received general approval but the other tracks leading off Rays Lane and going down to Potters Cross Pumping Station need more work.

Plans to improve the section opposite the Tylers Green Village Hall have still to be approved as revised quotes and residents contributions had not been received in time for the last Full Council in March 2018. This will complete the works started two years ago by some of the local residents and give better access to the car park down the track. The actual scheme will need to wait until we have a suitable weather window.

Meanwhile the Council or the residents will continue to treat the potholes and try to keep the green areas green without going to extreme measures to keep cars off the grass.

The Council is trying to square the circle for some of the other tracks that arise from

1. Funding constraints
2. Technical limitations imposed by the 'Village Green' status of the tracks
3. Need to involve the residents in the above as they are the track users

The Open Spaces Committee will keep on reporting on this for a number of meetings.

# Precept

The Chepping Wycombe Parish Council Tax (called the Precept) is collected by Wycombe District Council together with the general Council Tax, and paid to the parish in two instalments during the year.

For a fourth successive year, the Council decided to continue its practice of only increasing the Precept by the amount necessary to compensate for the continuing reduction in the Council Tax Support Grant we receive from Wycombe District Council (part of the government’s plans).

We are enabled to do this by absorbing unavoidable increases such as utilities, rates and staff costs (at a time when inflation is running at around 3%) through both efficiencies and slight changes in our improvement plans.

This would have meant a 0.4 % increase in the Chepping Wycombe Council Tax if the numbers of properties in our area stayed the same.

However, the actual increase that Wycombe has included in its 2018/19 Council Tax calculations is 1.6% and not 0.4% due to an administrative error on their part. Regrettable though this larger than requested increase is, it is well below all the other bodies and compares favourably to the overall increase of 5.7% in Council Tax.

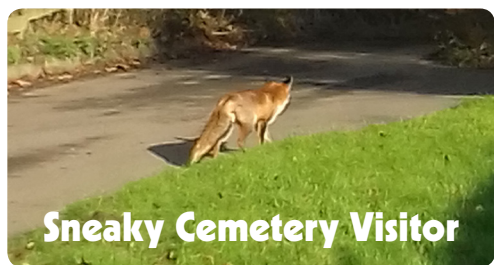
We remain in a relatively healthy position when our reserves are considered, and the completion of the Footway LED Lighting Project is bringing benefits which will be fully realised when the interest free SALIX loan has been paid off. This should enable us to continue our policy of keeping year on year increases in our council tax very small, despite our expectation that our costs will go up and that the Council Tax Support Grant may disappear altogether.

The following tables show the full annual impact to be a maximum increase in the Chepping Wycombe Council Tax of £1.74 per property (for the average Band D property £0.87p), and compares the change between years.

| Council Tax bands | A     | B     | C     | D     | E     | F     | G     | H      |
|-------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|
| 2017/18           | 36.22 | 42.26 | 48.29 | 54.33 | 66.4  | 78.48 | 90.55 | 108.66 |
| 2018/19           | 36.80 | 42.93 | 49.07 | 55.20 | 67.47 | 79.73 | 92.00 | 110.40 |
| Change £          | 0.58  | 0.67  | 0.78  | 0.87  | 1.07  | 1.25  | 1.45  | 1.74   |
| % Increase        | 1.60% | 1.60% | 1.60% | 1.60% | 1.60% | 1.60% | 1.60% | 1.60%  |

## Litter Scheme

Chepping Wycombe Parish Council has a litter scheme – if you would be interested in picking litter in an area within the parish and having a donation made on your behalf to a charity of your choice please let us know either on [clerk@cwpc.org.uk](mailto:clerk@cwpc.org.uk) or by telephone **01494 814600**.



## LED Lighting Payback

The project is complete and we can already see a substantial reduction in power costs.

As all the luminaires are new and many of the poles we can also expect a substantial and immediate reduction in maintenance costs as well.

We had made provision of a considerable sum in contingencies as this was the first time the Parish Council had let a contract of this nature. In fact, we did not need this at all and through strong contract management the outturn price was less than we expected.

There is an interest free loan from SALIX that needs to be repaid over five years however.

In the short term we have released about £20,000 that is being used to deal with both inflationary pressures and to continue to improve the environment we all live in.



## Crossing the road can be hazardous!!!

One of my last duties as chair of the Amenity Land Committee (before the new Open Spaces Committee replaces it) was to escort this mother and duckling group across Church Road outside Londis. They made their stately progress across the grass before crossing the road at which point a cement lorry had to be stopped!!

I observed the unintended consequences of the double height kerb which supports the path and does not discourage parking as much as we had intended. However, it is insurmountable to young ducklings.

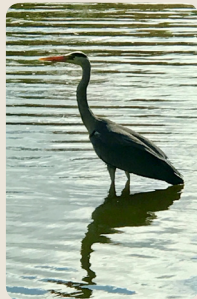
Fortunately, the Parish Council had dropped the

kerb further up and after an escorted walk the ducklings found safety.



## A fisherman of a different sort!

Photo taken by J Kingland a member of the grounds team Widmer Pond, Tylers Green.



## Contact Details

If you need to contact one of our councillors, please contact the Council Offices at:

**Cock Lane, Tylers Green, Bucks HP10 8DS**

Telephone No: **01494 814600**

Email: [clerk@cwpc.org.uk](mailto:clerk@cwpc.org.uk)