

Charvil Village News

Winter 2021/22



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Inside this issue: Be part of the new Neighbourhood Plan
(see back cover)

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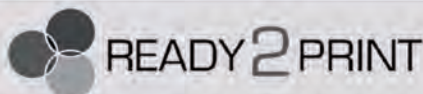
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EDITORIAL

'Tis the season to be jolly and after an enjoyable evening walk around the village, the twinkling Christmas lights with which people have decorated their homes and gardens really bring some festive cheer and make you smile.

Thank you very much to Shirley Newman and the group of volunteers who give up their valuable time to organize the delivery of this magazine to every household in Charvil, it really is appreciated. As the village expands, if there is anyone else who would like to explore a different part of the village and help with the deliveries we would love to hear from you, as the old saying goes — many hands make light work.

As usual, if there are any articles you wish to share or photographs of our village for the next edition, please do get in touch.

Wishing you all a very happy and healthy 2022.

Amanda Burton, Assistant Clerk



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Winter Issue

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CHAIRMAN'S FOREWORD

Firstly, I would like to give my heartfelt thanks, and that of the Council's, to Councillor Jim Gillett who has retired from Charvil Parish Council after nearly 30 years of service. He has worked to preserve the nature of Charvil, tempered with a realistic view of what the CPC can achieve. We wish him well in his retirement and are sure he will be continuing his commitment to the community through other channels. Thank you Jim! you will be missed and we wish you well!



We have also seen other changes to the Council, with Claire Andersen leaving, we thank her specifically for her help with developing our support for the council staff and environmental issues.

We are pleased to welcome Matt Walker as a new co-opted councillor. He is a local resident with a focus on developments for the future.

As a result of these changes we have vacancies on the Council. This is an important time where major decisions need to be made, including the Neighbourhood plan - which will shape the future of Charvil – and redevelopment of the Pavilion, a major investment for the Parish. We need residents to be involved to get it right for Charvil!

If you do think you might be interested in joining the Council please get in touch with Miranda Parker, Clerk to Charvil Parish Council, Jane Hartley, CPC chair or any other councillor – full contact details can be found within this magazine – for an informal chat.

I am pleased to report that we have been able to move forward with our major projects.

Neighbourhood Plan

The first data collection exercise has been completed and a preliminary data analysis has been done, led by Rob Jones, a local resident and Chair of the NP team.

The data are helping us in identifying key themes to look at in more detail, probably with focus groups drawn from interested residents. We will be holding a public meeting on a Saturday in early February to discuss our early findings and get your feedback.

Wokingham Borough are developing their Local Plan and ours must fit in with this. So far although there are a few less houses allocated to Charvil there are plans for developments on our borders that may well impact Charvil and its facilities.

Pavilion redevelopment

We are progressing the Pavilion redevelopment but the pressure on builders and architects has slowed us down. One concern is the spiralling costs of building materials. We hope to have more to report over the next few weeks following meetings with architects when we will have some clearer options to discuss with you.

Trees Planting

We are pleased to say that the first six apple trees have been planted in the Community Orchard. This is the start of the Community Orchard which will see more trees planted over the coming years for everyone to enjoy. Thank you to all the residents who helped with the planting and sponsored trees and for Teresa May for her support.

We have also planted the first trees for the Queen's Green canopy in celebration of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee next year, these are around the Parish, including at St Patrick's. Thanks to all the volunteers for their help in making this happen.

Signs for the Country Park

The Planning, Environment and Highways Committee has been working on signs for the Country Park showing walking routes and wildlife to look out for we hope these will be put up next year.

Council Finances

The shutdown of facilities due to COVID has had a significant impact on the Council income and, although there have been some reduced outgoings as a result, we are still seeing less income. Bookings have picked up but we expect to finish the year not meeting our income budget.

I hope this year you can have more opportunity than we had last year to celebrate Christmas and the holiday season with friends and family. Please look out for neighbours who might be having to be careful, an offer of help or even a cheery wave can make all the difference. Do get yourself that booster jab if you can.

Stay safe and please respect others' choices.

Jane Hartley

Chair Charvil Parish Council

Edited Extracts from the Minutes of Parish Council Meetings

Amenities Meeting held on 12th July 2021

To hear from the Assistant Clerk regarding the use of the tennis courts and uptake of the Annual Family Passes and to consider whether the maximum number of available passes could be reviewed after a period of monitoring to ensure there is enough capacity to accommodate any extra numbers.

The Assistant Clerk reported that all 60 passes had been sold and that combined with the revenue from the last quarter of tennis coaching – the result was just under £3000 in revenue. The AC also reported that there was a waiting list for the passes with currently four names on. As the summer holiday break from school is about to begin, the Committee decided it would be prudent to gauge over the summer period whether there would be enough capacity to increase the number of passes without impacting on the current pass holders, therefore, the topic will be reviewed again at the September AC meeting (13th September). It was also suggested that given the popularity of the pass that there be a Charvil resident rate and a non-resident rate – this was to be revisited next year when the pricing for 2022/23 is considered.

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Review the quotation for the repairs to the swings at St. Patrick's and East Park Farm identified in the latest RoSPA report.

The Committee reviewed the RoSPA report and agreed that the remedial actions related to the swings and gate be undertaken and approved the quotation from Playground Facilities Ltd.

Consider the request to use the East Park Farm pitches for Sunday League.

The Assistant Clerk reported that there had been a request from a local Woodley team to use one of the pitches at EPF on Sundays as their home ground. The Committee expressed their concern regarding over-use of the pitches and the possible impact on residents but agreed that a trial of one season could be offered but subject to very strict terms of use which if not abided by would result in permission to use the pitches would be withdrawn.

Full Council Meeting held on 19th July 2021

To consider the grant applications and decide whether support can be offered and if so, how much

It was resolved to make S137 payments of £300 to First Days, £100 to Berkshire Vision and £100 to Keep Mobile and grant payments of £450 to 1st Charvil Scout Group and £447.50 to Me2 Club, which was approved unanimously.

Planning, Environment and Highways Committee

The communication from some Hawthorns residents about the Council's position regarding the development of land West of Park Lane was discussed and the Parish Council noted the residents' concerns. In principle the Parish Council are not saying no to all development but would like to be able to liaise with Wokingham Borough Council regarding the amount and improvement to current infrastructure.

However, the information put forward was very compelling and it was agreed that Councillor Heath would look at the data in far more depth, do some background work and then arrange a meeting with Sam Akhtar and Borough Councillor Wayne Smith to investigate the position going forward, it is envisaged this meeting will take place by the end of July 2021.

The Application to vary the Licence at the Co-Op to allow 24-hour alcohol was considered and it was decided that the Parish Council in general do not support the 24hour sale of alcohol, it is not in keeping with the character of the area it is also understood that the residents are also not supportive, therefore would like to object. *Clerk's note: the clerk was advised that these objections are not valid in the case of Licensing applications, but if the Parish Council kept a log of incidents to do with alcohol sales at the Co-op, then there may be opportunities to review the Licence.*

To hear an update on the Neighbourhood Plan Progress

The surveys have now been delivered to all houses in Charvil and there is an online version on the website. At last count there was at least 110 completed online and around 26 hard copies received including 6 from young people. There was concern regarding the lack of response so far and thought needs to be given to how to improve the response rate, to consider this at the next PEH meeting.

To hear an update on the Pavilion project

Councillor Ryatt informed the Council that there was now a copy of the lease in a MS Word format. The consultation paper is in the process of being written. with the intention of coming up with one or two options to offer residents listing pros and cons of both. Given the importance of consulting with the residents as widely as possible it is hoped to get this out in the next 2-3 weeks for them to consider. Once an option has been decided on, at that stage the move to designing and planning can take place along with pricing.

Meeting of the Planning, Environment and Highways Committee held on 6th September 2021

Highways

The Speedwatch programme was discussed – there is a new contact at Thames Valley Police, and it was suggested that Council contact the Village Society and put something on Friends of Charvil, to try to get more volunteers.

The Local Cycling and Walking infrastructure Plan responses were discussed, and the Clerk was asked to respond as follows:

Question Number 1

“Do the network plans include cycling and walking routes you would expect to see?”

We would have expected to see more cycling routes in the north of the Borough and more public rights of way that allow people to be away from the main roads in the north.

Question 2

“Where do you feel an important connection route is missing and why?”

There is a strong demand for an off-road cycle/walking route to Twyford Station from Charvil. There is probably space next to the railway line for such a path. This would reduce the number of car journeys to the station and relieve parking pressure there.

There is also a demand for a cycle/pedestrian path next to the railway line from Twyford Station to Henley, via the Piggott School. This would allow for a safe cycle route to the Piggott School, and a safe cycle route to Henley, where many residents work or go for leisure.

The proposed greenway along the Loddon needs to do as it says on the tin – go along the Loddon – the crossing of the Old Bath Road looks hazardous, and having it go along the A4 and up the A321 to Wargrave smacks of serious lack of ambition.

Question 3

“Routes have been classified as primary, secondary or tertiary based on their respective hierarchy within an overall active travel network for the Borough. Do you agree or disagree with the classification of any route shown? If so, why?”

We do disagree with the rather random classification of Cycle Route 4. This is a national cycle route, and the stretch through Sonning, Charvil and Wargrave also serves as a Safe Route to School, and yet it seems to fall into all three categories on various places along this stretch. Surely it should be a Primary route all the way along, and as such, maintained to a high standard, and plans put in place to segregate it from the main road?

Other general comments would be that we are not convinced that the suggestions as laid out will improve active travel in Charvil unless safer routes are developed for links to Woodley, Sonning, Wargrave and Twyford – there is possibly a tendency not to appreciate how nervous many occasional cyclists are, so suggesting routes like Waingels Road are a plausible cycle route to Woodley, or that cycle route 4 where it runs along the A4 is seen as viable for many are plain unrealistic.

Equally, many people regard the existing pavement network as too narrow (between Charvil and Twyford on the Old Bath Road for example) or see shared use paths as dangerous.

The Committee then discussed the Survey on local bus routes, and the clerk was asked to complete this in line with the discussion. The main thrust of the answers were that the bus service needed to be more frequent, cheaper, run in the evenings and weekends, and for information on the services to be more accessible.

Environment

To hear an update on the Community Orchard project and any feedback from the Village Party

The clerk has at least six non-councillors to sponsor the first batch of trees. There were some offers of support received at the fete, and several people have offered to help with the planting and the looking after of the trees as they grow. It was agreed to take a recommendation to the Full Council meeting to order the first six trees.

To hear an update on the Platinum Tree Project

There were various ideas as to where to plant trees – one idea was at St Patrick's Recreation Ground, to replace the fallen trees on Charvil House Road and to add an extra one near the Village Hall. It was decided that it was not a good idea to plant trees to the south of the football pitches, near the stream as they would interfere with the pitches as they grow. The clerk was to meet with Cllr. Heath to look at suitable locations at St Patrick's and the Committee agreed to recommend applying for trees from the Wildlife Trust to Full Council.

To hear any response from the Local Police on issues that were brought up over the Summer

There have been reports of anti-social motorbike noise late at night. The PCSOs have been around the area around 8pm-9pm but have seen nothing, although it is possible the problem is later in the evening. There were reports of speeding drivers in The Hawthorns – the police could find no evidence of this when attending the area. The police intend to run some speeding enforcement sessions on the Old Bath Road during the autumn. The police are attending Anti-social behaviour hotspots at St Patrick's Recreation Ground, East Park Farm, and the area near the kebab van.

Meeting of Amenities Committee on 13th September 2021

To decide after the summer usage whether the maximum number of available family annual tennis passes could be increased

The Committee asked how popular the courts had been over summer and if there were any conflicts with bookings, the Assistant Clerk reported that every request for a court had been satisfied mostly on the members first choice.

The Committee decided that it would be possible to increase by another 20 passes but be restricted to 15 for Charvil residents and 5 for non-residents. This takes the total number of passes to 80 (split 55 Charvil residents and 25 non-residents). Number of passes, structure, and pricing to be reviewed before start of next season April 2022-March 2023.

Consider options for additional storage at the pavilion

The Committee were already aware that there is a lack of storage in the pavilion and there is a need for storing the goal posts and other equipment belonging to CPC. The Assistant Clerk advised that the Scouting Group may be interested in contributing towards a storage solution depending on how much space they would be allocated. It was requested that the Assistant Clerk seek possible solutions for storage in the form of a container and obtain quotations, ensuring that all associated costs are included – delivery, removal, unit to be sealed, any ground levelling or base required.

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Full Council Meeting held on 20th September 2021

Open Forum

One resident had sent in a written submission. This was relayed to Council and related to the redevelopment of the Margaret Gimblett Pavilion from a group of residents who back onto the sports fields. They request that Council understands the noise impact on the existing houses for either a new building or tennis courts in its feasibility, viability, and budget planning; that it notes existing Government legislation regarding noise limits near housing; that it understands the noise nuisance already there when users are outside; to include noise mitigation schemes should any development go ahead; and to be clear with residents that Council understands the potential noise implications and ensure it has been costed into the building budget.

It was noted that the clerk had contacted the Environmental Health team at Wokingham Borough Council, who had sent over information if residents had existing concerns, and that as part of the Planning process, if they had any concerns regarding noise, they would ask Council to include mitigation plans as part of the Planning conditions.

Planning, Environment and Highways Committee (PEH)

Councillor Heath ran through the main points, and it was emphasised that once the Speedwatch equipment is repaired, there needs to be a Facebook push for volunteers. He was asked whether he had taken up residents' concerns about the Local Plan assessment of the land west of Park Lane, and he had forwarded them to the relevant person, but that he had not been able to arrange a meeting with Wayne Smith.

To approve the recommendation to order trees from the Woodland Trust for the Platinum Anniversary Tree project.

Councillor Heath has ordered 15 free trees, which are a mixture of hazel, rowan, and crab apple. Also, we can source another disease resistant elm, and order other trees as well.

The idea is to plant two crab apples on Charvil House Road, some birches at St Patrick's, a small leaf lime where the tree came down near to the St Patrick's play area, and to enhance the hedge along the roadway at the Recreation ground. It was hoped that the elm could be planted near the Village Hall. The clerk is to get in touch with the University for permission, and a plaque would be installed at the Village Hall explaining where all the anniversary trees had been planted. There was some concern that the free trees would not arrive until March 2022, and this could hinder survival of these small plants. *Clerk's note: the elm could grow very large, and Council has been advised against planting it near buildings.*

To note the communication from a Hawthorns resident about the Council's lack of response to the Local Green Space Consultation, and to consider a response to this resident.

The clerk explained that this Consultation was conducted at the height of the first Lockdown, and that with so much else going on, Council failed to respond, in common with many of the other smaller Councils. In normal circumstances, the Borough may well have reminded us, but they, like us, were stretched. The clerk has been in touch with the team at the Borough, and while it is too late to put forward sites at this point, there will be a further opportunity for both the Council and residents as part of the next Local plan consultation, and sites can be included as part of the Neighbourhood Plan. The clerk has been asked to reply to the resident, that the sites Charvil would have included are St Patrick's Recreation Ground, the crop circles off Park View Drive North, East Park Farm Sports Fields, Charvil Meadows, the Country Park, The Hawthorns Park, and the Vegetable Plots in Wenlock Edge.

It was noted that a group of Councillors, residents and the clerk walked all the footpaths in the village on Monday 2nd August.

To hear an update on the Neighbourhood Plan Progress

The survey is now closed. The next job is to collate and analyse the results. Rob Jones is creating a template and then people can enter the data.

A small group met with a group from the Sonning Neighbourhood Plan group, and it would appear we will have policies in common, so we will liaise again when we are at a stage to develop these.

To approve the sourcing of architects to recommend the building design and location (quotes to be submitted to CPC for approval prior to start of work)

It was resolved to approve at least three quotes being sought, subject to the rules laid out in the Financial Regulations. The approval is for quotations up to Stage 3 of the building process, at which point, the responsibility will shift to the chosen building contractor. Councillor Ryatt is to source preliminary drawings. *Clerk's note: if the quotes are likely to be over £25,000, the request must be added to the open register to allow any interested parties to tender.*

To arrange a date for a public meeting at the pavilion to discuss the plans for the pavilion

Councillor Ryatt will provide preliminary drawings for next meeting, and the quotes from architects (see Clerk's note, above). It was agreed to arrange for two dates to be booked in at the pavilion, one on a weekday after school, and the other at a weekend, both in mid-December, to discuss the Council's proposals with the public. This should give the Council time to digest the preliminary drawings and to ask for amendments if necessary.

Meeting of the Planning, Environment and Highways Committee held on 4th October 2021

OPEN FORUM – Three residents attended to raise their concerns about the planning application for a single storey rear extension at 14, Chiltern Drive. They explained that there had been various planning applications over the years, and there had been an Enforcement investigation regarding the whether the commencement of a previous application had been within the required time limit, plus there were added issues of a trespassing gutter (missing at the time of this meeting), a party

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wall dispute and the fact that the extension that is the subject of this application was already being built. There were added concerns about the size of the extension and that the effect on the amenities of the neighbouring properties. Once the residents had said their piece, they thanked the Chair and left at 8.45pm.

Highways

The clerk reported that the speed data was like the previous month but would check whether there was more traffic now that the schools were back. The clerk was asked to move the machine further down Park Lane near Old Bath Road to gauge the effects of The Hawthorns and East Park Farm on the levels of traffic, but this has been delayed to see whether the flattening of the road humps near the school has adversely affected speed. *Clerk's note: over the period from 13th September to 4th October, there were around 50 more cars per hour at peak times than the period before that included the school holidays.*

The Speedwatch programme was discussed – the machinery was broken but the clerk was to chase to see if it were repaired – when this had been done, a fresh appeal for volunteers would be put out on Facebook.

To note the dates when the drains on the A4 are to be cleared. – these are to be done by December, and Council will check for when this is done. *This was done on the last Saturday in November.*

Environment

To hear an update on the Community Orchard

The clerk has ordered the first six trees at a cost of £34.95 each plus delivery of £29.95. They should arrive in November depending on the weather. Hopefully they will arrive in time for the anticipated planting day of Sunday 28th November. She will offer a site visit to all those who have volunteered on either 16th October or 6th November. The Wokingham Paper are keen to cover this and will get in touch closer to the time. *Clerk's note: the second date will be 13th November and a local landscape gardener is to provide all the extras at cost, so the cost to each sponsor should be £52.*

To hear an update on the Platinum Tree Project

The idea is to plant 30 silver birch whips at St Patrick's Recreation ground and to plant 4 small-leaved lime trees, one at St Patrick's to replace the fallen tree, and the others at other suitable locations. As regards places to plant the elm, one idea is to plant it at the end of Chiltern Drive/Vale View, and the clerk is to ask the Borough if this is possible.

Full Council Meeting held on 18th October 2021 via Zoom

The resignation of Councillor Andersen was noted

The Chair thanked her for all her hard work

Minutes of the Council Meeting of the 20th of September were noted

Because this meeting cannot be a formal Council meeting as it is not being held in person, the contents of the previous meeting were noted.

Planning, Environment and Highways Committee (PEH)

Cllr Ryatt reported that he had been contacted by a resident concerning a planning application, who was unhappy that the Parish Council had objected to their application, but the clerk had contacted them to say that they could have attended the meeting where the application was discussed, and that as the closing date for comments had passed, there was little point in meeting to discuss further.

It was reported that there would be a meeting with volunteers for the Community Orchard the following weekend, and that they would be encouraged to help with the planting of the Platinum trees as well. It is hoped to plant them all on Sunday 28th November. The clerk has conditional approval from the University but still needs to get permission from the Borough Council to plant the elm at the end of Chiltern Drive and rowans on Charvil House Road. The clerk reported that she had been approached by the Wokingham Paper who are keen to cover the tree planning, and the Community Orchard in particular, and it was agreed that the Council should also contact the Henley Standard and to see whether Theresa May could attend. Cllr Akhtar was interested in attending as well.

It was also reported that a resident had felled some trees of Simmons Field, on land believed to be managed by the Parish Council. Wokingham's property services are investigating where the boundary lies before the Parish Council can consider a suitable course of action. Cllr. Akhtar offered to take this up with the Borough Council if the clerk has no joy.

Amenities Committee

A resident who would like to trial a food van at East Park Farm had been in touch with the Council again to see if now a suitable time to consider having a mobile van. After some discussion, it was decided that Council would not be able to be able to consider any such thing until after the Staffing Review had been concluded so the Clerk was asked to say that Council could not consider this topic now but would review in September 2022.

To hear an update on the Neighbourhood Plan Progress and to consider what policies and plans the Council should have to complement the Neighbourhood Plan policies

The data has now all been entered into a central spreadsheet and the next step is to work out how to do the data analysis. There was a discussion about how the Parish Council policies need to reflect those of the Neighbourhood Plan. Councillor Heath suggested that as the Neighbourhood Plan policies have legal weight, then these will inevitably drive the Parish policies – as it is, the main Parish plans currently in process are tree planting and the pavilion development and these are likely to be supported by the Neighbourhood Plan.

To consider the Consultation on Secondary School places

This was discussed at some length and the clerk was asked to complete this on behalf of the Council, to say that most parents currently moving to Charvil expect their children to be able to attend Piggott, and that as Waingels is increasingly seen as a Woodley school, the Piggott needs to expand to accommodate children in its existing catchment, and there is a danger that Charvil and Sonning will be forgotten as the major area of concern has been that children in south Twyford could not get places at Piggott. Also, the Local Plan will lead to more homes in the catchment, and there is a danger this will impact on Charvil parents as well.

To hear an update on the Pavilion Project

Councillor Ryatt reported that the Construction is extraordinarily busy now and so it is unlikely to be possible to get any preliminary drawings until the New Year. As far as tendering goes, two of his contacts are too busy but he has the details of the company that built the Binfield extension, and the details that Councillor Sutcliffe had for a company that had done a lot of work for Parish Councils. Councillor Andersen had passed on the concerns of staff that the building is becoming increasingly dilapidated, and that the staff feel they need to be more involved in the decision-making process. Councillor Ryatt agreed it would be a good idea to view the pavilion with the Amenities Manager, and then come up with a schedule of works if appropriate, although the clerk feels that this would be a questionable use of Council resources.

To note a meeting with Locality and how they might be able to help with the Pavilion funding

Locality helped Shinfield with the funding of their new buildings, and one suggestion they had was to apply to the Community Ownership Fund, that can provide up to £250,000 of grants. They can also help with planning the project, feasibility studies etc., and with bid-writing. Councillor Ryatt felt that any help in this area would be helpful. The Chairman suggested that we ask them to review what we have done already to see how they approach things, but Councillor Jones felt that we ought to be more careful using their goodwill and should not do anything until we have consulted with residents. There are various rounds of the Community Ownership Fund, and the one most suitable for us is May 2022. Councillor Jackson asked for the information they had sent out to be forwarded to the whole Council, and there was agreement in principle to use them when the time was right. *Clerk's note: the information had been circulated already.*

Meeting of Planning, Environment and Highways Committee (PEH) on 1st November 2021

Highways

The clerk reported that the speeds have increased since the humps were flattened. The clerk has been asked to see if the Borough Councillor could help get the humps re-instated properly and to see when the roundabout on Park Lane/Old Bath Road would be re-painted as there increasing numbers of near misses.

The recent update on the Speedwatch was noted. It was agreed to recommend the purchase of the Village's own Speedwatch kit and to encourage more people to come forward via Facebook etc once the machinery has been purchased in the hope of pulling in more of the Community. The recommended machine is around £160, and the road signs are up to around £100 each depending on size, but Council would need the consent of the Borough to put up the permanent signs.

Environment

To hear an update on the Community Orchard

Councillor Heath had met with some of the volunteers for a site visit and explained what was going to happen and what help would be needed. Councillor Heath also asked them if they were willing to help with the Platinum trees, which they were. The clerk and the clerk had met with some representatives of the charity Conserve Reading on Wednesdays (CRoW) and one member was very knowledgeable about community orchards and recommends putting down some old carpet to weaken the grass, and to dig up the holes a few days before. *Clerk's note: the clerk had met with two volunteers and has secured six sections of carpet at the recommended distance of around 12 feet in preparation of planting.*

To hear an update on the Platinum Tree Project

The Council now has permission from the University for planting new trees subject to undertaking a CAT survey of the ground in case of pipes/wires. The Council also needs a risk assessment for planting trees.

To hear any response from Simon Bartlam regarding the new dog bins and the signs for the Country Park

The Clerk had heard from Simon Bartlam that the new bins in the Country Park had been ordered.

To consider any progress on the trees felled near Simmons Field

Wokingham Borough Council's legal team are looking into it.

Amenities Committee Meeting on 8th November 2021

To consider the costs of a storage container to be sited at EPF and the possible location of the unit.

The Committee reviewed the three quotations provided and discussed the possible locations for the container to be stored. A decision was made to recommend to full council to go ahead and source a container and following advice from the companies supplying the unit that the best place for siting would be at East Park Farm car park (exact position to be determined).

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Planning Matters considered at recent Parish Council Meetings

The Council had no objection to the following applications:

212117 Application for the proposed erection of first floor side extension, partial conversion of existing garage to create habitable space, facilitated by changes to fenestration at 6 Kilowna Close

- 212223 Full application for the installation of an automated teller machine (Retrospective) at 36 Park View Drive South
- 212224 Application for advertisement consent for the retention of 1no illuminated logo panel and 1no illuminated surround sign around the cash dispenser (Retrospective) at 36 Park View Drive South
- 212128 Application for the proposed conversion of existing dwelling to 4no. self-contained flats, associated parking, and amenity space, plus changes to fenestration. (Retrospective) at 36 Park View Drive South
- 212818 Householder application for the proposed erection of a single storey porch, erection of two storey front and rear extensions and a part single part two storey side extension following demolition of existing side sun lounge, demolition of existing front sun lounge, remodelling of the roof and removal of the chimneys to facilitate a loft conversion to create additional habitable accommodation with 2 no. pitched roof dormers to the rear elevation and 2 no. roof lights, plus changes to fenestration at Upton Cottage, Milestone Avenue
- 213031 Application for the proposed erection of a single storey rear extension with 1 no. roof light, conversion of garage to create habitable space with existing flat roof to be replaced with a mono pitched roof and changes to fenestration at 53 St Patrick's Avenue
- 213160 Application to vary condition 2 of appeal permission APP/X0360/W/15/3130829 for the 'Proposed erection of 25 detached dwellings with associated roads, garages, parking spaces, gardens and landscaped areas.

Provision of allotments with associated access and parking, plus replacement field access to adjoining grazing land' (original reference F/2014/2503). Condition 2 refers to the approved plan numbers and the variation is to alter the orientation of plot 10, change the detached garage to an attached garage within plot 10 and alter the west boundary of plot 10.b) on land west of Park Lane

- 213022 Reserved Matters Application pursuant to Outline planning permission 201833 with appearance and landscaping reserved for the proposed 57 dwellings suitable for older persons accommodation (Use Class C3) with consideration of means of access, layout, and scale to be determined, following demolition of existing dwellings (appearance and landscaping to be considered on land south of Old Bath Road, Sonning.

Council Comments on the following applications

- 212096 Application for the proposed erection of single storey rear extension, the insertion of 1 no. rooflight, plus changes to fenestration at 119 Old Bath Road – *The clerk was asked to comment as follows: Charvil Parish Council are concerned that this extension is overbearing on the property to the rear.*

- 211985 Application for the proposed erection of 1no. 5 bedroom detached dwelling on land southwest of Lakeside – The Clerk was asked to object as follows: *Council would like to object on the following grounds:*

The site is in land designated as "Countryside", and as such, new development should be discouraged. The applicant has referred to the appeal decision that allowed a new dwelling further up the road as justification for this proposal, but the Council feels that there are significant differences, and as a dismissed appeal on Beggars Hill Road stated of this appeal decision:

"I do not consider that encroachment of open space at one site outside settlement limits should be used as a precedent to permit further encroachment at another."

This site is significantly smaller, and the proposed dwelling would look cramped in relation to the existing dwellings on Waingels Road. Moreover, it would mean development extremely close to the boundary of Paddicks Patch, a Scout camp site, and one of the last remaining pieces of ancient woodland in the area. At present, the development tapers off as it approaches this site, and is similar on the other side of the woodland, and this development would abut the woodland directly, which is far from ideal.

The proposed driveway is on a bend, and there are concerns about a new driveway at this point on a 40MPH stretch of road.

- 211308 Application for the proposed conversion of garage to create additional habitable accommodation, plus removal of garage door and replacement with windows and doors to match the existing home at 25 Newbury Close – *The clerk was asked to comment as follows: Charvil Parish Council are concerned that by having doors opening outward, the cars will have to park further back, and this could lead to the pathway being obstructed. This path can be quite busy at times, when children go to school.*

- 212029 Full application for the proposed erection of 1no. 3 bed detached dwelling with associated parking and amenity space on land to the rear of 1 and 1a Milestone Crescent – *the clerk was asked to comment as follows:*

Charvil Parish Council would like to object to this application on the following grounds:

- 1. Overdevelopment of the site. This site was originally part of the garden of No.1 Milestone Crescent, which has already had one extra dwelling built.*

The remaining site is small, and any building would appear cramped in the space available. In this location it is even more so, as Milestone Avenue is characterised by homes on generous plots.

2. The building line on Milestone Avenue is unusually far back, and all the dwellings have large front gardens, as befits its rural location. This dwelling would be in front of the building line in its entirety and so is completely out of keeping.

3. The Borough Design Guide states that new homes should not affect the amenity areas of neighbouring properties. Two of the neighbours are concerned that they will be overlooked - the plan suggests that the windows would be obscured glass, but to ensure the privacy of the neighbouring garden, they should not be allowed to open - clearly one cannot expect that to be a condition of a bedroom but is illustrative of the fact that this dwelling would be squeezed into an unsuitable space.

4. Parking is also a concern, because the proposed spaces look very small, possibly impeding the pavement if the residents have a larger family car.

212037 Full application for the proposed installation of a wastewater pumping station and associated vehicular access on land to the north of Waingels Road – the clerk was asked to comment as follows: *Charvil Parish Council are fully in favour of this application as it will benefit all the residents in Waingels Road.*

212463 Householder application for proposed garage conversion to create garden store (retrospective) at 1a Milestone Avenue – the clerk was asked to comment as follows: *Charvil Parish Council would like to object to this application.*

In 2020, Application 202925, to vary the conditions of 152510, so that the garage approved in the original application could be turned into habitable accommodation because there was enough off-street parking provided without the garage (three spaces).

The applicant had also built an unauthorised garage, that has not been subject to a planning application, and was ordered to remove it by March of this year - but was given an extension due to not being able to find a builder. It was accepted, however, that the space taken up by the garage was needed as a parking space and rear access.

The current plan suggests that two cars could be parked next to each other with the building retained - this would be next to impossible, and to fulfil the requirements of three parking spaces, the building needs to go, as it is not suitable as a parking space.

The dwelling is on the corner of the street, and on-street parking needs to be kept to a minimum as it is so close to the junction - this was the ruling of a planning inspector at a previous appeal, hence the need for three spaces.

If a garden room is required, it need to be built in the garden itself, to allow for enough off-street parking.

212720 Outline application (all matters reserved except access to the site) for the development of up to 200 dwellings and associated infrastructure, open space, biodiversity enhancements, landscaping, and green infrastructure, following demolition of existing agricultural buildings at Bridge Farm, Twyford (Means of access into the site from New Bath Road to be considered.) – The Clerk was asked to comment as follows:

Charvil Parish Council has several concerns about this application.

1. Under the current land allocation, this site is outside of the development area for Twyford. While we acknowledge that this site was included in the first draft of the Local Plan update, it is only when this has been adopted that the area changes to being within the development area.

To allow this development at this stage would set a dangerous precedent for all other sites included in the first draft and would not allow for the holistic approach that the Local Plan is designed to bring, including infrastructure considerations – clearly of major concern to many residents in both Charvil and Twyford. It would also challenge the legitimacy of the process, with no option for the independent inspector to have the final say.

2. Charvil is a low-lying parish, with large areas flooding on increasingly frequent occasions. Fortunately, so far, the water meadows have largely managed to prevent homes being flooded (with a few unfortunate exceptions). While the site in question is not in the flood plain, it does serve to reduce the risks of flooding in both the lowest lying parts of Twyford, and in Charvil. This development may well be the tipping point, despite the flood mitigation measures suggested, and this risk is too great for Charvil householders. Even the developer's own flooding assessment admits that flooding on the site itself could happen if the culvert where the River Loddon runs under the A4 becomes blocked, and that it should be checked weekly for such blockages. The chances of weekly checks being made, each week, every week, in perpetuity, is vanishingly small, and hence a flood at some point would be almost inevitable. Moreover, this is the conclusion for a development of 150 homes; the effects of an extra 50 are not discussed.

3. Traffic is the third concern. The A4 is already extremely slow moving on a school day morning and afternoon; frequent accidents bring the whole area, including the centres of Twyford and Charvil, to a standstill. A further major junction so close to the existing Wargrave Road roundabout will increase the likelihood of accidents and delays on a road already close to capacity at peak times. The developer tacitly admits this is likely to be a problem as they are offering extensive funds to try to make their plans acceptable.



ZUMBA RETURNS IN 2022

MONDAYS FROM 10TH JANUARY

CHARVIL VILLAGE HALL 10:00 – 11:00

CHARVIL PIGGOTT PRIMARY 19:30 – 20:30

WEDNESDAYS FROM 19TH JANUARY

CHARVIL PIGGOTT PRIMARY 19:30 – 20:30

For more information please email: smileysam@me.com

212989 Application for the proposed erection of a single storey rear extension with 1 no. roof light following demolition of existing conservatory and existing rear extension (part retrospective) at 14, Chiltern Drive

The clerk was asked to comment as follows:

Charvil Parish Council have several concerns about this application.

This is the fourth significant application on this property in the last twenty years, and as such, the Council is concerned with over-development of the site generally.

There are specific concerns about the current plans. The Borough Design guide indicates that there should be one metre gap from the boundary for a single storey extension; this extension is right up to the boundary and is 2.7 metres high (even though the plans indicate a height of 2.3 metres). This has a negative impact on the neighbours to the west of the property in that it is creating a massing effect on the boundary, impacting on their private amenity and light.

The plans indicate that the extension is over 5 metres; again, this is considerably larger than the size recommended in the Borough Design Guide. Taking these two points together, the Parish Council feels that this extension is out of keeping with the wider area, which is characterised by leafy gardens, detached homes with a reasonable gap between each other, thanks to the garages between each dwelling, and the occasional conservatory or modest rear extension.

While previous successful applications are not material to this application necessarily, it should be noted that there is a trespassing gutter on the existing side extension, and that this current application does not seem to address this issue or

indicate where the run-off from the new extension will go. Neither is there any mention of a new soakaway which, given the guttering issues, is of great concern, as there is a large increase in impermeable surfaces proposed, but no indication of where this displacement should go.

For these reasons, and those expressed in some detail by near neighbours, the Council feel this application should be refused.

The following applications were approved by Wokingham Borough Council:

- 211504 Application for a certificate of lawfulness for the proposed erection of a single storey rear extension with 3 no. rooflights at 117 East Park Farm Drive
- 210854 Householder application for the proposed erection of a part single part two storey rear extension with the insertion of 2 no. rooflights, following demolition of the existing conservatory, plus changes to fenestration at 12 Gingells Farm Road
- 210690 Application for proposed part conversion of existing double garage to create habitable accommodation, single storey rear extension including the insertion of 2no. rooflights, plus changes to fenestration at 135, The Hawthorns
- 211599 Application for the prior approval of the erection of a single storey rear extension, which would extend beyond the rear wall of the original house by 5m, for which the maximum height would be 2.92m and the height of the eaves 2.55m.2 at 4, Milestone Crescent
- 210930 Householder application for the proposed erection of a single storey side extension including the insertion of 1no. roof light, erection of a single storey rear extension, plus the erection of a veranda to the rear of the property at 43 East Park Farm Drive

- 211111 Householder application for the proposed erection of a single storey front extension, single storey rear extension following demolition of existing conservatory, plus the insertion of 2no. roof lights and changes to fenestration at 5, Charvil Meadow Road
- 211640 Householder application for the proposed erection of a single storey rear extension to form conservatory following demolition of existing conservatory at 57 St Patrick's Avenue
- 211664 Householder application for the proposed loft conversion to form additional habitable accommodation including the installation of 2 no. pitched roof dormers to the side elevations, insertion of 6 no. new roof lights to the front, side and rear elevations, erection of a single storey side extension, plus changes to fenestration at 13 Charvil House Road.
- 211799 Householder application for the proposed erection of a single storey porch, two storey front and rear extensions and part single part two storey side extension, plus changes to fenestration and remodelling of roof, following demolition of existing single storey side extension and removal of chimneys at Upton Cottage.
- 212096 Application for the proposed erection of single storey rear extension, the insertion of 1 no. rooflight, plus changes to fenestration at 119 Old Bath Road
- 211308 Householder application for the proposed conversion of garage to create additional habitable accommodation, plus removal of garage door and replacement with windows and doors to match the existing home at 25, Newbury Close
- 212204 Application for a certificate of lawfulness for the proposed installation of 16No solar PV panels on the rear roof of house at 28 Thornbers Way

- 212224 Application for advertisement consent for the retention of 1no illuminated logo panel and 1no illuminated surround sign around the cash dispenser at 36 Park View Drive South. Retrospective.
- 212117 Application for the proposed erection of first floor side extension, partial conversion of existing garage to create habitable space, facilitated by changes to fenestration at 6 Kilowna Close
- 212463 Householder application single storey side extension (retrospective) at 1a Milestone Crescent
- 212223 Full application for the installation of an automated teller machine. (Retrospective) at 36 Park View Drive South
- 212648 Application for submission of details to comply with the following condition of planning consent 211799 dated 14/07/2021. Condition 4. Ecological Method Statement at Upton Cottage
- 212818 Householder application for the proposed erection of a single storey porch, erection of two storey front and rear extensions and a part single part two storey side extension following demolition of existing side sun lounge, demolition of existing front sun lounge, remodelling of the roof and removal of the chimneys to facilitate a loft conversion to create additional habitable accommodation with 2 no. pitched roof dormers to the rear elevation and 2 no. roof lights, plus changes to fenestration at Upton Cottage, Milestone Avenue
- 213031 Application for the proposed erection of a single storey rear extension with 1 no. roof light, conversion of garage to create habitable space with existing flat roof to be replaced with a mono pitched roof and changes to fenestration at 53 St Patrick's Avenue

The Following Applications were refused

- 210885 Application for a certificate of lawfulness for the proposed erection of a single storey rear extension including the insertion of 2no.roof lights at 41 Old Bath Road
- 211195 Outline application with some matters reserved for the proposed erection of 4 no. dwellings with new access road and associated parking and landscaping. Access and layout to be considered at 6, Old Bath Road
- 212029 Full application for the proposed erection of 1no. 3 bed detached dwelling with associated parking and amenity space on land adjoining 1a, Milestone Crescent

FULL DETAILS OF ALL APPLICATIONS REFERRED TO ABOVE CAN BE FOUND ON: www.wokingham.gov.uk



Mr Ranju Khurana

BDS (Lon) MFDSRCS (Eng)
MClinDent (Lon) MRD (Eng)
Registered Specialist Prosthodontist
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Dr Anu Chadha

BDS (Lon) MFDSRCS (Edin)
MSc in Prosthetics (Lon)
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Meetings of Charvil Parish Council 2022	
10 January 2022	Finance Committee Meeting
17 January 2022	Full Council Meeting
07 February 2022	Planning, Environment and Highways Meeting
14 February 2022	Full Council Meeting
28 February 2022	Staffing Committee Meeting
07 March 2022	Planning, Environment and Highways Meeting
14 March 2022	Amenities Committee Meeting
21 March 2022	Full Council Meeting
28 March 2022	Planning, Environment and Highways Meeting
04 April 2022	Amenities Committee Meeting
11 April 2022	Full Council Meeting
25 April 2022	Finance Committee Meeting
<p>MEETINGS COMMENCE AT 8 pm and are held in THE VILLAGE HALL, PARK LANE. RESIDENTS ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND THESE MEETINGS PLEASE NOTE: WHILE THE COUNCIL WISHES TO FOLLOW THIS SCHEDULE, PLANNING AND AMENITIES MEETINGS WILL BE PART OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETINGS FOR THE FORSEEABLE FUTURE UNTIL MORE COUNCILLORS ARE CO-OPTED – PLEASE SEE WEBSITE FOR UP TO DATE INFORMATION</p>	

Charvil Parish Councillors		
Jane Hartley	Chair of Council	07879 427350 chair@charvil.com
Pat Sutcliffe	Vice Chair of Council/Acting Chair of Amenities/Chair of Staffing	07788 100935 patsutcliffe@charvil.com
Mike Heath	Chair of Planning	07902 306381 mikeheath@charvil.com
Neil Jackson	Chair of Finance	07809 591134 neiljackson@charvil.com
Hilary Jones	Councillor	0777 5796362 hilaryjones@charvil.com
Narinder Ryatt	Councillor	07957 345652 narinderryatt@charvil.com
Matt Walker	Councillor	07974 160846 mattwalker@charvil.com
	Vacancy	
	Vacancy	
	Vacancy	
Parish Council Officers		
Miranda Parker	Parish Clerk	901 7719 clerk@charvil.com
Amanda Burton	Amenities Manager and Newsletter Editor	07850 234363 bookings@charvil.com



For all the latest news, events and much more don't forget to visit
our website www.charvil.com or follow us on Facebook 

Borough Councilor Report

My first six months of being a councilor truly has been a whirlwind! I have had the pleasure of meeting and helping numerous residents with various issues, whether it be fixing a broken gate, arranging for additional bins or helping someone obtain a blue badge which they desperately need. It has been both challenging and rewarding and I am definitely enjoying the role thus far.

My aim is to make Charvil beautiful and to make the most of our wonderful village. Whether its cleaning street signs or picking up litter, I am determined to make Charvil sparkle.

If you would like to get involved in improving Charvil or have any ideas of how we can make our already great village even better, then please do contact me on my e-mail address below.

Below, I have written down some schemes or initiatives set up by Wokingham Borough Council recently, that I believe will be of interest to you.

Garden Forest Scheme

In celebration of National Tree Week, Wokingham Borough Council is launching a pilot Garden Forest Scheme, which is part of its aspiration to becoming a net-zero carbon borough, and invites residents to apply for a tree, or trees, for their own garden.

The scheme is set to initially run for two years, after which it will be reviewed, and a decision made on whether to extend it. The initial application window, open until 31 January, and applicants will be contacted throughout March, with successful residents being given more information on arrangements for collecting a tree, which will be early Autumn 2022 to coincide with planting season.

If you would like to apply for the scheme, please visit <https://engage.wokingham.gov.uk/en-GB/projects/the-tree-project-1>.

Christmas Market in Cantley Park

If you are looking for some Christmas activities to enjoy over the festive season, there is a synthetic Ice rink and Christmas market in Cantley Park between the 8-23rd of December. The Christmas market is free to attend and opening times are Monday to Saturday, 12pm to 8pm, and Sunday 12pm to 6pm.

Litter picks

Our eco-group 'Charvil matters' continues to operate, with litter picks in Charvil taking place on a monthly basis. If you would like to join, please do get in touch using the e-mail address charvil matters@gmail.com. Also, if you know of an area that needs attention, please do contact us.

I wish you all a lovely, happy and relaxing Christmas and Happy New Year. If you would like to get in touch with me regarding any local issues, my e-mail address is sam.akhtar@wokingham.gov.uk.

Sam Akhtar, Borough Councillor

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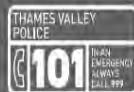
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#DontMakeItEasy



Neighbourhood Policing Team Update

Be bright and protect your home from burglars this winter and holiday season

As the winter nights close in, leave a light on... and burglars in the dark! Burglars are often opportunistic thieves and you can take steps to avoid becoming one of their victims this winter.

- Try to make your home look occupied by using timer switches on lights and radios.
- Illuminate your front door with dusk to dawn lighting that comes on automatically.
- Consider purchasing and installing a video doorbell, house alarm or CCTV system.
- Close and double lock all doors and windows when going out, even if you're only away from home for a short period of time. Those 10 or 15 minutes on the school run are all a burglar needs to break into your home.
- Always double lock doors and windows when you go to bed.
- Keep all valuables and keys out of sight and away from doors, windows and letterboxes.
- When not in use, store electronic car key fobs in a security pouch to prevent them being scanned by thieves to open and steal your car.
- If you have a key safe, ensure it is not visible to people passing by, but anyone tampering with it can be seen.
- When working from home, ensure laptops and electronic equipment are not on view.

Don't give thieves the tools to burgle your house, ensure sheds and garages are locked and secure.

Don't leave any presents on view or advertise them on social media.

Don't leave packaging next to your bin.

Register your new presents and gifts online at www.immobilise.com

Receive free crime and information updates from Thames Valley Police by registering for Thames Valley Alert at: www.thamesvalleyalert.co.uk

Consider joining a local Neighbourhood Watch Scheme. For more information, visit www.ourwatch.org.uk

You can find further crime prevention advice at www.thamesvalley.police.uk

Please contact us if you have any information relating to burglary in your neighbourhood. Report online at www.thamesvalley.police.uk or call us on 101. Always dial 999 in an emergency.

Alternatively, you can call Crimestoppers anonymously on free phone 0800 555 111.

Email: You can contact your local neighbourhood team via WokinghamNHPT@thamesvalley.police.uk – please note this email address cannot be used to report crimes or for any urgent matters.


Facebook: TVP Bracknell & Wokingham

Twitter: @TVP_Wokingham

E-SCOOTERS

What you need to know



Did you know it's illegal to ride a privately owned electric scooter (e-scooter) in public? 

That's because e-scooters are classed as motor vehicles in law. So, in theory, this means that you need an MOT, road tax and insurance to use one, however it isn't currently possible to register e-scooters in this way.

Privately owned e-scooters can only be used on private land, with the permission of the landowner.

You cannot use a privately owned e-scooter on the road, pavement or in a public space. If you do then you risk receiving a large fine, points on your driving licence and your e-scooter could be seized.

Some parts of the UK are running government trials of rental e-scooters. If you're over 16 and have a full or provisional driving licence, then you can use these on public roads and cycle lanes.

Just check that your driving licence covers categories AM, A or B.



COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH PROGRESS



First, thank you to those who have volunteered to help with the Community Speedwatch Programme, and apologies for not moving on with this more quickly.

The way the programme is run has changed, and while this is probably for the better, it has meant that we must purchase the equipment and signs, rather than just borrow them from Thames Valley Police. This has the advantage of greater flexibility, and the convenience of not having to visit Loddon Valley every time we wish to run a Speed check.

We are currently working with Wokingham Borough Council to erect permanent Speedwatch signs on our 30mph areas; and with the police to arrange some training sessions for volunteers – I understand these will be help online, so that should be easier for most people. The speed readers are reasonably easy to get hold of, so this will be purchased shortly.

However, we do still need more volunteers to reduce the burden on those that have kindly offered to help – for these schemes to be successful, they do need to be run frequently to have the required effect. If anyone else would like to volunteer,

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN: AN UPDATE AND INVITATION

Residents Survey

As you may recall in January 2021 Charvil Parish Council and a few local resident volunteers established a steering committee with the intention of creating a Neighbourhood Plan for the village. The Neighbourhood Plan will identify areas and issues of importance to the residents of Charvil and develop plans and policies to address these.

Additionally, we also took the opportunity to meet with people and gain their views face to face at the Charvil Village party in September (in the sunshine!), this is something we had hoped to do more of, but the Covid pandemic has reduced the opportunities, but more of that later



The result of this effort has been close to 400 individual responses to the survey, so a big thank you to everyone who took the time to share their views and ideas. The survey provided the opportunity for people to answer a range of questions on life in Charvil, what residents liked, what they disliked, what was important to them, what facilities they would like to see provided in the village and what their thoughts on future housing were.

Q 2.1 What is the best thing to you about living in Charvil?



Identified Themes

Since the closing of the survey the steering committee have begun the process of cleaning up and formatting the data to allow the first analysis of the results, this first look attempted to identify the key themes or issues that were important to the village and four areas clearly emerged, these are listed below.

Traffic and Transport (especially noise & pollution)

Green Space & Countryside

Community Engagement & Hub

Housing

With these themes now identified the steering committee are now trying to add more detail to what the issues are and what the village would like to see done to address them so that the appropriate plans and policies which will make up the plan can be developed. So, what kind of things could the plan attempt to do? Well other neighborhood plans in attempting to ensure continued sufficient green space to maintain the character of their village have developed policies that require allocation of land for housing to go hand in hand with the provision of accessible green space this is the type of option we have and demonstrates the sort of influence a Neighbourhood Plan can have.

5th February Public Meeting

So, what's next? Well, the committee are organizing a public meeting on the **5th of February at Charvil Village Hall**. Providing a long-awaited chance to meet face to face, here we will share some initial results from the survey and listen to further views and share some of the ideas we already have and gain some new ones. There is still a great chance to have your say, so if there's something you'd like to see or improve please come along, we'd love to see you this is the chance to have your say!

Rob Jones

COMMUNITY ORCHARD AND QUEEN'S GREEN CANOPY

On 28th November, an intrepid group of Charvil residents braved the cold, to help plant trees as part of two separate, but related projects.

Community Orchard

The one that has taken the greater amount of planning and organisation was the first phase of the Charvil Community Orchard. As this is on Wokingham Borough managed land, the Parish Council needed their blessing before we could even think about getting the project off the ground. Fortunately, we got it, and with the help and support of many residents, we managed to purchase some good quality heritage varieties, most of which have local origins; all the compost, stakes, watering pipes needed to give them the best chance in life; dig the holes in less than hospitable ground; and finally plant the young trees at a lovely event attended by ex-Prime Minister, Theresa May.



The varieties planted this year are John Standish, Strawberry Pippin, Charles Ross, Beauty of Bath, Winston, and Orleans Renette. We hope that next year, we may be able to plant other fruit apart from apples – maybe pears and plums, but we will take advice from those with more experience than us.

We really wanted to thank all those residents who have offered their support for this project, in terms of planting, offering to water in the hot periods that will surely come, and pruning. In addition, we are indebted to the Earley Orchards group, who encouraged us to go for it, and to Steven Loyd, whose boundless enthusiasm for all things ecologically related is so infectious.

We would like to thank the sponsors; Gavin and Harry Hanks, Ann Marie O’Riordan, Dave Blackmore, Sarah Swatridge, Nick Ryalls, and Steph Parker. We would also like to thank Jimmy Cartmell of Cartmell Gardens for helping source all the compost, stakes etc., and for lending his expertise in planting trees on the day.

For those that missed it, never fear, you can join in next year for Part Two of this exciting project!

Queen’s Green Canopy

During the Summer, news broke of the ambitious plan to have country-wide tree plantings to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee of the Queen’s reign. The idea is to plant many native trees all over the country to create what will become the Queen’s Green Canopy. The Parish Council felt this was an opportunity not to be missed, to increase the numbers of trees in the village, but as many of you know, the Parish Council is not blessed with land. However, with the co-operation of the University and Wokingham Borough Council, we got permission to plant trees at St Patrick’s Recreation Ground, land at the end of Chiltern Drive and we also chose to plant a signature elm tree in the East Park Farm car park, that was kindly donated by Peter Cuss.

Thanks to Councillor Heath, who has worked hard to work his way through the Woodland Trust website, he and his trusty band of volunteers planted 27 silver birch whips and a small-leaved lime at St Patrick’s before moving on to help with the Orchard. There are still several whips that need a home, and some hedging plants to fit in at St. Patrick’s when they arrive in March. If anyone would like to get involved with this, please contact me at clerk@charvil.com

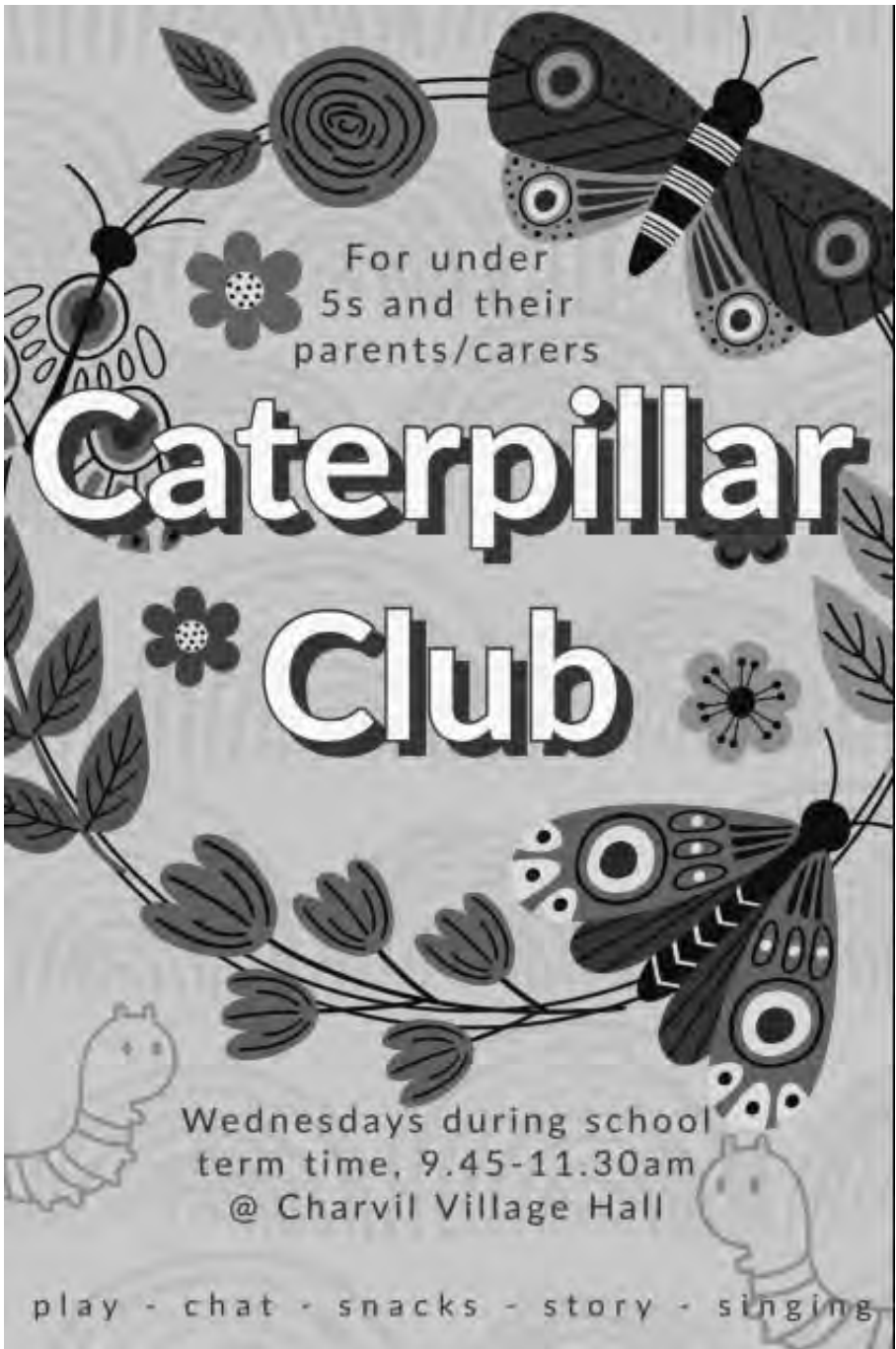


Conservation Opportunities

Whether you have been involved with the tree planting projects or not, or would like to get involved on a practical level to improve some of the more neglected corners of Charvil, there will be the opportunity to come and help with two days of clearing some of the scrub in the park behind The Hawthorns, to improve the biodiversity of the area by removing some of the garden escapees, and rejuvenating some of the neglected bushes that border the park. These sessions will take place on **Wednesday 26th January and Wednesday 23rd March** at 10am to 2.30pm, with a break for refreshments and lunch. Tools will be provided, as will light refreshments, but please bring your own lunch. They are being run by Conserve Reading on Wednesdays (CRoW), hence the Wednesday sessions, and the hope is that enough people are willing to get involved, to start Charvil's very own Conservation group, under CRoW's guidance. If you would like more information, please contact me at clerk@charvil.com

CATERPILLAR CLUB

We were very pleased to re-open Caterpillar Club in September and saw many parents and carers attend with their children. It was great to see new faces, and with the additional help of Helen who has joined the team we have a lovely setting to welcome parents and carers and their under 5's to Caterpillar Club on Wednesdays (term time only) from 9.45-11.30am at Charvil Village Hall. The group is for children 0-5 years of age with their parent/carer and each session includes story, snack and singing time, and costs £2 for a child and £1 for additional children. If you have pre-school age children and are free on Wednesday mornings do come and join us, we start up again on 12th January 2022. Any updates, particularly regarding any changes due to Covid restrictions, will be posted on www.facebook.com/groups/CharvilCaterpillarClub.



For under
5s and their
parents/carers

Caterpillar Club

Wednesdays during school
term time, 9.45-11.30am
@ Charvil Village Hall

play - chat - snacks - story - singing

SONNING CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

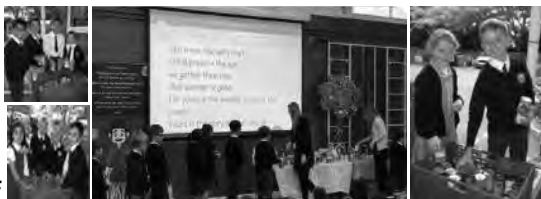
Introducing our new School Council:



As a school community spending time helping others:

Harvest Festival — our school council helped with the loading of the donations for ReadiFood a local food bank charity.

We collected 249kg of food!



Children in Need.
Together the whole
school raised £421.

Selling merchandise
for Remembrance
Day.



We continue to be impressed by creativity and talent demonstrated by children in school. Many pieces of artwork and learning tasks are on display throughout the school. A beautiful Rangoli produced by Yuvraj has taken pride of place in school.



Remembrance Day Service at St. Andrew's Church. The children showed the poppies they had made in class:



Christmas carols and decorating our tree with home made baubles.



STAY YOUTHWORK IN CHARVIL

The youth work of STAY continues in Charvil with the weekly detached project, the local schools work and the holiday activities drop in sports sessions.

The weekly detached project is now serving 45 hot chocolate mountains each week on a Thursday to local young people.

The schools work consists of assemblies to both the Charvil & Wargrave Piggott students, prayer meetings for staff and mentoring.

The holidays activities drop in sports sessions were so popular in the summer that we have two this Christmas on Monday 20th & Wednesday 22nd December from 1-3pm in the Charvil sports court & field. If you're a year 7 or up, do pop along for uni-hoc, basketball shoot outs, football, dodgeball, frisbee and more hot chocolate mountains!



SAVE YOUR VILLAGE SOCIETY!

What we do? - we organise social events and raise money for local charities

Pre-pandemic in 2019 we donated sums between £500-£850 to half a dozen charities (e.g. Babies in Buscot, Twyford Day Centre, Daisy's Dream, St Mungo, Sue Ryder, Woodley Foodbank, Volunteer Drivers). More recent events have included Quiz nights, New Year's walk and Senior Citizens tea party – these have been postponed due to Covid but we are keen to resume. The CVS also landscaped the roundabout in Park Lane and last autumn planted daffodil bulbs there. We also commissioned the bench outside the Village Hall.

Why do we do it? – to have fun, get to know your neighbours and support local charities to make Charvil a more vibrant and connected community.

How can you help? – we are looking for people – and yes you will be the busy ones! – to help with one event a year like quiz nights, race nights or perhaps something to celebrate the Queens platinum Jubilee? So you don't need to be involved in everything just pick your event - or come up with a new one! – and we will help with the organisation.

If you can spare some time to help with an event, please contact us by email (charvilvillagesociety@outlook.com).

Jane Hartley, Charvil Village Society Group

TWYFORD LIBRARY

Twyford library offers a wide range of books and other reading materials for you to borrow.

You can also collect blue bin bags, garden waste sacks, food waste boxes and bags and recycling boxes. Please note these need to be purchased either via telephone (contact number 01189 746000) or online via the Wokingham Borough Council website (www.wokingham.gov.uk/rubbish-and-recycling)

Opening Hours

- Mondays 14.00-17.00
- Tuesdays 10.00-13.00 and 14.00-17.00
- Wednesdays Closed
- Thursdays 14.00-17.00
- Fridays 10.00-13.00 and 14.00-17.00
- Saturdays 9.30-12.30
- Sundays Closed

Festive Closures 2021/2

- Closing at 1pm on 24 December 2021
- 25 December 2021
- 27 December 2021
- 28 December 2021
- Closing at 1pm on 31st December 2021
- 1 January 2022
- 3 January 2022



Twyford Library, Polehampton Close, Twyford, RG10 9RP
Tel. 0118 934 0800 www.wokingham.gov.uk/libraries

CHRISTMAS QUIZ

1. Which country donates the Christmas tree for Trafalgar Square each year?
2. Shakespeare wrote a play for Elizabeth 1 as a Christmas present but which one?
3. Who wrote the first ever King's Christmas speech in 1932?
4. Which three US states have towns actually named Santa Claus?
5. Which Hans Christian Andersen fairy tale inspired the movie 'Frozen'?
6. Who recorded 'Blue Christmas'?
7. Which Hollywood actor played six different roles in 'The Polar Express'?
8. In the movie 'Elf', what was the first rule of The Code of Elves?
9. Three of Santa's reindeer's names begin with the letter D. What are those names?
10. Which ocean is Christmas Island found in?

Answers at the bottom of the next page



1ST CHARVIL SCOUT GROUP

We have had a testing time in scouting recently with the return or face to face meetings happening, and the ever changing COVID status in the local area, our leaders have done an amazing job in keeping all of the meetings going and being able to keep the children engaged in those meetings. We are all looking forward to a wonderful Christmas with family and hopefully friends. With preparations in place for new activities and challenges to take place in the coming year for all the different groups. We are also hopefully looking forward to planning our first group camp since Covid situation began. We are however always recruiting for new leaders, especially at the moment we are desperately in need of a scout leader, as scouting lasts for four years we are starting to get a backlog of people having to wait to join scouts from having done cubs. so we would of course be very grateful if anyone would have the time to help and join our group to help with the scouts. We are a large group with lots of support for new helpers and leaders. Please contact us by email on: charvilscout@gmail.com

1st Charvil Scout Group would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Christmas Quiz Answers

1. Norway
2. The Merry Wives of Windsor
3. Rudyard Kipling
4. Georgia, Arizona and Indiana
5. The Snow Queen
6. Elvis Presley
7. Tom Hanks
8. Treat every day like Christmas
9. Dancer, Dasher and Donner
10. Indian Ocean



CHARVIL ART GROUP

The members of Charvil Art Group send you their best wishes for a happy and enjoyable Christmas and New Year.



After the long closure due to the pandemic our club were pleased to get back to our regular Wednesday night meetings on September 5th. It was lovely seeing everyone after such a long break and we were pleased to welcome some new members to our midst.

We've been busy introducing our new programme and have already had two excellent tutor run sessions: Portraits with Kristin Rawcliffe, and experimental miniatures with Linda Saul. Our programme for next year also includes tutor based sessions, approximately one every half term.

We were also able to hold our Annual Exhibition on November 21st which proved to be a huge success with almost one hundred paintings on show and ten being sold. Thanks to everyone who supported us and to the judge Catherine Ingleby and the presenters of the trophies. This year there were two long standing members of the club, Kate Jeffery and Bernard Bareham, who were given honorary membership after their long service to the club.

We are very proud to announce that next year will see our 50th anniversary, so watch this space for future events (a good excuse for more celebrations). We hope to have an exhibition at Dinton Pastures during February 2022 so come and see our work there in the cafe at the main car park.

If you are interested in art and would like to come and see what we're about, why not drop in to see us on a Wednesday evening at the Charvil Village Hall from 7.30pm onwards or call Ken on 01189690274 for more information. We return after the festive season on 5th January, when we will tackle "Winter Landscapes"

Meanwhile HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO YOU ALL.

Ken Docking

THE PROJECT SINGERS

The Project Singers started in September. The group is divided into two sections – one for girls and one for ladies. The girls meet at Charvil Hall on Sundays between 6.15 and 7.45pm. The ladies meet on Mondays between 8.00 and 9.30pm. Our first project is 'A night at the movies' which will culminate in a performance at Norden Farm Centre for the Arts, Maidenhead on March 26th 2022. Tickets can be obtained from the Box Office by calling 01628 788997. We are working on a great variety of songs from films including 'Fame', 'Singin' in the rain', 'We have all the time in the world' and a medley from 'The sound of music'. The singers are also going to be busy throughout December doing lots of carol singing in Twyford and Woodley.

The next project will start in April and run through to July. This project is called 'Let's Sing!' - lots of great songs about singing! We have two performances planned – one at St Mary's Church in Twyford and one in Kettering as guests of a ladies choir. If anyone would like more details, they can contact the choir's Musical Director, Suzanne Newman, on 0118 9340589 or suzanneynewman@btinternet.com

SONNING FLORAL ARRANGEMENT SOCIETY

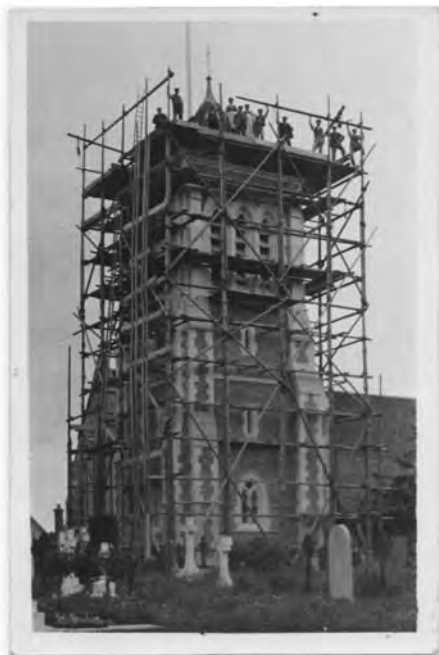
The Sonning Floral Arrangement Society are looking forward to a better year (2022) after having enjoyed only three demonstrations during 2020 and only four in 2021. We have a full programme 2022 to be entertained by some very good, well known, demonstrators. We are planning to hold some extra functions ie Coffee Mornings, afternoon Tea and outings to gardens etc. to make up the losses. We do thank our members for their continued loyalty and support for these past two difficult years.

We still welcome visitors for a reasonable sum of £6 which is good value for an excellent afternoon entertainment, followed by tea and chats after the floral demonstration.

Our Meetings are held on the second Thursday of the month in the very welcoming Charvil Village Hall starting at 2.00 pm prompt and we really are looking forward to meeting up again.

READING & DISTRICT CIGARETTE CARD & POSTCARD CLUB

After the long lockdown and government restrictions the members joyfully returned to Charvil Hall on September 9th evening, 24 members arrived and exchanged greetings, it felt just like “the good old days”. Members had been invited to bring along any finds acquired (via e-bay and on-line specialised auction houses). Also the lockdown gave members the opportunity to sort through their purchases and collections that had been acquired in previous ‘good’ years. One member was grateful that having acquired a large collection from a French collector several years ago, he had the time to finally sort it out and assimilate the postcards into his own collection, and help in his research on the French postcard publisher, Levy & Son.



Pictured above, the church tower repairs in Twyford and the Post Office as it was.

Richard Howarth brought along recent purchases of chinaware, timetables, postcards and other ephemera associated with his passion for Scottish shipping companies, whose steamers and ships plied the coastline, islands and lochs of Scotland.

Roy Sheppard baffled the audience with a small wooden frame, rollers and turning handle, which turned out to be a WW1 device manufactured commercially for winding assorted width bandages into rolls for the war effort. The audience got the hang of it, even though Roy failed to master it's simplicity adequately !!!

Other members produced and talked about their own 'lockdown trophies'.

November 11th saw the ever-popular return of the quarterly auctions, with over 100 lots listed from members, most sold to the members present despite a lack of old postcards or cigarette cards. It is hoped that future auctions will include lots from members of the public who are always welcome to offer any unwanted postcards and cigarette cards, preferably of pre-1950 era. For details about the auction please ring 0118-9695155. The next auction will be held on February 10th 2022.

The Club is currently operating on a single monthly meeting, the second Thursday of each month from 7.45pm to 9.45pm. We warmly invite members of the public to come along and visit for free on any of those club evenings. Our 2022 programme will shortly be listed in January on our own website, readingpostcards.com Any local history societies, local U3A members, family history enthusiasts, collectors in general are most welcome to visit on a club evening, we probably have some common interests !!!.

For further details about the Club please ring 0118-9695155 or 0118-9481350.

Roy Sheppard

THE LINK VISITING SCHEME

The Link Visiting Scheme focuses on supporting those struggling with the serious impact of loneliness. The effects of Covid, coping with long term health conditions, dealing with a bereavement, loss of mobility or just struggling with confidence can all lead to the very painful feelings of being alone and unable to talk to people as you'd like to.

The Link Visiting Scheme celebrates friendship in every thing we do. We help engage volunteers with someone who needs to see a friendly face, we offer phone support and a whole host of group activities and events.

One exciting project we are proud of is Link Online. Purchasing a device, access to wifi and finding your way around can all feel overwhelming. We help older people get online! We loan wifi enabled tablet computers and provide personalised coaching and support too with our team of digital volunteers. After a period of months we give the option to buy but there is no obligation to at all. If you love it, then you get to keep the tablet. If you hate it, nothing is lost and you can hand it back.

We've had lots of great feedback from older people from seeing loved family members via video calling, listening to favourite music, being part of online church services, using voice recognition to send emails, pursuing interests or accessing GP surgeries to make appointments or find health advice. We can ensure all involved feel supported to feel safe and happy doing what interests.

If you would like to find out more about The Link Visiting Scheme and Link Online too, we would love to hear from you!

Marjie Walker, CEO

www.linkvisiting.org

0118 9798019

The Link Visting Scheme,

The Charity and Community Hub,

Waterford House, Erfstadt Court, Wokingham, RG40 2YF





TENNIS IN CHARVIL TEQNIC TENNIS

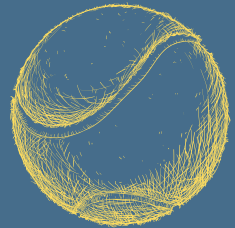
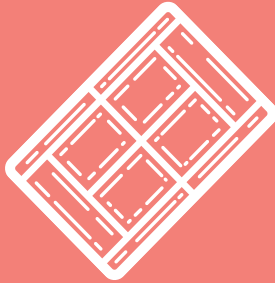
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**JUST £9
PER
SESSION**

TO BOOK, CONTACT ED AT ED.FRANCIS@TEQNIC.CO.UK

YOUR CHARVIL NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

YOUR VOICE. YOUR CHARVIL.



PUBLIC MEETING

SATURDAY 5TH FEBRUARY 2022

VENUE: CHARVIL VILLAGE HALL

PRESENTATIONS TO BE HELD AT:

10:15AM AND 2:15PM

**PLEASE JOIN US TO FIND OUT THE LATEST
DEVELOPMENTS.**

you are interested in helping shape our future
please contact Miranda Parker clerk@charvil.com

CHARVIL NEEDS: Residents, charities, youth groups, businesses, schools, health services, shops,
transport services, churches, societies, pressure groups, ecowarriors, developers, trades people,
sports clubs, dog walkers, pubs, community police, highway planners ...