

Charvil Village News

Spring 2022



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Inside this issue: Caretaker Required - See back cover!
Annual Parish Meeting - 18th MAY

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Editorial

Welcome to the Spring Edition of the Village News. How lovely it is to see the colourful Spring flowers emerging and brightening our gardens, borders, hedgerows and even our village roundabouts.

Within the magazine you will find updates on some of the many projects the Parish Council has been busy planning and working on. If you would like to find out more information, please do join us at the Annual Parish Meeting in May or why not become more involved and consider becoming a Parish Councillor?

After two years with the Council team, we are saying goodbye to Keith Hayward who has played a key role in facilitating the functioning of our two buildings in his role as caretaker - we would like to thank him very much for his valuable contribution. The role is currently vacant, details can be found on the back cover or by contacting the Clerk to the Council, we would love to hear from you as we are very keen to fill this crucial position.

Wishing you and your families a peaceful Easter break and happy and healthy springtime and summer beyond.

Amanda Burton, Assistant Clerk

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CHAIRMAN'S FOREWORD

I hope you have had an opportunity to enjoy some of the recent spring weather - although it did seem to be followed by winter – but it is a lovely time to enjoy the countryside around Charvil.

We continue to have changes to the Council membership and are very pleased to welcome Rob Jones to the council, he has made a great contribution in leading the Neighbourhood Planning group and we look forward to having him on the team to continue that work and support our other initiatives. We sadly have to say thank you and goodbye to Neil Jackson who has to leave due to his work commitments.

We are very pleased that so many of you are getting involved with our community projects like the Neighbourhood Plan and tree planting and we look forward to more local involvement in the Pavilion redevelopment.

Pavilion Redevelopment

You will probably be aware that the Pavilion at East Park Farm is in a very sorry state so one of our major projects is to redevelop these facilities. We have agreed an outline scope and appointed architects, Stanhope Wilkinson Associates, to draw up options for the redevelopment. We will be working with SWA, together with users and residents, to develop clear options that we can consult on, hopefully by the summer. There is a more detailed article in this magazine which sets out the scope of the redevelopment please contact us if you have any comments as this has to be a facility that meets the needs of as many residents as possible.

Neighbourhood Plan

After the Open Day in February we have incorporated another theme to our plan of 'Flooding' to add to Housing, Transport, Environment and Community. The Steering Group, made up of councillors and residents, are still analysing some of the data - so thank you to all of you who gave us their views. We will be setting up working groups after Easter to take this work forward to develop plans and policies which form the major part of the Neighbourhood Plan .

Jubilee

We are planning a family treasure hunt over the Jubilee Bank Holiday and hope you can take part, we will let you know the details nearer the time.

Queen's Green Canopy for Platinum Jubilee

Following the success with the planting of the first 50 trees, we have now decided to increase the number to be planted around the Parish to 70. Thank you to everyone who has given their time and energy to give the community a lasting reminder of the Platinum Jubilee.

Tree and hedge policy

The Council has approved a tree and hedge policy, partly in response to the feedback from the Neighbourhood Plan survey, but also because there seems to be some confusion about rights to clear trees on council land. I will be writing to residents and visiting them to discuss how to work together to maintain our natural environment for the benefit of all.

Jogging track

The Council have discussed outline plans for a jogging track around the tennis courts and MUGA, we will be costing this up to see if we can take it forward.

Residents raising planning concerns

The Council is always pleased to welcome residents to our meetings and comments were heard relating to planning applications. This input is very helpful in informing the Council's response to Wokingham Borough Council, so if you have opinions on specific planning applications you can always attend the residents' forum.

Annual Parish Meeting – the APM will be on the 18th May at 8pm in the Village Hall where we will be giving you updates on Parish projects and you will have to opportunity to ask questions – drinks and nibbles available! Please come and share your views!

Jane Hartley, Chair

Edited Extracts from the Minutes of Parish Council Meetings

Full Council Meeting held on 15th November 2021

The resignation of Councillor Gillett after the last meeting was noted

This was noted, and the Councillors expressed gratitude for his long years of service to Charvil. It was noted he was the longest serving Councillor Charvil had had, with 29 years as a Councillor.

To approve the recommendation of the Amenities Committee to purchase a shipping container and to approve one of the quotations

It was explained that the Parish Council needs storage of its goalposts and other bulky items, and that the Scouts also need storage, so the easiest solution at this point is to buy a shipping container and place it on the grass-crete near to the stream in the car park. The agreed supplier was Cleveland Containers.

Planning, Environment and Highways Committee (PEH)

The final plans for the Queen's Green Canopy and Community Orchard plantings were discussed. Councillor Heath has contacted Theresa May and is awaiting a response, but it is hoped she will be able to attend. It is still the plan to plant something at Chiltern Drive, but the Council is still awaiting permission. The aim is to do some initial digging on the Friday for the Community Orchard, to prepare the ground at St Patrick's on the Saturday and for all the trees to be planted on the Sunday. It is hoped all the tree wardens can help. *Clerk's note: Theresa May did attend the Community Orchard planting, and permission was granted for Chiltern Drive rather late, but some trees will be planted there in the next few weeks.*

There had been some progress on the trees felled at Simmons Field. The resident responsible was under the impression that the Borough still managed the land and that they did not care one way or another, so he had taken matters into his own hands. His communication with the Borough predated the Parish Council's involvement, but unfortunately there is no written evidence from either party to verify this. The clerk will continue to follow up.

The grounds maintenance team have quoted to tidy and open up the green spaces near the young children's play area and it was resolved to approve this work which was passed unanimously.

To hear an update on the Neighbourhood Plan Progress

All the information has now been entered into a spreadsheet. There is a face-to-face meeting on 18th Nov to work through the initial analysis on the quantitative data. The qualitative analysis will need to be done by focus groups. The next step will be to find a date for a public meeting to keep people informed and to hopefully encourage volunteers to work on the more detailed analysis.

To consider the updated Local Plan and the implications for Charvil

The housing numbers have been slightly reduced for Charvil, and slightly increased for Twyford and Sonning. Councillors Heath and Sutcliffe will attend the briefing session held by the Borough. It will be important to try to get Charvil's green spaces into the final plan.

To consider the make-up of the Committees in the light of the recent resignations and to nominate chairs and vice chairs where appropriate

It was agreed that Councillor Sutlieff would step up from Vice Chair to Chair of Staffing, and that Councillors Jackson and Heath would attend the next Staffing meeting to ensure it is quorate. It was also agreed that while there are so few councillors, the main meetings would be rolled into one until such time as Councillor numbers recover. When this happens, Councillor Walker will attend the Planning, Environment and Highways Committee. Councillor Sutlieff also nominated Councillor Walker as Vice Chair of Finance, seconded by the Chair, and this was carried.

To consider the draft map for the Country Park and suggest amendments to take back to Simon Bartlam

It was agreed the Parish would like its logo on the sign, that there should be coloured walking routes included, and that road names and some of the legends are corrected. Councillors were happy with it in principle

Planning, Environment and Highways Meeting held on 29th November 2021

Highways

The clerk reported some technical difficulties accessing the data for this month and would send round later. *Clerk's note: the Speed Indicator Device is currently on Park Lane near to the junction of Old Bath Road to assess numbers of vehicles. It appears from the data, that the traffic delays on Park Lane in the mornings are mainly caused by local traffic, rather than through traffic.*

To review the weekend's planting in the Community Orchard and to consider lessons learned for next year

The event was a great success, but there were rather a lot of people and not many tasks to do. Expectations will need to be managed better next year. It would also be a good idea to organise a team to dig over the plots a week before, rather than put together a team at very short notice. The Parish Council were very grateful to the help of local gardener Jimmy Cartmell, who not only helped purchase some of the equipment needed, but also provided direction for efficient and effective planting of the trees. It was good that so many families came along, and Theresa May was very engaged with the volunteers.

To review the weekend's planting for the Platinum Tree project and lessons learned for the Spring planting

There were the right number of people who worked efficiently. There are still some trees to be planted – the Council only got permission to plant at the end of Chiltern Drive on the Friday, which did not leave enough time to organise planting there for Sunday, so this will be done later. The elm has been planted at East Park Farm and will hopefully grow into the flagship tree for this project. The Council will look for suitable plaques, to find something that cannot easily be kicked over. It was suggested that it could be unveiled at the fete, especially if this could take place on or close to the Bank Holiday weekend at the end of May. The one problem so far was that there was no central identity for the project – maybe if more planting is to be done in future, then it could go under the banner of “Trees for Charvil” or some such.

To consider any progress on the trees felled near Simmons Field and how to stop such a thing happening again

The clerk has been in correspondence with the resident who had the trees felled. He said that he could not find the e-mails but that his written communications with the Borough pre-dated the change of management to the Parish Council (of which he was unaware). In more recent conversations with the Borough, no mention had been made of the Parish Council, and he was a little puzzled as other residents had felled trees with no comment. It was felt that the most the Parish Council can do at present is to inform all residents on the boundary with Parish managed land at East Park Farm, that the Parish is responsible for the area, and that on no account can residents take it upon themselves to cut trees, except where they need to be pruned where overhanging their properties. They also be told that they do not have a right of way from their back gardens into the public areas and no such accesses should be there.

To Consider how to respond to the Local Plan Consultation

The various issues of concern were raised: that there are issues around schools; unevenness when considering the traffic implications of the various developments; flooding issues; the inclusion of Charvil green spaces; and the Borough not meeting their own objectives. All Councillors will be encouraged to read the relevant documents and to come up with their own comments, and the clerk will draw up some draft comments for the January meeting, at which point all the strands will be drawn together for a final submission before the new deadline of 24th Jan 2022.



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MONDAYS FROM 9TH MAY 2022

CHARVIL VILLAGE HALL 10:00 – 11:00

CHARVIL PIGGOTT PRIMARY 19:30 – 20:30

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Amenities Committee 6th December 2022

To consider what contribution would be applicable for the Scout group to put towards the storage container

The committee agreed to recommend to Full Council that a monthly contribution of £20.00 for two years be requested of the Scouting group for their use of the container and the contract to be reviewed after 2 years (not necessarily to increase the rental, though that must remain an option) but to ensure that the arrangement was working to everyone's satisfaction. *Assistant Clerk's note the Charvil Parish Council will retain full ownership of the storage container during this agreement and beyond.*

To consider an email from a resident about the possibility of installing a running track on the perimeter of the football pitches at East Park Farm

The committee thought the track sounded an interesting idea and something that can be considered in the future along with the other ideas for additional facilities that have been received from the recent resident survey and will be included in the list of possible facilities when developing the Neighbourhood Plan.

Full Council Meeting on 13th December 2021

Open Forum

One resident attended who wanted to raise his concerns about Planning Application Number 213815 at Iffleigh, Park Lane. His first concern was that he had been left off the notification list informing neighbours of planning applications and that he had only found out by accident. He appreciates that the house needs updating but is concerned that the proposed extension is so large. The first-floor extension will affect the light into a bedroom and their living room. Also, the ground floor extension that is already there is built on the boundary, which should not have happened, although on the plans, this is marked as inside the boundary. This proposal makes no attempt to build on the correct line for the enlarged extension. He was thanked for coming and left at 9.50pm, at the end of the public session.

To consider the following requests for S137 and grant donations

It was resolved to award £500 to Citizen's Advice Wokingham, £250 to Twyford, Wargrave and District Volunteers Association, £400 to the Link Visiting Scheme and £250 to Home-Start Wokingham, which was approved unanimously.

To note the offer from Conserve Reading on Wednesdays (CRoW) to run two conservation sessions in the park behind the Village Hall and to approve their request for a payment of £60 per session to cover costs

It was resolved to approve this which was carried unanimously.

To approve the quote for the purchase of a replacement notice board for Beggars Hill Road and to approve the recommendation from the Amenities Committee to purchase a notice board for Gingells Farm Road, subject to a suitable site being found

It was resolved to approve the quote from Parish Noticeboard Company which was carried unanimously.

To consider whether the Council would like to mark the Platinum Jubilee in any other way apart from taking part in the Queen's Green Canopy

It was agreed that the Parish Council should do something. The clerk was to ask the Chair whether the Fete Committee would like to do a joint celebration on the Bank Holiday weekend at the beginning of June.

Full Council Meeting held on 17th January 2022

Open Forum

Three residents attended, one who was concerned about Planning Application No. 214109, one who wanted to listen to the discussions, and a third who is standing for co-option.

The resident attending about the planning application ran through the history of the site, and how it has affected his property, including concerns about how the Borough has approached the applications on this site, and whether they were consistent in the way they dealt with each application. He explained that there is currently an enforcement investigation because the latest extension does not appear to be according to the approved plans and is not happy that another application had been put in without the current issues being addressed. Regarding this application, he feels it extends the wall of brick on his boundary yet further, and the proposed brick pillar will be right outside his kitchen door, eating into his property's light further. The resident stayed for the rest of the meeting.



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The resident who was attending as a possible Parish Councillor introduced himself as Rob Jones. He is already involved in the Neighbourhood Plan group and would like to see the policies that will be drawn up as part of this group, through to completion by the Parish Council. He would also like to represent the north side of the A4, as this area has no representation currently. He has analytical skills and writing reports. Now that his company has adopted hybrid working, he feels he has the time to contribute. The Chair thanked him, and he stayed for the rest of the meeting.

To approve the recommendation to ban cash payments and to introduce a £10 handling fee for cheques

It was explained that with bank closures and more people paying by BACS, it was not good use of the clerk's time trying to find an open bank. It was agreed that users will be given six months' notice to set up BACS payments, and if they have real difficulty with this, then they can arrange something on a case-by-case basis.

To consider the Parish response to the Local Plan Consultation

The clerk was asked to respond as follows:

General Approach

Charvil Parish Council supports the general approach of the Borough in trying to concentrate development in larger "garden villages", as this offers the best opportunity to build sustainable communities, provide adequate infrastructure and encourage active travel and public transport.

Of the three large sites considered, the Council is broadly supportive of the choice of Hall Farm/Loddon Valley, although there are concerns that if the flood mitigation plans are not as effective as hoped, locations downriver like Charvil could suffer the consequences. One measure that could be considered, is to improve water use efficiency, as this would help to reduce the likelihood of flooding downstream and would help mitigate the effects of climate change.

We would not be supportive of the Twyford/Ruscombe proposal, as this is not only in the greenbelt, but no adequate plan has been suggested to mitigate the effect of extra traffic on both Twyford Village Centre or travelling through Charvil and Sonning to Reading.

We are not so supportive of the apparent abandonment of the ranking of villages in terms of their sustainability – so previously, Sonning and Charvil were both regarded as “limited development locations” due to poor infrastructure, but this no longer seems a concern despite the only change since the last plan has been the opening of a single form entry primary school designed to meet the existing population, not a growing village.

While we understand the fact that there is more pressure on smaller villages due to the loss of the Grazeley scheme, many of the stated aims of building sustainable, high-quality environments do not seem to have filtered down to the smaller developments proposed.

This is of great concern to the villages to the north of the Borough, who are due to accommodate around 400 dwellings in the Local plan, and at least another 100 from “windfall” development, with little or no improvements to any of the infrastructure, numbers of school places and doctors that could improve their sustainability.

Charvil sites

Sites to the east of Park View Drive North (CV001)

The Parish Council welcomes the slight reduction of housing numbers on this site, and the affirmation that any development will not take place in the flood zone 3 parts of the site, but nevertheless, considerable concerns remain about this location.

Much of Charvil is low-lying, and its eastern boundaries particularly so. Technically, this site is in flood zone 1, but any development here, unless very carefully managed, is likely to have a negative impact on nearby homes that are already vulnerable – namely, the dwelling at Newland Farm and the easternmost homes on Charvil Meadow Road and Thornbers Way. Given that the Environment Agency have taken the trouble to source a temporary flood barrier for these areas to be used in times of need, is clear evidence that this part of the A4 corridor is particularly vulnerable to flooding and explains why so many residents are exercised by this proposal.

While much has been made of the possibilities to improve the diversity of the river area in the Hall Farm proposal, no such undertaking is mentioned in Charvil, which is unfortunate.

Concerns also remain as to how the site will be accessed and how it will connect to the rest of the village. It lies to the east of what has always been considered the boundary for the built environment, and will appear incongruous visually, but of greater concern is how the development will impact on the traffic levels and air quality on the A4.

Sustainability is a great buzzword but building a development with little scope for active travel to Twyford, let alone Reading or Henley, is only likely to lead to most journeys being by car – and could well reduce the current level of walking and cycling by adding in another hazardous crossing on the National Cycle Route 4, used by many pupils of the Piggott school.

The Parish Council has never supported the inclusion of this site in the Local Plan, and if it must remain, then the issues raised by us and residents need to be addressed to avoid it being nothing more than another anonymous development tacked onto a village, of which there are many depressing examples all over the country.

Site West of Park Lane (CV002)

This site was probably in receipt of most of the objections received by the Borough from the first Consultation period, and we again welcome the reduction in numbers of dwellings allocated.

There remain concerns, however – mainly around the effects on local traffic and air quality, particularly close to a school. Consequently, we welcome the mention of encouraging active travel around this site and into the Country Park but feel this needs to be extended to a cycle track to Twyford Station and with a link to the National cycle route 4, as these could potentially cut car journeys substantially.

One issue that has come to light with the current development of 25 dwellings on this site is the displacement of the wildlife that had made this area its home since it was taken out of agricultural use. This is most obvious with large mammals like deer, but there are many others that would be less visible. Because of this, we would like there to be a “green corridor” east to west, so that animals can move freely from the Country Park west to the areas of ancient woodland, the golf course, Paddick’s Patch, Ashenbury Park etc.

Issues relating to both sites

The Neighbourhood Plan survey is only in the early part of being analysed, but one point that was clear from many respondents was the need for smaller, more affordable homes – both for the young to be able to afford to stay in the area, and for the old to downsize to without leaving the village where they may have lived for many years. Both developments imply they will be adding to the high percentage of large family homes as these are the most profitable, but the need seems to be for more modest dwellings. We would welcome some movement in this direction.

A second issue is that neither site is particularly close to public transport links, and the local bus service is inadequate. In the recent bus consultation, it was pointed out that our bus service is not fit for purpose, so again, any development in either Sonning or Charvil (and to a lesser extent, Twyford) will put pressure on the roads unless direct action is taken to make public transport more attractive.

Other local issues

The Parish Council raised objections to the proposal at Bridge Farm on traffic and impact on the flood plain. The combined effect of all the developments on the A4, with new junctions etc, will change traffic flows completely, with the need for reduced speeds, crossings etc., and even if the Borough were minded to improve the road to reduce the impact, the fact remains little can be done to mitigate the effects of Reading on traffic flows. We support the idea of a third bridge over the Thames, that might help reduce congestion in the area, but also, there need to be radical changes to the cycle/pedestrian/public transport network to reduce the reliance of the northern parishes on the car.



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The other main concern of the Bridge Farm development again relates to the possible effect on the flood plain and possible knock-on effects on Charvil. Any flood mitigation plan on the part of the developer needs to consider whether the flood plain can withstand developments both to the east and west, without impacting on existing properties. Assuming both Bridge Farm and the land to the east of Park View Drive North are developed, there is a need for both plans to be considered together to ensure the safety of low-lying homes nearby.

Additions to the Local Green Spaces

Charvil are supportive of the local green spaces included in the Borough, and would like to take this belated opportunity to suggest sites that could be included in Charvil

Charvil Country Park and East Park Farm Playing Fields

While one is for formal sport and the other is for other physical recreation, it is important to view these two together as they tend to be used by many Charvil residents for enjoyment and exercise.

Being so close to both The Hawthorns and East Park Farm, many residents walk their dogs, enjoy the peace and quiet, and the wildlife that exists so close to their homes.

Charvil Meadows

Charvil Meadows are widely used by residents living on the Old Bath Road and provides access to less formal public open space than East Park Farm, and larger open spaces than around the Country Park.

Its biodiversity is slowly increasing, with the help of traditional meadow practices, and is much loved by many residents.

Park at The Hawthorns

While this is somewhat smaller, it is important to the residents of The Hawthorns as a safe place to take children to play and is also the only public green space that is free of dogs, which makes it popular for parents of younger children. It is also home to the new Community Orchard.

St Patrick's Recreation Ground

This is the only area of public open space in the north of the village, as it is leased by the Parish Council from Reading University.

It is consequently well used by many families and dog walkers.

Land to the east and north of Park View Drive North

Although privately owned, this area that has not been included in the Local Plan for development, is important to many residents due to the lack of public open space in the area (St Patrick's is not very big and does not serve the needs of the community on its own). It is an area of open farmland, with two ancient monuments on it, which could be made more of if access was formalised. It is well used for recreation, with many well-defined paths running round and across it. Part of it has been recognised in the LPU as a valued landscape.

Amenities Committee

To consider whether the Parish Council should introduce preferential rates for residents purchasing a tennis pass, and how would this be managed (how can we prove residency) Also, to consider how many passes should be available to residents and non-residents

It was resolved that the current limit of 80 passes would remain, and that 70% would be reserved for residents, who will need to provide proof of address. It was further resolved to offer residents the current rate and non-residents a rate of £50 (both subject to price increases, yet to be decided, for the beginning of April. This was approved unanimously.

To hear an update on the Neighbourhood Plan Progress

All recent efforts have been to prepare for the Open Meeting on Saturday 5th Feb at the Village Hall. Robert Jones, the Chair of the group, has been liaising with local journalists to get it mentioned in a timely fashion, and other publicity is being undertaken. The main aims of the day are to liaise with the public, generate interest, and hopefully recruit people to join the working/focus groups on each theme. So far, four have been identified: housing, transport, environment, and Community Hub/engagement.

To Consider how the Council would like to mark the Platinum Jubilee and when

It was agreed that the Council would look to do something at East Park Farm, even if it is just to facilitate a "Picnic in the Park" – it would probably need some organisation, and it was agreed ideas would be brought to the next meeting. Whatever is done, will take place on Sunday 5th June.

To note the receipt of £344 from Charvil Women's Club to go towards the signs in the Country Park

This was noted, and the Council expressed their thanks

Full Council Meeting held on 14th February 2022

To consider the quotations for remedial tree work at East Park Farm, St Patricks' and on the corner of Park Lane and The Hawthorns, and to approve one for each site

It was resolved to accept the quotations from Canon Tree Care for the trees at East Park Farm and on Park Lane, and the quotation from Arborfield Tree Care for St Patrick's Recreation Ground, which were passed unanimously.

It was noted that one of the protected Lime trees needs to be felled as its condition has deteriorated in the last year.

To Consider where to plant the remaining Trees for the Queen's Green Canopy

There are five crab apples, five hazels, five rowans and three small-leaved limes to plant. The idea is to plant the hazels and crab apples in the hedge at St Patrick's, although there is a thought that one of the crab apples could be planted in the park at The Hawthorns to help pollination of the orchard trees. After some discussion, it was felt it would be appropriate to plant the rowans where the trees have been felled at East Park Farm. The limes are a bit more problematic, but it could be possible to plant them near the limes at East Park Farm, particularly as one will have to be felled. There was a discussion about whether anything can be planted on the roundabout near The Hawthorns.

There was a discussion about wildflower planting, at it was agreed that the clerk would contact Wokingham's Parks and Open Spaces team, to see if they could help. Possible sites suggested were the area on the junction of Park View Drive South and Old Bath Road; the grassy area on the entrance of Milestone Avenue; and the bank between the car park and Park Lane.

To note the completion of the pruning works by the Grounds Maintenance team at East Park Farm, and further unauthorised pruning of vegetation bordering the park. To develop a plan of action to bring this to an end through a pro-active maintenance schedule by the Grounds Maintenance team after consultation with the relevant residents

The clerk was to assess what work needs to be done with the advice of the Grounds Maintenance company. Once there is a plan, residents will be contacted by councillors with a letter from the Council stating the Council's position. *Clerk's note: the Grounds Maintenance company suggested the Council needs to adopt a tree management policy to reinforce the point that up to this point, residents taking matters into their own hands are acting unlawfully, and that this needs to stop.*

To hear an update on the Neighbourhood Plan Progress

The public meeting on 5th February was quite successful, with 40 people attending over the day. A few people were willing to join working groups, but more needs to be done to find people who could join these. Rob Jones is working on analysing more data, which the working groups can build upon. One thing that became evident, was the concerns of residents in places like Charvil Meadow Road, of the effects of the current housing proposals on the likelihood of flooding of their homes.

To consider what needs to be done for the Platinum Jubilee picnic, including whether to pay for a band and for a plaque

After some discussion, it was felt that there are too many competing events to hold a successful picnic, so it was decided to help residents with advice as to how organise street closures for street parties. It was also agreed to organise a treasure hunt for children and to unveil a plaque, possibly at the hall, for the Platinum Jubilee trees, as part of the Annual Parish Meeting.

To hear an update from the Borough Parish Liaison Meeting

The main item was the Tree Strategy. The Borough will help with trees and hedges, and it may be a good idea for the Neighbourhood Plan to look at identifying areas for tree planting in its land allocation plan, as the Borough is willing to talk to private landowners to help reach its 250,000 target.



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Planning Matters considered at recent Parish Council Meetings

The Council had no objection to the following applications:

- 213539 Application for the proposed erection of a two-storey front extension and first floor side extension, plus alterations to existing single storey roof at the side at Uplands, Park Lane
- 213510 Application for the proposed erection of a single storey spa room attached to the converted double garage at Nikunj, Waingels Road
- 213386 Householder application for the proposed erection of a first-floor rear extension with 1 no. Juliet balcony at Inglewood, Beggars Hill Road
- 212128 Full application for the proposed conversion of existing dwelling to 3no. 1-bedroom self-contained flats and 1 studio self-contained flat, associated parking and amenity space, plus changes to fenestration (Part Retrospective) at 36, Park View Drive South
- 213798 Application for the proposed development of a loft conversion with front facing dormer at 8, East Park Farm Drive
- 220182 Application for the proposed garage conversion to create habitable accommodation, changes to fenestration, plus the insertion of 2no. roof lights at 25, Park View Drive South
- 220246 Application for the proposed single storey rear extension with 3no. rooflights and garage conversion along with single storey front extension with 2no. rooflights following demolition of existing porch to include changes in fenestration at Pebble Cottage, Milestone Avenue

Council Comments on the following applications

- 213424 Application for the proposed erection of a single storey side/rear extension following demolition of existing garage and the erection of new first floor including the insertion of 3no. rooflights, following demolition of existing first floor at 11 Old Bath Road

The clerk was asked to comment as follows:

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

1. *This is the third application for an extension on this site, with the last one, 201314, also being dismissed at appeal. One of the main objections to the previous applications, upheld by*

the Planning Inspector, was that the proposal would be out of keeping with the neighbouring properties and would be of excessive bulk. This is still the case, particularly with the central gable, albeit a little more modest than the previous application. In addition, the Borough Design Guide states that extensions need to be subservient to the original building, and this is still not the case, despite two first floor dormer windows – it is still far removed from the chalet type that characterises the neighbouring properties. Consequently, this application is contrary to CP1 and CP3, as well as R23 of the Borough Design Guide.

2. The detrimental effect on the neighbouring properties is still of great concern. It is noted that there is no longer a flat roof on the boundary of 9, Old Bath Road, but the Planning Inspector suggests the greater concern is the breaching of the rear building line, leading to a sense of enclosure, where there is currently a sense of openness. This is also the case for No.15, where the property would be one metre from the boundary, rather than the current four; in fact, the gap will be less on the first floor as this is proposed to overhang the original ground floor. We feel many of the proposed changes to the application No. 203586 that was so roundly rejected by the Planning Inspector are trivial, and the objections still stand for this application.

213815

Application for the proposed erection of a part single, part two storey front extension, erection of a part single, part two-storey rear extension, insertion of 4 no. roof lights plus the addition of 3 no. 'Juliet' balconies to rear and associated roof alterations at Iffleigh, Park Lane

The clerk was asked to comment as follows:

Charvil Parish Council would like to object to this application for the following reasons:

1. The Front extension contravenes the building line as it is more than just a porch. Moreover, in the Borough Design Guide it states that garages should be at or behind the building line, and this extension will bring it forward of this by over a metre. There is also the issue of how this changes the general street scene. While many of the semi-detached properties on this road have extended over their garages, they have all done so in a subservient way, and so are consistent with the Borough Design Guide, and the existing side extension also fits this pattern.

However, the additional first floor extension is out of keeping with the rest of the street and creates a massing effect. This contravenes CP1.

2. The existing rear extension is built on the boundary, even though the plans suggest this is not the case. The further extension in this plan makes no allowance to move the new building inside the boundary, so it will be contravening the boundary even further, which is unacceptable in a semi-detached situation.

3. The proposed rear extension will be extended from 5.5metres to 8 metres on the ground floor and by six metres on the first floor. Given this is right on the boundary wall with the adjoining dwelling, there will be a loss of light into the bedroom and living room of the adjoining property. In addition, the proposed Juliet balconies so close to the boundary will impact of the privacy of the neighbouring property. There will also be a negative impact of the property to the south, to a lesser extent, because the rear extension will be right on their boundary as well, although it is acknowledged that the first floor is set back from their boundary by around a metre. This in in contravention of CP3.

4. Another concern is parking. The parking plan provided illustrates space for three cars, but with no reference to the garage. The existing layout allows for at least two cars to park easily; by moving the building line forward, it will become much harder to do so, and the proposed parking plan is very likely to lead to on-road parking, on a very busy road, and is sufficiently narrow that parked cars cause chaos. This property is close to the junction, and so poorly designed off-road parking as in this application is unacceptable.

214109 Application for the proposed erection of an infill front extension following demolition of the existing front porch and replacement columns at 14, Chiltern Drive

The clerk was asked to comment as follows:

1. The increased size of the porch, together with the change of material from predominantly glass to brick, and the change of columns to brick, are going to lead to an overbearing effect, and will also affect the light of the neighbouring properties. By building a bigger structure in front of the building line, it adversely affects the street scene, as it reduces the stagger of the original street line.

2. *Given that there are ongoing enforcement issues with previous applications, the Parish Council feels this application should not be determined until these other issues have been resolved.*

The following applications were approved by Wokingham Borough Council:

- 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
- 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
- 213329 Application for a certificate of lawfulness for the proposed erection of a single storey rear extension, including the insertion of 3no. roof lights, following demolition of existing conservatory at 34, The Hawthorns
- 212128 Application for the proposed conversion of existing dwelling to 3no. 1-bedroom self-contained flats and 1 studio self-contained flat, associated parking and amenity space, plus changes to fenestration. (Part Retrospective) at 36 Park View Drive South
- 213386 Application for the proposed erection of a first-floor rear extension with 1 no. Juliet balcony at Inglewood, Beggars Hill Road
- 213510 Application for the proposed erection of a single storey spa room attached to the converted double garage at Nikunj, Waingels Road

The following Application was withdrawn

- 213539 Householder application for the proposed erection of a two-storey front extension and first floor side extension, plus alterations to existing single storey roof at the side at Uplands, Park Lane.

The Following Applications were refused

- 211985 Full application for the proposed erection of 1no. 5 bedroom detached dwelling on land adjoining Lakeside, Waingels Road
- 213424 Application for the proposed erection of a single storey side/rear extension following demolition of existing garage and the erection of new first floor including the insertion of 3no. rooflights, following demolition of existing first floor at 11 Old Bath Road

213815 Application for the proposed erection of a part single, part two storey front extension, erection of a part single, part two storey rear extension, insertion of 4no. rooflights plus the addition of 3no. "Juliet" balconies to rear and associated roof alterations at Iffleigh, Park Lane

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

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Meetings of Charvil Parish Council 2022	
9 May 2022	Planning, Environment and Highways Meeting
16 May 2022	Amenities Committee Meeting
18 May 2022	Annual Parish Meeting
23 May 2022	Full Council Meeting
6 June 2022	Planning, Environment and Highways Meeting
13 June 2022	Amenities Committee Meeting
20 June 2022	Full Council Meeting
4 July 2022	Planning, Environment and Highways Meeting
11 July 2022	Amenities Committee Meeting
18 July	Full Council Meeting
8 August 2022	Planning and Finance
5 September 2022	Planning, Environment and Highways Meeting
12 September 2022	Amenities Committee Meeting
<p>MEETINGS COMMENCE AT 8 pm and are held in THE VILLAGE HALL, PARK LANE. RESIDENTS ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND THESE MEETINGS</p> <p>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
Matt Walker	Chair of Finance	07974 160846 mattwalker@charvil.com
Hilary Jones	Councillor	0777 5796362 hilaryjones@charvil.com
Narinder Ryatt	Councillor	07957 345652 narinderryatt@charvil.com
Rob Jones	Councillor	Robjones@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

BOROUGH COUNCILOR REPORT

It has been almost a year since I became councilor of Charvil, and it truly has been a whirlwind. It has been a joy and honour to meet and help so many of our fantastic residents. I look forward to meeting and working with many more of you as the year goes on. It genuinely has been an energetic start to the year, with lots happening and many positive initiatives introduced. I have included a breakdown below of some of the key areas I have been focusing on during the first quarter of this year.

Ukraine

This report would not be complete without mentioning the devastation of what is happening in Ukraine. I have been proud to witness our residents rally together in support, from offering their homes, collecting and donating supplies and raising money for the victims, our residents have shown great compassion and kindness.

Information for those wanting to help

Anybody with a spare room, rooms or vacant housing can register their interest to provide accommodation for Ukrainian refugees under the Government's Homes for Ukraine scheme. All the information and the registration form are available on the government website: <https://www.gov.uk/register-interest-homes-ukraine>

What else can be done to help?

With many local charities already overwhelmed with donations, we are recommending people who want to help donate money to the Disasters Emergency Committee's Ukrainian Appeal (<https://www.dec.org.uk/>). As Ukrainian refugees start to arrive in the borough in larger numbers, there may be a need for specific donations to local charities and the council will promote these and publicise as they are required.

The Tree Project

This past quarter, there have been some positive environmental changes in Charvil, with approximately 1,000 trees planted in Charvil Meadows as part of WBC's Tree Project. As part of the scheme, planting began in October 2021, and almost 15,000 trees have already been planted across the borough. Planting of the next season will begin in October 2022, if you have any ideas for specific locations, please do contact me via email.

In my last report, I informed residents of the Garden Forest Scheme, which invited residents to apply for trees or a tree, for their own garden. Across the borough, 850 residents expressed an interest, with almost 1,900 trees requested. Due to the popularity of the scheme, the council anticipates opening an additional round of applications later this year. More information on The Tree Project can be found on the Engage Wokingham Borough page, link here: <https://engage.wokingham.gov.uk/en-GB/folders/the-tree-project>.

Protecting our hedgehogs

Thanks to some of our amazing residents, Charvil is fast beginning to have a thriving hedgehog population. By checking out the Big Hedgehog Map - <https://bighedgehogmap.org/>, we can see that the hedgehog population in our village is beginning to flourish. In the last month, multiple hedgehog warning signs have been installed across Charvil. We are hoping these signs will increase driver awareness to Charvil's thriving hedgehog population and allow Charvil to become a true sanctuary for hedgehogs. I would like to thank each and every resident who applied for the signs and demonstrated support for Charvil's hedgehogs!

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 charvilmatters@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 Easter and Spring break. If you would like to get in touch with me regarding any local issues, my e-mail address is sam.akhtar@wokingham.gov.uk.

🌸 Bloom Baby Classes - every Thursday during term time at the Charvil Pavilion 🌸

🌐 International, 🏆 multi award-winning 🧒 (What's On 4 Kids Awards 2019, 2020 & 2021) multi-sensory baby classes.

There is never a dull moment in a Bloom session! Our sessions are packed full of a range of back to back activities to encourage baby's physical, emotional, cognitive and social development so your little one is constantly learning throughout, with a different theme each week!. Suitable from newborn to walking age.

🐣🐣

Class timetable:
🐣 (6months - walking) 10am
🐣 (0-6months) 11:15am
🐣 (6months - walking) 12:30pm

Booking is now open for our next term (🐣 Spring 2 (May Term 🐣) which starts the week commencing 25th April! Book now to see why we were awarded the UK's best loved baby activity! ❤️❤️

Visit www.bookwhen.com/bloomreadingnorth to book your place now!

For further information please email saraj@bloomreadingnorth

Social media: @bloomreadingnorth



NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING TEAM UPDATE

Spring into action and protect your shed, garage and garden buildings from theft.

The 15-20 minutes you spend on the school run or popping out to the shops is all a thief needs to break-in to your property.

The top five items stolen from sheds are:

1. Bikes
2. Mowers
3. Sports equipment
4. Power tools
5. Garden tools

Please consider these crime prevention tips to protect your shed, garage and garden buildings this Spring:

- Never leave doors unlocked when you are not around
- If you have a detached garage in a block, consider fitting additional security locks to the door to reduce the risk of offenders prising it open
- Check whether your home insurance covers the contents from theft
- Remove valuable equipment like laptops from outbuildings used as offices
- Use strong padlocks on doors with no exposed screws and pay attention to hinges, which can be easily removed
- Consider securing windows with wire mesh or grills
- Alarm it - there are systems on the market for all budgets
- Security mark and register tools and other items so they can be identified at www.immobilise.com
- Lock your tools inside a locker or box or secure them with a chain
- Secure bikes to the ground or a lockable stand and drape an old sheet or blanket over them to keep them covered from view
- Consider installing CCTV (closed circuit television). Some systems can be accessed remotely via the internet or smart phone. Ensure you check privacy laws when installing CCTV systems
- Thorny or prickly plants can be a deterrent in strategic positions, such as underneath windows or below walls and fences
- Ensure hedges and shrubs are trimmed back to prevent areas intruders could hide or observe you. Crunchy gravel is also good for paths or areas around outbuildings

#DontMakItEasy



Please contact us if you have any information relating to crime, suspicious vehicles or activity in your neighbourhood. Report online at www.thamesvalley.police.uk, call 101 or in an emergency 999. Alternatively, call Crimestoppers anonymously on free phone 0800 555 111.

Receive free crime and information updates by registering for Thames Valley Alerts at www.thamesvalleyalert.co.uk Consider joining a local Neighbourhood Watch scheme - visit www.ourwatch.org.uk for more information.

You can contact your local neighbourhood team via: WokinghamNHPT@thamesvalley.police.uk - please note this address cannot be used to report crimes or for any urgent matters. Follow us on social media to find out what your local policing teams are up to - Facebook: TVP Bracknell & Wokingham / Twitter: @TVP_Wokingham

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A colorful poster for 'Caterpillar Club'. It features a large, stylized caterpillar in the center, surrounded by various insects like butterflies and bees, and flowers. The text 'Caterpillar Club' is prominently displayed in a large, playful font. Below it, the text reads: 'For under 5s and their parents/carers', 'Wednesdays during school term time, 9.45-11.30am', and '@ Charvil Village Hall'. At the bottom, it says 'play - chat - snacks - story - singing'. The background is a light green with a subtle pattern of leaves and flowers.

THE NEW PAVILION FOR CHARVIL – YOUR CHANCE TO GET INVOLVED

As many of you will already know, the present pavilion at East Park Farm (EPF) is, quite literally, falling apart and a replacement is needed urgently.

Charvil Parish Council (CPC) has funding from the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) which developers must contribute to support the area where new houses are built. This must be spent or we will lose it. We think these funds should go to redevelop the pavilion to benefit everyone. There are many options on what we can build, from a straight replacement to more extensive schemes, and we are looking into grants from public bodies and charities as well as loans if the community wants more ambitious facilities. The Council sees this as an opportunity that won't come along often so we must make the most of it.

Last year we set out some options, at the Annual Parish meeting in May and at the fete in September and your opinions from those occasions have been included in the scope of facilities the Council have agreed. However, we would like a lot more input please, as this is essentially your money which will be used to fund the project.

So far, we are considering providing the following in the building:

- Changing rooms to accommodate 4 teams and separate facilities for referees
- A large space for group meetings and activities
- Space for a pre-school
- Small kitchen facilities for users of 2 and 3
- A café space with separate kitchen facilities.
- Lots of storage.
- Toilet facilities for users of the pavilion

Of course, at this stage, we cannot guarantee that all of the above will be included in the final design.

We need your help to get it right for Charvil!

Do you have any expertise that CPC could draw on, or time to get actively involved in the pavilion project?

Please get in touch –email clerk@charvil.com

We have narrowed down the sites for the new building to two possibilities:

- 1) the current position or
- 2) the site of the tennis courts.

If the latter is chosen, then the courts would need to be re-sited to be on or near the present pavilion site.

In order to have enough information to make a choice between the two sites, as well as more residents' input, we need some hard facts about the technical possibilities of building in either site and the likely costs involved. We have therefore put out to tender a contract for a feasibility study and have appointed Stanhope Wilkinson Associates to complete this part of the project. The firm has an excellent track record in designing and building many community buildings of a similar nature, including the one at Binfield, and is well used to designing sustainable, eco-friendly solutions

CPC intends to hold a public meeting in the near future (date not yet decided) before progressing further with this project.

Please watch out for a notice of this event and come along if you possibly can. If you wish to send any written comments, please address them to the Parish Clerk, Miranda Parker, at Charvil Village Hall, The Hawthorns, Charvil, Reading RG10 9TT

CHARVIL NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN: OPEN DAY 5TH FEBRUARY

Ever wondered how many dogs live in Charvil?



On Saturday 5th of February the Charvil Neighbourhood Plan committee took advantage of the easing of Covid restrictions to host its first face to face meeting. Close to 50 village residents took the opportunity to learn more about the progress of the plan and to have their say on issues of interest. The meeting took the

form of a presentations detailing the objectives of the plan, a progress update and sharing of some of the early residents survey results. There was also the chance to view a poster display of some of the survey results.

During the day people learnt that the residents survey received close to four hundred responses and a number of key themes have been identified from the initial analysis as areas for potential policies and plans these were:

Green Space

Public space protect existing/providing new

Traffic & Transport

Traffic noise and pollution, sustainable transport options

Community Hub-Community Engagement

Centre for a community, events, linking north and south portions of the village

Housing

How much and where, sustainable (eco housing)

Additionally, at the meeting concerns were raised specifically on the risk of flooding in parts of the village and this has now been added as a further area of focus.

The next step for the plan will be the completion of the analysis of the survey in the coming weeks and then these will then be shared for review and comment with residents. Then we will see the formation of small focus groups on the key topics, these groups will look to turn the feedback and ideas from residents into actionable policies and plans, essentially creating the Neighbourhood Plan.

To help the committee in doing this we require people to get involved in this next critical phase. This can vary from joining the committee, inputting to a specific working group or asking to be consulted on a particular focus area no matter how little time you have there is a way you can get involved. Charvil residents who are interested in finding out more can contact the parish clerk Miranda Parker by emailing Miranda.Parker@Charvil.com

Oh yes and how many dogs live in Charvil, well analysis of the replies in the residents survey suggests about 320....



ALL THINGS TREES

The Queen's Green Canopy

A big Thank You to the volunteers who have helped to plant fifty trees as part of the Queen's Green Canopy project. These can be found at St Patrick's Recreation Ground, Chiltern Drive, and around the area of East Park Farm managed by the Parish Council – look for the protectors and the wood chip mulch! If you visit <https://queensgreencanopy.org/map-education-hub/ggc-map/#>, you will be able to find the virtual plaques for these plantings.

If anyone would like to help water these trees in dry periods, please get in touch.

We hope to be able to plant another twenty in the autumn, one for each year of Her Majesty's reign. If anyone would like to sponsor these, or get involved with the planting next Winter, we would love to hear from you – simply drop the clerk a line at clerk@charvil.com.

Charvil Community Orchard

As I write, the first six trees in the park at The Hawthorns are just about to burst into life. Some look like they will produce blossom this year, but we are advised not to let them set fruit until the third year, to allow them to get established first. We are putting together a team of people to water them in dry periods and will be looking for volunteers to learn about pruning and such like.



We would like to start thinking about planting the next six trees this autumn, so if there were other people who would like to sponsor a tree, we would love to hear from you – again, please contact the clerk on clerk@charvil.com. To give an idea of cost, each sponsor paid £52 last year.

Wildlife Area and Conservation in the Hawthorns Park

Conserve Reading on Wednesdays (CRoW) have completed two sessions at the park, clearing brambles, pruning trees, and planting some hazels (see below). Thank you to those residents who have been working with them.

There is a further session on **Wednesday 1st June at 10am**, when they will be using some of the wood to act as a barrier to allow the development of a wildlife area – if you are free, just come along.

Jubilee Family Treasure Hunt



COME AND JOIN THE FUN!

We are planning a family friendly treasure hunt for you to take part in over the jubilee weekend.

This will involve fun clues pointing you to places around the village getting you out and about in hopefully nice weather. Some locations will also reveal questions

related to the Jubilee year. Your challenge is to complete the hunt in the fastest time possible and answer as many questions as possible with a prize being awarded to the winning team.

We will publish the questions on the Friends of Charvil Facebook page and Parish Council website in due course so you'll be able to print them off and do the hunt in your own time over the weekend



Thinking of celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee with a street party celebration?

Wokingham Borough Council has set up an easy way for people to apply for a road closure so they can hold a street party to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee this summer – and closures agreed will be free of charge.

Residents and community groups normally have to pay to cover the cost of road closures (for the signs, diversion routes and admin needed) but the council is dropping this fee for the jubilee weekend of 2 to 5 June.

Applications can be made by completing a simple form on the Wokingham Council website: <https://wokingham.gov.uk/news-and-consultation/news-and-events/apply-for-a-platinum-jubilee-street-party/> Applications must still be made because major roads, bus routes and those that need to stay open for emergency services cannot be closed.



TENNIS IN CHARVIL

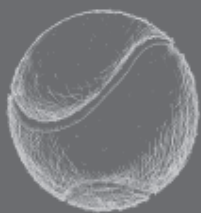
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CHARVIL VILLAGE LITTER PICK 2022



Thank you to all those who gave up their time to help with this year's village litter pick despite the threat of rain. There were 22 bags collected! One of our creative residents had even made his own litter picker from recycled materials as a lockdown project—well done Jason!

FLY TIPPING OF GARDEN/GREEN WASTE

We all know fly-tipping is a criminal offence and one of the most irritating common forms of anti-social behaviour. It blights our countryside, is a threat to livestock, wildlife, is a source of pollution and attracts other forms of anti-social behaviour and other enviro crime such as arson and littering.

As well as damaging our local environment it also undermines legitimate waste businesses where unscrupulous operators undercut those operating within the law.

What you may not know is that dumping garden/green waste is also officially fly-tipping and is on the increase, if you look around evidence can be found on verges and on public land in Charvil. We know that garden waste is biodegradable- eventually - but it is still classed as waste and it is still an offence to illegally dump it.

WHAT IS GREEN WASTE?

Green waste is plant-based organic material typically generated from garden maintenance, including lawn clippings, branches, palm fronds, leaves, plants, soil and mulch.

WHY IS DUMPING OF GREEN WASTE A PROBLEM?

Dumped green waste spreads weeds:

Green waste commonly contains seeds, weeds and exotic plants that can invade our natural areas if disposed of inappropriately. These plants compete with our native plants and degrade the quality of habitats, impacting on biodiversity.

Piles of green waste also directly smothers or suffocates small native plants and groundcovers, affecting wildlife that relies on native plants for food and shelter.

Dumped green waste increases fire hazard:

As green waste dries it creates a fire hazard that risks neighbouring properties, infrastructure and the environment. Piles of green waste increase fuel loads during bushfires, risking impact to native vegetation and creating embers that may spark bushfires elsewhere.

Dumped green waste impacts our waterways:

Green waste dumped in creeks or stormwater drains washes into our waterways and impacts water quality.

As the organic material breaks down it absorbs oxygen and releases nutrients which can choke fish and cause toxic algae blooms. Material dumped in these areas also clogs stormwater drains and may contribute to localised flooding.

Dumping of waste soil also impacts our waterways by reducing water flow and increasing turbidity. This smothers aquatic organisms and blocks sunlight needed for plant growth.

Dumped green waste impacts our community:

Piles of green waste are unsightly and impact upon the amenity values of our natural areas. Material can also serve as breeding ground for rats and mice, creating vermin issues for neighbouring properties. There are also costs associated with the removal of dumped green waste.

DUMPING GREEN WASTE IS ILLEGAL

Dumping of green waste is considered illegal under the Waste Reduction and Recycling Act 2011 and offenders may face significant penalties. Releasing a prescribed contaminant, which includes bark, lawn clippings, leaves, mulch and pruning waste, is also an offence under the Environmental Protection Act 1994.

If you see anyone disposing of green waste inappropriately, you can report it in the following ways:

Online at <https://www.wokingham.gov.uk/roadworks-and-outdoor-maintenance/fly-tipping/>

Telephone: (0118) 9746000

Email: customerservices@wokingham.gov.uk or asb@wokingham.gov.uk

HOW CAN YOU DISPOSE OF YOUR GREEN WASTE APPROPRIATELY?

Disposing of green waste appropriately is a positive step towards reducing our impact on the environment and we recognise many people are disposing of their garden waste properly and legally and therefore thank you for your consideration and co-operation.

Consider recycling your green waste by leaving grass clippings on your lawn, using them as mulch on garden beds or by composting. Remember to cover your compost heap to prevent vermin and the dispersal of seeds.



Alternatively, dispose of your green waste at one of the RE3 Recycling Centres (Longshot Lane in Bracknell or Smallmead Recycling in Reading). Telephone 0800 988 3023 or via website: <https://re3.fccenvironment.co.uk>

If your garden generates a lot of green waste, consider subscribing to the chargeable fortnightly garden waste collection service provided by Wokingham Borough Council, perhaps you could share the service with your neighbours. If you do not wish to opt into the garden waste scheme, another alternative would be to use the 75 litre compostable garden waste sacks again these can be purchased directly from Wokingham Council.



Please do not dispose of green waste in your general waste bin or recycling bins, tossing over the back fence, leaving on public land or dumping in a natural area.

CATERPILLAR CLUB

We have been enjoying a thriving Caterpillar Club this term, and with a committed team running the group it has been great to see new faces, connections being made and friendships built. We welcome parents and carers and their children 0-5 years of age to Caterpillar Club on Wednesdays (term time only) from 9.45-11.30am at Charvil Village Hall. 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, the summer term will start on 27th April 2022. Any updates or for further information find us on www.facebook.com/groups/CharvilCaterpillarClub.

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SONNING CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

We have enjoyed a number of events to celebrate our school Values Day this week demonstrate our school values of love, respect, courage, curiosity and aspiration. A huge thank you to all the staff including Padma Knowles (parent), Westy (Youth Minister), Simon Thomas (past parent) and in particular, Rachel Argent (school governor) who spent the morning making smoothies with Years 3 and 4 where they had to show courage and curiosity to use ingredients like kale, spinach, prunes and beetroot. They learnt that it's worth trying something new, as you may be surprised and like it! for working with the children. As Lent is also a time of reflection in the Christian faith, this week has been a great time to stop and think about our school values and to consider how to put them into practice so that we can build strong foundations for the years ahead. Our school and personal values will help us to weather any storm in our lives.

KS1 brought in shoe boxes to decorate with photos of themselves and the things they like. The boxes then held photos and items that were special to them. Year 2 brought in yogurt pots and string to make parachutes.

KS2 brought in magazines that contained topics that the children liked. They cut the pictures out to make a vision board.

Matthew 7: 24-25 24 "Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. 25 The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock.



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 have weathered the winter dark nights with some interesting activities, hikes, and outdoor cooking. As we move into the lighter nights we look forward to much more adventurous challenges on the water, climbing & most exciting of all 3 major camps are in process of final planning.

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 either as a helper on a night or with the committee with administration needs. We are a large group with lots of support for new helpers and leaders.

Have a great Easter from 1st Charvil Scout Group



WOKINGHAM COUNTRYSIDE SERVICES

On the 16th February, Wokingham Borough Council, Countryside Service planted 200 metres of new mixed native hedgerow at Charvil Meadows. The 800 native trees which included, hazel, hawthorn, dog rose, spindleberry, and field maple, were planted by Dinton Pastures Wednesday Volunteer group. In a few years' time, once the hedgerow has become established. The group will lay the hedge using hazel stakes and binders coppiced from nearby woodlands, including Sandford Copse.



Hedgerows are an important wildlife habitat, supporting a large diversity of flora and fauna. They make a great shelter and their flowers, berries and nuts are a vital food source for invertebrates, birds and mammals. As well as providing food and shelter, hedges help species to move through our landscapes from one habitat patch to another.

POLEHAMPTON OPEN AIR SWIMMING POOL

Polehampton Junior School, Kibblewhite Crescent, Twyford
Polehampton Swimming Association, registered charity 309032

Polehampton Pool is re-opening on Saturday 7th May, 2022, 10am
Save the date!



Facilities include:-

- Fully tiled, heated 25m outdoor swimming pool in pleasant grounds, with heated showers, changing facilities, lockers and washrooms.
- Pool Toys and swim aids
- Swimming sessions for all ages and abilities – see timetable
- Access to children's swimming lessons
- Private hire and children's pool parties
- Well equipped kitchen area with tea and coffee facilities and fridge

Family membership still only £45 for the season!

How you can get involved

The pool is run by a small committee along with volunteers from the local community and we need your help! You are never too old or too young to get involved. No specialised knowledge is needed as full training will be given. Volunteer opportunities are varied and include manning the reception desk, gardening, maintenance, tuck shop, supervision and water monitoring. If you would like to get involved, please contact the chairperson, Sharon Searle, on 07765 842323.

How to join

For further details and instructions on how to sign up, please visit our Website:- www.psaswimming.co.uk and click on the orange button 'Join us/ Renew' to register. You can also follow *Polehampton Swimming Association* on Facebook, where you will find up-to-date news and a link to our booking system.

Our swimming sessions – please retain timetable for future use

The pool is open outside of school hours and there are a range of sessions to suit all ages. Please note that Family swim sessions change to the earlier time of 2pm–4pm during school holidays. All sessions are subject to adequate supervision.

TIME	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	CONTACT
6.00 - 8.00	6.30-8.00 Early Bird	POOL CLOSED	6.30-8.00 Early Bird		6.30-8.00 Early Bird		Ilker 07879430336
8.00 - 10.00							
10.00 - 12.00						Family Swim	Sharon 07765842323
12.00 - 14.00							
14.00 - 16.00	<i>Holiday Family Swim</i>		<i>Holiday Family Swim</i>	<i>Holiday Family Swim</i>	<i>Holiday Family Swim</i>		Emma 07582847650
16.00- 18.00	Family Swim		Family Swim	Family Swim	Family Swim		Emma 07582847650
18.00 - 19.00			Teen Lane Swim				Peter 01189340129
19.00 - 20.00	Adult Lane Swim		Adult Lane Swim	Adult Lane Swim			Sharon 07765842323

We look forward to seeing you soon!

The Polehampton Swimming Association Committee

CHARVIL ART GROUP CELEBRATES 50 YEARS



Back in 1972, The Charvil Art Group was founded by local artists from the surrounding area in a weekly fun, social format.

With annual exhibitions, artists workshops and demos, the group has gone from strength to strength.

This year we will celebrate our 50th Anniversary with special events throughout the year.

The Charvil Art Group is a friendly, local group meeting weekly during three terms to share a common interest in painting and drawing.

We meet up at Charvil Village hall on Wednesdays at 7:30pm and follow a program of themes to work from.

We welcome new members and offer a free taster session.

For more information visit <https://charvilartgroup.co.uk/>

THE PROJECT SINGERS

On Saturday, 26th March the choir held their first concert at Norden Farm Centre for the Arts, Maidenhead. The theme for our first project was 'A night at the movies'. We included songs from films including Grease, Fame, Yentl, La la land and Avatar. The choir finished the evening with a medley from 'The sound of music'. We were joined by a string ensemble from Crosfields School. It was a really lovely evening of music.

Our second project is 'Let's Sing!' - we will be working on some great songs all about what we love doing – singing! The project will end with a concert on July 3rd at St Mary's Church, Twyford. We have a few spaces for new members so if you would like to join us please get in touch. We have a section for girls between the ages of 10 and 18 who rehearse at Charvil Hall on Sundays between 6.15 and 7.45pm. We also have a section for ladies who rehearse on Mondays between 8.00 and 9.30pm.



Suzanne Newman

0118 9340589 / suzanneynewman@btinternet.com

SONNING FLORAL ARRANGEMENT SOCIETY

The Sonning Floral Arrangement Society are happily meeting up again on the second Thursday of each month at The Charvil Village Hall, The Hawthorns, Charvil, RG10 9RT. For the next three months we are to be entertained by three excellent Demonstrators: April 14th Erica Cunningham, May 12th Lorraine Saunders and June 9th Kate Thomas. We welcome visitors to join us for £6 per meeting, which includes a nice cup of tea to finish off the afternoon. Our meetings commence 2.00 pm prompt.

We are thankful to our members for staying loyal through the past two years where we have had to cancel various meeting as a result of Covid. However, we will remain as cautious as necessary.

TWYFORD AND RUSCOMBE HORTICULTURAL ASSOCIATION

The Twyford and Ruscombe Horticultural Association held their Spring Show for the first time for two years on 26th March. Although it was smaller than the shows of the past, the event went well. The beautiful weather meant that teas could be taken on the terrace and an enjoyable afternoon was had by all.

A proportion of the entries were judged by the visitors. This idea proved a success and will be continued at the Summer and Autumn Shows.

The Summer Show will be held at Loddon Hall Twyford, RG10 9JA on Saturday, 11th June 2022. Details are in the TRHA Show Schedule, and on the website, so please get your entries ready.

Prior to that there will be a willow stripping experience at the TRHA Store in Loddon Hall Road on Sunday 1st May 2022. All members and their families will be welcome.

On Sunday 29th May 2022 a Bring and Buy Plant Sale will be held at the Store. This is a chance to share your cuttings and seedlings and, perhaps, find something new for your garden.

The Store is well stocked for all your horticultural needs and you can get advice from the knowledgeable volunteers. Annual household membership is £8.00 per annum, or £7.00 for those over 65. Apply at the store, or email Jenny Wager at trhamembership@gmail.com.

A Newsletter, with information on the Association's activities, as well as topical tips, is published monthly. Paper copies are distributed to those members who cannot receive it electronically. Details of all activities of all activities can also be found on the TRHA website www.trha.org.uk.

MY WILDLIFE FRIENDLY GARDEN BY SARAH SWATRIDGE

We moved into one of the newish houses in Pipistrelle Way in October 2015. The garden was enclosed on three sides by laurels and there are trees (belonging to our neighbour in Strathmore Drive) at the rear.

Since then, we have removed the laurels at the back and planted bushes chosen to attract birds and added lots of flowers such as lavender which the bees love. I've noticed an increase in butterflies over the last couple of years and this year I shall take part in the summer survey. So far this year, I've only seen a, bright yellow, male Brimstone butterfly.

I discovered in May 2020 that we had hedgehogs and since then I have been encouraging them. Both side fences have gaps for hedgehogs so they can safely move from garden to garden, avoiding busy roads. I have leaf piles which encourage a variety of insects and since I now regularly feed hedgehogs from roughly March to November, depending on the weather, I also have a hedgehog house tucked away.



Each year my husband and I take part in the RSPB bird watch in January and, I'm pleased to say, each year we get more birds and a wider variety now that we've added a variety of feeders, a birdbath, two different types of birdboxes and planted shrubs with berries. It is still a work in progress but we now regularly get a thrush, chaffinches, a Great spotted woodpecker, both a male and a female Lesser Spotted woodpeckers, 4 regular starlings, male and female blackbirds, a dunnoek, bluetits, great tits, coal tits, a robin, pigeons and collard doves, once a Goldcrest, a wren, very occasionally a nuthatch, and magpies.

In addition, we see, and hear, the Red Kites, the noisy Parakeets, the geese and now and again, an owl.

Each summer we get Common Pipistrelle bats, but also Soprano Pipistrelles and Noctule bats. I've now bought a bat detector and hope to walk around the lakes at dusk to see what other species can be spotted.

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CARETAKER REQUIRED

Charvil Parish Council is responsible for the provision and maintenance of certain facilities within the parish, including playing fields, leisure facilities, the Village Hall, the Pavilion at East Park Farm, rights of way, bus shelters, public seats, notice boards and some street lighting.

The Council wish to appoint a Caretaker for the Village Hall and the East Park Farm Pavilion who will be working mainly at weekends and evenings, supporting the other Council staff as required.

Key Tasks

- To open and lock up the hall and pavilion at weekends, including evenings
- To be on call for evening parties with one month's notice
- To carry out minor maintenance tasks as needed and to report any other faults as required
- To erect and dismantle the stage as necessary
- To check alarms and fire extinguishers each month
- To conduct the weekly run-offs for the legionella's checks in the summer

A full job description will be available on request from the clerk

Other information

There is a need to be flexible in this role as the hours required each week will depend on bookings; however, it is envisaged that the role will require between 6 and 8 hours per week.

This is a key role which helps to ensure the Community buildings in Charvil are maintained in the best possible condition, and that our service to the Community is first class. We are proud of Charvil and hope to recruit someone who will enjoy being part of the team which makes this happen.

Rate of pay will be £10.21 per hour.

If you are interested, please contact Miranda Parker at clerk@charvil.com

Closing date for applications is **Monday 9th May 2022**