

Cholsey Village Voice March 2015

Welcome!

Welcome to the second edition of Cholsey Village Voice (CVV), the new monthly newsletter from the Parish Council. The newsletter is available free from most shops and pubs, The Pavilion foyer, the library and The Great Hall. CVV can also be read on the Parish Council website in the News and Events section. If you have any short, topical articles that we could publish, please forward them to cholseypc.clerk@mediummail.co.uk

Gravel

Following the recent purchase of New Barn Farm by Grundon Parish Chair Mark Gray met their estates director, and senior planner.

The previous option in favour of Smiths, Bletchington has expired. The land (all 163 acres) continue to be farmed by the existing agricultural tenants. Grundon say they have no interest in acquiring adjoining land, which means that the site is rather smaller than we had previously expected.

Some trial boreholes have been undertaken, and they consider that the gravel IS of good quality, and of uniform spread, although running to silt at the southern end of the site. The gravel is 20 mm or less, which means that no crushing or mixing will be required and the strata is 5/6 metres deep.

Grundon's declared intention is to make a planning application for extraction within 12 to 18 months. It is likely that the County will resist this approach as it will undermine the new Local Plan for Minerals which is currently being worked on. There will be a quiet period now whilst they work on their planning application, carrying out all the required surveys, and consultations.

They were at pains to emphasise that they are operating on their home patch here, and are very conscious of the need to keep up local consultation.

Their standard extraction process involves working areas of five or six acres at any one time, with restoration of that area, when worked, before moving onto an adjacent similar working area. Grundon will be willing to attend parish council meetings, and to hold exhibitions, but would avoid an open public meeting, as they consider them to be counter-productive. They have also offered to

take people to nearby pits that they currently operate.

Mark Gray asked about the type of recompense or benefit which might be derived by the local communities, but they gave very limited examples of previous commitments elsewhere. If Grundon are successful in their application – which is very far from being a “done deal” – the Parish Council will strive to ensure that the maximum community benefit is procured.

Mark emphasised that the Parish Council and CAGE would be leading the objections to their application, which they understood. Of particular concern is the possibility that Grundon could overcome local opposition and then sell out to a larger concern which would ride rough shod over local opinion.

Cycle Path Consultation



For some time now the Parish Council has been working with OCC to deliver a cycle path along the Wallingford Road. There is a small amount of money available - in roads terms – and it seems that there is little realistic prospect of this being added to in the future.

Given this scenario our suggestion is that we maximise the width of the existing footpath, fully resurface it and make it dual use. This will benefit both cyclists and pedestrians.

Before we press on with this scheme we want to know what you think and to that end a Public Consultation session has been arranged in The Pavilion on Friday 20th March 3 to 8pm and Saturday 21st March 10am to 1pm.

Consecration of New Cemetery

On Friday 20th February our new cemetery extensions were consecrated by the Bishop of Dorchester and will soon be in use for burials and interments. The new areas include an un-consecrated space for atheists and people not of the Christian religion.

Local Plan 2031 Consultation and Linden Homes

The District Council has reached the next stage in its consultation on sites for the 128 new houses to be built in the village.

The sites that have been selected as potential sites are East End Farm, Celsea Place and the large field between Celsea Place and the Reading Road.

A Public Consultation session has been arranged in The Pavilion on Friday 20th March 3 to 8pm and Saturday 21st March 10am to 1pm for residents to comment on these sites.

The SODC site allocations document is available on the Parish Council website in the News and Events section.

Cholsey Parish Council opposed the imposition of these houses as we are still adjusting to the 350 new homes at Fair Mile, but the district council prevailed and our village will have to take them. They are also concerned that the government is forcing the county to take a further 40,000 new homes, which might well lead to further building in our village.

At the same time that this is going on Linden Homes have put in a speculative bid to build 61 new homes at Celsea Place. The Parish Council is resisting this application.

Community transport



The Transport Group are looking at proposals to provide a community minibus.

Whilst discussions are at an early stage it is hoped that the bus might be used to transport children to and from school as well as being available for use by community groups.

Grants for Village Organisations

Are you a village organisation looking for a grant? Recent grants from the Parish Council have gone to: the community car scheme (£200), Cholsey and Wallingford Concert Band (£150), Cholsey Primary Forest School (£150), Home Start South Oxon (£200), The British Legion (£50), Cholsey Toddlers (£150) and South & Vale Carers (£150).

Apply to cholseypc.clerk@mediummail.co.uk

Don't Forget!

COPA

A support and advice group for older people has been established by a group of local residents. The group COPA - Cholsey Older Peoples Advice – will be available on Saturday mornings at The Pavilion to give help and advice on a wide range of topics from benefits to making a will.

In time the group hope to become part of the Age UK Community Information Network.

COPA volunteers will be available from 10am to 12pm

Fix my Street

If you spot a pot hole or other roads issue that you think needs to be dealt with please go direct to the Fix My Street website.

You can identify the area on an OS map, attach a brief description and send your report straight to County Highways.

Alternatively you can contact the Highways Department direct on 08453 101 111

Club "H"

From Monday to Thursday evening our Youth Worker, Jacob, runs sessions to enable secondary school age pupils to complete their homework. The sessions take place in the library and run from 4 to 5.30pm.

If you would like your son or daughter to take part either encourage them to go along to the library or contact Jacob on 07765 976165.

Job Vacancies

Temporary (Maternity leave cover) for Estate Manager

Mid May 2015-March 2016

Please contact the Parish Office for more information T: 01491 652255 or Email cholseypc.clerk@mediummail.co.uk

Street Cleaner/Lollipop Person

Cholsey Parish Council is seeking to appoint a Street Cleaner/ Lollipop Person for 14.5 hours per week.

Please contact the Parish Office for more information T: 01491 652255 or Email: cholseypc.clerk@mediummail.co.uk