

CHESTERTON VILLAGE FLYER – JULY/AUG '20

As more and more people return to work, life quickly appears to be returning to some sort of normal. For some, however, isolating or shielding at home is still recommended or necessary and we do all need to bear this in mind. If you are still unable to get out and about please don't feel alone or forgotten. ***Our willing team of village volunteers is still there to help you. Just call 07889 385100.*** Massive, heartfelt thanks go to everyone in the village who stepped up to help others during the lockdown period and beyond. We have had an unbelievably strong response to our call for support, and it was truly heart-warming to see the village pulling together to help others in times of need. Long may this continue!

Caring in a Crisis: Shielding the Vulnerable – for advice on a range of issues call 01865 897820 or email shield@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Good Neighbour Schemes in Oxfordshire: There are more than 50 of these local voluntary groups in Oxfordshire, offering a service in their local community for older, vulnerable and isolated people in need of a little help and support. They can assist with essential transport, befriending and practical tasks such as shopping, gardening and small DIY jobs. If you or someone you know could benefit from this service, please contact their Volunteer Link-UP on 01993 776277 or email oxfordshiregns@hotmail.co.uk.

Chairman's Report

The Parish Council continues to be very active during this lockdown period. Following the attempted incursion of travellers on to the playing fields and undesirable evening activities in and around the village, we are urgently examining a variety of necessary security measures and possible grant aid which will be required to cover these significantly extensive costs. A Covid-19 grant has been secured to enable the Red Cow bus shelter to be converted to a weatherproof exchange/free library to continue its current use post-Covid-19. We are assured an OCC consultation exercise will soon be under way with residents of Alchester Road and Orchard Rise over the worsening parking issues due to the school expansion, and we continue to relentlessly pursue the missing Audley Gardens footpath across the allotments with Taylor Wimpey and OCC, with the continued help of Cllr Ian Corkin. In addition the Parish Council have had further meetings with OCC Highways over speed reductions on The Hale, Green Lane & Alchester Road, on which progress is being made and the disabled bays are now painted on Orchard Rise. We are also part of a group of villages on the A4095 which will be campaigning for changes on this route, due to the increase in HGV and general traffic we are witnessing. The gypsy site off the A4095 is under construction – the Parish Council objected strongly to this on several occasions and spoke at the Planning Inspectorate hearing to register our objections once again, alongside the legal representation by Cherwell District Council who had refused the application. However, the Planning Inspector found in favour of the applicants & overturned the decision of the local Council.

Philip Clarke (Chair) chair@chestertonparishcouncil.org.uk

Community Centre Re-Opening: An extensive risk assessments has been undertaken with regard to the re-opening of the Community Centre, and appropriate Covid-19 measures for revised usage are being put in place. However, the deteriorating hall floor is currently being investigated by the original builders, with a view to it being replaced prior to the facilities being opened for use once again. We will keep you posted on progress.

Play Areas: The Geminus Road play areas and outdoor gym equipment must remain closed for now. In the interests of health and safety, we are complying with both government and our insurance company's recommendations that they undergo their annual health and safety check (due in July) prior to re-opening, as the equipment will not have been checked throughout lockdown. A risk assessment has also been undertaken and, when in a position to re-open, signs indicating the necessary Covid-19 revised rules of usage will be displayed. Please take the time to read them and explain the changes to your

children where necessary. The Audley Gardens play area currently remains the responsibility of Taylor Wimpey, but we have requested they put the necessary procedures in place as soon as safely possible.

Allotments: All plots are now taken. If you would like to join the waiting list, please contact 07889 385100. If you are considering giving up your allotment please inform the Allotment Committee on the above number as soon as possible.

Antisocial Behaviour: We are in communication with our PCSO Louise Beaumont, who cannot stress strongly enough the need for every resident to report each incident, no matter how small, so that they can form a more accurate picture of the nature and seriousness of the issues at hand, be it worrying gatherings, suspected drug use/dealing or whatever. This can be done by dialling 101, but preferably by making a report (anonymously if preferred) on the 'Thames Valley Police' website, where photographic/video evidence can also be submitted. The Parish Council has no policing powers, but please do keep us posted as we are keen to lend our support to serious issues being experienced by residents. There is also a 'slow-feed' email address bicesterruralnhpt@thamesvalley.pnn.police. However, this isn't checked on a daily basis and shouldn't be used as a primary or urgent source of contact.

Parish Councillor Vacancies: The Parish Council continues to feel the pressure of heavy workload as they remain two councillors short. Anyone interested in putting themselves forward would be very welcome to talk in the first instance to the Chairman, Clerk or other councillors. No experience is necessary, as training is available. For further details, please email the Clerk: clerk@chestertonparishcouncil.org.uk.

Boundary Maintenance: Could we please respectfully remind all residents whose boundaries front on to a public footpath that it is their responsibility to ensure their hedging and ground level shrubs are suitably maintained and cut back to allow safe passage for wheelchair or pushchair users and the visually impaired. Signage and streetlights must also be kept clear of growth at all times. Any situations not amicably resolved between residents should be reported online via Fix My Street. Unfortunately, CDC's involvement may result in charges being incurred for any necessary work they subsequently undertake.

Temporary Traffic Regulation Notices:

(T7897) 17-21st August, 24 hour road closure at Middleton Stoney B4030 – minor carriageway patching. Contact: Scott White, OCC on 0345 310 1111

(T8015) 12-15th October, 24 hour road closure at The Green, Chesterton – new water main connection. Limited access for emergency services and frontages within the closed section of road. Contact: Holly Crowdy, Thames Water on 02035 777745 or email Holly.Crowdy@thameswater.co.uk.

"The Lost Words Oxfordshire" Competition: A competition open for 7-10 and 11-14 year olds living in Oxfordshire, judged by author Robert Macfarlane himself! A collaboration between Oxford Poetry Library and The Lost Words Oxfordshire, this is an invitation to submit your own Lost Words spell, created using one of the Lost Words Activity Packs and to perhaps win a copy of The Lost Words, The Lost Spells or your own led Lost Words Workshop.

To enter: Choose and download one of the indicated free Activity Packs from The Oxford Poetry Library website (click on 'Projects' and then 'The Lost Words' to access details on the competition and activity packs) and follow the instructions on how to write and illustrate your own Lost Words spell! Entries can be scanned and emailed to thelostwordsoxfordshire@gmail.com, or posted to: The Lost Words Oxfordshire Competition, Flat 1, 242a Barns Place, Barns Road, Oxford OX4 3RQ. Don't forget to download and fill in the form to include with your submission. (Queries to the above email address). Closing date is 2nd November 2020, so children have all summer to get out into nature and get creative!

Jackie Williams, Clerk, Chesterton Parish Council

Tel: 07935 221885 Email: clerk@chestertonparishcouncil.org.uk