

Newsletter August 2023

Mini Food Bank at the Parish Centre – as you may be aware, we have a table in the Parish Centre which is usually full of dry goods and household products which residents can help themselves to. This is a valuable resource, and it is used on a daily basis, however our stocks are depleted. We would be very grateful of any donations of dried goods such as rice, pasta, tins, pasta sauce, tea, coffee, long-life milk, breakfast cereal, jam, squash etc. If you are able to donate any items then please drop them into the office, which is open Monday to Thursday 10am until 3pm.

GCC Questions - Following our last newsletter, we submitted questions to Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) concerning poor road conditions. We were very pleased to receive a full and detailed response. The questions and answers can be found on our website and Facebook page.

Highways Survey: Have your say – GCC are collecting feedback about the condition of the roads and streets in our area. It is important that as many surveys as possible are completed so that we can highlight Chalford as an area that needs attention. If you can spare a bit of time to complete the survey, it can be found online (link below) You can also follow the link directly from our website and Facebook page. The survey closes at midday 1st August 2023, https://haveyoursaygloucestershire.uk/engagementhq.com/local-roads-feedback-survey?fbclid=IwAR2En7gD7xbwgsPaQgb3kdHCYwnnH72GQVQizmrpyXL4W4bvp2Byzw1tC_Y

A419 re-surfacing – Great news! We are relieved that Highways will be re-surfacing the A419 from Stroud to Aston Down from 12th September until the end of the year. This is welcome news. The work will be carried out overnight to cause as little disruption as possible, running from 19.00 to 07.00 on most days. Advanced warning signs for specific locations will be put up nearer the time.

Boots – You may have heard in the press that Boots have announced that they are going to be closing around 300 branches across the UK. We understand that the decision as to which branches will close has already been made, with the announcement due imminently. The Parish Council discussed this issue at their last Full Council meeting and have, subsequently, written to Boots urging them not to close our local branch at Tanglewood Way. You can see the letter on our Facebook page. If the branch is closed the Parish Council is committed to do everything in its power to work closely with the relevant parties to secure ensure we continue to have a pharmacy within the Parish. The Parish Council also intend to contact the local MP Siobhan Ballie, Bisley and Lypiatt Parish Council, Councillor Martin Brown and work with the District and County Councillors to raise awareness of the issue.

World Jungle Go wild play session – On August 17th we are holding a play session at Bussage playing field from 10am until 12.30pm. This play session is free of charge, all ages are welcome to join in with circus skills, giant bubbles, arts and crafts, sports and games.

Footpaths – Back to Basics - The Footpath Volunteers started out in Spring 2017 clearing overgrown Public Rights of Way (PRoW) and improving muddy surfaces. Since then, we've branched out into dry stone walling, installing kissing gates, and improving the accessibility of playing field entrances. The last few weeks have seen us focus on clearing PRoW of encroaching vegetation – recent weather seems to have encouraged luxuriant growth. We'll be getting back to our wider range of tasks as growth slows, and the Volunteer holiday season is over.

Tree Work – We have recently had to fell 3 Ash trees from the footpath near to Bussage Primary School as they were suffering from Ash Dieback Disease.

An aerial inspection of the CPC owned part of Frith Wood has been carried out. This has identified many Beech trees which have been suffering from squirrel damage. Work to these trees is required for safety purposes. This is the nature of British woodland, and damage caused by squirrels is an ongoing problem. We will therefore be erecting permanent signs within the PC owned area of the wood and at the entrances, to advise people of the danger of falling branches, especially during high winds. We kindly request that people refrain from feeding the squirrels to assist in this matter.

Become a Councillor – Interested? Do you have an interest in your local community? Do you want to make a difference to where you live? The role of a Councillor can be very interesting and rewarding! We currently have three vacancies, one in Hill and two in Bussage. If you are interested in joining us, or you would like to find out more about what is involved, then please get in touch with the Clerks for more detail.

Stroud District Council are holding a **'Be a Councillor'** event on Wednesday 6th September 2023 in the Council Chamber at Ebley Mill at 6pm. The event promises to be a great opportunity for members of the public to understand and discover the role of a Councillor. Please email democratic.services@stroud.gov.uk to register your interest for the event, or more information, please call 01453 766321.

Our contact details are Chalford Parish Centre, 50 Gerald's Way, Chalford, Stroud, G16 8FJ. (01453) 887204 info@chalford-glos.gov.uk Please contact us if you have any questions, concerns or suggestions.