

July 2023

Welcome – There has been a lot of change at the Parish Council recently, and in June we welcomed our new Assistant Clerk Lucy McInroy to the team. Lucy lives in Chalford and will be working in the office supporting the Clerks from 10am until 1pm Monday to Thursday. Lucy will be looking after the administration of our three allotment sites, charity land and befriending service and much more! The list is quite extensive!

Allotments – would you like to grow your own fruit and vegetables? If so, our waiting lists are almost clear, so now is a great time to register your interest! Having an allotment is a cost effective way of meeting your “5 a day” and it’s a very social hobby! If you would like to find out more, please contact Lucy for further details. lucy@chalford-glos.gov.uk

Community Composting – ChalCANs Food and Waste Group are exploring this initiative for Chalford. There are many considerations, and your thoughts are needed! Hard copies of the survey are available in the Parish Office.

Food – Our ‘Freezer of Love’ is regularly replenished with tasty meals from The Long Table. These delicious meals are available for everyone, so if you or someone you know would like to try them out, please call in to the office. In addition to the freezer meals, we have a ‘mini food bank’ full of dried goods and household items. We rely heavily on residents’ generous donations to keep this offering running as well as using grant funding from Stroud District Council. Both the freezer and food bank can be found in the foyer at The Parish Office so please feel free to use this facility should you need to. Also, a big thank you for all the donations that are kindly brought in.

Chalfest – It is nearly that time of year again when we can party on the hill! Once again, Friday night is exclusively for Chalford residents and on Saturday it is open to all (who were quick enough to get a ticket!) so you can enjoy every aspect of the festival, including a fantastic range of food, lots of entertainment for children, local organisations, bars and of course some fantastic music acts. Our thanks as always goes to the organisers of Chalfest who work tirelessly behind the scenes to put on such a brilliant event.

Footpaths; Walling stone reuse - The wall between Middle Hill allotments and the path beside it is very dilapidated - in some places it is hard to tell there’s a wall at all. The cost of stone (£200 a tonne, and a tonne doesn’t go far) makes repairing the wall beyond the means of the Parish Council, even with free labour. So your Footpath Volunteers are recovering usable stone from the wall and repairing other Parish walls with it, starting by capping a wall by the side of France Lynch allotments. We’re clearing a short section of the Middle Hill wall at the moment, and will return to other sections when more stone is needed. The Middle Hill allotment wall will be replaced by a wild-life friendly hedge - ChalCAN Biodiversity will be advising us on what is best to plant.

Community Speed Watch Group – Would you like to help reduce speeding in the Parish? If so, we would love to hear from you. We want to get our Community Speed Watch Group up and running again but we need volunteers to help us succeed. This will involve setting up our vehicle activated sign around the parish and collating the data, using a speed gun (training to be provided). If this is something that you would like to get involved with, please get in touch.

Overgrown Hedges/Foliage – The hot and rainy weather is making everything grow rapidly! Please can we remind residents to suitably maintain trees/shrubs in gardens to ensure it doesn’t overhang the boundary and encroach onto footpaths. Foliage at head height can really impact on partially sighted people and footpaths must be kept clear for health and safety reasons; many thanks for your support.

Grass Cutting – At this time of year our groundsman is extremely busy grass cutting. This is always a hot topic of conversation and striking the balance between encouraging/protecting biodiversity and maintaining areas to residents' satisfaction can be a tricky task. As a result, we receive complaints and compliments relating to the cutting of various areas. We would like to assure residents that we work closely with ChalCAN's Biodiversity Group, and we consider our cutting regime very carefully, reviewing it as necessary on an ongoing basis. Our Grounds staff work under the instruction of The Council, we therefore politely request that you allow our Grounds staff to carry out their work without interruption. We thank you in advance for your co-operation.

Poor Road Conditions – We are working tirelessly behind the scenes, together with our District and County Cllr Chloe Turner to ensure we see an improvement to road conditions. We are submitting questions to be considered at the next County Council meeting. We hope gain commitment to improve road conditions and the efficacy of repairs. Further updates to follow...

Accounts 2022-2023 – the public inspection of our accounts runs from 30 June to 10 August 2023. If you would like a copy, please get in touch.

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.