

NEWSLETTER – MARCH 2020

A big thank you to Anthony Pilkington who has funded the purchase and planting of an Ulmus New Horizon tree which is completely resistant to Dutch Elm Disease. The tree was planted in France Lynch Pleasure Ground in January and it's to commemorate his company, BookCheck Ltd., 25th anniversary of operating in Chalford.



Tesco Express car park – at the time of writing, we must report that the broken/sunken drain has still not been fixed. We have received numerous promises from the management company that it is to be repaired. Both the Manager at Tesco and the Parish Council will continue to talk to the company to get this matter resolved.

Middle Hill Development – we are dissatisfied and disappointed with the response to our stage 1 complaint from Stroud District Council. We expressed concern at the way the development application was considered and will now be considering how we progress it to stage 2. There is a need to prevent further development on the green space between Manor Village and Chalford Hill in order to reclassify the conservation area. At present Chalford Hill and Chalford Vale, together with St Mary's, is all one area. We have been in consultation with SDC over the past two years to have this separated so that Chalford Hill has its own area. This would make Chalford Hill into the same tier as France Lynch and would go a long way to prevent further development. SDC have commented that there are arguments in favour of this. We will keep up the pressure on SDC.

Dog bin – we received a request for the installation of a dog bin near to the tow path. After meeting with the Stroud District Council Dog Warden, a suitable site was agreed and we are pleased to advise this is now installed and operational.

Footpaths – Progress on reclaiming Bussage footpath as a Public Right of Way - last April's footpath report was headed '*Good, but slow progress on reclaiming Bussage Footpath as a Public Right of Way*'. That should probably have said 'Very slow progress.' The path in question runs from Bussage Pleasure Ground towards Manor Village between Ashley Drive and Velhurst Drive. It is shown on old maps as a Public Right of Way (PROW), but some time in the 1960's or 1970's got missed off the definitive map held in Shire Hall. To make sure the path is recorded as a PROW for future generations we have had to submit evidence that the path has been freely used by the public for over twenty years. In November 2018, we submitted User Evidence Forms from twenty-two people, some of whom had used the path for fifty years. Those twenty-two people can be reassured that the evidence hasn't been lost or forgotten, though they could be forgiven for wondering. A recent enquiry to Shire Hall as to progress indicated 'consultations for this application will soon be starting.' Let's hope there are no hitches in these consultations and subsequent referral for approval.

France Lynch Pleasure Ground – Eibe, who are supplying and installing the new play equipment at this ground had hoped to install at the beginning of February. Due to the wet

weather, the ground was not in a condition to cope with vehicles so at the time of writing we are waiting for a revised date. The new play equipment will be fenced off to prevent dog fouling in the area. A plan showing the equipment to be installed is in the Parish Centre. The equipment has been funded from the National Lottery Community Fund, Gloucestershire County Council's Growing Our Communities Fund and a contribution from a new build via Stroud District Council.

Chalfest tickets – if you live in the area you are eligible for a community ticket but be warned they are only on sale for 6 weeks, commencing from 1 February which means the deadline is 14 March. You will need to purchase them online through The Ticket Fairy or if you do not have access to the internet, don't worry you can reserve tickets by visiting Chalford Parish Council and complete a form. General tickets for those living outside of the area sold out pretty quickly but from 15 March, you may be able to get some when they launch their resale of tickets.

Parking – this issue was mentioned last month but we feel it warrants a further comment as we are receiving a great deal of complaints/concerns. Our grassed areas are suffering badly from the wet weather and verges are very damaged due to the parking of vehicles. We would also ask drivers to park considerately and avoid parking on pavements. Not only can it be an offence and perpetrators could be fined but it is inconsiderate. Please remember that pushchairs and wheelchairs need to access the pavement safely.

Why Not Come Along to a Meeting?

All our council meetings are open to the public and you are very welcome to come and view a Full Council Meeting in action. You can see the full schedule of forthcoming meetings on our website. Our next Full Council Meeting will be held on Thursday, 5 March 2020 at 7.00 pm. Please contact the Clerk beforehand to let her know if you would like to attend, particularly if you wish to speak, so that she can make time for your issue on the agenda.

Our contact details are: Tel: 01453 887204. Email: info@chalford-glos.gov.uk. Web site: www.chalford-glos.gov.uk or follow us on Facebook