

NEWSLETTER INSERT JULY 2021

PARISH COUNCILLOR VACANCIES – are you interested in local issues and looking for a new challenge? Could you provide a voice for residents? If you are passionate about this area and want to make a difference then come and join us. Want to know more? Then contact the Parish Centre.

We are pleased to announce that Cllr Lilly has been elected Chair of the Council.

PARISH CENTRE – in 2019 we pledged to do everything we could to make our parish carbon neutral by 2030. One of the initiatives we have been considering is how to improve the Parish Centre. Cavity wall filling was carried out several years ago but latterly all the lights at the Centre are now LEDs. In May, you may have noticed we installed solar PV panels and by the beginning of September we are hoping that two electric vehicle charge points will be fitted to the building for public use. Unfortunately, this may mean a short period of disruption as Western Power will need to upgrade cables to provide the additional power. All installations are funded by grants.

LEAFLETS – we hold many leaflets in the Parish Centre providing details of local groups and services. Over the last year, some of these leaflets have become out of date and possibly of no use anymore. If you run a local group and have updated details of your activities, please drop them in to us some time.

On sale at the Centre, there are **Chalford Heritage Trail booklets £1, Eastcombe, Bussage & Brownhill Newsletter 50p, Eleven Short Walks Around Chalford Parish £2** and we still have some **wildflower cards in aid of St Michael and all Angels Church, Bussage £2.50.**

DEFIBRILLATORS – we have a number of defibrillators in the Parish and with the exception of old Bussage/Brownhill, all areas are covered. It has been agreed one is needed in this area and we are currently identifying a suitable place.

PLAY RANGERS will be on The Old Common in Bussage once again on Thursday, 22 July from 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. The Rangers bring along a van load of equipment to encourage active and creative play for children. Although activities are targeted at 7-14 year olds, under 7's are welcome but should be accompanied by a parent or carer.

ACCOUNTS ENDING 31 MARCH 2021 – Commencing 1 July, any person can inspect the accounts for the above financial year. At the time of writing, the accounts have been approved by the Finance and Management Committee and are due to be presented to the Full Council at the end of June before submitting them to our external auditors, PKF Littlejohn.

OLD NEIGHBOURHOOD – during the last month a couple of articulated lorries have come to grief when attempting to access this road from the A419. Police were called to both instances and after several hours, the lorry was rerouted on to the A419 and to Toadsmoor Road. As a result, we are consulting with Highways regarding improved signage to prevent this happening in the future.

FRITH WOOD FOOTPATH SUCCESS AT LAST - Way back in 2009, a local parishioner started the process of getting popular footpaths in Frith Wood recognised as Public Rights of Way (PROW). After many twists and turns and raised expectations and disappointments, Creation Agreements for five new PROW were signed in April between Gloucestershire County Council and the two owners of the wood, Robert Hitchins and Chalford Parish Council. Gloucestershire County Council will be putting up signs and waymarks in the wood,

but you can see where the PROW are on the County Council's map - zoom in to the wood on this link: [GCC WebMaps \(gloucestershire.gov.uk\)](https://www.gcc.gov.uk/webmaps). It is hoped defined paths will help reduce trampling and aid the restoration of the flora and fauna in the wood.

STROUD DISTRICT COUNCIL is currently consulting on the latest draft of the Local Plan. Comments must be made by midnight on Wednesday, 7 July 2021. Link is <https://www.stroud.gov.uk/localplanreview>

Why Not Come Along to a Meeting?

All our council meetings are once again face to face and open to the public. 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 Tuesday, 29 June at 7.00 pm. Covid guidelines current at the time will dictate the venue and will be stated on the agenda, available nearer that date. 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.