

Newsletters – October 2021

Councillors – we have not one but three new councillors. **Emily Mayo** will represent the Hill Ward. Emily has lived in France Lynch for 5 years and runs a cattery and doggy day care facility. Emily is particularly interested in the environment and is our youngest member of the Council. **Andrew Morris-Wyatt** will represent our Valley Ward. Andrew was born and brought up in the area, moving to London at a later date for his work. He returned to the area in 2013 and lives on Marle Hill. Andrew's interests lie in planning and environment. **David Wright** joins us as a Bussage Ward Councillor. David is retired and has a background in the power industry. David has the expertise to assist with our plans for the provision of EV charging and to make the Parish Centre more environmentally sound. That leaves **2 further vacancies** in the **Bussage Ward**. If you are interested, please contact the Clerk.

Trees – there are still a number of ash trees in Frith Wood that may need to be felled due to ash dieback. Our Arboriculturist will inspect the trees soon to determine whether the remainder need to be felled.

Grass cutting – we are currently considering our mowing schedule/regime for 2022 and where we can possibly reduce the number of cuts in areas without obstructing sight lines. Public land in our parish is split between three bodies, Parish, District and County. It could be that we take on the maintenance of some of the District responsibilities but it is early days and we need to consider our resources.

Silver Street Car Park – we have decided to accept an offer from Stroud District Council for the transfer of this car park to Chalford Parish Council. A small group will be considering the fairest way in which the car park can be managed for the benefit of residents in the area.

Chalk Wood - There are 11 social housing dwellings at this Middle Hill development and these are allocated by Homeseekers, controlled by District Councils within Gloucestershire and West Oxfordshire. There are 180 people in Homeseekers that want to live in Chalford. The agreement between the developer and the District Council states that after the homes go onto the market (sometime later this year) the first month will be for people with a strong connection to our parish. If properties are still available after this period of time, people in Brimscombe and Thrupp, Bisley and Minchinhampton will be considered during the second month and from the third month, people in the Stroud District area will be considered. The three bandings (gold, silver and bronze) for allocation of housing are dispensed with and the council will check each individual application to check the local connection criteria is met.

Footpath and playing field accessibility - The August update on Parish footpaths mentioned the plan to improve the accessibility of footpaths and playing fields. What are the options? Gloucestershire County Council Public Rights of Way (who set the rules) have an order of preference for access to footpaths, although it is the landowner that has the final say. First on the list is a gap in a wall or hedge, though this is clearly not appropriate where farm stock are involved. Second is a self-closing pedestrian gate, though some landowners have concerns that these can be wedged or tied open. Third is a kissing gate, though most kissing gates are not suitable for wheelchairs or mobility scooters. Fourth and a last resort, are stiles. The Parish Council's intention on our playing fields is, wherever possible, to widen existing gaps in the walls to allow wheelchair and mobility scooter access, but to make sure there are effective barriers to stop children running out onto roads.

Marley Lane – our County Councillor has received a complaint from a resident regarding the state of Marley Lane – unfortunately GCC do not currently have access to machinery that can safely perform the necessary work here following an incident in Thrupp which demonstrated that the machinery usually used is dangerous on these gradients. Highways are investigating this issue. Potholes will continue to be addressed on an individual basis, so please continue to report them via highways@gloucestershire.gov.uk or Report It.

Why Not Come Along to a Meeting? - Our next Full Council Meeting will be held on Thursday, 7 October 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