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Chalfont St Peter Village Voice – August 2010

Editor: Elaine Quigley 01753 886412 equit.text@virgin.net
www.chalfontstpeter.com/villagevoice

URGENT! PLANNING MEETING ON 5TH AUGUST, 6.30 PM AT CHILTERN DISTRICT COUNCIL OFFICES TO DECIDE THE FUTURE OF THE GRANGE (HOLY CROSS) SITE. Message from SENSE

Chiltern District Council have announced that they are holding the planning committee meeting to decide on the future of our village on the 5th August at 6.30pm at the Chiltern District Council offices, just nine days from now. We are questioning how could CDC have POSSIBLY taken proper account of the large number of objections in the limited time between 21 July and 5 August (or presumably, since papers have to be circulated in advance, 29 July)? This meeting will be to make their final decision on Gerald Eve's planning application for the **Holy Cross Convent site** in the heart of Chalfont St Peter. It is extremely important that as many residents as possible attend the meeting to show support to those who will speak for you in opposition to the application. Many residents will be away on holiday so it is vital that if you can possibly attend the meeting, you do so to demonstrate to councillors and officials the strength of feeling against this disgraceful application.

The outline application as amended proposes the redevelopment of the site to provide a mixed use comprising up to 198 dwellings (Use Class C3); a residential care home for up to 74 bedrooms and up to 3,370 square metres (Use Class C2); retention of existing chapel for public use (Use Class D1); replacement sports pitch; together with open space, landscaping and car parking; served from new and altered vehicle accesses from Gold Hill East, and Grange Road, and a new pedestrian access off Market Place, all with associated off-site highway works. The 198 new dwellings will be of low quality construction and will be packed together at three times the density that exists throughout the village. To achieve this, the developer proposes the demolition of The Grange, the historic centrepiece of our village.

Please note we now only have two district council representatives from Chalfont St Peter on the planning committee: John Wertheim and Geoff Peters. Although they both represent Central Ward, in which the Holy Cross site resides, these elected representatives have declined to meet with anyone from SENSE to hear a balanced view from our village's planning consultant, instead choosing to listen only to the advice of the officers within CDC.

We will meet outside Chiltern District Council offices at 6.00.

It is now very important that as many people from the village attend this meeting and despite the holiday season a large attendance by concerned residents is necessary to show the council how opposed we are to this dreadful proposal.

If you wish to help protect your village from those who would wish to destroy it in pursuit of money, do please attend the meeting on Thursday 5th August. **THIS IS YOUR LAST CHANCE TO DO SOMETHING TO HELP YOUR VILLAGE.** Many thanks from SENSE for your continued support.

MISBOURNE Art Society invitation. On AUGUST 7th: - Come & join us to paint a portrait of your choice starting at 1.30pm. Bring your own references and materials-use medium of your choice. No tuition but it will be an interesting & fun afternoon. Just turn up & have a go!! SEPTEMBER 4th- Ali Cockrean will give a DEMONSTRATION of PASTEL PAINTING starting at 2.15pm. All welcome. GUESTS £5 & we have vacancies for new members.

Meetings are in the TONY GRAHAM ROOM at CH. St. PETER COMMUNITY CENTRE. CONTACT TEL: JEAN GRIFFITH 01494 873722

CHILDREN'S Animation Workshop

Wednesday 11 and Thursday 12 August 2010 - 10am – 1pm Ages 8+ £30 per child for both days.

Heritage Day Saturday 11 September 2010 - 10am – 5pm

An exhibition about the lives of some of the remarkable women Quakers in Jordans Burial Ground. Cream tea available in the afternoon

Venue: Jordans Quaker Meeting House, Welders Lane, Jordans, HP9 2SN

To book or enquire by emailing Cáit Gould at office@newjordans.org or phoning 01494 876594.



ACHC SUMMER HOCKEY CAMP DAYS

Amersham & Chalfont Hockey Club is running 3 days of summer hockey on the 10th, 11th, 12th August at Newlands (tue – thur). The sessions will be open to 8-16yr olds and will run from 10-4. Cost will be £25 for one day, £45 for two days and £60 for all 3 days. 3rd child goes free with 2 paying in same family. Players will need to bring their own lunches and drinks....the pavilion will be open for shade, water and toilets and somewhere to rest on the lunch break!

Sessions will be a mixture of core skills, game-play and fun skills! Players will be split roughly by age but also by ability level into appropriate sized groups. Coaches will all be qualified (mostly coaches from the club that the players will already know), there will be a qualified First Aider present at all times and a welfare officer. Players can attend 1, 2 or all 3 days and players from other clubs or friends/brothers/sisters are all welcome.

Please contact **Emma Hewitt** on 07971 682218 or email her Emma.Hewitt@englandhockey.org Hopefully there will be a good take up on this so feel free to forward this to any friends.

NEWSLETTER From Rt Hon Cheryl Gillan, MP for Chesham and Amersham

I am very grateful to everyone who voted on 6 May. Thank you for re-electing me. I am dedicated to continuing to serve you all as your Member of Parliament.

On 12 May, the Prime Minister appointed me Secretary of State for Wales. More information is available on www.walesoffice.gov.uk

I am continuing discussions on the HS2 rail line. Latest news is that I have had another meeting with local campaigners about the impact of the HS2 route, including the Chiltern Conservation Board, along with my Parliamentary colleague David Lidington MP. The Department for Transport extended the consultation on compensation issues, demonstrating their clear intention to listen to the concerns of those potentially affected. I am pleased that the new Government continues to examine alternatives to the proposed route. Please visit my website on www.cherylgillan.co.uk where regular updates are published giving more information.

Planning is under the microscope nationally, as the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government has given his clear intention to abolish the Regional Strategies and return decision making on housing and planning to local councils. I hope this will assist communities like Chalfont St Peter and others who have been very worried about the top down house building targets.

Another manifesto promise was to end "garden grabbing", which has affected so many of our towns and villages to their detriment.

This is what was promised before the election and the Coalition Government has made good that promise. We have also abolished Home Information Packs, abolished Regional Assemblies and abolished the Regional Spatial Strategies.

Advise and contact:

If you need to contact me you may do so via:-

My Secretary Mary Shaw – 01494 721577 email: shawmj@parliament.uk

My House of Commons office – 0207 219 4061 email: gibbss@parliament.uk

Write to:- Rt Hon Cheryl Gillan MP. House of Commons. LONDON. SW1A 0AA : gillanc@parliament.uk

NEW CONNECTIONS (singles 30+)

15th August - Picnic at Burnham Beeches (weather permitting and children are welcome). Optional rounders, football, etc. Meet at Gold Hill Baptist Church at 12.30pm or at Burnham Beeches cafe at 1.00pm.

31st August - Quiz night OR a meal at the Village Hall Pub at 8.00pm.

17th September - 50's Music dance night at High Wycombe Town Hall with 2 course dinner and live band (£18.50 or £14.50 for concessions) (See the website for the Wycombe Swan Theatre for more info (www.wycombeswan.co.uk) Group discount available).

31st October - Sunday lunch at the Fox and Pheasant Pub at 1.00pm , Gerrards Cross Rd, Stoke Poges, SL2 4EZ – a tasty carvery for £8.95 per head.

Please let Katrina know (01753 887173 or katrina.reading@goldhill.org) if you are interested in any of these events and/or let your friends know.

AT Chalfont St Peter Leisure Centre here is a Parent and Child swimming activity called a "Ducklings" Class. It is aimed at children up to age 5. Wednesday at 9.30am for the younger babies and toddlers and Thursday 9 am for the 3 – 5's. Julia Mills is the teacher and the number for CSP Leisure is 01753 887812.

hush boutique in Market Place has a summer sale discount on all clothes at the moment, The designs and fabrics are lovely and well worth bringing into your summer wardrobe.

VOPAG for the over 55s meets next in the Parish Council Offices on Thursday, August 19th, 10 for 10.30, starting with refreshments and the talk following. Always an interesting presentation and people to meet.

SOUTH Bucks Hospice has just opened a shop in the Market Place and the stock is very good quality.. The group of this charity's shops is around the High Wycombe area, so by supporting it you are supporting the needs of local people. Having look around it, I was impressed by the items for sale and also surprised to see knitting wool being featured in a big display. Apparently knitting is very much the thing at the moment. They are looking for more knitting needles and patterns, so if you have spares, your donations would be gratefully received. In fact any quality items that you no longer need, would be appreciated. They even take electricals, as they have experts available to ensue they are in good working order before they are put out for sale.

The Hospice supports cancer patients and patients with non-curative illnesses, their families and carers, in what can be a very distressing time for many people. Nearby in Hazlemere, they provide another facility staffed by specialists with knowledge of the treatment of all patients with lymphoedema and other chronic oedemas.

It is therefore clear that money is always an issue and, to help, you can join the Hospice Lottery, paying just £1 per week, but having the opportunity to win £1000. Surely worth that small outlay, so do pop into the new shop and get a form, as well as to browse through their shelves and rails of quality items.

CHALFONT St Peter W.I. had a splendid "Alice" and the "dormouse", several MAD "Mad Hatters" White (and pink)! Rabbits, Tweedledee and Tweedledum, a Red Queen and lots of hats of every kind. Thanks and congratulations to all who made the effort to make the W.I Mad Hatters Tea party a successful afternoon and their six guests also joined in the spirit of the thing.

After an "Alice" Quiz there was a delicious tea and a chance to chat and get to know new people. The plans for Stowe were finalized and there is a reminder that the coach leaves the Church Hall at 10.30 am. The August tea at Farnham Common, Templewood W.I is all organized for August 18th at 3pm. The September meeting will be held at the Community Centre as the Church Hall is being renovated. 2.15 pm as usual and wherever they meet visitors are always welcome.

ST JOSEPH'S Furniture Market has made the following donations :

June:- £250 each to: The Stroke Association, Macmillan Cancer Relief and Helen & Douglas House (Hospice for Children)

July:- £300 each to Iain Rennie Hospice at Home, Myloma UK (a form of bone cancer), South East Bucks Crossroads (Caring for carers) and C A P D Endowment Fund (Home dialysis) and **£200** to Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal.

The Furniture Market is open every Saturday from 9am to 12.30pm, at the furniture store behind the social club. Park in the Church car park. If you have good quality furniture that you'd like to donate, contact furnituremarket@hotmail.co.uk

CHALFONT St Peter Garden Club Summer Show is always worth a visit. Our local gardeners are amazing in their exhibits and you can see how they – and those who provide cakes and jams etc – have done this year, by attending the annual show on **Saturday 21st August 2 - 4pm**, in the Community Centre. Refreshments available also.

DO YOU PLAY BRIDGE? – new Supervised Play Session at Chalfont St Peter Community Centre. Starting on **Monday 20th September** – 1:30 – 4:30. Suitable for novices and intermediate players, Tessa and Anders will be on hand to give lots of help. Cost £5. For more details go to www.bridgewebs.com/schoolgerrardscross or phone Tessa on 01753 885004

THE Bridge School at Gerrards Cross Memorial Centre is now taking bookings for the new Beginning Bridge class which starts on **Wednesday 29th September**. Bridge is a great way to meet new friends and is one of the most popular and enthralling games in the world. To find out more see www.bridgewebs.com/schoolgerrardscross or phone Tessa on 01753 885004

BLACK Park and Langley Park will be officially recognised as two of the country's best green spaces with prestigious Green Flag Awards today (July 28 2010).

Green Flag Awards recognise and reward the best parks in the country. Black Park and Langley Park stood out after impressing the judges with their excellent use of green space, well-maintained facilities and high standard of safety and security.

Only green spaces that the public can enter free of charge are eligible to win an award through the scheme, run by environmental charities Keep Britain Tidy, BTCV (British Trust for Conservation Volunteers) and GreenSpace.

This year has seen the highest number of awards handed out - a record 1200 Green Flags and Green Pennants across the UK compared to 1,013 in 2009. Green Pennants are awarded to parks or green spaces managed by a community or voluntary group.

THE BUCKS DEBATE WILL GET THE COUNTY TALKING

COUNTY leaders aim to get residents talking through The Bucks Debate our opportunity will be on 6 September at 7pm - St Joseph's Catholic School, Priory Road, Chalfont St Peter, SL9 8SB.

Please turn up and have your say.

Bill Chapple, Buckinghamshire County Council's Deputy Leader, said: "This isn't about us, the Council, telling people what they want, it's about them telling us what they need. It's also about us finding out how residents can get more involved within their communities.

"I really do urge people to come along, play their part and help us to help them. If you cannot get along to one of the meetings, we've put together a toolkit so that community groups can have their own discussions and feedback to the County. Everyone's views will be considered when we come to make budgetary decisions."

Central to the Debate is a series of interactive roadshows taking place across Buckinghamshire in September, encouraging everyone to come along to find out more about the challenges facing the county in the times ahead. But, to allow as many people as possible to get involved, there's also a toolkit available for discussion groups, a website providing information and feedback opportunities, and 'Bill's Blog' where people can leave comments. The idea behind the Bucks Debate is to get people together, looking at ways we can all best serve the interests of our residents and maintain the best quality of life possible for all generations. Eight roadshows are planned - two in each of the four districts that make up the County. Others may be arranged, subject to public demand. Costs for putting on this extended conversation have been kept to a minimum through sponsorship from Pitney Bowes, the Council's graphic designers, and partners such as BERP as well as holding meetings in Council venues.

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE will become the first authority, to successfully convert all of its 123 traffic signals to Light Emitting Diodes (LED) using Salix Energy Efficiency funding, following completion of the scheme in September 2010.

The scheme includes a funding contribution of £452,000 from the Buckinghamshire County Council Salix Energy Efficiency Fund. In partnership with the council's Sustainability Team who operate the Salix fund, Transport for Buckinghamshire is replacing more than 1,000 signal heads and almost 6,000 lamps across the county. So far 97 out of 123 sites have already been completed.

LED lamps last up to 20 times longer compared to existing bulbs and use less electricity. By replacing signal heads with LEDs, Buckinghamshire County Council is expected to make an annual saving of at least £60,000 and an estimated CO2 reduction of 338 tonnes a year.

Valerie Letheren, Buckinghamshire County Council's Cabinet Member for Transportation said: "The issue of energy efficiency and carbon saving is one of great importance to Buckinghamshire County Council. The introduction of these new energy saving traffic lights will not only help us to save money but also demonstrate our commitment to reducing carbon emissions. We are very proud that Buckinghamshire is the first county outside of London to introduce this new technology and look forward to encouraging other authorities to do the same."

THE landmark monument atop Coombe Hill, Buckinghamshire, which remembers sacrifice on the battlefield nearly a century ago, is to be restored to its former glory.

Work is about to start on the memorial to soldiers from Buckinghamshire who fought in the South African Boer War from 1899 to 1902. The monument, dedicated in 1904, receives around 100,000 visitors a year, but time has taken its toll and it is suffering from ground erosion, weakened joints around its base, and a fading plaque.

While Coombe Hill belongs to the National Trust, the memorial and its site is the responsibility of Buckinghamshire County Council. Mark Bailey, who is leading the refurbishment project, says that while the monument is structurally sound, gradual erosion has exposed its footings and there is a risk of settlement, which would undermine the foundations.

The worn marble plaque, on which many names are now indistinguishable, needs renewing, and the general appearance of the monument requires attention.

An appeal committee, set up by the Lord Lieutenant of Buckinghamshire, Sir Henry Aubrey-Fletcher, been working to raise the £52,000 cost of refurbishing the Grade 2 Listed structure.

Already a major contribution has come from the War Memorials Trust, and local councils across the county have also made donations. The group has been seeking sponsors to support the re-gilding of the memorial's flame finial, and the replacement of its worn plaque with a single-piece bronze plaque.

'The original bronze plaque erected in 1904 was stolen in 1976, and was replaced with marble,' said Mark.

'We would like to restore the plaque in its original material, with high security fixings.'

Martin Tett, Cabinet Member for Planning and Environment, said: 'This monument is an iconic Buckinghamshire landmark. It's one of the earliest that names ordinary soldiers, and it represented a major step forward by early 20th century society in historical records. We want to maintain a good record of the service and sacrifice of these courageous men.'

At 64ft high the monument stands at the highest point on the Chilterns, and was rebuilt in the 1930s after it was hit by lightning. At its original dedication ceremony on November 4, 1904, the monument was unveiled by Lord Cottesloe, Chairman of Buckinghamshire Quarter Sessions, forerunner of the modern-day Crown Court. The Ellesborough Choir sang the hymn, O God our help in ages past.

THAMES Valley Police and district council officers visited scrap yards across the county in an operation to clamp down on metal thefts.

The operation was carried out to deter thieves from disposing of their loot via scrap yards and encourage scrap metal dealers to report any suspicious callers to the police.

Insp Emma Garside from Thames Valley Police said: "Scrap dealers are our eyes and ears and are likely to be approached by thieves trying to sell stolen metal.

"We work very closely with the dealers and when they become suspicious about metal they are being offered and inform us, we can stop thieves in their tracks."

It is illegal for scrap dealers to buy stolen metal and many now display large posters on their premises informing anyone who would like to sell scrap that they need to provide identification, proof of ownership and that the scrap yard will keep a written record of the transaction, which can be inspected by the police and council.

If you have information about metal thefts, you can telephone your local police station on 0845 8 505 505. If you do not want to speak to the police, call the Crimestoppers charity on 0800 555 111. They don't need to know your name, just what you know.

THE increased spending pressures within some services and the withdrawal of the Government's Area Based Grants to local authorities have forced Buckinghamshire County Council to make immediate in-year savings of £9.2m. The Council is already committed to making savings of £52m over the next four years through efficiencies, including £27m through its Transformation initiative.

David Shakespeare, Leader of the Council, said: "The local spending pressures and loss of the Area Based Grant are a significant blow to our current year's budget. We have no choice but to make reductions in our budgets, to ensure we are not spending council taxpayers' money which we do not have. These are unprecedented times, and local authorities are having to make unprecedented decisions.

"We have considered long and hard as to how we can achieve these savings with as little impact possible on services, residents and staff. Wherever possible, we have tried to make savings through service delivery, however some posts will be put at risk."

In another move today to make further efficiency savings, Cabinet decided to deliver a phased approach for ICT, Finance and HR services. The first phase will focus on implementing new processes, technologies and self service as well as reviewing existing contracts to get better value. It is with regret that this phase will mean reducing the number of people delivering these services. Future phases will consider outsourcing as a viable option. For ICT, this could involve moving to 'cloud computing,' which gives the flexibility of buying ICT services as needed rather than having a traditional long term contract with a single supplier providing dedicated services.

Earlier a decision was made to go out to tender for Property, which includes facilities management functions such as buildings surveying and security as well as strategic asset management which involves managing the Council's property portfolio. The immediate focus will be on facilities management, with work on strategic asset management expected to begin later this year.

Cllr Shakespeare said: "As we go through these changes, we will learn more about the actual level of savings and impact on employees. We are committed to involving and communicating with staff throughout the process and are actively working with Trade Unions and Employee Representatives to get feedback and advice."

Cabinet have been investigating new ways of delivering support services to allow Buckinghamshire County Council to live within the resources it has available, while continuing to provide front line services. This is the purpose of the forthcoming consultation 'Bucks Debate' in which the County Council is asking residents for their views on the changes needed to services with less money.

VANESSA SHEPHERD S.A.C. (dip) SHPT offers a chiropody service at The Health and Beauty Pharmacy in Packhorse Road, Gerrards Cross every Wednesday. To book: Tel: 01753 883484

This is a private chiropody service - cost £25 and it is very popular with local people, who have recommended Vanessa far and wide.

She also works at The Denham Medical Centre and at the Mill Barn Medial Centre in Beaconsfield.