

Chairman's Report 09/10/2017

As we move to the final quarter of the year I would like to remind Councillors of the following events and ask all of you to let John Bailey and his team know if you are able to support in any way:-

Litter Pick	14 th Oct 2017 10am
Remembrance Day Parade	12 th Nov 2017
Christmas Lights	8 th Dec 2017 4pm

Each of these events requires considerable effort before, during and after the event and your support would be greatly appreciated.

BUCKS & MILTON KEYNES ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS [BMKALC]

BMKALC have begun to organise Parish Liaison meetings between its members and Bucks County Council. It is hoped that these meetings will take place every 3-4 months. The recent meeting on 13th September was well attended.

BMKALC are holding their AGM on 10th November at 7pm where the guest speaker will be Cllr Sue Baxter, Chairman of the National Association of Local Councils. Two councillors from each Council are invited. Please let Sam know if you wish to attend.

DIGITAL MAPPING

Since our last meeting we have arranged to acquire the necessary digital equipment to allow us to begin our digital mapping plans. Once the equipment arrives we will begin the training process – if any of you would like to be included in the training process then please advise Sam accordingly. I am hopeful that this will make a considerable difference to a number of our Council operations.

WORKING GROUPS

I would remind Working Groups that next month we will be focusing on Budget planning and would encourage each group to have met and finalised your draft budget requirements.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH / GOOD NEIGHBOURHOOD SCHEME

After discussions with John Bailey and Deborah Conway Read I have asked Deborah to take responsibility for Neighbourhood Watch and the Good Neighbourhood Scheme within the Village Community Working Group. If anyone has any information or can support these areas then I would encourage you to communicate directly with Deborah.

NEW CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

As you are all aware Richard Harrison and I will have completed our three year term and are required to stand down from our Chair and Vice Chair positions at the end of our current year. If any Councillor has an interest in standing for either of these positions then I would like to hear from you as soon as possible.

Thanks

Ray Hartley, Chairman

Council Meeting 9th October 2017

Clerk's Report & Correspondence

Bank Account Signatories

The Cambridge Building Society have updated their bank mandate.

Memorial Applications

Since April 2017 there have been three memorial applications approved.

Correspondence

- Letter from the Bucks Branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England inviting members to their AGM at 3pm on 24th November at Great Kingshill Village Hall. Paperwork is attached.
- October eNewsletter from Bucks County Council was forwarded to councillors on 2nd October.
- September Newsletter from The Chilterns Conservation Board was emailed to councillors on 28th Sept.

1. Update on current work

We have applied for planning permission from CDC to remove leaning trees in Manor Drive, on the Common, and also to trim branches of a number of trees around the cricket pitch.

I am meeting the Chiltern Society this week to discuss obtaining help from their volunteers to carry out further laurel and holly clearance on the Common and also for a small group to re-visit Tenterden Spinney where there has been some re-growth of laurel.

2. Management Plan for the Common and Woodlands

No further progress on producing a final version of the Woodland Management Plan this month. We will be putting a short article in Bois Own Autumn edition to inform our parishioners of the work going on and our objectives for the management of the Common and our woodlands.

3. Burial Ground Maintenance

The new maintenance contractors have still to trim the hedges across the whole Burial Ground and cut the hay in the meadow. Sam and I have reviewed their performance with them on site and expressed our concerns.

Brambles and nettles in the hedge line of both the Formal Burial Ground and the Woodland Burial Ground have been removed and also the area around the track at the entrance to the Woodland Burial Ground has been cleared, a great improvement in appearance. The ash tree growing from a grave at the top of the site has also been felled and removed.

4. Burial Ground – other points

We have received further complaints about dogs being let off their leads in the burial ground, despite signs at the top and bottom of the Formal Burial Ground. Additional temporary signs have been sited on the gates and at the entrances, top and bottom, to the Woodland Burial Ground from the adjacent field.

At the moment Chiltern District Council have proposed Public Space Protection Orders (PSPO) for all public land in the area, which includes the Burial Ground, and when this is finalised we propose to erect permanent signs promoting responsible dog ownership. A person found to be in breach of the PSPO will be liable to pay a Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN) of £100 or a maximum penalty of £1,000 on summary conviction.

5. Footpaths/Rights-of-Way

I have re-issued a list of the Rights-of-Way in the parish and Councillors are requested each to take responsibility for checking a few footpaths or bridleways on an ad-hoc basis. We are particularly looking for missing signposts, overgrown paths, overgrown hedges, dangerous trees and dumping of waste, especially garden waste. There is a form to report problems to the Clerk.

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Village Community Working Group Report for October 9th 2017

To note the following upcoming community events. A meeting to delegate responsibilities for these important village dates to be agreed week commencing 9 October.

1: Autumn Clear Up

2: Remembrance Sunday

Cllr John Bailey

Transport Working Group Report for 9 October 2017 Council Meeting

Portable Speed Sign (MVAS)

We have 3 MVAS signs operational in the parish

MVAS 1 is currently located in Bois lane facing down the hill between St Leonards Church and Holloway Lane.

MVAS 2 & 3 are located on the Amersham Road outside the Beacon school – one on each side of the road.

Data for the 3 MVAS units is summarised below. Please note the different measurement periods for each MVAS due to an issue with data collection which has now been rectified by a service engineer.

Bois Lane - There was 93.9% compliance with speeds below 34 mph from the 26,946 vehicles travelling up the hill from Chesham to Amersham during the period. This does mean that 1,645 vehicles travelled at speeds greater than 35 mph with 9 recording speeds of 50 to 54 mph.

During the 10 day monitoring period a total of 75,947 vehicles travelled from Amersham to Chesham achieving 93.9% compliance with speeds below 34mph which is an improvement on the previous period (90.2%). 4,647 vehicles travelled at speeds greater than 35mph with 7 recording speeds above 60 mph.

During the 9 day monitoring period 72,794 vehicles travelled from Chesham to Amersham achieving 91.4% compliance with speeds below 34 mph. This compares to 88% during the previous 27 week monitoring. 270 vehicles travelled at speeds greater than 35 mph with 1 achieving 85 to 89 mph at 0645 on Wednesday 4 October

All data will be sent to the local community police for their follow up. In April 2017 I requested the police to carry out enforcement activity on the main Amersham Road and wrote again to them in July requesting confirmation and results of any activity. I have not received a response and will continue try and get the police to engage.

I also raised the matter at the 20 September LAF meeting in an attempt to win wider support for a speed camera although I'm not hopeful this will achieve any success.

Following a survey with the LAT on 4 July, 3 new MVAS locations in Copperkins Lane and one in Holloway Lane have been agreed. Existing 30 mph sign poles will be extended by TfB but at our cost. TfB finally provided an estimate at the beginning of September although it was included as part of the traffic calming works which is not appropriate. I expect the cost to supply and fit 4 poles to be less than £1000. This will be progressed when we receive revised paper work. Sam has chased TfB and we are still awaiting the quote! It has taken 6 months to achieve absolutely nothing despite our best efforts to buy and install 4x30 mph repeater extension poles.

I attended a TfB stakeholder conference on Tuesday 12 Sept which featured a range of transport issues including potholes, gullies, grass cutting, street lighting and winter planning. I have circulated the summary and a presentation given at the meeting under separate cover for information.

MVAS 1 Bois Lane 7 September to 5 October 2017

28 Days Data			
		Number of	
		Movements	
5 - 9 mph		767	2.8%
10 - 14 mph		1,345	5.0%
15 - 19 mph		2,944	10.9%
20 - 24 mph		6,317	23.4%
25 - 29 mph		9,380	34.8%
30 - 34 mph		4,548	16.9%
35 - 39 mph		1,280	4.8%
40 - 44 mph		287	1.1%
45 - 49 mph		69	0.3%
50 - 54 mph		9	0.0%
55 - 59 mph		0	0.0%
60 - 64 mph		0	0.0%
65 - 69 mph		0	0.0%
70 - 74 mph		0	0.0%
75 - 79 mph		0	0.0%
80 - 84 mph		0	0.0%
85 - 89 mph		0	0.0%
Total Movements		26,946	100.0%

MVAS 2 Facing Amersham 21 September to 4 October			
10 Days Data Only			
		Number of Movements	
5 - 9 mph		1,202	1.6%
10 - 14 mph		2,686	3.5%
15 - 19 mph		5,910	7.8%
20 - 24 mph		14,189	18.7%
25 - 29 mph		30,881	40.7%
30 - 34 mph		16,432	21.6%
35 - 39 mph		3,699	4.9%
40 - 44 mph		696	0.9%
45 - 49 mph		166	0.2%
50 - 54 mph		52	0.1%
55 - 59 mph		27	0.0%
60 - 64 mph		6	0.0%
65 - 69 mph		1	0.0%
70 - 74 mph		0	0.0%
75 - 79 mph		0	0.0%
80 - 84 mph		0	0.0%
85 - 89 mph		0	0.0%
Total Movements		75,947	100%

MVAS 3 Facing Chesham 10 March to 6 April 2017			
9 Days Data Only			
		Number of	
		Movements	
5 - 9 mph	2,264		3.1%
10 - 14 mph	2,394		3.3%
15 - 19 mph	4,275		5.9%
20 - 24 mph	12,461		17.1%
25 - 29 mph	28,700		39.4%
30 - 34 mph	16,430		22.6%
35 - 39 mph	4,730		6.5%
40 - 44 mph	1,089		1.5%
45 - 49 mph	308		0.4%
50 - 54 mph	87		0.1%
55 - 59 mph	36		0.0%
60 - 64 mph	10		0.0%
65 - 69 mph	7		0.0%
70 - 74 mph	2		0.0%
75 - 79 mph	-		0.0%
80 - 84 mph	-		0.0%
85 - 89 mph	1		0.0%
Total Movements	72,794		100%

LAF

I attended the LAF meeting on Wednesday 20 September and have circulated minutes under separate cover for information.

LAF agreed to purchase Community Speed Watch Camera equipment before the end of the 2017/18 financial year. CBPC will be the custodian of the equipment (c £3000 value) with the obligation to include it on our insurance policy. The equipment will be made available to other parish councils as requested. I will need to organise Community Speed Watch training with members of the Council and local resident volunteers.

Street Lighting

I carried out an inspection of all lighting during September with Sparkx and agreed a work schedule which is currently being priced. Subject to budget, some additional work will be conducted in this financial year with the balance being carried out in 2018/19.

Cricket Club Dropped Kerb

No progress to report

Devolution

Cllr Woolveridge has inspected most of the footways in CB and the group met during September to agree work to be carried out by Tool Shed this year. Sam has also updated the maps to include areas that have been missed.

Other Activities/Actions

Obtain quotes for the new all-weather path through Tenterden Spinney.

Meet with the contractor who laid the new all-weather path near the cricket pitch to see if can be compacted to provide a more solid surface similar to that along the common in North Road.

Get a quote from TfB for the dropped kerb near the cricket pitch.

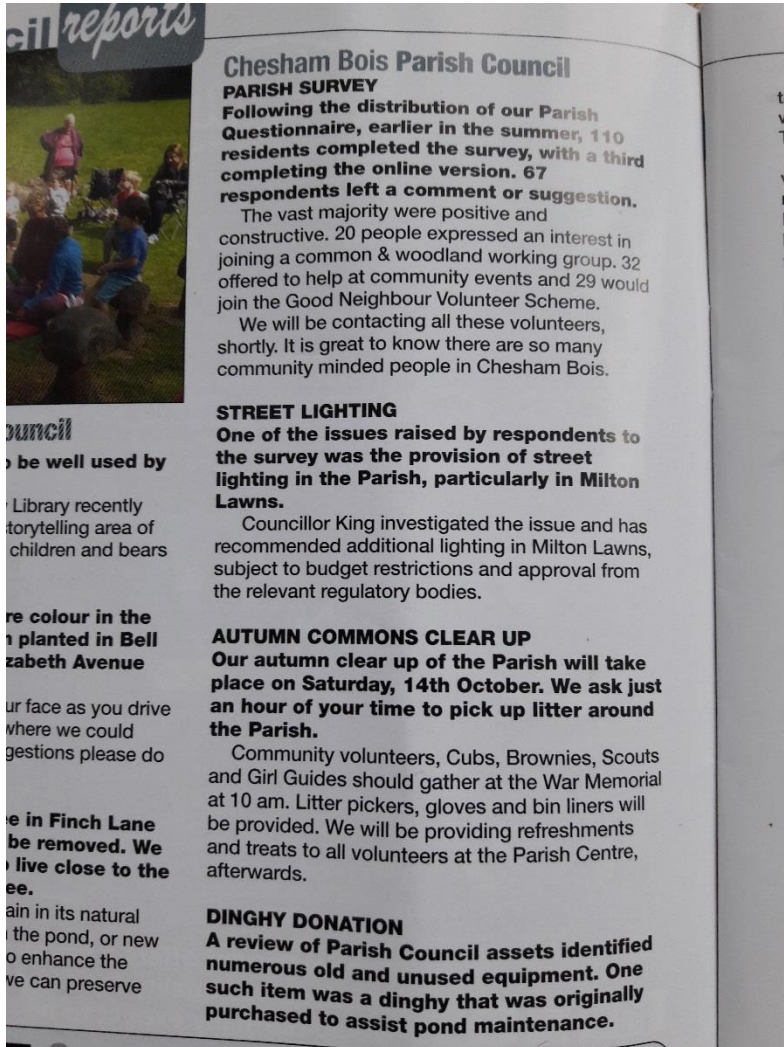
Toolshed do not cut the grass during August due to school/college holidays which does have an impact on the look of the area.

Cllr David King,

8 October 2017

MEDIA

Our Your Amersham council report:



SOCIAL MEDIA

Facebook now has 97 likes.

Twitter account now has 120 followers.

PARISH QUESTIONNAIRE

67 residents wrote comments on the survey. I think we should respond to general, popular comments and, also, to the individuals who raised specific issues. The General comments were:

1. Lack of Lighting in the Parish (10 comments), specifically Milton Lawns, which is being addressed. **Do we need more streetlights?**
2. Communication (9) - more consultation with residents required and complaints emails/calls went unanswered. **Suggested Action?**
3. Local authority services (8) – many residents are not aware of the division of services. **Action? Produce a leaflet? Poster/board at events?**

4. Speeding (7) – Bois Lane and Holloway Lane. Identify sites along these roads for the speed monitors?
5. Kids play area (6) – **natural, wooden play area near the common?**

Specific comments included:

1. Complaint about bonfires on the common after clearance events
2. More woodland wildlife signs
3. More dogbins
4. Bigger Christmas tree
5. Damage to grave plots after grass cutting
6. Righting of fallen gravestones

I have highlighted in red on the excel survey list, where individual comments should receive a personal response from the Clerk or a councillor.

We need to contact all the people who responded and left their email or phone number. I suggest the following format:

Thank you for completing the survey

We note your comments and we have acted on some of the issues raised.

If you have ticked one of the volunteer boxes, we will add you to the relevant contact list.

We will retain your contact details for future Parish Council news and events. Please let us know if you no longer wished to be contacted.

All the email addresses are in a mailshot ready to go out. 6 people left their phone number only, so we should make a courtesy call.

Cllr Buckingham

Connections Support meeting, 12 September 2017 Chesham Town Hall

This was to give information about this new service, which launched in June 2017

Background

Homelessness Reduction Act coming into force April 2018

Government looking for trailblazer authorities to implement new ways of working to reduce homelessness. Bucks has secured funding for two-year pilot.

The introduction of Universal Credit in Bucks is anticipated to exacerbate housing problems.

Aims

- 1) Keep people in housing, preventing homelessness
- 2) Build resilience in service users
- 3) Reducing the number of those presenting as homeless to housing authorities

How it works

Connection Support is a new team, to whom people can self-refer, or to whom a wide range of agencies can refer eg GPs, social workers, health visitors, probation officers, etc.

Individuals are asked to complete stress inventory and strengths questionnaire, to identify ways forward. Each is assigned a personal worker who supports them by practical assistance (e.g. accompanying to CAB, debt advice, meetings with landlords, etc.) drop-in meetings and text, email or phone calls. There are some paid workers and some volunteers. They are looking to recruit more volunteers, to help with practical tasks such as DIY and gardening,

Clients are assigned to a three or six-month programme of support – hoping to 120 in each category in the first year of operation.

Within this there are several different support teams:

Housing Support Service – help with housing, debt management, budgeting, maintaining income, maintaining independence

Connect Independent Living Service – helping people to remain in their own homes, with support for aids and adaptations, claiming benefits, looking at barriers to socialising and going out, helping manage finances

Autism Service – helping with all independent living skills for people who have autism e.g. helping with employment, education, training, life skills, budgeting, social activities etc. Not available to those who already have a care package from BCC.

HIT Young People's Housing Support – for 16-25 year olds

Rough Sleeper Outreach – talking to rough sleepers to identify issues and help with substance abuse programmes

Offender Housing – working with prisons and probation service to help offenders as they come out of prison to prevent re-offending by helping to find housing and other support

The Connection Support team also have access to some accommodation for substance abusers.

Cllr D Conway Read

