

A5 M1 Link public inquiry gets the go ahead

The on off saga of the By Pass is back on again. Having postponed the Public Inquiry last year as a result of the Government's spending cuts, the Department of Transport has given the go-ahead for the Inquiry. This was announced on September 22nd.

This is good news, as it should speed up the road building, which will act as a hard edge to development that is planned for the future. A contribution from developers Lands Improvement Holdings and Friends Life Company has meant that the finances are less of a concern. As well as Central Beds £5 million pounds, a total of £50 million of private funding has been raised. That is a significant saving on the estimated cost of the road, around £156 - £212 million.

The Planning Inspectorate has now been asked by the Highways Agency to nominate an Independent Inspector to conduct the Inquiry. The Agency anticipates the Inquiry will be held in the New Year; however an announcement will be made when an inspector has been appointed and the date and venue arranged.

The full press release can be seen at the Highways Agency and Department of Transport websites.

*Russell Currell,
Chairman, Chalton Parish Council*

Residents Letter: To the residents of 28 - 16 Chalton Heights.

Yet again there has been a problem with blockages in the main sewer at 15 Chalton Heights. This is happening roughly every two years now, mainly caused by residents disposing of baby wipes, kitchen towels, nappy liners etc. down their toilets.

If this happens again and Dyno-Rod have to be called out at the main at 15 Chalton Heights, then the cost of this work will need to be

divided by the residents whose drains join the main. Alternatively, steps will be taken to identify which households are responsible for disposing of their waste in this way.

A. Spillane, 15 Chalton Heights

CVA News

As many of you will have seen, extensive redecoration has been taking place, both inside and outside the Village Hall. It is now much brighter; new lighting has been installed and with the refurbishment of the back rooms, more space has been found for the storage of the tables and chairs. With this in mind, there will be an open evening on September 28th at 7.30pm when we hope as many of you as possible will come along to 'view the improvements' and enjoy a glass of wine, tea/coffee and soft drinks for the children.

Some people have expressed an interest in the possibility of an evening Zumba class in the hall. An instructor has been contacted and the cost of such a class would be approx. £4. Any one wishing to participate, please contact any committee member as soon as possible.

A programme of forthcoming events is in the process of being drawn up and leaflets/posters will be issued as soon as possible.

Lastly, the usual problem of dog fouling has been brought to our attention. The penalty for failing to clean up after a dog can range from £75 to £500 and can be imposed on anyone seen or reported failing to comply. Offenders can also be reported to Central Bedfordshire Dog Wardens. Please ensure our fields can be used by the young footballers and villagers generally.

We look forward to seeing you all at the Open Evening.

CVA Financial Report, 1st Jan 2011 - 31st July 2011.

Balance on 1st Jan 2011 £6,866.82
This included a grant of £3,000 from the Lottery Fund to pay for the kitchen and toilets to be improved and new lighting in the hall. The kitchen has now been done and also the lighting. Work still has to be done on the toilets but we hope to have this completed soon.

Accounts 1st Jan - April 30th

Outgoings		Income	
Gas	2174.85	Events	141.23
Water	58.67	Hall hire	250.00
Event Preparation	102.00	Total	391.23
Hall maintenance	8.00		
Purchase of PA system	450.00		
Total	2794.32		
Balance on April 30 th	£4463.73		

As you can see, our outgoings far exceed our income. This is largely due to our enormous gas bill. Last winter, like the previous one was particularly bad and the damage caused by the burst pipe meant our income from the hire of the hall was badly hit. Also, the damage caused to the windows and the graffiti, by youth vandalism didn't help.

Balance on 1 st May	£4463.73		
Outgoings		Income	
Plumbing	778.42	Election Day Hire	
Gas	196.99		110.00
Electric	90.70	Hall Hire	337.00
Stationary	19.98	Total	447.00
Drainage Insurance	10.92		
Event Preparations	21.99		
Repairs to gate	120.75		
Chairs	624.00		
Paint for Hall walls	68.36		
Total	1932.11		
Balance on 31 st July	£2379.11		

There is more costs during the next couple of months due to work that is currently ongoing. Most of the work will be paid for by the insurance, but some will have to be paid by us.

The winter gas bill for example will again take a huge amount of our funds, even if we have a milder one.

We would like to urge residents to impress

upon the youths that are seen vandalising the building that this is the only thing we have left in the village that can be used by everyone. By causing damage to it, income from lettings is being wasted by having to pay for repairs rather than putting it to more useful things like maybe a Christmas party for the children, or a disco for the teenagers.

I'm sure most of you are aware we had a break in near the end of July and thieves ripped out all of the copper pipes in the hall. These have now been replaced by plastic pipes. Obviously copper pipes would have been much more attractive and in keeping with the building and the plastic pipes are much more 'in your face', but we simply couldn't have this happen again, so there was little option but to have plastic.

By the end of the month we hope to have most of the repairs completed. These include the replastering and painting of the rooms in the cottage end of the building, the new windows installed (previously damaged by vandals), and repainting both the inside and outside walls of the hall and toilets.

We would also like to ask that residents consider hiring the hall for their own events. This is your Village Hall and all the improvements are for your benefit. Please use it.

You can contact Sandra 07799 568081,
Alison 878228, Jane 872689, or any other committee member.

Art Adventurers

Art and Craft activities for 4 - 9 year olds.

Old School, Dunstable Road, Flitwick, 10 am - 11.30am, Saturdays up to October 29th.

£6 per session

Details from Karen on 01525 635823

Or email: artadventurers@virginmedia.com