

Planning Application, Houghton Regis Development Consortium

We have received the planning application for Outline Planning Permission for the proposed development for the land north of Houghton Regis. This was submitted on January 3rd and we had up to February 6th to respond. Not long, especially when you see the amount of paperwork there was to go through.

The scheme is based on the exhibitions we saw in the summer and should not show much more detail than that. It is likely to get pass so long as it fits in with the Core Strategy. The Core Strategy has not been passed yet, so it therefore can not go against the Strategy.

We have always stated that we do not want any development until the By Pass is in place, so the timing is a bit to quick. We do not know how long it will be until the actual detailed Planning Application will be submitted.

***Russell Currell,
Chairman, Chalton Parish Council.***

Power Cuts

The southern half of the village have experienced a number of power cuts either side of Christmas, all as a result of cars coming off of the road an the bend before the Cross, coming from Houghton Regis. All of these accidents occurred at night as a result of the cars not knowing the bend was coming and not able to see. The bend has poor cats eyes and no reflective chevrons, having being removed by accidents in the past. On four occasions these cars hit a pole that had a transformer mounted on it, hence the power cuts.

I contacted Central Beds Council's highways department and made them aware of the situation and asked that they do something about it quickly before there is a death.

I also spoke with Cllr Norman Costin, one of our Central Beds Councillors who also spoke to

them on our behalf. Central Beds have put up some reflectors on the bend, which will not last too long (the previous ones didn't) and a reflective chevron, which is useful. As a result, we have not had any accidents since then.

I contacted UK Power and suggested that they move their equipment, as they are going to considerable expense making repairs. They emailed me back to say they would do this on January 14th, which they did. Unfortunately on the 13th January we had a power cut again and they put up a new pole, next to the two previous damaged poles. They did come back and repositioned it.

***Russell Currell,
Chairman, Chalton Parish Council.***

Pensioners Lunch

On January 7th we held our annual pensioners lunch at the Star. Everybody enjoyed getting together and had a great meal, and I would like to thank the staff at the Star for an exceptional day. I have had many good comments about how good it was.

If you are eligible for an invite, but we are not aware of you, please let a councillor know so that we can invite you next year.

***Russell Currell,
Chairman, Chalton Parish Council.***

National Grid transformers

You will no doubt have been aware that on occasions the National Grid have been arranging with Central Beds Council to bring a transformer into the site via Water End Lane.

The Parish Council have never been consulted on this, by either National Grid or Central Beds. This involves the National Grid bringing the transformer in on a large lorry. The last one however was too big to fit down Water End Lane, so they cut down trees on the corner of Water End Lane and Luton Road, pulled up signs and drove across the grass verges, making

a mess of the area. You might have also seen similar damage along the Bridleway.

The Parish Council are not impressed with the National Grid for taking this heavy handed approach to our village, or Central Beds for allowing this to happen.

We will be discussing this with both parties, as there are plans to continue bringing these transformers in. On previous occasions there has been limited interruptions to the village and no noticeable damage, but this last time went too far.

I think it is time the National grid to give something more positive to the village in a public relations exercise that should not only repair the damage to the village, but to try and reassure us that they actually care for the village.

Central Beds will also be told this is not the way we expect our Council to protect our villages.

Russell Currell
Chairman, Chalton Parish Council

Parish Council Dates for 2013

Monday April 15th
Monday May 13th AGM
Monday June 10th
Monday August 12th
Monday October 14th
Monday December TBC

The Parish Council meetings are now taking place at the Village Hall. All meetings will start at 7.30pm.

CVA NEWS MARCH 2013

Spring is now officially upon us although as I look out of the window there is a definite white covering on the fields and a decided chill in the air.

However, the next Quiz will be on **Friday, 26 April**, 7.30 in the hall and the usual BYO drinks and nibbles. Posters will be put around the village but make a note in your diaries.

Midsummer Fete: the school and CVA are combining to hold this towards the end of June (possibly 22 June) where there will be games, tombola, craft stalls, bouncy castle, face painting etc and, hopefully, football matches for juniors and 'grown ups'. We will be asking for tombola prizes to be donated – these to be taken to the school. Tables will be available for hire for those wishing to sell their craft items. Refreshments will be available and what would a summer fete be without a glass of Pimms or two!. Please make every effort to come along and join in.

Looking ahead, due to the great success of our Carol Concert, the Toddington Band has again been booked for **Friday, 6 December** where a similar evening will be held.

Don't forget, the hall is available for booking for most functions and the details are on our website or the village noticeboard by the shop.

Does anyone remember Valerie and Joe Ludford?

Valerie was Headteacher at Chalton Lower School between 1945/6 and 1948/49. They lived in the School House and had a young baby. This was very unusual at this time but headteachers were in short supply following the war.

Valerie is now 95 and remembers the school well. She would love to share any old photos that you might have or memories. I have a contact number for her daughter.

Please telephone the school on 01525 872354 for further details.

Liz Noble
Headteacher, Chalton Lower School