

CHISELDON PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

Points of interest and extracts from the meeting held in
September 2015

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Vacancy for a Parish Councillor

Due to a recent resignation we now have a vacancy for one Parish Councillor. Please see the separate advert in this issue for further details, the closing date for expressions of interest is Thursday 15 October.

Police report

Unfortunately PC Draper was unable to attend this month's meeting but he did provide the following report.

Crime figures for July included four thefts (three relating to the Service Station and one relating to Saddle Stones in Badbury Wick. There were two reported burglaries (both in the Coate area) and one instance of criminal damage when a vehicle was set on fire in Butts Road.

Figures for August included eight thefts (six relating to the Service Station and others relating to Saddle Stones in Butts Road). The theft of Saddle Stones was potentially linked to similar instances in Wanborough. There were six reports of criminal damage (four in the Badbury/Coate area, one relating to the bus shelter in Butts Road and one vehicle that was damaged in Carisbrook Terrace. There were also two burglaries (one in Badbury Park and one from a shed in School Close).

With regard to recent reports of residents finding discarded gas canisters, PC Draper said that these typically contain Nitrous Oxide, a gas linked to 17 deaths between 2006 and 2012 which is, therefore, an area of real concern. Whilst it is not illegal to sell these canisters, regardless of age, the police have visited all local retail outlets and advised them not to sell to young people. If you see anyone inhaling this gas, or find discarded canisters then please report it to the police, either on the 101 number or via 999 if you feel there is an immediate danger to life.

PC Draper also reported the identification of a juvenile male who has been using a Quad Bike in an anti-social manner. Enquiries as to land ownership are ongoing and the police anticipate issuing a summons in relation to this offence.

Highways

Following a meeting between the Environment Committee and SBC Highways Officers, the New Road build-out is due to go ahead, probably in the New Year. The impact of the build-out will be closely monitored and residents will be encouraged to report any concerns.

Preliminary work on yellow lines in Turnball has been carried out and a proposal for yellow lines in Coate Lane is due to be published shortly.

We are now approaching the time of year when grit boxes will be used. If you find a box that needs re-filling please let the Parish Clerk know.

Chiseldon School Safety Zone

There have been a number of reports of people parking illegally in the Safety Zone around Chiseldon School. As a result the Parish Council and the School have requested extra enforcement activity over the coming months.

The Safety Zone exists to protect children, parents and local residents, and both the School and the Parish Council would ask that you park considerately, outside of this zone and without blocking residents' driveways.

School admissions for 2016

The Parish Council has received the following information about applying for school places.

If your child was born between 1 September 2011 and 31 August 2012 you need to apply for a Primary or Infant School place by 15th January 2016. If your child is currently in Year 6 you need to apply for a Secondary School place by 31 October 2015.

For more information, please visit: www.swindon.gov.uk/schoolplaces

Badbury Park

A new Community Association has been set up for residents at Badbury Park and a launch event is planned in the near future. The Parish Council is currently considering ways in which it can support the work of this Association.

There will also be a new polling station for residents in this area, situated at The Sun Inn.

Chiseldon Tennis Club

Following the recent investment to upgrade its facilities, Chiseldon Tennis Club has reported considerable success this season. Five teams were involved in league tennis and achieved two championships and three promotions. The Club is also running a thriving coaching programme for young players.

In addition, the public court at the Recreation Ground will soon be available for hire through Chiseldon House Hotel. See future editions of The Bell for more information.

Parish Plan

The Parish Plan Steering Group is currently preparing a programme of consultation activities that will run from October 2015 to February 2016. The aim of this consultation is to identify what parishioners value about our villages, what they dislike and where they wish to see improvements.

The first set of activities will be three 'place walks'. These will take place during October, probably at the weekends, and will initially cover Chiseldon, Badbury and Hodson. A member of the Steering Group will accompany interested parishioners on a short walk (between 30 and 45 minutes), asking for comments and views on the villages and their facilities.

If you would be interested in taking part in one of these walks then please contact the Parish Clerk as soon as possible.

Other Matters

A new post box is due to be installed, outside Oakley's Spar, by the end of November 2015. An additional box has also been requested for Badbury Park.

Please read Cllr Hill's update elsewhere in this issue for information on village bus services.

Swindon Borough Council has just released a 'Design Guide' for public consultation. The Guide has been developed to provide a clear set of principles and guidelines to apply to future housing development across the Borough.

There is a hard copy of the document available to view at the Parish Council's Offices (from 9.30am to 1pm on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays) until 21 October.

Alternatively you can view it online at: www.swindon.gov.uk/design or at the Borough Council Offices at Wat Tyler House, Beckhampton Street, Swindon (Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm).

Next Meetings

The monthly Borough Councillors' Surgery will take place on Saturday 3 October between 11.30am and 12.30pm in the Old Chapel, Butts Road. This is an opportunity for residents to discuss any concerns with both Parish and Borough Councillors so do come along and say hello.

The next Full Council meeting will be on Monday 12 October, starting at 7.30pm in the Recreation Hall. Residents are welcome to attend and there is a public recess at the start of proceedings, after which residents can choose to leave.

The next meeting of the Neighbourhood Watch Group will be on Monday 30 November at 7.30pm in the Recreation Hall.