

January 2021

Parish Council meetings

All meetings of the Parish Council will be held virtually until restrictions on face-to-face meetings due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak are lifted.

Members of the public are very welcome to join any of our virtual meetings. Please contact the Clerk on clerk@charltonkingsparishcouncil.gov.uk to request an invitation.

- Planning Committee – Monday, 11th January, 7.00 pm
- Full Council Meeting – Monday, 25th January, 7.00 pm

Meetings listed are correct at the time of printing but may be subject to change. Please check on the website for any updates or confirm by contacting clerk@charltonkingsparishcouncil.gov.uk

Community events

There are no events planned for January 2021

NEWSLETTER No.17

Parish Council Newsletter Newsletters are posted on Noticeboards within the Parish and made available on the Parish Council website. If you would be interested in receiving the Parish Council Newsletter by email, please contact us on clerk@charltonkingsparishcouncil.gov.uk

COVID-19 support There is a dedicated page on the Charlton Kings Parish Council website where we are posting information and useful contacts for individuals and community groups. <https://www.charltonkingsparishcouncil.gov.uk/covid-19-corona-virus-support.html> This information is also being posted on our noticeboards and hard-copies can be requested by contacting clerk@charltonkingsparishcouncil.gov.uk

Parish Councillor vacancies There are currently two vacancies on the Parish Council. Being a Councillor is a varied and interesting role which allows residents to have a positive impact on their community. **If you are interested in the role, or would like further information, please contact the Clerk by email on clerk@charltonkingsparishcouncil.gov.uk If you do not have access to email, you can write to her at the Parish Office address.**

Continued closure of Parish Office and Stanton Suite Following the announcement that Gloucestershire is now in Tier 4, the Parish Office will be closed to members of the public until further notice. The Stanton Hall and Conference Room will also remain closed for bookings until further notice. All Parish Office staff will continue to work their normal hours and emails and telephone messages will be checked regularly. Anyone who wishes to contact or speak to a member of staff is asked to get in touch by email or telephone in the first instance. If that is not possible, you can contact us in writing care of the Parish Council office.

Launch of CK Health Connect “Health & Wellbeing” Directory We are pleased to announce that the Parish Council Health & Wellbeing Directory of local activities and services is now published on the council website and available for download. The Directory includes useful information on a range of local health services, support groups and advice centres, as well as listings of social and recreational activities. To check current activity arrangements under COVID-19 restrictions, please get in touch with individual service providers on their website/social media sites, telephone or email.

A limited number of printed copies of the Directory will be available in due course for your reference at various community hubs across Charlton Kings, including the Parish Council office, library, Sixways Clinic, local pharmacies, community cafes, schools and churches. Following the easing of restrictions under the current COVID-19 lockdown, we will update our website with the exact locations.

This important work on the health and wellbeing of our community is part of a wider Parish Council project to combat loneliness and isolation. The project will be developed in 2021 to consider a partnership approach to addressing some of the gaps in services and activities, which were identified in our research earlier this year. Further information and updates on this project can be found on the Parish Council website at: <https://www.charltonkingsparishcouncil.gov.uk/charlton-kings-health-connect.html>

Contact details

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Grange Field – consultation with residents Thank you to everyone who completed the survey in the recent Grange Field consultation. Ideally the Parish Council would have held open meetings to share, discuss ideas and hear concerns but the situation unfortunately prohibited this. However over 210 people took the time to answer the questions and provided us with lots of information and some amazing ideas. Further information about the outcome of the consultation will be uploaded to the Parish Council website in due course. However, in summary, what we received told us:

- A significant number see the opportunity to make a real difference in this area and can see the benefits of investing in Grange Field. There is a huge variety of positive ideas from having an event space to wildlife planting and from fitness to space for art and creativity.
- A small number don't want any changes. However, for most who gave this response it is related to how others currently treat Grange Field and that any additions may exacerbate this - littering and anti-social behaviour were the main examples given.

2020 has been a difficult year but out of that difficulty some changes have happened. Our home, our neighbours, our local area have become more important to us than they have been in many years. The strength of support for helping our neighbours and friends has been amazing. Friends of Charlton Kings (FoCK), the creation of a community allotment, the buzz on the local Facebook sites to reach out and give, lend, support, offer advice has been non-stop. Within this our local area has been explored, walked, cycled, jogged more than ever and many want to continue in this vein and make Charlton Kings a great place to be in 2021 and beyond.

Grange Field sits at the centre of Charlton Kings - many refer to it as the 'heart of the village'. The Parish Council started the consultation process to hear what you had to say and the majority want the Field to be enhanced and to be a valuable resource to all. The Parish Council is committed to making that happen however we do recognise that unless we all play a part then having a great space is not guaranteed. A small number stepped forward to join a group 'Friends of Grange Field' and this will be key to enabling community involvement to change Grange Field from a place which people cross, where litter and anti-social behaviour rule to somewhere people of all ages can exercise or relax, find inspiration and enjoy nature.

People gave us lots of information and ideas. Unfortunately, the space on Grange Field isn't big enough to accommodate all of the ideas put forward. The Parish Council, like many of the residents who responded, believes it is important that the central area of Grange Field is left clear for games, events and activities and we need to get the balance right. There will be planting, a review of fitness and activity equipment and if funds allow an all - weather exercise path for all ages which will also provide better all year-round access to the field particularly for those with reduced mobility. Our aim will be to place these so as to enhance the usage of the field by all age groups and where possible not cause concern to the neighbours of Grange Field.

One of our first steps will be to acquire the funds to support these projects and we will be working with our partners to secure these and based on our level of success will prioritise accordingly. In 2021 the Parish Council will aim to:

Your Councillors

Cllr Rob Williams (Chair)

Cllr Paul Cockwill

Cllr Russell Grimshaw

Cllr Penny Hall

Cllr Clive Hodges

Cllr Ned Holt

Cllr Janet Honeywill

Cllr Lynda Johnson

Cllr Andrew Lansley

Cllr Duncan Munro

Cllr Jim O'Sullivan

Cllr Pat Palmer

Cllr Felicity Parnham

Cllr Rob Reid

Cllr Ros Smith

- Install a "Welcome to Grange Field" sign - many residents did not know what the grass space was called!
- Establish a Friends of Grange Field group. First steps include establishing a constitution and agreeing its scope. We welcome more volunteers - please get in touch with the Parish Office if you would like to be involved. Our aim is that this group will eventually take over the day-to-day management and development of Grange Field for the community.
- Install an all-weather exercise path. Following the positive feedback from



parish colleagues in Prestbury we propose to proceed with the project in the spring if our bid for funding is successful. This will provide a path of approximately 225m around the perimeter of the field (but not too close to the houses) that is suitable for both runners and walkers of all ages and mobility levels. There will be markers every 25 metres so that people can set themselves targets of speed or distance if they so

wish. The exercise path will have short links to the existing footpaths.

- Focus on Youth Engagement - the Parish Council will liaise with local schools and agencies to agree a plan to help to provide young people with a space they can enjoy like everyone else. We will aim to work with others to address the issues raised.
- Consider possibilities to increase seating - another very popular request - and ways to fund these.
- Review the Fitness equipment - understand the current provision, siting and use of current equipment and the potential for improvements.
- Consider installing a table tennis table - a popular idea. Cost and potential location will need to be decided.
- Review the Activity Facilities for all ages - liaise with Cheltenham Borough Council to better understand the current provision of facilities across Grange Field, the Beeches and the QE Playing Field and discuss the potential to increase the range of provision.
- Consider what art and creative projects can be taken forward by engaging with local artists and landscape gardeners.
- Get litter picking working with friends and local agencies to tackle litter and get more bins in place including recycling facilities.

We will keep residents informed as this work progresses through our newsletters, website and social media. Thank you again for taking the time to give us your views. If you have any questions contact the Parish Office.

CK Futures – consultation with residents Thank you to all 162 of you who completed the CK Futures Survey. If you didn't manage to get to it, read on all the same! We're encouraged to hear that nearly half of those who responded intend to reduce their carbon footprint this year, and 38% are thinking about it! Your responses are helping the Parish Council and the CK Futures team work

out how we can best help you. Perhaps you're one of the 78% of residents who told us they haven't yet calculated their carbon footprint, and would like to know how to go about it? Or maybe you could use some advice and inspiration on easy ways to make a start. If you've already succeeded in reducing it, could you share your story to help others? For those who are Facebook users - check out Sustainable Charlton Kings.

To help us tailor our activities to residents' needs, please could we ask you just a few more questions? Don't worry if you didn't complete the original survey, we'd still like to hear from you.

Which would be of most benefit to you? - pick your top 3.

- Basic knowledge about 'carbon footprint' - what it is and what it means
- A quick, easy and reliable way to calculate it
- Support in reducing it from an online community?
- A specific carbon reduction target (eg 10% reduction) that you can track progress toward?
- A pick list of carbon reduction options from which you make your plan?
- Knowing that others in the community are working to reduce their CF?
- Other ideas – let us know

Please email ckfutures@charltonkingsparishcouncil.gov.uk with your answers. We're still analysing and assessing the other survey questions so expect to hear more about these next time.

The CK Futures team is a small group of local people who wish to help Charlton Kings adapt to a more sustainable world. If you can help, have a story to share, or if you would be interested in joining us, please email us at ckfutures@charltonkingsparishcouncil.gov.uk

Christmas at Sixways Despite the problems of COVID-19, we were able to launch the first 'Sixways Christmas', with the Parish Council assisting with Christmas trees, and businesses providing decorations and publicity. They also agreed to use this as an opportunity to promote local charities, the Aston Project, Public Hearts Appeal Cheltenham, Maggies, Winston's Wish, the Sue Ryder Hospice, Cheltenham Food Bank, FEED Cheltenham, the Cheltenham

Animal Centre, Mercy in Action, and the Great Western Air Ambulance. We very much hope that 2021 will see us able to build on this with a chance for the community to come together more fully at Sixways. In the meantime, many thanks to



participating businesses, to James Kenney who designed the colourful posters and leaflets, and to The Friends of Charlton Kings who helped us to distribute leaflets to residents.

The Parish Council achieves the Local Council Award Scheme – Quality Award

The National Association of Local Councils (NALC) describes their Local Council Award Scheme (LCAS) as being designed “to celebrate the successes of the very best local councils and to provide a framework to support all local councils to improve and develop to meet their full potential”.

Our Parish Council was awarded the NALC ‘Foundation’ Award in April 2020 and immediately started working towards the second level, the ‘Quality Award’.

NALC says that “The Quality Award demonstrates that a council achieves good practise in governance, community engagement and council improvement. Quality councils go above and beyond their legal obligations, leading their communities and continuously seeking opportunities to improve and develop even further”. Charlton Kings Parish Council was awarded the ‘Quality Award’ in December 2020, becoming one of just 122 Town and Parish Councils to have achieved this level of award.

It is important to emphasise that achieving an LCAS accreditation is not an end in itself. It is only a means to the end which is what those who worked towards creating a new Parish Council for Charlton Kings in 1995 wanted to achieve – a local council that would better serve our community.

68 Councils have achieved the LCAS ‘Gold Award’, and this is our final goal.

January 2021

