

Chignal Parish Council

C/O 45 Cherry Garden Road, Great Waltham, Chelmsford, Essex, CM3 1DH

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Clerk: Will Adshead-Grant

Chair: Lynn Ballard

Website: e-voice.org.uk/Chignal-Parish

Vice Chair: Linda Nelson

Minutes of the Bi-Monthly Meeting of the Chignal Parish Council held on Monday 10th July 2023 at 7.30pm.

Governance

2023/593 Chair's Welcome

Chair: Ballard

Cllrs: Lewis, Nelson, Stainton and Towns.

2023/594 Apologies for Absence

Cllr Elwick.

2023/595 Confirmation of the minutes of the AGM and meeting of the Parish Council held on 15th May 2023.

Resolution: The minutes were confirmed.

2023/596 Note the Orchard sub-Committee minutes held of 28th June 2023

Resolution: The minutes were noted.

2023/597 Register of Declarations of Interests and any requests for dispensation

There were no declarations.

2023/598 Public Open Session for any matters that need to be drawn to the Parish Council's attention.

The item does not need to be on the current agenda.

17 members of the public.

- Driving issues being created with trying to pass lorries delivering at Gardening Express.
- Pylons – 2022/601 – 1. The only solution is the offshore grid. Additional offshore development is planned. It was pointed out that a cable is reported to be coming across from Germany. ESO study of various routes for the cables. The underwater cable was at that time regarded as the cheapest option. There is a full review of routes by ESO starting in August 2023. The infrastructure and cost are higher for the underwater cables as it's a different technology.
- The Emergency plan was discussed with Chelmsford City Council representative Karen Buttress at a community group event. Potential to discuss and plan an emergency bag for each resident.
- Flooding around Hard Oaks. The pond overflows across the road. The drain near to Hard Oaks is blocked solid.
- Gardening Express. A huge amount of litter has been collected around this location and concerns how this litter has been created.
- Digigo project. Very supportive of the product and service. User of the Digi bus app.
- Roadside verges. Narrow cut in spring and full cut in autumn is preferred. Frustrating that cuts keep happening randomly.

2023/599 County and City Councillors' Reports

i. Essex County Councillor Report – Cllr Mike Steel

RideLondon:

The event was successful. I visited various points along the route in my division, including the Vehicle Crossing Point in Writtle.

I have been asked about grant funding from RideLondon - please see the link below; this will take you to the funded projects.

<https://www.activeessex.org/london-marathon-foundation-funded-initiatives/>

LHP

Scheme LCHE212007 Village gateway Improvements – planned for 23/24 – redesign and implementation. No specific date available.

Scheme LCHE223012 – Orchard Access - still in validation phase. I have asked for an update.

National Grid

National Grid has released a [press release](#) announcing they are undertaking a second (non-statutory) public consultation on their proposals for a new high-voltage powerline route linking Norwich and Tilbury. Their public consultation starts **27 June and runs until 21 August**.

MAP & Consultation info

Click here for interactive map:

<https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/ba2cbd9ac64c4723847fae8637d50df3/>

Click here for consultation page:

<https://www.nationalgrid.com/electricity-transmission/network-and-infrastructure/infrastructure-projects/norwich-to-tilbury/public-consultation>

Both Essex County Council and Chelmsford City Council will respond.

The Northwest and Southwest Parishes Group have met to coordinate responses of member Parish Councils. There are a series of local public consultations. The nearest one to us is:

Wednesday 12 July 14:00 to 19:00 BST - Chelmsford City Racecourse, Chelmsford

Recently, the Electricity Systems Operator (ESO) announced that it would launch a 'Study' to assess objectively the options for Norwich to Tilbury and other proposed network reinforcements across East Anglia. We understand the Study will consider the costs and deliverability of the different options. This will include the offshore option.

However, the consultation does not consider, the outcome of this study!

National Grid have stated that if the recommendations from the ESO Study should indicate alternative infrastructure options, they will review and engage with the impacted communities appropriately.

After this consultation and following the completion of the ESO Study there will be a further stage of consultation next year, where National Grid aim to show finalised proposals.

Essex Electric Vehicle Charge Point Strategy - public consultation launched.

Highways have launched a public consultation on the Essex Electric Vehicle Charge Point Strategy. In Essex, around half (49%) of CO₂ emissions are from transport and it is the largest contributor to poor air quality across any economic sector. Over half of these emissions come from cars and a third from heavy and light goods vehicles. Responding to the climate crisis, Essex County Council has committed to reducing the county's greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2050, in line with UK statutory commitments. Alongside this, the Government is phasing out the sale of new petrol and diesel cars by 2030 to accelerate the transition towards all new vehicles being zero emission. Switching to electric vehicles (EV) will help contribute to the net zero goal and improve air quality, but to make this a reality and aid EV growth in the county, people need access to a reliable, convenient, accessible, and fairly priced network of EV charge points. The Essex Electric Vehicle Charge Point Strategy aims to support this by setting out how Essex County Council will work with local authority partners and the private sector to enable the delivery of charging points in key locations to maximise use – delivering the "The Right Charger in the Right Place".

Key stats -

- There is potential for 50,000 EVs in Essex by 2025, rising to 220,000 by 2030.
- There are currently 300 registered public charge points in the county. It is predicted we will need a minimum of 1,500 by 2025, rising to 6,000 by 2030.
- The projected increase in uptake of EVs could reduce car and van CO₂ emissions in Essex by around 70% by 2040.

To support the development of the strategy, it has now reached a stage at which we would welcome views to help refine it further. The six-week public consultation is open until Sunday, 30 July 2023. You can read more

about the strategy and take part in the consultation via the scheme webpage at: www.essexhighways.org/ev-strategy.

Our project team can be contacted at ElectricVehicleStrategy@essexhighways.org

Member Led Carriageway Pothole Scheme

A new scheme will be starting shortly and will operate in the same way as the last one.

As you know I was particularly dynamic in making sure the potholes in my division were addressed and went well beyond my allowance of 36, actually putting in 50.

I want to make sure that we make full use of the new scheme.

Please let me know about your worst potholes in the road. I need:

- Location – preferably What3words
- Photo
- Description

Last time, not all Cllrs used their allowance, and the scheme had to be extended. This won't happen this time, and I need to start submitting soon. So please send me your requests ASAP.

Community Initiative Fund

The CIF has been relaunched for 2023-24. The £350,000 fund is administered on by EALC on behalf of ECC. and is open to voluntary organisations, community groups and Town and Parish Councils with projects which strengthen communities and make Essex a great place to live and work.

There are two levels of grant:

- grants up to £10,000 towards capital or revenue projects that benefit the wider community.
- micro grants up to £1,000 to help grassroots groups reduce social isolation, improve wellbeing or help communities connect.

Projects should have community backing and show that they help meet a real community need. They could be to:

- create, buy or develop new community assets.
- enhance existing community assets.
- enhance or develop initiatives that strengthen a community, including cultural initiatives.

This year £300,000 is allocated to the main CIF round with grants of up to £10,000 available to support projects that demonstrate a real community need.

The deadline for full applications to the main CIF round this year is 18 August 2023.

Groups can apply to the fund by visiting <https://www.ealc.gov.uk/community-initiative-fund/>.

ii. Chelmsford City Councillor Report - Cllr Nicolette Chambers

Cllr Chambers sent her apologies.

Planning

2022/600 Planning Decisions:

<u>Reference</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Status</u>
18/00001/MAS	Land North of Warren House Roxwell Road Writtle Chelmsford Essex	Pending Decision
21/01545/OUT	Land North of Warren House Roxwell Road Writtle Chelmsford Essex	Pending Consideration

2022/601 Planning Updates:

1. National Grid's East Anglia Green scheme now renamed 'Norwich to Tilbury' (part of The Great Grid Upgrade).

Second public consultation expected in the summer. The Electricity Systems Operator (ESO) is conducting a 'Study' to assess objectively the options for Norwich to Tilbury and other proposed network reinforcements across East Anglia, including the costs and deliverability of the different options.

Comment in by the 21st of August.

Open meeting Wednesday 12th July at the Great Leighs racecourse.

The website was reviewed live at the meeting to discuss the route and impact of the proposed route. There have been some minor changes to the route.

Meeting of the NW and SW Parishes to discuss with Rosie Pearson on best approach. Next meeting 31st July to discuss the Pylon proposed route.

2. Kilnfield Barns development: update

The barn's scheme has gathered pace over the last couple of months with the arrival of the frame for Barns 3 & 4, which is a new huge substantial Oak Frame, so all 8 barns are now in construction with 5 of them roofed over and works to the interiors in progress.

The external works are also in full progress with the new front road boundary wall built, and they have included for the "flint detail" panels at the entrance that the Parish Council requested!

With regards to outstanding Planning Approvals the only approval now remaining for discharge is for the external landscaping, trees, hedges etc, and we have yet to see the final drawings and specifications for this.

2022/602 Planning Applications:

1) Reference: 23/00981/FUL

Address: Hillcroft Chignal Road Chignal Smealy Chelmsford

Description of works: Demolition of existing conservatory. Proposed single storey side and two storey rear extension with 2 new dormers.

This application is for the demolition of an existing glazed conservatory to the side of the property and replacing it with a new single storey brick side extension, along with a two-storey rear extension across the back of the property. These proposals will create a new sitting room, a larger kitchen with a dining area.

The side extension will be partially visible from the road and house driveway, but the rear will not be seen apart from the owner's own garden.

The drawings and plans show the size and location of these extensions that blend in well with the size of the existing property which sits on a large plot, however the drawings indicate "stripped brickwork" detailing to the side extension which does not match the brickwork on the rest of the house.

The rear extension is mostly glazing at ground level with two large dormers in the roof, all matching well with the existing property.

The **Chignal Parish Plan**, 2016, includes a Key Task to "support residents to improve their homes and stay in the village" and this is amplified in Objective 20, "to support opportunities for local residents to improve their homes or move to other properties in the Parish as a result of down-sizing, setting up new households or requiring additional care in line with the **Chignal Villages Design Statement (VDS)**".

The application is in conformity with the **Chignal VDS** (p. 20,21) in that extensions should be sympathetic to the property and in harmony with the surroundings, not unduly affect adjoining residents and not completely fill the available space in order to retain views of the countryside beyond.

It would also meet the requirements of **Chelmsford Local Plan Policy DM11 Extensions to existing buildings within the green belt, green wedge and rural area**. Within the Rural Area the extensions must not adversely impact on the identified intrinsic character and beauty of the Rural Area. In all designations, the extension or alteration must not be out of keeping with its context and surroundings or result in any other harm. This is a well-designed application but there are some concerns about the type of brick and the stripped detailing proposed.

Recommendation: **APPROVAL**

2) Reference: 23/00972/FUL

Address: Woodhall Farm Chignal Road Chignal Smealy Chelmsford

Description of works: Retrospective application for installation of access track with demolition of redundant garages.

This "retrospective" application has been submitted after the works have already commenced to obtain lawful planning permission. The works involve the construction of a new single-track road to access two cottages that are at the rear of the farm buildings, with the provision for a car parking area for four vehicles, as the only access at present is through the farmyard itself.

From a site inspection on 28/6, it can be seen that to create the space for this, three old garages have "already been demolished" and cleared away and the driveway / road has been excavated across the field towards the cottages, as shown on the plans and drawings. None of this is visible from the road and can only be seen on entering the farmyard itself.

The **Chignal Parish Plan**, 2016, includes a Key Task to "support residents to improve their homes and stay in the village" and this is amplified in Objective 20, "to support opportunities for local residents to improve their homes or move to other properties in the Parish as a result of down-sizing, setting up new households or requiring additional care in line with the **Chignal Villages Design Statement (VDS)**".

The driveway does not adversely impact on the identified intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside and is in line with the **VDS** and **Chelmsford Local Plan Policy DM8 New buildings and structures in the rural area**.

Recommendation: **APPROVAL**

3) Reference: 23/00567/FUL

Address: The Willows Mashbury Road Chignal St James Chelmsford

Description of works: Proposed Cart lodge

This application is for an oak and weather board cart lodge in the driveway of the property. However, there appears to be a discrepancy between the drawings submitted by Swift Oak which show **3 bays** and the "Design & Access Statement" which clearly states that it is **2 bay** cart lodge as per the existing. The Planning Application Form description is simply for "Cart Lodge as per planning visit". This needs to be clarified.

Notwithstanding the number of bays in the cart lodge, the exact location of this structure is now clearly shown on the plans, (it was missing before) and is on the right of the drive as you face the property from the road.

The building is 9mt x 7mt x 4.8mt high and will not be easily visible from the road as it is set well back. The drawings show a typical open front cart lodge which is exactly the type and style of building you would expect to see in this location which also matches the other outbuildings at this property.

The drawings show an upper floor in the proposed building. We would not expect to have a floor in a traditional cart lodge. The need for additional vehicle garaging would indicate that there will be more car movements exiting the property on to Mashbury road. The visibility of traffic approaching from the north is very limited and therefore improvements to the sight line would be beneficial to this property and neighbouring properties.

The **Chignal Parish Plan**, 2016, includes a Key Task to "support residents to improve their homes and stay in the village" and this is amplified in Objective 20, "to support opportunities for local residents to improve their homes or move to other properties in the Parish as a result of down-sizing, setting up new households or requiring additional care in line with the **Chignal Villages Design Statement (VDS)**".

The application is in conformity with the **Chignal VDS** (p. 20,21) in that extensions should be sympathetic to the property and in harmony with the surroundings, not unduly affect adjoining residents and not completely fill the available space in order to retain views of the countryside beyond.

It would also meet the requirements of **Chelmsford Local Plan Policy DM8 New buildings and structures in the rural area**. Planning permission will be granted for new buildings and structures in the Rural Area where the development will not adversely impact on the identified intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside. The Council will assess the development based on the following: i. the size, scale, massing and spread of the new development compared to the existing; and ii. the visual impact of the development compared to the existing; and iii. the impact of the activities/use of the new development compared to the existing; and iv. the location of the site is appropriate to the type of development proposed.

Recommendation: **APPROVAL**.

4) Reference: 23/00930/FUL

Address: 2 Ivy Cottages Mashbury Road Chignal St James Chelmsford

Description of works: Replacement Dwelling and detached garage

This is the second application for the complete rebuild of this cottage, following refusal of a previous application for a large-scale redevelopment of the site, (22/02256/FUL).

The application appears to have considered the concerns raised by the Parish Council on the previous application. The Council's two key concerns previously were the location of the new rear walls and omission of the "joint" drainage system which should continue to include Cottage No 1. Both of these points have now been addressed and corrected with this application.

The new scheme is now smaller in size and matches its neighbour's property footprint. The side elevation improves the appearance of the property which is clearly seen from driving along the road. It is noted that the consultant's comment that a record has been made to include for a "watching brief" by the Archaeologist as indicated in the Refusal Decision Notice.

This current scheme has now been reduced, is close to the size of its existing adjoining neighbours at No 1 Ivy Cottage and has taken account of and addressed previous comments made by the Council. The application now is in conformity with the **Chignal Villages Design Statement** (p. 20,21) in that extensions should be sympathetic to the property and in harmony with the surroundings, not unduly affect adjoining residents and not completely fill the available space in order to retain views of the countryside beyond. It would also meet the requirements of **Chelmsford Local Plan Policy DM8 New buildings and structures in the rural area**. Planning permission will be granted for new buildings and structures in the Rural Area where the development will not adversely impact on the identified intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside. The Council will assess the development based on the following: i. the size, scale, massing and spread of the new development compared to the existing; and ii. the visual impact of the development compared to the existing; and iii. the impact of the activities/use of the new development compared to the existing; and iv. the location of the site is appropriate to the type of development proposed.

Recommendation: **APPROVAL**

Finance

2023/603 Review the Accounts for 2023/2024.

Budget Heading	Staff Costs				All Other Payments									Total Expenses	Orchard	CILs	Reserve
	salary	Expenses	training	Community Ink a	Emergency Plann	IT & Web	insurance	EALC RCCE	Auditors Internal	Play field Maintenance	Bank charges	Hall hire	Publications				
	£5,000	£100	£300	£300	£300	£1,250	£260	£200	£200	£700	£30	£500	£200	£9,340	£1,775.34	£20,340.08	£21,516.48
Spent	£590	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£4	£120	£0	£714	£200.00	£4,268.49	£144.31
Forecast spend	£3,538	£50	£0	£300	£100	£0	£180	£200	£140	£400	£20	£300	£0	£5,228		£3,000	
Balance	£872	£50	£300	£0	£200	£1,250	£80	£0	£60	£300	£6	£80	£200	£3,398	£1,575.34	£13,071.59	£21,372.17

2023/604 Finance:

Account Balances:

Cheque Account £ **13,356.64**

Included in figures above:

Precept £4,050.00

Interest £51.88

Orchard Account £ **1,575.34** (Included in cheque account)

Saving Account £ **37,588.05**

- General Reserve £21,516.46
- Cil £16,071.59

Total £ **50,944.69**

To approve the following payments:

Item	Payment Value	Budget Heading
Clerk- Printer & Laptop	£908.49	CILs
Sit on mower	£2,700.00	CILs
Clerk- Defib parts	£91.74	Reserve
HMRC	£42.60	salary
ESSEX PENSION FUND	£158.11	SALARY
CLERK -June	£171.06	SALARY
EALC	£202.35	EALC RCCE
Internal Auditor	£125.00	Auditors Internal
Clerk - July	£170.86	salary
HMRC	£42.80	salary
ESSEX PENSION FUND	£158.11	SALARY
Chignal & Mashbury Village Hall	£60.00	Meetings

2023/605 Review of the Bi-monthly bank reconciliation

Resolution: The bank reconciliation is clear and matches the bank account.

2023/606 Internal Audit report on 2022/2023.

Items Raised by the 2022/2023 Audit 1. The reserves of the Council are still very high, and it is suggested that advice could be taken regarding undertaking projects for the benefit of the parish 2. Even though the value of VAT to be re-claimed is not large, providing the HMRC guidelines are followed, it would be a good idea to try and make a claim every year.

Resolution: The community meeting in October to discuss potential projects to spend the Cil money and look at the general reserve.

2023/607 Update on Clerks Annual Appraisal by the staffing committee

The clerk achieved a satisfactory rating and will move from spinal point 16 to spinal point 17 the top of the scale for his role.

Resolution The Clerks rate to be increased and backdated to April 2023.

REPORTS AND UPDATES

2023/608 Representatives' Reports: to discuss and debate any items.

- Litter Hollows / Copperfield Liaison - Cllr Elwick

1. LITTLE HOLLOWES

All fine and all construction work's completed, the only outstanding issues are the adoption of the roads and pavements by Essex Highway's which after 5 years is still not agreed and no attempt to complete this. This includes the streetlights in the development which remain ON all night and don't go off at around 1am as the rest of Chelmsford? and the finger road sign to Chignal and The Waltham's still needs to be fixed to the signpost. The sign is still in my garage, despite numerous emails to Highways and Persimmon to install this.

2. COPPERFIELD PLACE ... PERSIMMON.

The building works are completed with most houses now occupied, there is a final clearance in progress by the contractor and the site offices and compounds have been cleared. Site delivery lorries have stopped, and the main "new" Hollow Lane section is completed and in use as the main route into the development.

The main concern continues to be planting of trees and hedges and their maintenance and completing their works to comply with the approved landscaping plan.

I assume that Persimmon are waiting for the Autumn planting season, but a meeting with Persimmon, the landscaping company and The Chelmsford Planners (who approved the scheme) would be beneficial and would give us the opportunity to question when the scheme will be planted and why so many trees and hedges are just left to die, without water or care !

- Playing Field - Cllr Elwick and Cllr Towns
Used for the annual fete.
- Village Hall Liaison - Cllr Towns
Over £2,200 was raised by the fete and this sum will be split across local organisations that use the facilities.
- Community Engagement - Cllr Nelson
 - update on parish website.
 - This has been slightly delayed.
 - Some teething issues are being reviewed for action.
 - Clubs and groups should be able to access their own pages.
 - Meeting with webmaster so that dynamic changes can be made.
 - publication of the next edition of Chignal News.
 - What do the residents want? – discuss in October.
 - Compile list of residents requiring a printed newsletter.
 - Installation and use of the community laptop and printer.
 - These have been purchased with help from EALC micro grant of £500.
 - Laptop to be configured.
- Community Safety – Cllr Lewis.
 - consider options for siting and managing a Defibrillator in Chignal Smealey.
 - The Cricket Club has purchased a unit with a grant from the Essex Cricket Board.
 - Community Heartbeat trust will arrange the phone box.
 - Review of the phone box as the site.
 - The Parish Council will purchase the heated cabinet.
- Highways (include Hedges) - Cllr Towns.
 - Village entry signs on Chignal Road: update on funding from LHP
 - Consider candidates for the ECC Member-led pothole repair scheme.
 - Road safety issues: parking outside Gardening Express and overhanging road-side hedges.
 - Road closure. Chignal Road unaffected. Mashbury road closed twice without warning.
- Footpaths/Bridleways – Cllr Nelson and Cllr Towns.
 - No updates.
- Tree Warden - Cllr Ballard.
 - No updates.

2023/609 Countryside Conservation

The Community Meeting on Climate Change and the Ecological Emergency in October 2021 considered 5 issues:

- Climate change key facts and how they link to our daily lives.
- Community renewable heating initiatives.
- Individual actions that could make a difference.
- Gardens, gardeners and the community orchard.

- Parish-wide climate change mitigation projects.

A range of suggestions were generated by the break-out groups on community-wide and individual actions that could contribute to mitigating the impacts of climate change. It was recommended that residents be consulted through Chignal News and email on these suggested actions and invited to comment and rank in order of priority those potential projects which might require funding from the Parish Council.

The potential actions are listed below with comments on whether there has been any progress in implementing them over the last two years:

1. Increasing biodiversity and carbon capture

Tree planting: appreciated that the parish has supported tree planting and happy with the way the council have looked after and watered the trees. One suggestion to plant some trees close to the gazebo on the playing field to act as shade in the summer.

Comment: after investigation, this planting site was rejected because trees in this position would make it difficult to maintain the perimeter hedge and restrict use of the field for events such as the Village Fete. The gazebo itself provides shade and the southern edge of the field is in shade for most of the day.

At the end of 2021, the Parish Council applied successfully for a Greener Chelmsford Grant of £3,750 for the planting of 25 native trees to create a green buffer between Hollow Lane and Chignal Road. These trees were planted and are being maintained by the City Council.

In 2022, two additional Essex heritage apple trees were planted in the Community Orchard, including one that has been registered as part of the Queen's Green Canopy scheme. This brings the total of orchard trees to 73 plus 420 hedge saplings, comprising hazel, blackthorn, crab apple, elder and dog rose.

Road verges: would like to see them left longer with wildflowers and not trimmed as often. Note: The Parish Council reached an agreement with the City Council and Essex Highways about 4 years ago to have a half cut of the verges in the spring to give the less vigorous wild plants a chance to flower in line with Plant life's recommendations and road safety requirements.

Comment: at the end of 2022 the City Council planted 6,000 bulbs at the request of the Parish Council around the trees planted on Chignal Road as detailed above. These comprised Narcissus 'Tête à Tête' x 2000 ; Crocus mixed x 2000 ; Narcissus pseudonarcissus x 2000.

In addition, the City Council is working with Essex Wildlife Trust to find areas of verges on the edge of urban areas, such as the Hollow Lane junction, for re wilding and a study into local wildlife and insects.

Proposal to survey wild plants and wildlife: for example, funding would be available through the St Nicholas Bat Conservation project to carry out the survey and to produce an information board in the churchyard.

Comment: the bug/bee hotel in the Community Orchard has been replaced with a larger version as the original one was falling apart. More solitary bee blocks were added with drilled holes, as part of an analysis of which bees are laying eggs. The hotel is very busy and will require more bee blocks in the future.

Two hedgehog boxes will be made before winter and placed under the collected grass/hay mounds. As the Orchard has a surrounding rabbit-proofed fence, this should stop predators from reaching any hedgehogs.

The published animal survey of 2020/21 with the trail cameras have not been repeated, but there appear to be more hares around. Foxes, badgers, deer and one mink have been seen using the trail camera close to the river. 2 black swans were spotted on the lake next to the nature park over a couple of days.

A monthly report/article will be published on the new parish website under the title of "Nature Notes" with some reports relevant for the coming month plus possible videos and pictures.

Community orchard: encourage more volunteers to help with the practical tasks of managing the orchard and wildflower meadow in a low carbon way. For example, by canvassing interest in a training session on using and maintaining an Austrian scythe to carry out the annual meadow cut.

Comment: *no interest from residents has been shown in using an Austrian scythe but there was a very good response to calls for help to rake up the hay following the annual meadow cut in 2022.*

Wildflower meadows: advice requested on how to establish and manage a wildflower meadow. Orchard Committee and Gardening Club could consider:

- Organising practical demonstrations on ground preparation and seed sowing in the autumn in individual gardens and on the annual meadow cut and removing the hay in the community orchard.
- Producing a guide on establishing and managing a wildflower meadow in printed form and on the Chignal website.

Comment: *The Chignals & Mashbury Gardening Club has considered the actions that came from the Community Meeting. For example, Roger Hance, a wildlife photographer, was invited in November 2022 to deliver a talk on Wildflowers and Orchids in the Countryside, covering the types of plants growing in different habitats – woodland, wildflower meadows, roadside verges, coastal areas as well as rivers and wetland areas.*

Soil protection: advice requested on the benefits and practicalities of sowing and managing green manures. Gardening Club could consider:

- Sharing experience of sourcing green manure seeds, e.g., www.sowseeds.co.uk
- Visiting members' gardens to see green manure plants growing.

Comment: *Wild and Rooted, Humphreys Farm in Great Waltham gave a talk to the Gardening Club in February 2023 discussing the changes they have made on their farm to move away from arable crops to herb-rich pastures. They explained how they have changed the methods for managing the land, with livestock playing a critical role in soil conservation and increasing biodiversity.*

Home grown food: share surplus with residents who may not be able to grow food themselves, such as elderly pensioners.

- Gardening Club could consider working with the Friends of the Chignals and Mashbury Group to distribute surplus vegetables and fruit plus produce could be collected at the monthly Coffee Mornings.
- Save seeds and distribute to residents.

Comment: *saved seeds were distributed at meetings of the Gardening Club and home-grown plants were sold at the Village Fete in June. Surplus crops have been brought to Coffee Mornings for residents to share.*

Traditional ways of farming and gardening: research needed in the parish to learn how food was grown without chemicals and modern machinery. Many of the older properties were connected to farming and have an interesting history. Old field names are cultural indicators, such as "Empty Purse" behind St Mary's Cottage which records a time when surplus crops produced on this fertile ground were distributed to poorer residents.

2. Options for home heating and insulation (see attached PowerPoint presentation)

Group heat/ground pumps and solar panels: consensus to do a feasibility study (Phase 1) for parish wide application and also consider heating schemes in clusters rather than individually to benefit from economies of scale etc. Consult residents and invite interest in Chignal News.

Insulation of attics/walls: should also be considered to help with the effectiveness and efficiency of all the above projects.

3. Transport

Cycling and walking: consider ways of making cyclists and walkers feel safer on the parish roads and on routes into Chelmsford.

Cycle paths: check progress on the cycle path proposed on the west side of Chignal Road from Trent Road to Roxwell Road. Note: maps showing current cycle routes around Chelmsford can be printed from:

<https://www.essexhighways.org/uploads/files/chelmsford%20cycle%20map.pdf>

Traffic calming: continue with efforts to implement measures such as a new 30mph limit on Chignal Road and village entry gates.

Comment: *The Parish Council has secured agreement of the Local Highways Panel to fund the design of Village Gateway signs on Chignal Road and Breeds Road. Implementation is expected in 2023.*

Electric Car Charging: advice on costs, community schemes etc

Comment: The County Council has launched a six-week public consultation on an Essex Electric Vehicle Charge Point Strategy until Sunday, 30 July 2023. Information about the strategy and taking part in the consultation via the scheme webpage at: www.essexhighways.org/ev-strategy.

4. Keeping it Local

Promote local traders: decorators, electricians, gardeners, plumbers, general jobs – Chignal website, community page and Chignal news.

Encourage locals with “skills” to volunteer to help **skills audit and register, similar to Friends of Chignals & Mashbury**

Ensure succession of community volunteers: **consider ways of engaging the interest of young people and their parents in community projects.**

5. Reusing/Recycling

Repair Shop: **community sessions to repair rather than throw away – advertise repair skills - - website, community page and Chignal news.**

Comment: the four public benches on the Green, playing field and orchard have been cleaned and oiled by a parish councillor. Most of the benches were in poor condition with algae and lichen covering the seating areas. They have been cleaned and oiled so in future should only require annual oiling, should last longer and not require replacement.

Jumble sales: **recycling clothes and goods – Modern twist - consider setting up a parish marketplace where goods could be advertised for swap, purchase or “free” to a good home. Note: there is a Chelmsford Freecycle group, www.freecycle.org**

Borrowing: **community scheme to loan equipment – website, community page and Chignal news**
Borrow tools/ equipment through the library: <https://libraries.essex.gov.uk/news/essex-library-of-things/>

6. IT Technology

Recycle equipment: **communicate where to recycle phones, laptops, printers, cables etc.**

Re-furbished equipment: **encourage rather than purchase new.**

Community IT: **workshop at Coffee Mornings**

Comment: The Parish Council now use a digital projector at meetings rather than printing agendas and reports and use email to communicate with residents.

A new parish website is due to be launched in 2023, including a digital version of Chignal News to replace the printed paper version that was delivered door to door. Clubs and groups can design their own webpages and keep their information up to date. Up to date news and events posted on the website should reduce the need to use printed promotional material.

A grant has been obtained by the Parish Council to part-fund the purchase of a community printer and lap-top to produce digital posters, leaflets, flyers etc and for printing a limited number of paper newsletters for those with no internet access. The lap-top could be used to improve IT skills during Coffee Mornings.

Recommendation: review and agree priorities for the Parish Council to ensure that the outstanding actions listed above are investigated and if feasible, followed up and delivered.

2023/610 Cil Application

- Community Defibrillator.
- Confirmation that Lawn mower received and in use by Croquet club.

2023/611 Items for the next Agenda.

Next meetings:

Monday 11th September 2023

Monday 13th November 2023

Monday January 2024

Monday March 2024

Monday May 2024

Monthly Meeting

Monthly Meeting

Monthly Meeting

Monthly Meeting and Annual Parish Meeting

Monthly Meeting

Meeting Closed 21:23

Will Adshead-Grant

Clerk to the Council.