

Charvil Village News



Spring 2026

In this edition:



Play Area
Officially Open!



Neighbourhood Plan
Update



Charvil Heroes
Nominations Open



Pulse Survey
Update

www.charvilparishcouncil.gov.uk



Charvil Neighbourhood Plan

Referendum

The Charvil Neighbourhood Plan will be going to referendum on May 7th

Make sure you're registered to vote!



Housing



**Traffic &
Transport**



**Green
Spaces &
Sustainability**



Flooding



Heritage



Community

More Information

You can find more information on
our website

Or visit the Wokingham Borough
Council website using the QR code



www.charvilparishcouncil.gov.uk/cnp



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Cover Image: The new East Park Farm Play Area
Photo by: Parish Clerk

EDITOR'S INTRODUCTION

Amanda Burton
Editor



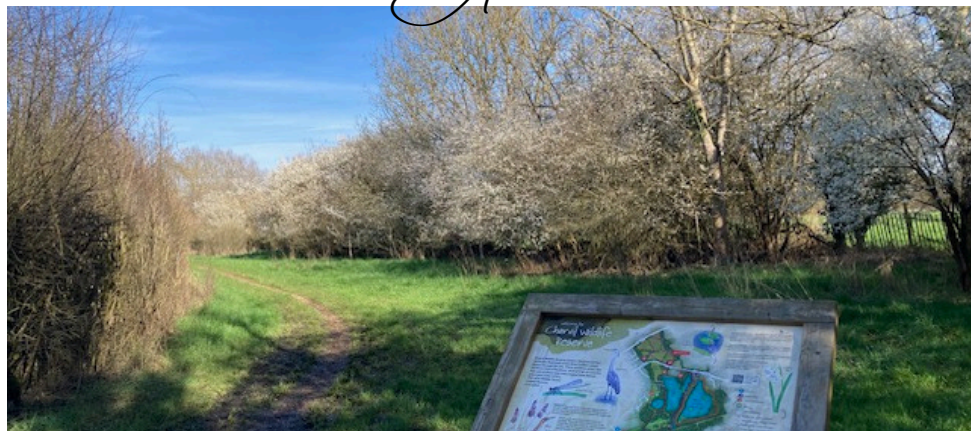
Spring has arrived in our village, bringing with it longer days, lighter evenings and the welcome sight of gardens and hedgerows bursting back into life.

As we turn the page to a new season, it's a wonderful time to reflect on all that makes our community special — from the dedication of local volunteers to the simple pleasure of meeting neighbours and friends on a sunny afternoon walk.

In this spring edition of the magazine, you'll find updates on current council projects, forthcoming community events, and important local notices. We're pleased to share news of upcoming improvements around the village, as well as opportunities for residents to get involved and have their say.

As always, the Parish Council is here to serve our community. If you have ideas, concerns or would like to contribute to future editions, we'd love to hear from you. Here's to a bright and busy spring in our village.

Amanda



CHAIRMAN'S FOREWORD

Cllr Matthew Walker
Chair of Charvil Parish Council



Dear Friends and Neighbours

Spring has sprung after the never-ending rain of January and February, and I hope you are managing to get out into the fresh air to enjoy all the village has to offer. In that context, it feels right to start with the great updated play area at East Park Farm, the feedback has been overwhelmingly positive and it is great to see the facility being well used! A huge thanks to the team who made it happen: the Parish Clerk, Amenities Manager, Cllr Pat Sutlieff and Isabelle Bray.

Thanks to Infinity playgrounds for going a great job on time and on budget, thanks to Ricky Josey from WBC for all his support and thanks to the National Lottery and the Polehampton Trust for their significant funding contributions. Since our last edition we also welcome Cllr Alan Simpson who was co-opted to the Council at our March meeting.

I am hopeful you will begin to notice some other smaller improvements around the village in response to your suggestions and to the recent Pulse survey; these include a new bench and picnic bench at St Patricks Rec and hopefully further incremental improvements over the coming months. We are pulling together a "Strategic Plan" for the council which should help us better articulate our plans for the next few years and also give keen volunteers more targeted opportunities to get involved in specific areas of interest. More on that later in this addition and at our upcoming Charvil Community Connect event. You will also see some information later on regarding this year's precept increase and give you a view on where and how the council spends your money.



The
Parish Precept

Charvil
Parish Council

A couple more things to flag from me. Our Charvil Community Connect on 20th May is a great way to reflect on the council year and key achievements. We will also be joined by representatives from Thames Valley Police, Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service, and our local flood warden team giving you a great opportunity to ask the questions which matter to you. We are also moving towards the final stages of our Neighbourhood plan being approved. This is a key step in giving us more of say about where housing developments happen in the village and protects some of our key green spaces. There will be a referendum to adopt the Neighbourhood plan where you will all be asked to vote – voting will happen on the same day as the Local Borough Council election on May 7th – save the date in your diary!

The usual final call from me, we do have some vacancies currently on the Parish Council and would love to hear from anyone who is interested in getting involved and playing a part in shaping the future of our community. Please contact the Clerk if interested or I am also happy to answer any questions you may have.

As always do feel free to contact me with any suggestions, concerns or questions.

Wishing you all a restful Easter break for those celebrating *Matt*



NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN UPDATE

Rob Jones, Chair of Neighbourhood Plan Working Group

Charvil's Neighbourhood Plan: The Final Vote!

It was back in 2021, during a Covid-era Zoom call, that Parish Councillors and residents first came together to begin work on the Charvil Neighbourhood Plan. In the five years since then, there has been extensive engagement with the village and a great deal of work behind the scenes. Many residents have contributed their time and ideas—serving on the steering committee, joining working groups, responding to surveys, attending consultation events, and providing feedback as the plan has developed.

The plan has now passed an important milestone. Following a detailed review, it has been approved by an independent examiner who confirmed that it meets the required planning standards. As a result, the process now moves into its final stage: the local referendum.

On 7th May, alongside the local borough council elections, residents of Charvil will be asked to vote on whether the Neighbourhood Plan should be formally adopted. If a simple majority of those voting support the plan, it will become part of the statutory planning framework used to guide development in the parish.

The article below summarises the key ideas behind the plan and what it aims to achieve, helping residents make an informed choice ahead of the vote.

What the Neighbourhood Plan Means for Residents

The Charvil Neighbourhood Plan sets out a community-led vision for how the village should develop between now and 2040.

Its aim is to ensure that future development improves the village while protecting the qualities that residents value most.



Neighbourhood Plans give communities a formal voice in the planning system. Once adopted, the policies in the plan must be taken into account when decisions are made on planning applications within the parish.

In practical terms, this means the plan can help shape how Charvil grows—ensuring that development supports the community rather than simply adding more housing. It also ensures the Charvil gets a bigger share of the Community Infrastructure Levy the funds that developers pay that can be used to provide new facilities. Below is a summary of the main themes within the plan.

Protecting Community Facilities

A key priority of the plan is safeguarding the facilities that help bring the community together. These include places such as the village hall, sports grounds, playgrounds, local shops and public houses.

The policies aim to prevent these facilities from being lost unless there is clear evidence that they are no longer needed. The plan also encourages new development to contribute to improving community infrastructure.

For residents, this helps ensure that as the population grows, the services and amenities available to the community grow with it.



Providing the Right Types of Housing

The plan recognises that Charvil's housing stock is dominated by larger family homes. While these remain important, the plan encourages a wider mix of housing types in future developments.

This includes smaller homes, flats and more affordable housing options. The intention is to make it easier for younger people, first-time buyers and older residents looking to downsize to remain in the village.

Creating a broader range of housing can help support a more balanced and sustainable community.

Protecting the Character of the Village

Residents consistently highlight the importance of Charvil's distinctive character: its green setting, mature trees and semi-rural feel.

The plan therefore includes policies that encourage high-quality design in new developments. Buildings should respect the scale, layout and landscape of their surroundings so that they fit naturally within the village.

This approach aims to ensure that any new development enhances the character of Charvil rather than detracting from it.

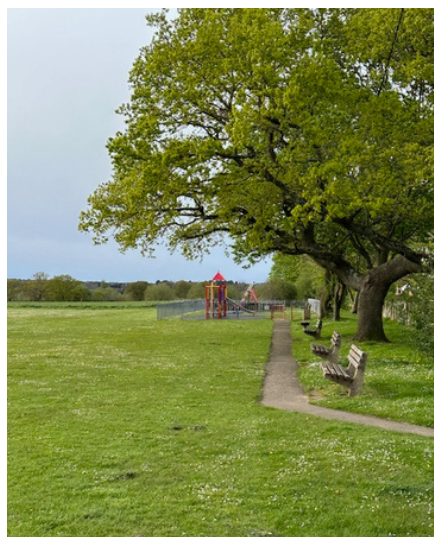


Protecting Green Spaces and the Natural Environment

Green spaces and natural habitats are central to village life. The plan proposes protecting several important open spaces as Local Green Space, giving them strong protection from development.

It also supports the preservation of wildlife corridors, mature trees and important landscape views across the surrounding countryside.

Together, these policies aim to safeguard the natural environment that makes Charvil such an attractive place to live.



Encouraging Sustainable Development

The plan promotes environmentally sustainable development. New buildings are encouraged to be energy efficient and to incorporate renewable technologies where possible. Over time, this could reduce energy use and contribute to lower carbon emissions across the village.





Improving Walking, Cycling & Transport

Many residents have raised concerns about road safety and the difficulty of moving around the village without using a car.

The plan supports improvements to the pedestrian and cycling environment, including safer crossings and better links to nearby destinations such as Twyford.

It also encourages development that supports stronger public transport connections.

These changes aim to make it easier for residents to travel safely and sustainably.

Addressing Flood Risk

Flooding has affected parts of the parish in the past, and the plan recognises the need to consider this when planning new development.

Policies encourage careful assessment of flood risk and support nature-based approaches such as improved drainage and habitat restoration to help manage water more effectively



A Plan for the Future of Charvil

Overall, the Neighbourhood Plan is about shaping development so that it benefits the village. It seeks to protect the qualities residents value – green spaces, trees, views and community facilities – while ensuring that new housing and infrastructure meet the needs of current and future residents.

In simple terms, the goal is not just growth, but well-planned growth that keeps Charvil a distinctive, welcoming and sustainable place to live.

REMEMBERING MARGARET GIMBLETT

Bill Crane, former Charvil Parish Councillor (1985-1995)

Charvil Parish Council have asked me to write an article about the sad death of Margaret Gimblett on 15th December at the age of 94, at her home near Thirsk in North Yorkshire. She had been unwell for some time. The funeral service was at Baldersby, St James' s church near Ripon on 22nd January. I'm sure many older residents of Charvil will remember Margaret. She represented Charvil on Wokingham District Council for 22 years from 1976 to 1998 and was actively involved with many village organisations and developments for its future. Margaret's husband Gareth died in 2021 aged 89. They were married in 1958 at Oswestry.

To start at the beginning from the mid-1960s her husband Gareth, who was a member of the County Council, was involved with several others in trying to obtain civic parish status for Charvil. That's when I first got to know them. Up to then this area had always been part of Twyford postal district. Margaret was also much involved with this process and civic parish status for Charvil was finally obtained from 1970. Margaret soon afterwards became a Parish Councillor and in 1976 was voted to become a District Councillor at Wokingham. A position she held for 22 years, with Charvil residents voting for her each 4 years.



Margaret and Gareth's busy life continued and they had 4 children, Richard, Michael, Jonathan and Briony. Margaret over the years secured several senior positions on the District Council and I know she was Chairman of the Planning Committee and was leader of the Council for some years. I remember that Gareth was the Leader and then Chairman of Berkshire County Council in earlier times. Margaret was a regular churchgoer, attending St Patrick's in Charvil and St Andrew's in Sonning. They were both university students. Gareth was a senior lecturer at Brunel University.

Margaret on the District Council maintained regular contact with the Parish Councillors on local matters and future developments and was always kept busy bringing up her children. Housing developments and proposals in the village were causing concern in the late 1970s and early 1980s. In some cases, the District Council were overruled and Charvil had more houses but nothing in the way of new shops and amenities, but in 2000 Waitrose opened a new supermarket in nearby Twyford, which eased that situation.

By allowing John Hicks the builder to secure planning permission in the mid-1980s to build 124 houses in Park Lane, Charvil, the council were able to do “a deal” with the builder in that he would pay Charvil Parish Council £80000 and provide sufficient land for a new village hall, car park and children’s playground. This deal was accepted and the new Village Hall was finally opened in 1988, and the village still enjoys the full benefits of this now and for the future. Margaret Gimblett as District Councillor was personally involved with this “deal” with the builder and I feel she should always be remembered for achieving this wonderful gift for the village. In 2004 as part of the East Park Farm housing development a new sport’s pavilion was built. This was named the “Margaret Gimblett Pavillion” in recognition of Margaret’s huge contribution to the village. At this date they had already moved to Yorkshire but came back for the opening ceremony. This was their last visit to Charvil.

Both Margaret and Gareth had now been in senior positions on the District Council and County Council respectively for several years and the question of retirement I’m sure had been in their thoughts for some time and to possibly move to North Yorkshire to be near other family members. At this stage they were both in their late 60s. This move from Charvil took place in 2001 when they moved into a new house in Rainton and soon became involved in local activities. Margaret continued her church going and was made church warden at Topcliffe church for about 15 years. She was also interested in local parish matters and fought against additional housing in the village. She was keen to get their new garden in good order and enjoyed indoor bowls. Gareth developed a passion for exploring the Yorkshire Dales with their dog – Sam, and continued to edit scientific journals until he was well into his 80s.

In 1994 I wrote a book “A Walk Around Charvil” and Margaret wrote the foreword to this, when I reminded Margaret in 2024 that this was 30 years ago, she replied by return saying that this news had really “made her day”. Margaret said to me on many occasions she would like to write her own book about Charvil one day, but as far as I know she never did.



THE PARISH PRECEPT

Each year, the Parish Council considers its proposed budget for the coming year and assesses the funding that will be required to deliver its services. It is estimated that the Council's total expenditure in 2026/27 will be in the region of £223,303.

This will be funded from anticipated income of around £79,700 from the Council's businesses and income generating activities, and £143,603 from the precept levy on Wokingham Borough Council.

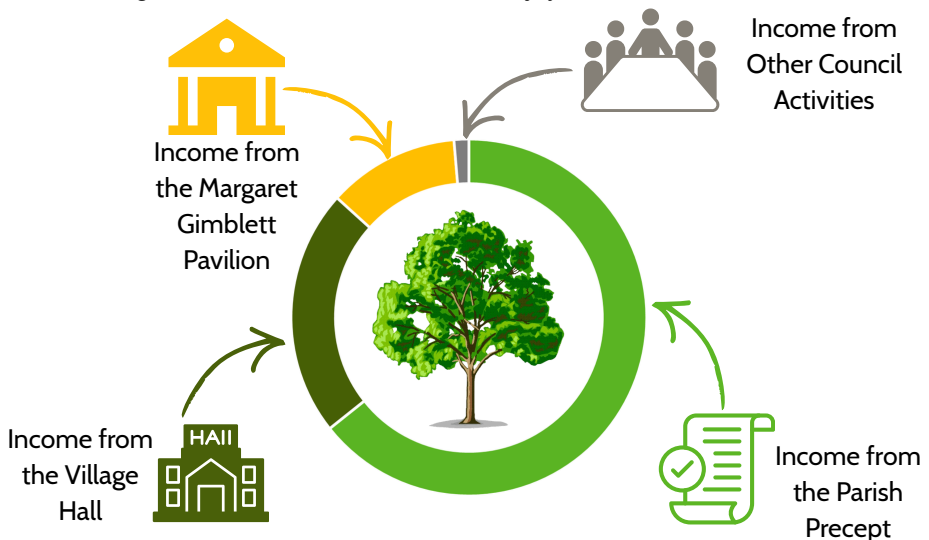
This equates to a charge of £96.77 for a band D property in Charvil, to deliver the Parish Council's services. This is an increase of £8.40 per Band D household for the year.

Because the Council has increased the precept to over £140,000, it is now required to provide information on how this money is to be spent. We have published the budget figures for several years now, but we are now providing more detailed information on where your money goes.

Income

The Village Hall continues to be a popular venue for groups, parties and other community activities, and we re-invest the income from the hall to maintain the high standards that have helped build its great reputation.

The East Park Farm facilities continue to develop, and the Council has invested a great deal in the past few years on the facilities and will continue to do so, to provide a range of activities for residents to enjoy.



What the Council Spends on Your Behalf

Parks, Play Areas and Green Spaces

The Parish Council manages St Patrick's Recreation Ground in the north of the village, for informal recreation, with a recent addition of a grass running track and the aim is to introduce a wildflower area this year. There is also a playground on the site, that although not new, is maintained to a high standard.

It owns the Village Hall and its immediate surrounds, which are maintained as a park area for residents to enjoy.

The largest site under Parish Council management is East Park Farm, which provides a mix of sports pitches, parkland and a freshly refurbished play area. The Council has cleared and improved some of the general amenity space for residents to enjoy away from the sports pitches and will continue to improve these spaces for public enjoyment.

Finally, the Parish Council has been working with Wokingham Borough Council to manage the park behind the Village Hall, where we have been working with residents to plant a community orchard, and with the recently formed conservation group, who have been clearing brambles and other invasive species from the park.



Allotments

Charvil does not have official allotments, but rather a small area of Vegetable Plots that are leased from the Borough Council. The Council continues to work with the allotment holders to provide a tranquil space and would create more sites like this if the opportunities present themselves.

Grants

Each year, the Parish Council budgets to give money to local charities and groups who work to benefit our residents. This year the fund is £3,000,

There is also a small fund of £300 to match fund sporting grants given by the Borough.

Youth Support

The Parish Council donates £1500 each year to Twyford Youth Club, who provide youth services for Charvil youngsters.



What the Council Spends on Your Behalf

Charvil Village Hall

Located in The Hawthorns, the hall has two rooms and a kitchen. It provides space for many community groups and event and can be hired out for daytime and weekend evening parties.

East Park Farm & Sports Facilities

The pavilion has recently been refurbished, and provides not only high-quality changing facilities, but also a hall that is home to uniform groups, karate clubs and holiday clubs. It can also be hired for children's birthday parties and other smaller groups. In addition, the tennis courts are a popular facility, and we are looking to see if there are other recreational facilities that can be added.



Capital Provision

The Parish Council is looking to move village facilities forward and to maintain those that we have, so we are developing a five-year plan to invest in capital projects where we can. In 2025-6, the Parish has invested in the resurfacing of the Village Hall car park, and the replacement of the East Park Farm playground.

Staffing & Democratic Services

To achieve the aims of the Council, there are six part-time Council employees who work tirelessly to improve facilities and services offered by the Parish Council. They support the Councillors who are elected every four years, the next election being held in 2028.

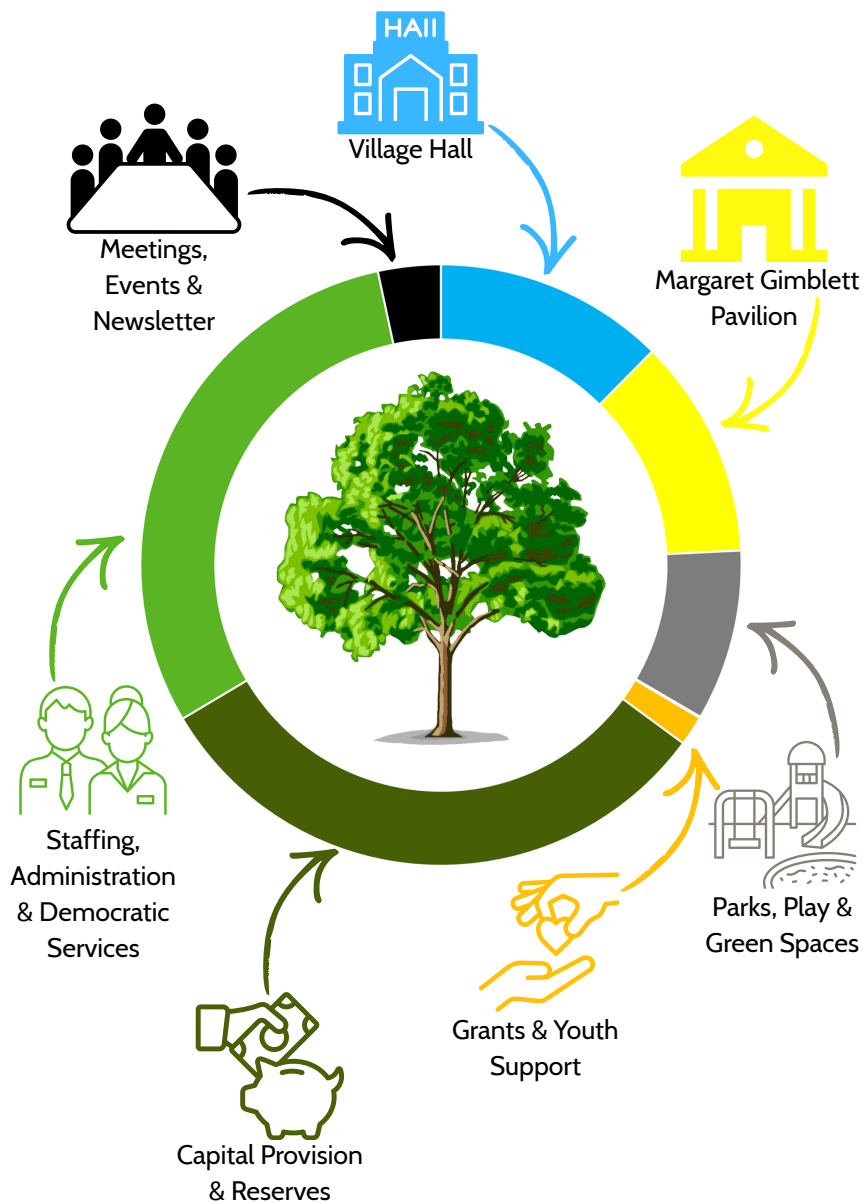
Meetings

There is a Full Council meeting every month, usually on third Monday of the Month.

There are also the Amenities Committee, Planning, Environment and Highways Committee, Staffing Committee and Finance Committee.

The Annual Meeting, recently held as Community Connect, is held each May and is the main opportunity for the public to meet the Councillors, and bring ideas and suggestions to further the aim of developing a cohesive community.





VILLAGE AMENITIES NEWS

Cllr Jane Hartley, Chair of Amenities Committee

The Parish Council's Amenities Committee continues to work hard to maintain and improve the outdoor spaces and facilities that residents enjoy across Charvil. These areas play an important role in village life, providing places for recreation, relaxation and community activities.

St Patrick's Recreation Ground

There have been several positive developments at St. Patrick's. Repairs to the park have now been completed, helping ensure that the facilities remain safe and enjoyable for residents and visitors alike.

Looking ahead, the committee is exploring plans to introduce 'wildflower planting' in parts of the area. This initiative would help support local wildlife and biodiversity while adding seasonal colour to the park.

The committee is also considering ways to keep the running track permanently marked, making it easier for residents to use the space for exercise and fitness activities throughout the year. In addition, new benches are planned, providing more seating for those visiting the park or enjoying the surrounding green space.

East Park Farm

Work is also planned at East Park Farm. The Parish Council is preparing to replace the failing retaining wall in front of the MUGA (Multi-Use Games Area) to ensure the long-term safety and stability of the site.

Tennis players will be pleased to know that new tennis passes are now available, allowing continued access to the courts during the coming season.

The committee is also overseeing work to clear the ground and plant a Covid memorial tree, which was kindly donated by a Charvil resident, creating a place of reflection within the recreation ground. At the same time, a new lime tree will be planted to replace the diseased tree that had to be felled, helping to maintain the character and greenery of the area.

Through these ongoing projects and regular maintenance, the Amenities Committee aims to ensure that Charvil's green spaces continue to be welcoming, well cared for and accessible for the whole community.

Residents are always encouraged to share feedback or ideas with the Parish Council, helping shape the future of our village amenities, either directly by emailing:

bookings@charvilparishcouncil.gov.uk

or contacting me (janehartley@charvilparishcouncil.gov.uk) or through our regular 'Pulse surveys' (see QR code in this magazine).

Hire our Venues

Did you know that the Village Hall and Margaret Gimblett Pavilion are available for hire?

Whether you're hosting a celebration or family event, a business meeting or looking for a home for your group, our buildings make ideal venues!



Charvil Village Hall



Venue Hire

- Main Hall for up to 200 people
- Committee Room for up to 24 people
- Full equipped kitchen
- Guest Wifi
- Free parking for up to 50 cars
- Level access throughout

charvilparishcouncil.gov.uk/hall

The main hall at the Margaret Gimblett Pavilion is also available for hire throughout the week.

With step-free access throughout, and parking for up to 50 cars, the Village Hall can accommodate groups of up to 200 people in the main hall. For smaller groups, our Committee Room is also available to hire.

The Village Hall has a well-equipped kitchen and free WiFi throughout the building.

We also have a stage which can be booked too!



Margaret Gimblett Pavilion



Venue Hire

- 12m x 8m Main Hall
- 4 Team changing rooms & showers
- 1 Umpire's changing room & shower
- Fully equipped kitchen
- Level access throughout

charvilparishcouncil.gov.uk/pavilion

The Pavilion hall enjoys views across the pitches to the Country Park and there is kitchen for refreshments.

With free parking at the large East Park Farm car park, the Pavilion is about more than just sports! It's an inexpensive, mid-sized facility, ideal for a number of groups and parties.

The pavilion also has changing facilities for up to four teams, and a referee for sports matches on our neighbouring pitches.

Information on all the local facilities in Charvil can be found by visiting:

<https://charvilparishcouncil.gov.uk/village>

Annual Tennis Passes

Amenities Manager

Annual Tennis Passes for the 2026/27 season are now on sale!

Holders of our tennis passes can enjoy unlimited bookings on our two courts at East Park Farm for a whole year. Our two hard courts at East Park Farm are available from 8am to dusk, and are enjoyed by both casual players and used for coaching sessions.

Annual Tennis Passes cost:

- Charvil Residents: £51.80
- Non-Residents: £72.75



Income raised from the sale of our tennis passes is used to clean and maintain the tennis court surfaces, nets and fencing throughout the year.



Annual Tennis Pass



charvilparishcouncil.gov.uk/sports



Apply on
our website



You can find out more information, and order an Annual Tennis Pass on our website at:

<https://charvilparishcouncil.gov.uk/sports>

or contact our Amenities Manager:

Email bookings@charvilparishcouncil.gov.uk Telephone: 07850 234363

UPDATES FROM LOCAL GROUPS

Caterpillar Club

Caterpillar Club, a toddler group run by volunteers, provides a space for children to play and friendships and connections to be made.

We welcome parents, grandparents and carers and their children 0-4 years of age to Caterpillar Club on Wednesdays (term time only) from 9.45-11.30am at Charvil Village Hall.

Each session includes story, snack and singing time and costs £3 for up to 2 children and £4 for 3 or 4 children. If you have pre-school age children and are free on Wednesday mornings do just turn up and join us – no booking required. The spring term starts on 15th April 2026. Any updates or for further information find us on:

www.facebook.com/groups/CharvilCaterpillarClub



Glass Ensemble

Do you love to sing?
Do you have a soprano or alto voice?
Are you free to rehearse on Tuesday mornings during term time?
Are you interested in joining a choir with fewer than 25 members?

If the answer to these questions is yes please contact Glass Ensemble on: 07930 690873.



The Project Singers



The singers have been working really hard this term to prepare for several performances.

The girls' choir are taking an ensemble exam on March 14th at Charvil Village Hall.

They will be singing Requiem, Revolting children, Defying gravity, When you believe and Rhythm of life

The ladies' choir have an informal performance at the hall on March 23rd.

They will be singing Eleanor Rigby, Streets of London, Scarborough Fair, Pastime with good company and Humpty Dumpty! Then we finish our current project with a concert at Norden Farm Centre for the Art, Maidenhead on May 9th. Tickets are available from the Box Office.



The ladies' choir will be doing a mini summer project running for six Mondays from June 1st. We will be working on two sets of songs - one is songs by Eva Cassidy and the other is Retro Classics! We have three places left so if you would like to join us please get in touch.

We are holding a Quiz Evening on June 19th at 7.30pm to raise funds for the choir. Teams of eight are invited to join us. £5 per person. Bring your own drinks and nibbles. If you would like to come along, please get in touch.

For more information, contact Suzanne Newman:

Tel: 0118 9340589 Email: suzanneynewman@btinternet.com



Twyford & Ruscombe Floral Art Group

Twyford and Ruscombe Floral Art Group celebrates 60 wonderful years!

We meet first Thursday of each month at Charvil Village Hall at 7,30pm and we all share one common interest – The love of flowers. Most of our meetings are taken by a floral demonstrator and we relax and watch the creation wonderful floral arrangements appear before our very eyes. A couple of our meetings are planned so that we can arrange ourselves. Our club is extremely welcoming and friendly so please consider coming along. For only £7 you will truly have an enjoyable evening.

To acknowledge our milestone we will be decorating St Mary's Church, Twyford and raising funds for Christian Aid Saturday 9 May. Please look out for our posters and social media posts for more details.

Please contact Tracy Ray 07968589935, if you would like to know more about the club.



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*It's good to
be home*

Age UK Berkshire

If you're over 50 and live in the local area, you need never be bored, as Age UK Berkshire organises a wide range of events and activities for older people – including social get togethers, seated yoga and Twyford Growers gardening group.

We all know that maintaining good social connections and physical health is vital as we get older, so why not come along and join in? You'll be guaranteed a warm welcome, and all our events are dementia-friendly – carers are welcome to come along too – and are led by our experienced, qualified team.

Our new social get together takes place at Squires Garden Centre Café, Floral Mile, Hare Hatch, Twyford, RG10 9SW, one Wednesday a month, from 11am-12.30pm. It's free to come along, and drinks and food can be bought at additional cost from the café. The next date is 8TH April 2026.

Seated Yoga

Seated Yoga is led by a qualified and experienced instructor, Seated Yoga runs every 4th Thursday of the month from 1.45-3.15pm at Charvil Village Hall, Park Lane. Classes are free to attend and include a cup of tea, cake and a friendly social chat.



Twyford Growers

Twyford Growers is a friendly, sociable group who get together to enjoy gardening in the great outdoors. Whether you have green fingers, or have never grown anything but would love to have a go, everyone's welcome. The group meet on Thursday mornings at Hurst Road Allotments, Twyford. The site is near to the train station, parking, seating and toilets are available, as well as somewhere to make a hot drink.

Email Twyfordgrowers@gmail.com or call 07718 882792 to find out more.

Did you know – Age UK Berkshire offer a range of other activities and events, along with a range of support services, including free information and advice, a home help plus service, a handyperson service, and Home from Hospital, which is a free service to help you settle at home in the first few weeks after a hospital stay. We also offer a fully qualified one-to-one dementia support service, offering care and support to people with dementia, and vital respite to their carers and loved ones. Call us or visit our website for more information.

Telephone: 0118 959 4242

Website: www.ageukberkshire.org.uk

Email: DementiaWokingham@AgeUKBerkshire.org.uk

My Cancer My Choices

My Cancer My Choices (MCMC) is a Charvil-based charity, established in 2015, by Mandy Barter and Liz Lee, with the goal of empowering cancer patients to take back some control of their wellbeing, by providing accessible complementary therapies at a very difficult time in their lives.

The charity offers a range of complementary therapies and group classes free of charge, to individuals living with cancer in the Berkshire area. These include acupuncture, massage, yoga and many more. The therapies help alleviate some symptoms, reduce stress and improve overall wellbeing.

Last year, they provided almost 1700 treatments for 471 people, and ran courses for 97 people. This year, they hope to reach over 700 people with over 2000 individual treatments and run courses for over 200 people, to meet increasing demand.



My Cancer
My Choices

Fundraising & Events

Registered Charity No. 1162165

MCMC relies fully on donations and fundraising to fund their work. This includes a programme of fundraising events such as our Golf Day and Quiz Nights (book via mycancermymychoices.org), and many more throughout the year! Sometimes generous people within the community organise their own fundraising activities for MCMC – anything from cake sales to running the marathon – every penny helps, and they would love to hear from anyone interested in fundraising for them.

They're holding a Quiz Night at Charvil Village Hall on Friday 12 June – this is always a great evening, with plenty of questions to test the grey matter and a hamper raffle! Also, look out for them at the Charvil Village Fete on Sunday 6 September, where they're running a Dog Show with lots of competitions and prizes – get your pooches ready! For details of these events and more, keep an eye on their website and socials.

Volunteering Opportunities

My Cancer My Choices would love to hear from qualified therapists interested in volunteering with them; or anyone interested in any of the charity's very valuable volunteer roles. Please visit their website, or get in touch using the details below. Rest assured you will receive a warm welcome from a very friendly and supportive team. By volunteering you would be enhancing the wellbeing of cancer patients in your local community.

My Cancer My Choices offers care, calm and connection to via complementary therapies to people living with cancer in Berkshire. They are grateful for all donations, support and online followers.

Contact Details & Website

Web: Mycancermychoices.org

Email: fundraising@mycancermychoices.org

Why not join our newsletter via our website to be the first to hear about all our events, volunteering and other news!

Or call: 0118 228 0960

Loddon Valley Ramblers

Charvil residents may be aware of work to improve the surface of the footpath along the Thames connecting Charvil with Sonning, which was undertaken by Loddon Valley Ramblers Volunteers in September of last year.

Whilst the recent wet weather has seen the path disappear under water, it looks as if the new surface has held up, and that, once the floods have receded, the path will still be much better than the previous quagmire.

Loddon Valley Ramblers have also secured more funding to enable their volunteers to complete the resurfacing all the way to Sonning Bridge. This work will be undertaken in the spring and summer of 2026.



**Do you need financial help with
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Complete a simple online application or call
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www.thepolehamptoncharity.co.uk



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CHARVIL VILLAGE HALL

WED 19.15

CHARVIL PIGGOTT PRIMARY

Loddon District Guides

On Sunday afternoon the 22nd February 50 Guides, Brownies, Rainbows and their leaders from, Charvil, Sonning and Twyford met at Charvil Village Hall to celebrate World Thinking Day. This is a celebration of 10 million girls worldwide that has taken place on every 22 February since 1926. It remains a day for all Girl Guides and Girl Scouts to think of each other and celebrate their sisters around the world.

To support the work of the World Thinking Day Fund 100 in coins was created by the girls for donation to the fund.. This supports the work of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS) and has enabled girls across the world to expand their horizons, raise their voices and take on incredible challenges.



Friendship was the theme for this year's activities and included planting a bulb to give to someone as an act of kindness, creating bunting with their thoughts on friendship, making Friendship Knots in ribbons, making a charm bracelet and, possibly the most popular, making S'mores on a wood fire outside and of course enjoying eating them.

The girls also participated in sessions of fun dancing to pop music and learnt some salsa moves. The sessions were expertly led by Zoe Horton.

The afternoon ended with campfire songs around an indoor camp fire and a presentation to Mrs Claire Howell; who has retired from her role as Tawny Owl at Charvil Brownies having given 22 years of service.

Together in Music - In support of Christian Aid

Sunday 10th May, 6pm at St Mary's Church

Celebrate the start of Christian Aid Week with an evening of uplifting music at St Mary's Church. Together in Music will be set amid the beautiful flowers from the Twyford & Ruscombe Floral Art Club's 60th Anniversary Flower Festival, creating a truly special atmosphere.

The programme features classical singers and talented soloists from the local Performing Arts College, alongside the Thames Valley Chorus male barbershop choir. A joyful evening of music, community and generosity.

Tickets: Adults £10 | Children/Students £5.



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Proud members of



1st Charvil Scout Group

A Brilliant Start to the Year for our Scout Group

Despite the dark evenings and the wonderfully unpredictable British weather, our young people have thrown themselves into an exciting and energetic term of Scouting. Rain certainly hasn't stopped play.

Over the past few weeks, our sections have enjoyed everything from high-speed Scalextric racing nights to hands-on science evenings that sparked plenty of curiosity (and a few surprised faces). We've also celebrated Chinese New Year and, of course, Pancake Day, which brought its usual mix of creativity, chaos, and delicious results.

As always, we're proud of the enthusiasm and teamwork our young people show every week. Their energy is what keeps our group thriving.

New Members Welcome

Our Beaver colonies currently have spaces available, and we'd love to welcome new children who are ready to make friends, try new things, and begin their Scouting adventure.

We are also always keen to hear from adult volunteers—whether you can help weekly, monthly, or occasionally. No previous experience is needed; just a willingness to get involved and support our young people.

Looking Ahead

With the lighter evenings on the horizon, we're already preparing for some fantastic camps and outdoor adventures in the upcoming summer term. There's plenty to look forward to, and we can't wait to share more with the community soon.



BEAVERS

JOIN THE FUN

Are you aged 6-8 and love having fun, making new friends, and trying new things? Come and join our Beaver Scouts at 1st Charvil Scouts! We have two groups, meeting Mondays and Tuesdays. There's always something exciting going on — from outdoor games and crafts to learning new skills and exploring the world around us.

Get in touch at charvilscout@gmail.com or check our website for more details.



EMAIL US <https://1stcharvil.org.uk>

© 2025 The Scout Association. Registered charity numbers: 306101 (England and Wales) and SC038437 (Scotland)

Polehampton Swimming Association

Save the Date! Get Ready for Summer

Is the weather getting you down? Are you dreaming of summer days by the pool? Polehampton Lido will be reopening for the season on Saturday 2nd May.

Join us from 10am to 12pm on our opening day. Enjoy a dip followed by a cuppa, homemade cakes and plenty of natter! Membership will open from 1st April so keep an eye on our website: <https://psaswimming.co.uk> or follow Polehampton Swimming Association on Facebook.

We have kept our prices low. A family membership is still incredible value for money at just “58 for the season.

A truly unique and special place

See the sunrise over Polehampton at one of our popular Early Birds sessions, swim through the mist of experience the rain on your head. The exhilaration of swimming outdoors is hard to beat! The Polehampton Lido pulls together people of all age, from our young tuck shop volunteers and Duke of Edinburgh candidates to out more senior helpers offering a real sense of community



Perfect for parties and private hire

From children's birthdays, year 6 leavers parties, school hire and voluntary groups to triathlon and other competitive events, we are proud to host all these sessions last season.

We even celebrated several milestone birthdays, including a 90th celebration for our longest standing member and active helper, Josie

Facilities include:

- 25m heated outdoor pool in pleasant grounds
- Heated showers, changing rooms, lockers and WCs
- Swimming sessions for all ages and abilities, swimming aids and pool toys
- Easy access steps
- Private hire, children's pool parties and access to children's swimming lessons
- Kitchen area with tea and coffee facilities
- Tuck shop and refreshments available

New Volunteers always welcome!

The swimming pool is a community facility, run by a small committee with a lot of help from our wonderful volunteers. Get involved and make a difference! We really do need your support to keep this amazing facility running. We have a variety of volunteer roles and would welcome any help with supervision and other tasks such as admin, gardening and maintenance.

You don't have to commit to every session. In return, we can offer first aid training and access to additional swimming sessions. If you are interested in becoming a Polehampton Volunteer, please contact the Chairperson, Sharon Searle, on 07765 842323 for further details.

Please keep this article and be the first to join when our membership system goes live on 1st April. We hope to see you soon!

Our Swimming Sessions

The pool is open from Saturday 2nd May through to Saturday 12th September outside of school hours. There are a range of sessions to suit all age groups. See full timetable below and retain for future reference. A fair booking policy may apply during busy times. Please note we are closed on Bank Holidays. You can find us at:

Polehampton Junior School, Kibblewhite Crescent, Twyford. RG10 9AX

TIME	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	CONTACT
6.00 - 8.00	6.30-8.00 Early Bird		6.30-8.00 Early Bird		6.30-8.00 Early Bird		Ilker 07879 430336
8.00 - 10.00							
10.00 - 12.00						Family Swim	Sharon 07765 842323
12.00 - 14.00							
14.00 - 16.00							
16.00- 18.00	Family Swim		Family Swim	Family Swim	Family Swim		Emma 07582 847650
18.00 - 19.00			Teen Lane Swim				Sharon 07765 842323
19.00 - 20.00	Adult Lane Swim		Adult Lane Swim	Adult Lane Swim			Sharon 07765 842323

Charvil Conservation Group



Econet Charvil is a wildlife conservation group that undertakes tasks to improve biodiversity of parks and woodlands in Charvil.

Since being formed in 2024, the focus has been on the Hawthorns Park by the Charvil Village Hall removing non-native and invasive species to clear areas to allow meadow flowers to recolonise, building dead hedges and log piles to manage brash and provide habitat for wildlife and assisting with the planting and care of the orchard that has been established in the park. Further tasks include planting wild flowers, hedge laying, creating stag beetle pyramids and possibly creating a seasonal pond.

New volunteers are always welcome to come and help. No experience is required. Training and guidance will be provided as necessary and tools and gloves will be supplied. The group meets on the second Saturday of each month from 10am - 1pm. If you would be interested in volunteering or would like more information please visit our website: <https://econetreading.org.uk>



For more information, including how to get involved, visit:
<https://charvilparishcouncil.gov.uk/directory/charvil-conservation-group>



You can find out all about local groups and clubs on our website:
<https://charvilparishcouncil.gov.uk/clubs>

VILLAGE NEWS QUIZ

Suzanne Newman, Charvil Resident

Which places in the county are located at these postcodes?

1. SL4 1 NJ
2. RG20 9RN
3. SL4 6DW
4. RG1 3BN
5. RG8 3NR
6. SL4 4AY
7. RG14 2LE
8. RG5 4UE
9. RG12 1AP
10. RG1 5AN



Answers on Page 66

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PULSE SURVEY UPDATE

Cllr Lee Cripps, Vice-Chair of the Council

First and foremost, a huge thank you to everyone who took the time to complete our recent community survey. We know life in Charvil is busy, so we truly appreciate you sharing your thoughts on how we can make our parish an even better place to live.

As a Parish Council, our primary goal is to ensure your priorities are our priorities. We've been busy analysing the feedback, along with other suggestions received, and we wanted to share some of the immediate actions we've taken as a result.

Play Park Improvements

We are thrilled to announce that the playpark works mentioned in our previous updates are now complete! We heard how important high-quality, safe outdoor spaces are for our local families. Whether your little ones are climbing, swinging, or sliding, we hope these refreshed facilities provide many hours of fun for Charvil's youngest residents.

Who Does What

The survey also highlighted some confusion regarding which local authority is responsible for specific services. To help clarify, our Officers created a quick "cheat sheet" for social media, on the differences between Charvil Parish Council (CPC) and Wokingham Borough Council (WBC), which you can find inside the rear cover of this magazine:

- Charvil Parish Council: We manage very local assets, such as the Charvil Village Hall, the Pavilion, some of the local playparks, and St Patrick's Recreation Ground.
- Wokingham Borough Council: They are responsible for larger-scale services, including highways and potholes, waste and recycling collections, schools, and social services.

By understanding these distinctions, you can ensure your concerns are directed to the right people for the fastest possible resolution.

New Comforts at St Patrick's Recreation Ground

One of the most frequent requests has been for more seating at St Patrick's Recreation Ground. We've listened: the Parish Council has ordered a new set of benches and picnic benches for the site.

These will provide a much-needed spot for parents to rest while children play, or for neighbours to gather and enjoy the greenery.

Keep an eye out - these will be installed as soon as they arrive!

A Final Word of Thanks

Your feedback is the heartbeat of our work. Thank you for staying engaged and helping us shape the future of Charvil. We are committed to continuing this dialogue and keeping our village a vibrant, welcoming community.

The next Pulse survey will be out in the summer, online and in the next edition of this magazine. Please take the time to complete this as it's important to have you involved in how we prioritise improvements to our village.

Keeping you connected locally.

Everyone deserves to feel part of their community. Whether you're looking for advice, support, or ways to get involved, these local services are here to help you connect, belong, and thrive.

Family Information Service (FIS)

Support for families, children and young people

- Free, confidential advice on childcare, early years, parenting, and local activities.
- Guidance on financial support and SEND (Special Educational Needs & Disabilities).



☎ 0118 908 8201

Community Navigation

Helping you find the right local support

- Trained Community Navigators work with you one-to-one to connect you with social groups, wellbeing services, volunteering, and practical help.
- Ideal if you are looking at making local friendships or develop new interests



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Free, independent advice for everyday issues

- Get help with benefits, housing, employment, debt, relationships, and more.
- Friendly advisers available by phone, online, or in person.



☎ 0808 278 7958

Wokingham Volunteer Centre

Make a difference and meet new people

- Volunteering is a great way to build confidence, gain skills, and feel part of the community.
- Find opportunities to suit your interests and availability.



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NEWS FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

The New Playground at East Park Farm

Cllr Pat Sutcliffe, Lead Councillor for East Park Farm

Wednesday, February 11th 2026 was a day to remember for local children!

It was the day their new playground (near the pavilion) was opened. For many it was the exciting end to seemingly endless days of restless anticipation, when they could finally get to touch and explore all the attractive and tempting equipment that they had seen slowly being added to the area where their old, dilapidated playground used to be.



After a long time investigating the possibilities for enlargement and redevelopment of the play area, the Parish Council had finally assembled sufficient money to pay for it, with the much-welcomed assistance of grants from the National Lottery (£20,000) and the Polehampton Charity from Twyford (£5,500). The remaining £67,659 was sourced from CIL money paid by developers of new housing in Charvil over the past few years.

The original playground, built in the 1990s was designed for children up to 5yrs old. However, since then, the primary school had been built nearby, so it made sense to convert the area to cater for children up to 11 years of age, which would require more space and more variety of play equipment.



After seeking advice from Ricky Josey (in charge of play areas for Wokingham Borough Council), the Parish Council proceeded to invite various firms to tender for the project to clear away old equipment and supply and instal new equipment to an enlarged area at the site of the old, worn-out playground.

The opinions of children from the school, and their parents, were sought to decide which pieces of equipment would be most popular. Their ideas were taken into account, as well as the need for some inclusive items for children with special needs.

The contract was awarded to Infinity Playgrounds for their tender, which most closely met requirements and they set to work, even through some of the most awful wet weather, in order to get the project finished on time. After completion, a safety inspection by ROSPA was commissioned and a few minor adjustments made,

As the opening drew near, the Parish Council invited Year 6 pupils from the school to test out the equipment and this they did with great gusto!



At the actual opening, just after school closing time, with sweets and fruit thoughtfully provided for the children by Infinity Playgrounds and other refreshments provided by the Parish Council, large numbers of children and parents gathered round for the ribbon-cutting ceremony and then what they were really looking forward to: testing out the new playground in person!

Here are some of the comments received from users or their parents:

"We absolutely love it";

"We love the park – it's so much better";

"It's so much better – a wonderful facility for our younger children";

"Ten out of ten";

"Really good";

"It's fabulous";

"We think it's lovely".

A few suggestions were made for further enhancement, which the Parish Council will be taking into consideration, but it must be noted that there is insufficient space to add more pieces of large equipment.

Hopefully, this facility will continue to be enjoyed by all young children in our community for many years to come.



New Councillor Co-opted

Admin & Social Media Asst



At March's meeting of the Full Council, Alan Simpson was co-opted to the role of Parish Councillor.

Alan has lived in Charvil for 30 years, and has been involved with the local Scout and Guide groups, as well as Twyford Comets FC.

Previously a senior executive in the IT industry, Alan is now retired and enjoys spending his time mountain biking and dog walking.

Speaking of his new role as a Councillor, Alan says "Charvil has been good to my family for three decades and now retired, I have the time and the desire to give more back. With the Neighbourhood Plan bringing both opportunity and responsibility, I'm looking forward to joining the experienced Parish Council team to serve residents with independence of thought and a clear focus on what matters most to our community."

Welcome to the Parish Council, Alan!

Delivering Charvil's Strategic Plan

Cllr Mark A'Bear

Can You Help?

Over the past few months the Parish Council has been collecting feedback from residents, through the Pulse Surveys, or direct engagement with residents. The Council has sought views at community events, received comments through the public forum at council meetings and engaged with the younger generation through student discussions at Piggott School. The result is a much better understanding of improvements that would benefit the Charvil community.

Last year a draft of the Charvil Neighbourhood Plan was made available for comment, and this is now close to final approval. The plan can be viewed on the Borough Council website at:

<https://www.wokingham.gov.uk/planning-policy/emerging-plans-and-guidance/neighbourhood-development-plans>

The Charvil Neighbourhood Plan sets out a vision for the future of the village and its surrounding countryside, providing a strategy and land-use planning framework to guide development within the neighbourhood plan area for the next 15 years.

To complement the Neighbourhood Plan the Parish Council has begun to develop a 5 – 10 year strategic plan that aims to implement specific improvement projects. Current projects identified reflect comments and suggestions from residents, spanning short to long-term timescales and costs from small to very large!

Some of the potential projects include:

- A café and/or village 'hub'
- Cycleways e.g. Charvil to Twyford or Charvil to Piggott School
- Pre-school building
- Solar panels
- Speedwatch
- Sensory garden (dog free), allotments and other environmental initiatives
- Renovation of St Patrick's playground
- Additional amenities such as benches, picnic tables, chess boards, table tennis
- Pump track for cycles and skateboards
- Outdoor gym

These ideas need to be prioritized in terms of (a) desirability and (b) feasibility. The Parish Council expect to present prioritized ideas and thoughts at the annual meeting in May. The likely outcome will be small working groups to look at projects in much more detail. For example, could funding grants and other financial support be found for cycleways? What resources and skills do we have locally that could support and deliver smaller projects such as environmental initiatives and additional amenities. Is there anyone that might want to talk to the council about a café and the support that might be available to help establish this facility.

Working groups would be open to residents to bring their expertise and commitment. Which projects would be of most interest to you and can you help by joining a working group? The Parish Council has limited resources – personnel and finances – but with support from the community we increase the chances of making these ideas a reality.

Please let us know.

PARISH COUNCIL CONTACTS

Councillors



Chair of the Parish Council

Cllr Matt Walker

Email: mattwalker@charvilparishcouncil.gov.uk Tel: 07974 160846



Chair of the Planning Environment & Highways Committee

Cllr Lee Cripps

Email: leecripps@charvilparishcouncil.gov.uk Tel: 07899 905240



Chair of the Finance Committee

Cllr Katrin Harding

Email: katrinharding@charvilparishcouncil.gov.uk Tel: 07466 146674



Chair of the Amenities Committee

Jane Hartley

Email: janehartley@charvilparishcouncil.gov.uk Tel: 07879 427350



Councillor

Cllr Pat Sutlieff

Email: patsutlieff@charvilparishcouncil.gov.uk Tel: 07788 100935



Councillor

Cllr Narinder Ryatt

Email: narinderryatt@charvilparishcouncil.gov.uk Tel: 07957 345652



Councillor

Cllr Stephen Lucas

Email: stephenlucas@charvilparishcouncil.gov.uk



Councillor

Cllr Mark A'Bear MBE

Email: markabear@charvilparishcouncil.gov.uk Tel: 07713 870801



Councillor

Cllr Alan Simpson

Email: alansimpson@charvilparishcouncil.gov.uk Tel: 07850 325015

Full details for your Parish Councillors can be found on our website:

<https://charvilparishcouncil.gov.uk/councillors>

Other Council Contacts

Parish Clerk

Mrs Miranda Parker

Email: clerk@charvilparishcouncil.gov.uk Tel: 07759 424478

Amenities Manager & Newsletter Editor

Mrs Amanda Burton

Email: bookings@charvilparishcouncil.gov.uk Tel: 07850 234363



PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

Unless otherwise specified, meetings take place on Mondays in the Committee Room at Charvil Village Hall at 8pm. Residents are welcome to attend these meetings.



Full Council

April 20th
May 18th
June 15th
July 20th



Planning, Environment & Highways Committee

May 11th
June 1st
July 6th
August 10th



Amenities Committee

April 13th
June 8th
July 13th



Finance Committee

April 27th
August 10th

The agenda for upcoming meetings, and full minutes of previous minutes, can be found at:

<https://charvilparishcouncil.gov.uk/meetings>

UPCOMING EVENTS

Admin & Social Media Asst



Wednesday 20th May

7:30pm to 9:00pm
Charvil Village Hall



Annual Parish Meeting & Community Connect

Our Annual Parish Meeting & Community Connect event for 2026 will be taking place at Charvil Village Hall from 7:30pm on Wednesday 20th May.

For more information, visit:

2026 Charvil Heroes Awards

Nominations are now open for the 2026 Charvil Heroes Awards.

The winner will be announced at our Community Connect event on Wednesday 20th May.

For more information, visit:

<https://charvilparishcouncil.gov.uk/awards>



Charvil Neighbourhood Plan Referendum

The referendum for the Charvil Neighbourhood Plan will be taking place on the same day as the Borough elections, with the Polling Station being at Charvil Village Hall.

For more information, visit:

<https://www.wokingham.gov.uk/planning-policy/emerging-plans-and-guidance/neighbourhood-development-plans>

Charvil Village Fete

We're delighted to have, once again, donated the use of the East Park Farm sports pitches, car park and the Margaret Gimblett Pavilion to host the Charvil Village Fete on Sunday 6th September. Save the Date!



Singing Afternoon



On April 25th, there is a fun singing afternoon for female voices at Charvil Hall organised by local music teacher and choir director, Suzanne Newman. This will be between 2 and 4pm. Join us to work on two short medleys. One is songs by Andrew Lloyd Webber and includes Memory, Music of the night and Don't cry for me Argentina. The other is a medley of songs from 'Pocahontas' and includes Colors of the wind and Just around the riverbend.

The afternoon is open to anyone who likes singing! £15 which includes music and refreshments. Places need to be booked in advance by contacting Suzanne – Tel: 0118 9340589

Email: suzanneynewman@btinternet.com

A poster for econet Conservation Volunteers. The background is a photograph of a group of people working in a garden. In the top left, there is a green square logo with a white leaf. To its right, the word "econet" is written in a large, green, sans-serif font, and "CONSERVATION VOLUNTEERS" is written in a smaller, green, sans-serif font below it. In the center, there are two small photographs side-by-side. The left one is labeled "Before" and shows a garden with a lot of overgrown vegetation. The right one is labeled "After" and shows the same garden after it has been cleared. Below these, there is a paragraph of text: "A Charvil based conservation group, created as part of econet with the aim of improving biodiversity of parks and woodlands in Charvil. The group meet on the second Saturday of each month, at the Village Hall from 10am to 1pm". At the bottom, there is a green rectangular box with the text "To register your interest" in a white, serif font. To the right of this box, the word "SCAN" is written vertically in a white, sans-serif font. To the right of "SCAN" is a QR code.

VOLUNTEERING IN CHARVIL

Parish Clerk

If you are looking for opportunities to get involved with your community, then here are a few ideas.



Duke of Edinburgh Volunteers

Charvil Parish Council is glad to be the assessor for five Charvil youngsters who started volunteering as litter pickers as part of their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh award in January. This is the best turnout for the Duke of Edinburgh award since the Parish Council started assessing volunteers in the Pandemic.

While the Council employs two litter pickers and are lucky enough to have the monthly Charvil Matters litter picks and several adopt-a-street volunteers, it is wonderful that our young people care enough for their environment to pick litter in their spare time.

We are always open to supporting Duke of Edinburgh volunteers, although practically, litter picking is the most viable option. If anyone else is interested, please contact the clerk at clerk@charvilparishcouncil.gov.uk

Village News Delivery

The Village News is delivered to all households in Charvil, and to achieve this, the Parish Council relies on a team of volunteers to deliver in their areas.

As people's commitments change, we are often looking for new volunteers, so if you think this is something you would like to get involved in, please contact bookings@charvilparishcouncil.gov.uk



Community Gardening Volunteers

Our project to renovate the beds that were planted with a few roses when the East Park Farm car park was built is progressing well.

The area has now been dug over and we need more volunteers to help with planting.

If you are interested, please contact:

clerk@charvilparishcouncil.gov.uk



Parish Councillor

Could you be the next Charvil Parish Councillor?



In Charvil, the Parish Council owns and runs the Village Hall, manages the East Park Farm sports facilities, looks after St Patrick's Recreation Ground and is responsible for some of the benches, bus shelters, notice boards etc around the village.

We also work closely with the Borough Council to allow other projects to happen, for example tree planting and the community orchard.

Other responsibilities include commenting on planning applications, raising issues with the Borough on behalf of residents, working with our Borough Councillors to benefit residents and to generally try to improve facilities within the village.

If you are at all interested in any of this work, we would love to see you at one of our meetings or come to talk to the councillors at our Community Connect event, to see if you could join the team. For more information, please contact clerk@charvilparishcouncil.gov.uk



You can find out more about the work volunteers do around the village by visiting: <https://charvilparishcouncil.gov.uk/getinvolved>

Loddon Nature Reserve - Volunteers Needed

Have you ever considered doing conservation work? Not only is it good exercise, but there is the opportunity to learn some of the old skills that are in danger of getting lost. For example, hedge laying and building, coppicing, pollarding and scything.

The 'Friends of the Loddon' meet on the last Saturday of the month from 10:00 – 13:00, with a break for tea/coffee. All tools are provided, so why not come a long and give it a try. There's no need to make a formal commitment, just come when you can.

Old clothes, a pair of sturdy garden gloves and boots or wellingtons are all that you need. Just turn up at the Waggon and Horses car park by 10:00 and enjoy a few hours in the fresh air helping to maintain the nature reserve. The next dates are:

- March 28
- April 25
- May 30
- June 27



**Berkshire
Buckinghamshire
& Oxfordshire**
Wildlife Trust

To give you an idea of the most recent project in January and February, the volunteers rebuilt a dead hedge just inside the reserve opposite Silk Mill. Here are before and after photos:



2026 CHARVIL HEROES AWARDS

Charvil Heroes Awards - Nominations Now Open!

Do you know someone who goes above and beyond to make Charvil a better place to live? Charvil Parish Council is delighted to announce that nominations are now open for this year's 'Community Heroes Awards'.

These awards celebrate the individuals and groups whose voluntary efforts help strengthen our community. Whether it's someone who quietly supports neighbours, organises local activities, improves community spaces, or inspires others to get involved, we want to hear about them.

Last year, as you may remember, Mark Royle was awarded our inaugural Community Heroes Award for his work with the Charvil Scout group (beavers, cubs and scouts) as scout leader and overall group leader over many years.



Suzanne Newman was a worthy runner-up for her work supporting Charvil including running several choirs and voluntary work.

This year here are two award categories:

- Individual Community Hero
- Community Hero Group

So if you know someone deserving recognition, please put their name forward but please note you cannot nominate yourself.

Nominations will remain open until the first May Bank Holiday, and the winners will be announced at the Annual Parish Meeting on 20th May.

Awards Criteria

Nominees should meet the following criteria:

- Community Impact – They have made a positive and lasting contribution to Charvil, through service, leadership, or innovative community projects.
- Effort – Their contributions are primarily voluntary and unpaid, going beyond professional or paid responsibilities.
- Inspiration – They act as a role model, encouraging others to get involved and helping build a stronger community spirit.
- Residency – Nominees must be a current resident of Charvil or a long-term past resident.
- Inclusivity – Their activities should benefit or be accessible to a wide range of residents, reflecting the inclusive values of our village.

If you know a Charvil Community Hero or Heroes, please take a moment to nominate them – it's a wonderful way to recognise the people who help make our village such a special place.

To nominate, visit:

<https://charvilparishcouncil.gov.uk/awards>



**CHARVIL
HEROES
AWARD
2026**

Recognising & celebrating those who have improved life in Charvil by their contributions to the community

**NOMINATIONS OPEN
UNTIL 10TH MAY**

Scan the QR code or visit
charvilparishcouncil.gov.uk/awards

**Charvil
Parish Council**

The poster features a dark background with a golden starburst effect on the left. Several golden stars of varying sizes are scattered across the left side. A QR code is located in the bottom left corner. The text is in a bold, sans-serif font, with the title 'CHARVIL HEROES AWARD 2026' in large, glowing letters. The Charvil Parish Council logo, which includes a green tree, is in the bottom right corner.

ENVIRONMENT & HIGHWAYS NEWS

Charvil Speedwatch

Cllr Mark A'Bear



Over the past few months it has become clear that the volume and speed of vehicles travelling through the village is an increasing concern. This has been evidenced from speed data collected, pulse survey comments, and conversations with residents, including Piggott students. Speed data collected between December 15 and January 27 shows a slight decline in average and maximum speeds, however, this may have been due to roadworks slowing traffic, rather than an improvement in driving habits.

Community Speedwatch is a scheme that allows volunteers to monitor the speed of passing vehicles using a hand-held speed detection device. Only two to four volunteers are allowed to operate at one site at a time, and they must be in plain view of vehicle drivers at all times with high visibility jackets.

The volunteers record the details of vehicles which are exceeding the speed limit by around 10%. These details are passed to the Police, who will issue a letter to the vehicle owner, advising them of the dangers of speeding, and reminding them of the law. If three letters are issued to the same vehicle owner, the Police carry out further investigation.

The Parish Council would like to support a Charvil Speedwatch initiative. Several volunteers have already signed up and undertaken online training, but we need more volunteers. The more people we can get involved, the greater the number of Speedwatch sessions that can be undertaken.

What's Involved?

1. Contact Cllr Mark A'Bear to express your interest in participating as a volunteer
2. Complete the online training and test – 30-40 mins
3. Attend practical training by Thames Valley Police, in use of the monitoring equipment – date to be arranged
4. Sign up for monitoring sessions

Anecdotal evidence suggests that Community Speedwatch initiatives help slow traffic in residential areas, and also provide more accurate data which can be used to inform future highway initiatives.

Please help us if you can. Between us we can make Charvil safer for residents.

Charvil Speed Data

Cllr Mark A'Bear

The analysis below looks at 71 days of speed data collected on the Old Bath Road from 15 December 2025, to 24 February 2026. During this period there were several instances of roadworks which reduce average speeds whilst operational. The data has been summarised below, with the addition of some daytime speeds for this 15% of vehicles exceeding 34 mph.

As a reminder, the 'smiley face' only shows in one direction whilst data is recorded for both directions.

The location and orientation of the speed indicator was changed during the measurement period, so the directional data is very similar. The main facts and figures are as follows:

Old Bath Rd towards Reading

- Total number of vehicles = 243,451
- Average per day = 3,429 (down from 3,503 in October, which could be roadworks avoidance)
- Average speed = 27.9 mph – down 0.6 mph from October, and possibly roadworks related
- 85% of vehicles travelled slower or up to 33.5 mph, down slightly
- 15% (36,500 vehicles) exceeded 33.5 mph

The highest speed recorded was in excess of 70 mph.

The data also shows that average speeds for vehicles exceeding 33.5 mph between 7 am and 8 pm were well over 40 mph. Average speeds were even higher outside of this period when the road was quieter. To put this in context, 36,500 vehicles averaged 40+ mph across 71 days, which is over 500 per day. This is a concern.

Old Bath Rd towards Twyford

The Twyford bound traffic, during this period, was similar, as is all the associated speed data:

- Total number of vehicles = 240,752
- Average daily traffic = 3,391 (down from 4,972 in October and probably due to the roadworks)
- Average speed = 28.4 mph (1.1 mph down from October)
- 85% of vehicles travelled slower or up to 33.5 mph (down from 36 mph in October)
- 15% (36,100 vehicles) exceeded 33.5 mph

The highest recorded speed was even greater in this direction, over 75+ mph.

For the 15% exceeding 33.5 mph the average speed was 40+ mph during the day, and higher again at night. In this instance 36,100 vehicles averaged 40+ mph over the 71 days or 500+ per day.

Conclusion

Roadworks have reduced the overall amount of traffic, resulting in slightly lower average speeds. While this is positive the data suggests that averages and volumes will increase when roadworks are no longer present.

Perhaps of greater concern is the 15% of drivers that significantly exceed the 30 mph limit throughout the day. When the 15% is translated into vehicle numbers the data is quite alarming. Taking both directions into account there are 1,000 motorists per day driving in excess of 40 mph through the village. On the basis of this data, implementing a Community Speedwatch program would seem timely. If you would like to help implement Speedwatch, please get in touch.

Network Rail's Digital Lineside Notifications

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To register, visit: <https://www.networkrail.co.uk/sign-up/>

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Scan the QR code or go online to receive email updates.

Network Rail

Rail Work Near Me

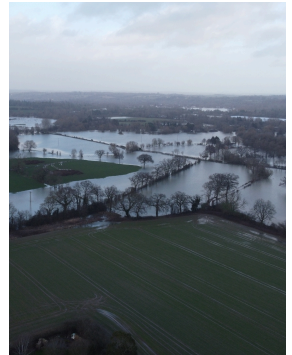
[networkrail.co.uk/RailWorkNearMe](https://www.networkrail.co.uk/RailWorkNearMe)

The banner features a yellow background with a blue sky and a pink ground line. On the left, there is a stylized illustration of a house and a tree. On the right, there is a blue speech bubble with the text 'Rail Work Near Me' and a white train icon. A large QR code is located in the bottom right corner. The Network Rail logo is in the top right corner. The URL 'networkrail.co.uk/RailWorkNearMe' is at the bottom.

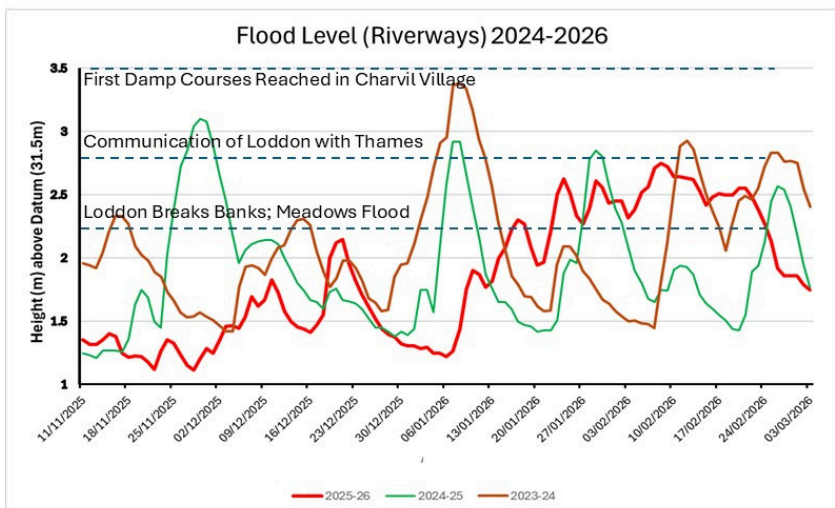
UPDATE FROM OUR FLOOD WARDEN

Duncan Macgregor, Charvil Flood Warden

As I write in early March, the water level in the meadows is receding and the forecast is drier. This was an unusual flood season (touchwood, it's over!) in that while Reading recorded its wettest ever winter, we fortunately did not experience any flooding that bothered anyone apart from residents of Thames and Loddon Drives. Of course, dog-walkers had limited options!. Indeed it seemed to be a very good winter instead for egrets and other water birds, who saw a long lived shallow lake appear in the meadows.



As the chart shows, instead of the rapidly rising and falling levels seen in previous years, accompanied by some worrying peaks, we saw consistently moderate levels of flooding and lower wavelength amplitudes. The Loddon was outside its normal range for a much longer period than usual so the cumulative volume of floodwater over the January to February period was possibly a record. We were under a flood alert for over a month, though this level of warning does not worry us in the main village at least. But the maximum flood level represented by the red line was below that of the last two years! and we were never any less than 80cm from a flood level that would reach the first damp courses in the main village. Therefore our WhatsApp group was pretty quiet this year.



The critical line may well be that shown on the figure for the communication of the Loddon with the Thames as it is the latter that creates problems. This never seemed to happen in 2024-26. Given the amount of rain, one might ask why? One obvious reason was the previous dry summer. Charvil is underlain by gravel and Chalk, both with high porosity, so a large depleted aquifer needed to be filled before water reached the surface. This would explain the low levels up until January. Perhaps the rain then was just low intensity and continuous (it felt that way!) rather than heavy and periodic. But another reason seemed to be some very effective management of the Thames ranging all the way up to Oxford, as was obvious from the stepped nature of the profiles on the locks. The peaks seen in the last two years came from the Thames, 3-4 days after heavy rainfall, something to remember if you are going away and leaving your car in a low car park (leave a key with a neighbour!).

But I am sure next winter will look different again! The flooding WhatsApp group will be suspended again, probably in April and opened again in October. It is normally set such that only Flood Wardens can broadcast, but this will be changed in an incident. For some reason, probably AI related, WhatsApp seems to be suggesting that people all over the world join this group!

You may join the flooding Whatsapp group at

<https://chat.whatsapp.com/FKJrAMJG40eFqr85C7J0yb>

You can make your own Personal Flood Plan

from the proforma in the local flooding report at:

<https://charvilparishcouncil.gov.uk/emergency>.

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PLANNING NEWS

Cllr Lee Cripps, Chair of Planning, Environment & Highways Committee

Speedy Fuels: A win for Charvil, but we're keeping our eyes peeled

A massive thank you is in order for everyone in the village who took the time to write objection letters to Wokingham Borough Council. Your timely interaction and dedication to looking out for Charvil have been absolutely brilliant, and it's clear that our community's collective voice packs a real punch.

As you will have no doubt heard since our last magazine article on the matter, Speedy Fuels has officially pulled their planning application for an industrial fuel depot on the old Prince Brothers site. This is obviously great news for our village, our local roads, and the peacefulness of the nearby Loddon Nature Reserve and Charvil Lakes & Meadows.

That said, we do have a few lingering concerns about how this played out. The application was withdrawn by Speedy Fuels, rather than being flat-out refused by the Borough Council. A solid refusal would have drawn a much firmer line in the sand against this kind of heavy, hazardous development.

Fingers crossed, Speedy Fuels has taken a good look at the sheer amount of local pushback and finally realized that this spot just isn't right for what they want to do. Still, Charvil Parish Council is keeping both feet on the ground. We're very aware that just because they've backed away twice now, it doesn't guarantee they won't try their luck for a third time.

We'll be keeping a very close eye on the site and promise to keep everyone in the loop if anything changes. For now, grab a well-earned cup of tea, and thank you again for your fantastic community spirit!

Bellway Homes: The Latest on Application No 253071

Hot on the heels of the Speedy Fuels news, we wanted to give you a quick update on where things stand with the Bellway Homes application (253071).

To be perfectly honest, contact from Bellway has been a bit on the slow side, but things are finally starting to move. They've recently reached out to Charvil Parish Council to request a meeting before they dive into their next redesign. Feedback from Charvil Parish Council, Residents and our Borough Councillors has shown a strength of feeling. While we're waiting to see what they bring to the table, please rest assured that we'll be heading into those discussions with the village's best interests front and centre.



In the meantime, we want to say another huge thank you to everyone who has been jumping onto the Wokingham planning portal to leave comments. Just like we saw with the Speedy Fuels application, our collective voice as a village is our strongest tool. It is absolutely vital that the planners at Wokingham Borough Council hear exactly what Charvil thinks about the scale and impact of this development.

We know it can feel like a bit of a marathon when these applications drag on, but your engagement really does make a difference. Whether it's concerns about traffic, local infrastructure, or the environment, every single comment helps paint the full picture for the decision-makers.

We'll keep you posted as soon as we've met with Bellway and have more to share. Thanks for staying active and keeping the pressure on!

Waingels Rd: More sewer works on the horizon

It feels a bit like déjà vu, but Thames Water is heading back to Waingels Road shortly to carry out another round of essential sewer works.

We know, we know—another road closure is the last thing anyone wants to hear. Charvil Parish Council fully recognizes that this is going to be a real inconvenience for the village, especially for those of you who use that route for the daily school run or commute. However, the silver lining is that these works are necessary to improve the local network, and they should bring some much-needed long-term benefits to our infrastructure.

To try and keep the chaos to a minimum, Thames Water has been working closely with Wokingham Borough Council to get the timing right. While the road will be officially closed while the heavy lifting is happening, the plan is to keep it open whenever and wherever it's safe to do so. The road is scheduled to be closed from March 30th to August 28th.

If you want to stay ahead of the traffic jams and check the specific dates and diversion routes, you can find the full details of the closure on the One.network site. It's the best place for real-time updates so you can plan your escape routes accordingly!

Thanks for your patience while this gets sorted—hopefully, this will be the final piece of the puzzle for a while.

Link to details:

<https://one.network/?GB148593326>



RECENT PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Planning matters considered at recent Parish Council Meetings

Charvil Parish Council had no objection to the following applications:

252690: Application for a single-story front extension and canopy, including the conversion of the garage at 11 Strathmore Drive

252701: APPLICATION FOR WORKS TO PROTECTED TREE(S) TPO 1852/2022, GROUP 3 T1, Lime – Reduce branches overhanging play area back to fence line, up to 4.8m above ground level, T2, Lime – Reduce branches overhanging play area back to fence line, up to 4.8m above ground level, T3, Lime – Reduce branches overhanging play area back to fence line, up to 4.8m above ground level at East Park Farm, Charvil

25/00615/REV: Variation of Conditions 2 (aircraft movements) and 6 (aircraft weight), and replacement of Conditions 7 (1:10,000 risk contour) and 8 (1:100,000 risk contour), of planning permission 20/00871/REVPP determined on the 22/02/2022, in order to: a) increase the number of non-weekday aircraft movements from 8,900 to 13,500 per annum, and b) amend the permitted annual flight movements weight category from 50,000-80,000 kg to 55,000-80,000 kg, retaining the overall cap of 1,500 movements (within this cap: aircraft between 50,000-55,000 kg that do not meet ICAO Chapter 14 (or equivalent) noise standards shall continue to be counted, and non-weekday movements within the revised category shall increase from 270 to 405), and to c) replace Conditions Nos. 7 (1:10,000 risk contour) and 8 (1:100,000 risk contour) with a new condition to produce Public Safety Zone maps in accordance with the Department for Transport Requirements at Farnborough Airport

253115: Application for works to protected trees TPO 275/1984, T1, T2, Oak (T1 on TPO) – selective crown reduction of lateral limbs by 1m back to previous reduction points at 11, The Hawthorns (For information only)

252649: Application for the proposed erection of a two-storey extension and changes to fenestration at 121, The Hawthorns

Charvil Parish Council commented on these applications as follows:

252782: Application for the proposed change of use from service station to a fuel oil storage and distribution facility including demolition of 2 no. existing buildings and a garage and the recladding of the existing building, installation of 8 no. fuel oil storage tanks and construction of retaining structures, plus refurbishment of hardstanding, car parking and other associated works at the former Prince Bros site – the clerk was asked to comment as follows:

- The Parish Council accepts this is a brownfield site in the Countryside, and that the business practices of the previous occupants have left the site contaminated in places, and that they had deliberately raised the ground levels so that the main part of the site does not flood, hence it being assessed as flood zone one with areas of flood zone two and three.

- It is also clear that the lake to the south suffered some levels of contamination due to the pollution from oil tanks etc stored on the site from the reports provided, so significant cleaning up of the site is necessary. While this application attempts to address this issue, it is far from certain that all rainwater/pollutants can be channelled where desired at all stages of construction, or that the efforts to hermetically seal the site will work over time, as wear and tear occurs.
- The made ground is also of great concern when looking at the change of use. The site has been artificially enhanced to be zone one, and there are signs of subsidence in areas. Given that the previous use was largely the servicing and repair of domestic vehicles and vans, and the proposal is to store oil and HGVs (both substantially heavier than anything from the previous use), the Council is gravely concerned that the issues related to the made ground have not been adequately addressed, even in this updated plan for the site. Any failure of the new surfaces would inevitably increase the risks of catastrophic environmental damage. This would be contrary to CP1, CP3, and CP7 as well as contrary to NPPF Paragraphs 88 and 193.
- The impact on the environment. Over and above the risks outlined above, the Council has serious concerns about the proposed use of the site in terms of possible future environmental damage from the oil storage and distribution processes. While much is made of the safety of the tanks, the water attenuation scheme and its filtering processes, odour limiting equipment, and sewage processing, all the above will rely on careful ongoing maintenance to ensure the protection of the wider area from water borne and air pollution. In a less sensitive site, any failure of the maintenance regime would lead to some annoyance and low-level pollution that could be cleared up easily, with limited damage. This site is in a particularly sensitive area, being close to the River Loddon, the Loddon Nature Reserve, Charvil Country Park, and Charvil Meadows, all of which have local and regional importance in terms of wildlife and biodiversity. If the water attenuation system or the filtering processes were to fail, then the polluted runoff would very easily make it into the River Loddon, and from there, into the wider Thames area, adversely affecting flora and fauna in a wide area. The vast oil tanks themselves will be situated above ground, and will at times need to be cleaned out – if this process were to malfunction, then again, there would be pollutants potentially running straight into the wider environment; the 35 cm bund around the site is unlikely to wholly contain these if the process needs to be carried out in wet weather. Then there is the general risk of oil spillage when loading and unloading fuel, and in an area with little air pollution, fuel odours would be particularly harmful to wildlife, as well as unpleasant for the users of the country park, the anglers etc. The sewage solution is also heavily reliant on good maintenance, with any overspill again likely to impact negatively on the waterways. Given that there will be many more staff than previously, and they will be on site for far longer, this is a genuine concern. Finally, there is the issue of light pollution; the Council takes on board the use of technology to reduce light pollution but again, in an area that had little usage in the hours of darkness before, the possible operation for twenty hours a day at times, will change the amount of light emanating into the country park, adversely affecting the wildlife.

- There are just too many aspects of this operation that will inevitably have negative effects, and the consequences of human and equipment failure are enormous and far-reaching in this sensitive location. This would also be contrary to CP1, CP3, and CP7 as well as contrary to NPPF Paragraphs 88 and 193. This is also contrary to Charvil's emerging Neighbourhood Plan, Charvil 7 regarding the protection of green corridors, and Charvil 8, the protection of the valued green spaces.
- Risk of Fire. The applicant is careful to argue that the risk of fire is minimal, which the Parish Council accepts. There is a small the risk of such an event, however, and the consequences could be devastating with large quantities of combustible fuel on the site. The Parish Council has asked the fire service as to how long it would take to get suitable equipment to this site but so far there has been no response. The two closest fire stations are Earley and Caversham, so response times will not be very quick if during a busy time of day. Again, the consequences in such an area could be catastrophic, being relatively close to homes, trees, grassland etc.
- Hours of operation. The previous hours of operation from this site were Monday to Friday 9am to 5.30pm. The proposal is to run from 5am to 6pm ordinarily, but with some vehicle movements happening up to 2am. The operation will also be seven days a week, with reduced operating hours at the weekend and at Bank Holidays. Consequently, many more people will be affected by this site in their leisure time; so, there will be more noise and disruption at weekends when using the country park, fishing and walking on the neighbouring paths, adversely affecting the quality of life of many who like to enjoy the peace and quiet of the area. This would be contrary to CP3, and NPPF paragraph 185, in that this will impact negatively on the residents' enjoyment of the countryside.
- Highways matters. The previous use of the site did generate many vehicle movements, and this application makes much of the fact that there will be fewer movements than there were previously. This is only half the story. As a car servicing, repair and MOT centre, many of the vehicles accessing the site would have been local, coming from both the Twyford and Charvil directions, with vehicle owners often walking home while their vehicle was seen to. Moreover, these vehicle movements were limited to the main working hours on Mondays to Fridays. This would not have impacted heavily on pedestrian or cycle usage at those times of day. This proposal will mean that the vehicle movements will largely access the site from the A4, through the main part of Charvil (in some cases twice, if they turn right onto the A4 toward Maidenhead). These vehicles will generally be HGVs and will be travelling at various times of day from early morning onwards. There will inevitably be an impact on cyclists - who will not enjoy sharing the narrow A3032 with large lorries on the bends between Charvil and Twyford - and on pedestrians who are already concerned about the state of the narrow pavement joining the two villages. The net result is likely to be a drop in active travel between the two villages and increasing car usage. This seems in direct contravention of CP6 and NPPF paragraph 115, as well as to the emerging Charvil Neighbourhood Plan Charvil 11. A further issue is that contrary to NPPF Paragraph 116, the visibility from the east is compromised by poor sightlines when joining the A3032.

- Although the swept path analysis implies that the vehicles will not need to cross into the opposite carriageway, the Council believes this to be unrealistic, and visibility from the west is also poor. There are grave concerns that this could become an accident hotspot, especially as there are frequent deliveries at the neighbouring site from HGVs who wait on the main carriageway, affecting visibility further.
- The Parish Council would also like to draw attention to the inaccuracies in the Transport Assessment document; Polehampton School is in Twyford, and if the drivers obey the restrictions on entering Twyford, should not be impacted by HGVs from the site at all; it is the A4, not A3; in the vehicle movement section, there are many more arrivals than departures each day, and on some days, there are no car movements but there are lorry movements – unless the drivers walk or cycle (possible but unlikely), or they are sleeping onsite, this must be incorrect. Given this is the case, it is hard to believe any of it.
- Finally, in the pre-application advice offered by Wokingham Borough Council, there is a long list of relevant planning policies that the applicant should consider, and one is notable for the omission of any discussion, and that is CP4, Infrastructure requirements. The applicant has been requested to ensure all the trucks turn left from the site, to avoid the weak bridges to the east, as well as the heavily polluted Twyford crossroads. This means that all these trucks will be heading west into Charvil, along the narrow A3032, and then through the village, and out to the A4. The result is that they need to traverse the zebra crossing and the mini roundabout to Park Lane, both of which are regarded locally as dangerous. The Parish Council believes that if the Borough are minded to allow this application, then there should be some requirement to pay for the crossing to be upgraded to a controlled crossing, and to pay for improvements to the roundabout. Moreover, there need to be restrictions preventing the Speedy Fuels vehicles accessing either Park Lane or Park View Drive South, both of which are rat runs for cars. Despite the width restrictions on Waingels Road, other fuel tankers have been seen driving over the restriction bells.
- The Parish Council accepts the site has been, and could continue as a site for light industry, but that future use should be mindful of the sensitive nature of the surrounding area, and that this proposal is the wrong business in the wrong place and has no sympathy with the wider communities of Charvil and Twyford, and as such, should be refused.

253071: Application for approval of Reserved Matters pursuant to outline Planning consent 232704 comprising details of 75 homes, together with associated internal access roads, parking, public open space, landscaping and sustainable drainage systems (SuDS). Details of appearance, landscaping, layout and scale to be considered on land West of Park Lane, Charvil

Councillor Cripps passed the Chairmanship to Councillor Walker and took no part in the ensuing discussion and had no input into the agreed planning points.

After some discussion it was agreed that the clerk should comment as follows:

Parish Council has various concerns around the proposals in this application, which are set out below.

- Housing layout and size. There is much disquiet from existing residents of Canberra Lake Way about the proposed layout, and it does appear that this current plan is not in accordance with CP3, in that it will adversely impact on the amenity of the existing homes. This would be relatively easy to amend, by incorporating some landscaping between the existing and new developments and would also provide valuable green corridors for wildlife.
- A further concern is around affordable housing. The Parish Council welcomes the inclusion of 40% affordable housing, but feels the current layout is contrary to the S106 agreement signed in May 2025. The agreement states that there should be no clustering but instead the affordable homes should be spread around the site; these homes are largely all together, around the perimeter of the existing Canberra Lake Way, although there are small pockets elsewhere. It also states that these homes should be indistinguishable from market price homes, but it will be very clear in most cases, because the only homes that are not four or five-bedrooms are affordable in the current plan. The Parish Council would like to see some market value smaller homes as per its emerging Neighbourhood Plan Policy 2, Meeting Local Housing Needs. There also needs to be some three- bedroom homes rather than the current concentration of four and five-bedroom homes. This would then allow the developer to meet the terms of the S106 agreement. One further concern is the lack of commitment to solar panels – if these were included in tandem with the promised air-source heat pumps, then the properties would be the most sustainable in the village, and this is a missed opportunity as well as contrary to both the emerging Local Plan, and the Charvil Neighbourhood Plan.
- Active Travel and village integration. In the Design and Access statement, the developer states that they fully support walking and cycling infrastructure, but even within the development, the proposals are intermittent and will not encourage walking and cycling. from a wider village perspective, there is also no support; the footpath suggested in the indicative plan provided as part of the outline application into Canberra Lake Way has not been taken forward, and the design of the crossing of Park Lane is conspicuously absent from these reserved matters. This is contrary to AM02 of the Charvil Neighbourhood Plan that wishes to encourage walking and cycling permeability throughout the village. It is important to improve and maintain community cohesion and to allow a free flow of pedestrians and cyclists around the village in a safe and pleasant environment, and this development needs to support that in the limited ways it can.
- Village Facilities. All but one or two of the substantial developments in the village since the 1960s have been allowed on appeal, and consequently there have been limited options for the Borough or Parish Council to influence what additional facilities are provided to support the growing population. It was hoped that this development would be different, providing two facilities currently lacking: some allotments, and a space for older children to enjoy. Initial conversations around the proposed development indicated both could be included but unfortunately this plan, if adopted, will be a missed opportunity to provide two facilities that the village sorely needs that could reasonably be provided alongside a development of this size.



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- Concerns around the site geology report. Perhaps the greatest concern the Parish Council has is around the results of the Geological survey that was commissioned as a condition of the outline planning permission being granted. This was to protect the health and safety of residents and others going forward. The conclusion of the report suggests that there needs to be quite a lot of further investigation before any safe development in various areas of the site, and that some areas will need very deep foundations to mitigate the effects of ground desiccation, while others will only need normal foundations. Another suggestion is that if soakaways are provided, they need to be a substantial distance from the houses and roads to mitigate any adverse effects. SUDS are to be at a depth of at least a metre above the flooding level of the wettest areas; this could be difficult as the ponds are very close to the flood zones 2 and 3. It is also a concern that when this site was assessed for its suitability after the call for sites in 2019, the whole field was categorised as Flood zone one, so there was no concern around flooding. There were still no concerns even when the site was given outline planning permission a year ago, but now the lowest-lying areas are flood zones 2 and 3. Does this re-classification have implications for the viability of the site for development, and have all the possible impacts been explored, particularly as to how it affects The Homestead to the south, and East Park Farm car park and sports facilities to the east? Moreover, although the report mentions the well-publicised sink hole in the East Park Farm car park, it glosses over the cause, even suggesting that it was down to poor workmanship, but fails to mention that there was one, and possibly two earlier sink holes on the sports pitches on the same line, and how these may be an effect of the chalk dissolution. Some local geologists have suggested that more research needs to be done on the effect of a narrow water channel travelling parallel with the existing stream, into which the overlying gravels are collapsing. This would have been too narrow to have been picked up using the survey methods applied and are likely to be the cause of the sink holes on the western side of Park Lane. This is to do with the feathering of the Lambeth group which overlaid the chalk essentially the rock thins and at the interface between the two a spring line sees water from the aquifer flow out across the chalk. These zones are long recognised and notorious for causing sinkhole problems. Although the report states that the responsibility of the stability of the site falls solely on the developer, will this be the case on land that is not part of the development and in different ownership, such as the East Park Farm car park and the sports facilities? There seems to be too much uncertainty and possible repercussions to determine this application at this stage, and as the leaseholder of the land east of Park Lane that could be most adversely affected, the Parish Council feels that there needs to be a cast-iron agreement that any further sink hole damage there is paid for by the developer, or steps taken to reduce the likelihood of such events to a minimum.

The following applications were approved by Wokingham Borough

Council:

252701: APPLICATION FOR WORKS TO PROTECTED TREE(S) TPO 1852/2022, GROUP 3 T1, Lime – Reduce branches overhanging play area back to fence line, up to 4.8m above ground level, T2, Lime – Reduce branches overhanging play area back to fence line, up to 4.8m above ground level, T3, Lime – Reduce branches overhanging play area back to fence line, up to 4.8m above ground level at East Park Farm, Charvil

252726: Application for the proposed erection of a self-build dwelling with annexe, attached two bay carport and associated landscaping works following demolition of existing dwelling and outbuilding at Chilterns, Thames Drive

252382: Application for a certificate of lawfulness for the proposed loft conversion along with changes to fenestration including replacement of existing rooflight at 6, Old Bath Road

252434: Application for works to protected trees TPO 1611/2017, woodland T1, Ash – Fell, T2, Hazel – Fell, T3, Oak – remove deadwood, T4, Hazel – Fell, T5, Oak – Fell, T6, Ash – Fell, T7, Ash – Fell, G8, silver birch – Fell, T9, Sycamore – Fell, T10, Oak – Fell, T11, Sycamore – Fell, G12, Sycamore – Fell, T13, Elm – Fell, T14, Willow – Fell (partial tree consent) at land adjacent to Lands End House, Beggars Hill Road

252690: Application for a single-storey front extension and canopy including the conversion of the garage at 11, Strathmore Drive

2253115: APPLICATION FOR WORKS TO PROTECTED TREE(S) TPO 275/1984, T1 T2, Oak (T1 on TPO) Selective crown reduction of lateral limbs by 1m back to previous reduction points on land to the rear of 11, The Hawthorns

253116: Application for submission of details to comply with the following condition of planning consent 232704 dated 12/05/25. Condition 41 relates to a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) (Biodiversity) on land west of Park Lane

The following application was withdrawn:

252782: Application for the proposed change of use from service station to a fuel storage and distribution facility including demolition of 2no. existing buildings and a garage and the recladding of the existing building, installation of 8no. fuel storage tanks and the construction of retaining structures, plus refurbishment of hardstanding, car parking and other associated works at the old Prince Bros site

The following appeal was lodged:

251124: Permission in Principle application for the proposed erection of 1no. detached dwelling at land next to Lands End House

Full details of all applications above can be found on the Wokingham Planning Portal. You can find the link on our website at:
<https://charvilparishcouncil.gov.uk/links>

BOROUGH COUNCILLOR REPORTS

Sam Akhtar
Thames Ward, Conservatives



As we move into spring, it's a good opportunity to reflect on the past few months and look ahead to the year to come. Across Wokingham Borough it continues to be a busy time as the council works to maintain services, support residents and plan for the future of our communities.

More broadly, it sometimes feels like we are living in rather unusual times. The news can often feel dominated by division, negativity and geopolitical uncertainty. At the same time, many households have experienced financial pressures in recent years, even though employment levels remain relatively strong.

In times like these, I think it is more important than ever that we look out for one another. Our communities are strongest when neighbours support neighbours and when we take the time to check in on family, friends and those around us. Many of us lead busy lives and it can be easy for personal connections to slip down the priority list, but these relationships are often the foundations of strong and resilient communities.

Charvil has always had a strong sense of community and I would encourage everyone to continue building those local connections, whether through volunteering, supporting local groups or simply keeping an eye out for those who may need a helping hand.

Across the borough there have been several initiatives and activities taking place in recent months.

A new programme called Berkshire Connect to Work has been launched to support residents who are currently out of work due to health conditions, disabilities or other barriers. The five year programme will provide personalised support to help people build confidence, develop skills and move into employment. Support will be delivered locally through community venues such as libraries so that residents can access help close to home.

Local school pupils have also been helping to grow and plant trees for the borough's Covid Memorial Woodland. Children have been nurturing saplings that will become part of the woodland, which will eventually include around 7,000 trees and areas of wildflowers to support biodiversity. The woodland is expected to open in 2026 and will provide a peaceful place for reflection and nature.

Residents are also being encouraged to consider the Switch Together group energy buying scheme, which helps households potentially reduce their energy bills by using the collective buying power of a large group. Energy suppliers compete to offer the best tariff and residents receive a personalised offer showing the potential savings. There is no obligation to switch if the offer is not suitable.

Finally, events have been taking place across the borough to mark Neurodiversity Celebration Week, helping to raise awareness and celebrate the strengths and experiences of neurodivergent people. The programme has included talks, workshops and community events designed to promote understanding and inclusion across schools, workplaces and the wider community.

As always, I welcome hearing from residents about any local issues or concerns. Your feedback helps ensure we are focusing on the matters that matter most to our community.

As the days get longer and the weather improves, I hope everyone has the chance to enjoy the many green spaces we are fortunate to have across Charvil and the wider borough. Most importantly, please continue to look out for one another. Strong communities are built on kindness, connection and support.

Sam Akhtar

COMMUNITY INFORMATION DROP IN

First Friday of the month
10am -1pm
Twynford Library

Find out about Wokingham
Borough Council services,
voluntary organisations and
local charities

COMMUNITY INFORMATION DROP IN

First Tuesday of the month
10am -1pm
Woodley Library

Find out about Wokingham
Borough Council services,
voluntary organisations and
local charities



communityengagement@wokingham.gov.uk



communityengagement@wokingham.gov.uk





In January the Executive approved the borough's new speed limit policy, and we are now moving into the next stage: Parish Councils and all members of the public are invited to nominate priority roads for lower speed limits through Wokingham Borough Council's Engage platform.

Reducing speeds in areas with more pedestrians and cyclists - or potentially more, if we can make streets feel safer - has a limited impact on journey times, but reduces the likelihood of tragic consequences in any collision. It also encourages more people to walk and cycle, helping ease congestion and road wear. I also have an amateur theory that it will improve traffic flow in the village by making it easier to pull in and out of side roads - whatever vehicle you're using!

February's budget was approved after months of cross-party scrutiny, against an unprecedented drop in central government funding over the next three years. While WBC remains in a relatively stable position compared to many councils, difficult choices were unavoidable. I will be working closely with officers, particularly in my portfolio, to use resources as efficiently as possible and improve delivery wherever we can.

The growing season is extending after a mild winter, and bird nesting has started earlier than usual. This has caused some frustration with planned hedge cutting - we cannot legally cut where birds are already nesting unless there is a safety risk. This led to an aborted attempt on the south side of Old Bath Road between Chiltern Drive and River Court in early March.

On the planning side, I was very happy to see Speedy Fuels withdraw their application for the fuel depot at the old Prince Bros site at the beginning of the year. As owners of the site they may try again, but a huge thank you to everyone who submitted comments, and especially to the residents who helped me create and distribute a flyer all over the village to ensure everyone was aware of the application.

I've also been engaging with residents and Bellway Homes on the proposal to build 75 houses behind Canberra Lake Way. The initial reserved matters plans were disappointing, particularly in relation to housing mix and (lack of) landscaping around Canberra Lake Way. A revised layout is being drawn up, and may be out for consultation by the time this reaches you. Please do submit your comments - this is a significant addition to our village and resident voices genuinely shape the outcome.

As I travel around the village, I keep up a steady stream of reports — from leftover street works signs to potholes and roadkill. You are the best eyes and ears on the ground, so please flag anything via the WBC website or directly to me.

The local elections take place on 7th May — please make sure you are registered to vote. New rules also mean postal votes must be renewed every three years; if you applied before 31 January 2024, you will need to apply again.

Katrin Harding

Katrin.harding@wokingham.gov.uk

07466 146674

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT INFORMATION TABLE

Come and see at us at Dinton Pastures!

Coffee Deck, Activity Centre, RG10 0SU

- 5th March 2026, 1pm-4.30pm
- 8th May 2026, 10am-1.30pm
- 10th July 2026, 10am-1.30pm

Near the Adventure Golf, Main Entrance

- 10th April 2026, 1pm-4.30pm
- 12th June 2026, 1pm-4.30pm

Find out about Wokingham Borough Council services, voluntary organisations and local charities

communityengagement@wokingham.gov.uk

DINTON PASTURES COUNTRY PARK WOKINGHAM

Where can you find us?
Rainbow Community Centre, Rainbow Park, Winnersh, RG41 5SG

When does this run?
Alternative Wednesdays
10am-11.30am

About Sunflower Club

The sunflower club is for those 50 and over who like to meet socially. If you would like some company or would like to meet others, this club is for you.

How to reach us?
Phone: Petra 07703 108880
Zara 07738 847743
Email: communityengagement@wokingham.gov.uk

SUNFLOWER CLUB

Come and join us!

cards, colouring, crafts!

Discuts!
Tea!
Coffee!

THAMES VALLEY POLICE UPDATE

Stop and think about fraud - It could save you and your money

Fraud is a deceptive act intended to result in financial or personal gain for the perpetrator while causing harm or loss to the victim. It encompasses a wide range of illegal activities.

Every year, the British public loses billions of pounds to fraudsters. With scams ranging from the simplest confidence trick to the most sophisticated high-tech online fraud, it pays to keep up to date with the latest news and advice.

Courier Fraud

Criminals pose as police or bank staff and pressure victims to withdraw cash, buy high value items or move funds to a “safe account”. Losses across the Thames Valley exceeded £2m last year.

Prevention: Hang up; call your bank/police on a known number; never share PINs or One Time Passcodes (OTPs); the police or bank will never send a courier or ask you to move money.



Fake Parking QR Codes

Many QR stickers on parking machines and their signage are fraudulent.

Prevention: Do not scan QR stickers; pay only via RingGo, bank card, or other official methods shown on the machine and report suspicious stickers.

“Hi Mum/Dad” message impersonation

Fraudsters can now use AI-generated voice notes to impersonate your children.

Prevention: Call back on a known/saved number or agree a family code-word and never transfer to a new account based on messages alone.

Report Fraud UK has replaced Action Fraud as the national reporting centre for all incidents of fraud and cybercrime providing a single gateway for reporting and intelligence.

Report online at www.reportfraud.police.uk or call 0300 123 2040. You will receive a crime reference and victim-support signposting. Forward suspicious texts to 7726. For wider phishing emails, use report@phishing.gov.uk

Are you following us online?

 @charvilparishcouncil

 @charvilparishcouncil

 charvilparishcouncil.gov.uk



Charvil
Parish Council



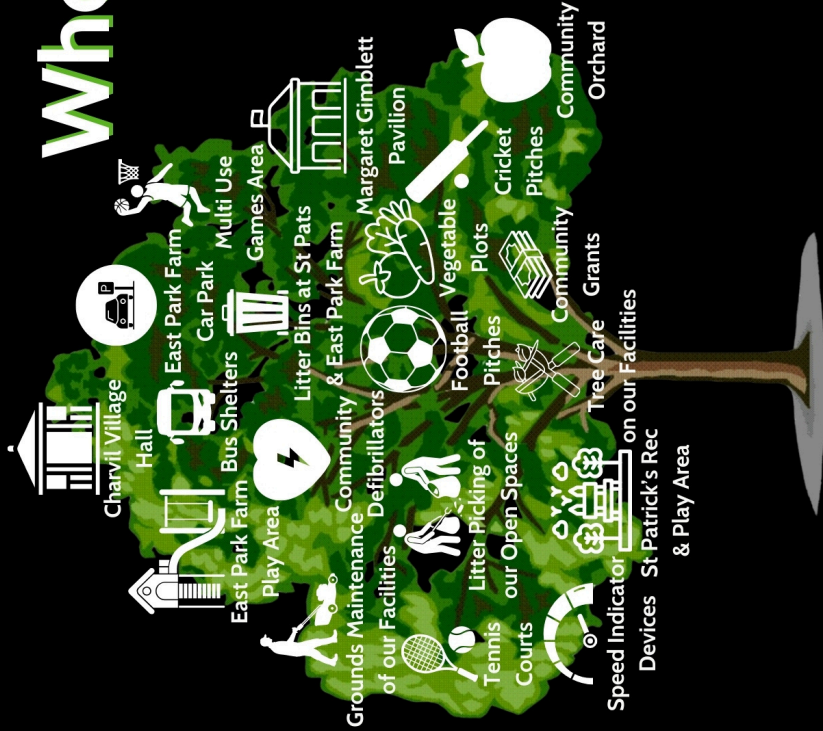
Quiz Answers

1. Windsor Castle
2. Highclere Castle
3. Eton College
4. Reading Abbey Ruins
5. Basildon Park
6. Legoland, Windsor
7. Donnington Castle
8. Museum of Berkshire Aviation
9. The Lexicon Shopping Centre
10. Royal Berkshire Hospital Medical Museum

Thank you to everyone involved in the production of this edition of Charvil Village News! This includes all those who have contributed articles, our volunteers who deliver the magazine to every home in Charvil, and to our advertisers who help to support this publication

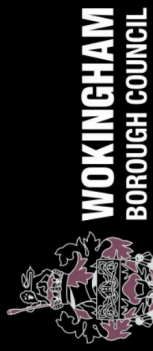
Deadline for the submission of articles for the Summer Edition is 5pm on
Friday 17th July 2026

Who Does What



Charvil Parish Council

charvilparishcouncil.gov.uk



wokingham.gov.uk

COMMUNITY CONNECT

Wednesday 20th May

7:30pm to 9:00pm

Charvil Village Hall

Charvil Connections

Meet with organisations
connected to our village



Annual Parish Meeting

Hear about the activities of
the Parish Council and our
plans for this year



Charvil
Parish Council