

Charvil



Village News

Summer 2026

www.charvilparishcouncil.gov.uk



In this edition

Speedwatch update
Charvil Heroes 2026
New Pulse survey inside
Village Fete news

How long will your pension really last?

Most people don't have a clear answer to this.

You've spent years building your pension, but you may still have questions...

➔ Will my money last as long as I need it to?

➔ How much can I comfortably spend each year?

➔ Can I gift money without paying too much tax?

The challenge

Most people have built their pension, but turning it into a structured plan for your retirement can feel complex. Without clarity, you may find it harder to make decisions or feel confident about the choices available.

Getting this wrong could potentially cost you thousands in tax, or limit your financial freedom later in life!

The value of investments and any income from them can fall as well as rise and you may not get back the original amount invested.

The solution

Using cashflow forecasting, we help you explore your scenarios to support informed decisions.

- ✓ Review your pensions and savings.
- ✓ Understand your future plans and goals.
- ✓ Leave with clear next steps.
- ✓ No jargon. No pressure. Just straightforward advice.

Book your initial financial review at my expense...



Helping you shape your pension into a clear, sustainable income in later life. Pension Review for Charvil Residents and Beyond - At My Expense.

Sam Wilson

Financial Planner / Adviser - The Penny Group Harridge

📞 07386 740681

✉ sam.wilson@tpgh.co.uk

🌐 www.tpgh.co.uk

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Approved by The Openwork Partnership on 05/06/2026.



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Editor's introduction



Amanda Burton, Editor

Well, what a summer it has been! It seems an age since we last had any proper rain, and the effects are plain to see. The once green spaces, verges and surrounding countryside have all taken on rather more of a Mediterranean shade of brown than we're used to, and the recent hosepipe ban has become a timely reminder that even in Britain we can't always take water for granted. Whilst many of us have been enjoying the glorious sunshine, a gentle shower or two would not go amiss.

Even so, summer remains one of the best times of year to enjoy everything our village has to offer. Whether it's catching up with neighbours and friends, enjoying a shady walk in the Country Park, or simply making the most of the lighter evenings, there is always plenty happening. This edition is full of news from around the village, updates from our clubs and organisations, and stories that reflect the busy and vibrant community we are fortunate to be part of.

Of course, one of the highlights of the summer is the annual Village Fête, organised by the dedicated members of the Village Fête Committee. Months of planning and hard work go into creating what has become one of the most anticipated events in the village calendar. With stalls, games, refreshments, entertainment and plenty of familiar faces, it's a wonderful opportunity for the whole community to come together.

Finally, our thanks go to everyone who has contributed articles, photographs and news for this edition, and to the many volunteers whose time and enthusiasm keep our village thriving throughout the year. We hope you enjoy this issue and, whatever the weather decides to do next, wish you a happy, relaxing and enjoyable summer.



Amanda

Chairman's foreward

Cllr Matthew Walker, Chair of Charvil Parish Council



Dear Friends and Neighbours

The long hot summer continues and world cup fever is sadly over, the 60 years of hurt goes on. I hope everyone is managing to navigate the summer holiday period. We continue to add to the village amenities and have added further benches and a picnic bench on East Park Farm, along with a new table tennis table by the car park which hopefully provides some alternatives to keep everyone occupied while the weather still allows.

May marked the start of a new council year and a slight tweak to council structure. There will no longer be a monthly Planning Environment and Highways meeting and instead planning matters will be discussed during the monthly full council meeting cycle. We are also looking to set up working groups to drive specific projects within the parish and make it easier for interested parties (who aren't necessarily councillors) to get involved.

Narinder Ryatt and Stephen Lucas have decided to leave the council and I'd like to thank them very much for their years of service. This leaves us with three vacancies and we would, as always, 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. From a wider council staffing perspective we also said goodbye to Neil Durrant who has done a fabulous job in building our social media presence over the last few years and he will be missed. Holly Kearn joins us to continue the good work in the area, welcome Holly!



Since the last edition we have also held the referendum on the Charvil neighbourhood plan with a whopping 90% voting in favour of the plan. This is a great step forward for the village as it gives us much more of a say in future planning applications, ensuring the policies of the plan are adhered to, and also ensures a higher proportion of the community infrastructure levy (CIL) is spent in Charvil. Thank you to everyone who voted. The plan has also been a useful reference point in the recent consultation on the Bellway development behind Canberra Lake Way as we strive to adapt the emerging plans in a way which gets the best results for the whole village.

In May we also held our community connect event where we announced this year's Charvil heroes. Congratulations to Bev Lines who won the individual award, Rob Jones who won a special award for his contribution to the neighbourhood plan, AFC Charvil who were runners up in the group category and Charvil Econet group who won the group category. Thanks to everyone who nominated and get thinking for next year's nominees! Final call out is for the Charvil Village Fete which this year is on Sunday 6th September and will be filled with the usual fun and frolics. My thanks to the organising committee for the long hours they put into this, fingers crossed for sunny weather, and we look forwards to seeing you at the Parish Council stall.

As always do feel free to contact me with any suggestions, concerns or questions. Enjoy the rest of summer.



Photo: Simon Bartlam

Village amenities news

Cllr Jane Hartley, Chair of Amenities Committee

Summer is a wonderful time to make the most of our parks and open spaces, and we're pleased to share some of the improvements that have recently been completed, along with a few exciting plans for the months ahead.



St. Patrick's Recreation Ground

At St. Patrick's Recreation Ground, we've been carrying out regular refreshes of the running track markings to keep them clear and ready for everyone, whether you're out for a jog, walking with friends or taking part in school activities. We've also installed new benches, giving visitors a few more places to sit, relax and enjoy the surroundings. Looking ahead to the autumn, we're hoping to introduce areas of wildflowers, which will not only brighten the recreation ground but also provide an important habitat for bees, butterflies and other pollinators.

East Park Farm

There's been plenty of activity at East Park Farm too. The new retaining wall around the Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) has now been completed, helping to protect this well-used facility for years to come. We've also carried out improvements to the cricket ground, together with maintenance works on the pitches and goal posts, ready for another busy season of sport. You'll also notice some new additions to the park. A new picnic bench has been installed near the play area, along with two new seating benches overlooking the football and cricket pitches, where visitors can sit and enjoy the action. A table tennis table will also be installed soon.



We've also worked with Wokingham Borough Council Countryside Services to arrange for the stream to be dredged, helping to improve water flow and support the local environment.

Tennis passes still available

If you've been thinking about dusting off your racket, there's still time to purchase a tennis pass for the Parish Council's courts. Whether you're a regular player or just fancy trying something new with family or friends, it's a great way to enjoy the outdoors and stay active.



Come and say hello at the Charvil Village Fête!



The Parish Council will once again be at the Charvil Village Fête, and we'd love to see you there. Please stop by our stall for a chat, find out what we've been working on, ask questions, or simply share your ideas about the village. Your thoughts and suggestions help shape the work we do, and it's always a pleasure to meet residents face to face.



And finally

We hope you're enjoying our parks and community spaces this summer, and we'll continue working to make them welcoming, well maintained and enjoyable for everyone. As always, thank you for your continued support and for taking such pride in our village. And a special 'Thank you' from me goes to our council officers and staff who help to maintain our lovely amenities.



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

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!

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

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.



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 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>

Updates from local groups

Caterpillar Club

Caterpillar Club, a toddler group run by volunteers, provides a great 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, it would be lovely to see you. If you would be interested in helping to run the group please do get in touch. The autumn term starts on 9th September 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



As the musical director of The Project Singers, I love our rehearsals and performances with the choir. When I was at the Piggott School many years ago, I was always involved in the choir and its activities. This continued at university – Tuesday afternoon was choir or orchestra!

The Project Singers are now in the process of planning for the Autumn project. We will be working towards a concert on December 6th. The choir members will also be going out for a meal at the end of the term.



Songs for the next project include Feliz Navidad, Minuet Noel, We wish you a merry Christmas and all that jazz, Journey of the angels, Christmas in about 3 minutes and Christmas chopsticks! We have a section for girls between the ages of 9 and 17 who rehearse on Sundays (6.15 to 7.45). We also have a section for ladies who meet on Mondays (8.00 to 9.30pm). If you would like more information about the choir, please have a look at our website – www.theprojectsingers.com or email me at suzanneynewman@btinternet.com

Rodgers and Hammerstein on Broadway

Throughout the year, I organise singing afternoons for female voices. They're a great opportunity to enjoy a good sing, especially if you can't commit to joining a choir. The next afternoon will take place on 3 October, from 2–4pm. We'll be working on a medley of songs for a two-part choir, featuring music from The Sound of Music, Oklahoma!, Carousel and South Pacific. The session costs £15, which includes music and refreshments.



Places must be booked and paid for in advance.

Please get in touch for more details at suzanneynewman@btinternet.com.

Charvil Art Group

At Charvil Art Group, we have just finished our summer term, during which we had another interesting and varied programme. We are a small friendly group which meets once a week on Wednesdays during term time at Charvil Village Hall from 19:30.



As we are a club rather than a class, we can use our own preferred styles and medium, and explore new techniques at all levels of ability. Our programme has a wide variety of suggested topics, one for each week, and allows people to interpret the theme as they like. It can be very interesting to see people using different medium and to hear styles discussed.

This term, we enjoyed an appraisal evening with local artist Clare Buchta, where each of us brought along a couple of paintings for her expert appraisal. Her own artwork is very striking, and she brought some lovely examples for us to see. She has a wide knowledge of art in general and was able to appreciate the different styles of our paintings, offering us help and suggestions. It was a very useful evening, and interesting to hear not just the points raised on our own work, but learning from other people's too!

On another evening, professional artist Sonia Scott-Job, showed us some of her dynamic and atmospheric seascapes, created using just charcoal. Sonia said that charcoal can be thought of as a difficult and 'messy' medium, and in fact most of us had never thought to use it for a complete picture.



But Sonia took us through some techniques and tips which we then tried out, producing some very acceptable results! It was an inspiring and creative evening, with some interesting scenes being produced.

We finished the whole term with a lovely social evening at the Royal Oak pub, (with mostly chatting but also some sketching actually done!)

Our annual exhibition this year is on Sunday 15th November, so do pop in to Charvil Village Hall if you would like to see the variety of styles within the group. But don't wait for November if you want to join us! – Our Autumn term starts on 9th September 2026, and so if you are interested in art and would like to see what we are about, please do feel free to drop in one Wednesday evening from 19:30 onwards, or contact us at charvilartgroup@gmail.com.

Have an enjoyable summer!



Charvil Wine Circle

Charvil Wine Circle continues to meet on the 4th Thursday of the month for the enjoyment and appreciation of wine. With a mix of professional and member presentations, a varied programme is achieved throughout the year, tasting wines from such diverse regions as Bulgaria and Brazil.

Recently, some members ventured further afield and enjoyed a visit to a number of local vineyards in Henley (photo). As well as the enjoyment of wine, we are a social group and in addition to our monthly meetings in the village hall, we have a summer and a winter party.



For further information

Please contact Janis on:

01189 345179

janis@emailharding.co.uk



SUNDAY 6 SEPTEMBER 3-5pm – £3 entry per category

All well-behaved dogs welcome! Prizes to be won for your perfect pooches

Beat the queue with Online Registration (Closes Thursday 3 September 3pm) On-the-day registrations 2-2:45pm

<https://tinyurl.com/Dog-Show-MCMC>

Charvil Short Mat Bowls

Charvil Shortmat Bowls Club

Fancy having a go
at short mat bowls?

We meet at Charvil Village Hall
Tuesday afternoons between 2 & 4pm
And Wednesday evenings between 7 & 9 pm
(Season runs from September to April each year)

We are a friendly
club always
looking for new
members.

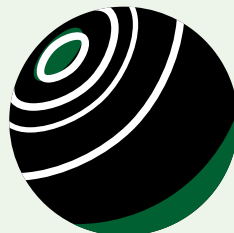


For more information, please ring 0118 9694022

The club is seeking new members. We are a friendly group who play indoors on Tuesday afternoons from 2pm – 4pm and/or Wednesday evenings from 7pm – 9pm from September to April at Charvil Village Hall, RG10 9TT. No previous experience is necessary, and bowls are available for a taster session.

Our 2026/27 season starts on
Tuesday 15 September and
Wednesday 16 September.

For further details please ring
Gerry on 0118 9694022 or
0777 078 7791.



Sax Bandits

A decade of music, community and celebration at SaxoFest 2026

SaxoFest 2026 marked a very special milestone as Sax Bandits celebrated its 10th anniversary with a day dedicated to all things saxophone! What began in 2016 with just eight beginner players has grown into a thriving community spanning ten bands, making the festival a fitting celebration of a decade of music, friendship and shared passion.



From the moment the doors opened, the festival buzzed with activity. Visitors explored trade stalls, admired a fascinating display of the entire saxophone family, and enjoyed having a go at the popular 'Try a Sax' stall. Live performances showcased the incredible versatility of the instrument. The festival also supported two local charities, Younger People With Dementia (YPWD) and The Music Club, raising an impressive £7,129.51 for their work.

One of the day's standout moments came as more than 160 Sax Bandits members united for a spectacular anniversary performance. The mass ensemble celebrated ten years of music-making with a lively programme that concluded with Tina Turner's 'The Best'.



As the celebrations drew to a close, attention turned to an outstanding evening concert. Hannah Horton opened with a captivating set of original compositions, before Redtenbacher's Funkestra filled the hall with infectious jazz-funk grooves. The festival concluded with a memorable headline performance from the Snake Davis Band, whose world-class musicianship and much-loved saxophone solos provided a fitting finale to an unforgettable day.

Age UK Berkshire

Seated Yoga

Would you like to improve your flexibility and maintain muscle tone in a safe, accessible way? Are you looking for a regular gentle exercise class which also provides the opportunity to socialise and make new friends?

Age UK Berkshire runs a friendly and welcoming Seated Yoga session at Charvil Hall on the 4th Thursday of every month, from 1:30 - 3:30pm. The session is led by a professional yoga instructor and is suitable for people of all abilities. The exercises help to improve flexibility, mobility, balance, and overall wellbeing.

After the yoga session, there is time to relax, socialise, and enjoy a cup of tea and some cake with other participants. The sessions provide a warm and friendly environment where people can keep active, improve their wellbeing, and meet new friends. Participants tell us they enjoy the opportunity to stretch, move, feel more energised, and spend time with others. There is a suggested cash donation of £3 per session, and booking is essential.

To book your place, please email info@ageukberkshire.org.uk or call 0118 959 4242.



All our events and services are either free or at very reasonable cost, and are available to anyone over the age of 50 in the Berkshire area. Give us a call on the number above, or visit our website www.ageukberkshire.org.uk to find out more.



DID YOU KNOW?

Age UK Berkshire also offer a range of activities and services for older people in the Wokingham area. These include social drop-ins, singing groups, boccia (a seated game similar to bowls), and one-to-one befriending. Services include a home help service, a shopping service, a handyperson service, support to help you get home from hospital and in the first few weeks after discharge, dementia support, carers groups, information and advice on things like benefits, and more.

Twyford & Ruscombe Floral Art Group

Twyford and Ruscombe Floral Art Group celebrates 60 wonderful years!

Our club has been in action for 60 years and we are extremely proud. Our celebrations kicked off with a lunch at The Bird in Hand and our Club President, the Club Founder was able to attend. It was a super friendly occasion and an opportunity to reminisce.

We staged a small flower festival at St Mary's Twyford to showcase our members' talents. The arrangers thoroughly enjoyed arranging and the public enjoyed the beautiful flowers, skilfully arranged.

The arrangements communicated messages about the benefits of belonging to a community club: the feeling of belonging, of being loved and valued, sharing a common hobby and love of plant material, as well as friendship and fun times. We are grateful to St Mary's for allowing us to join their Christian Aid fundraising activities and immensely proud to report that we raised £600 for the charity. Such a fitting total to celebrate our milestone.



Our monthly club flower arranging competitions this year have been based on song titles from the 60s and our members have, once again, showcased their talent. And finally, at our last month's meeting we shared a cake. After all, don't all celebrations involve cake!

I am extremely grateful to our members who are loyal and so supportive in a variety of ways. If you would enjoy an evening of relaxation and some social time, then please come along and join us. You do not need to be artistic, crafty or be able to arrange flowers. Our meetings involve a cuppa and cake and time to sit, watch and listen to someone flower arranging. You will be greeted with a smile and receive a warm welcome. And all of this for only £7.



We meet on the first Thursday of each month at 7.45pm at Charvil Village Hall. Please note, we do not meet August and our AGM is January.

For more details please contact:

Tracy.ray@ntlworld.com or 07968589935 (Text is best!)

Loddon Valley Ramblers

Local volunteers come together to improve Thameside path

A big thank you to Loddon Valley Ramblers (LVR) and local residents who worked together to improve the Thameside path in Sonning. The first phase of resurfacing work took place last autumn, when the eastern end of Sonning Footpath 1, which connects Sonning and Charvil along the southern bank of the Thames, was improved to make the route much easier to access.



Photo: Ray Sharp, LVR

Volunteers recently came together again to complete the western section through to Sonning Bridge. This project is a great example of what can be achieved when local groups and residents work together!

Join LVR and you could soon be exploring local pathways with a sociable group of fellow walkers. See their website for more details: <https://www.lvra.org.uk/>

Berkshire Spinners, Weavers & Dyers (BSWD)



The Berkshire Guild of Spinners, Weavers and Dyers is a very friendly group that meets on the third Saturday of every month at Charvil Village Hall from 10:30 to 4:30.

As well as the core skills we explore all kinds of crafts and techniques, mostly based on fibres and textiles. There are also fortnightly meetings of a spinning group and a weaving group. On hot sunny days we can be seen spinning under the trees every other Wednesday morning!



You are very welcome to join us and see what we do!

Find out more:

<https://www.bswd.org.uk>



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AND
WEEKENDS**

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CHARVIL TENNIS COURTS

FOR ALL AGES LEVELS AND ABILITIES

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FREE TRIAL

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- Adult lessons weekdays and weekends**
- 5 - 11 years groups **Sunday** 11:00am-12:00pm
14th September - 14th December
- 11 - 15 years groups **Sunday** 12:00pm-1pm
14th September - 14th December

07738 331344
alex.denovan@btinternet.com

AD TENNIS TRAINING

Summer Camp

Outside sporting activities

Fun and Friendship

Tennis games and skills

Register Now

Tues-Wed-Thurs 10am-1pm
25th - 26th - 27th August

Charvil Tennis Courts
East Park Farm

The Charvil Tennis summer camp is suitable for children of ages 5-15 years and all abilities are welcome to join

alex.denovan@btinternet.com
 07738 331344

Sonning Floral Arrangement Society

Sonning Floral meets for fun and friendship, where you can watch demonstrators work their magic with flowers. We also run workshops, talks, garden parties and coffee mornings. £7.00 for visitors (includes tea, coffee and biscuits)

Where: Charvil Village Hall

When: 1:45pm on 2nd Thursday of the month

To become a member or for further information please contact:

Catherine Penny (Chairman)

0118 9693018

sonningfas@gmail.com



Under 25 and need help to buy items for your college or university course?

Complete a simple online application or call Wokingham United Charities on 0118 403 2980 to help fill it in.

All applications are treated confidentially.



For more information on available grants go to:
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THE HAWTHORNS

CHARVIL, READING, RG10 9TT

CONTACT JULIE 07752 313401

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Yoga Naissa

Chair yoga is one of the most quietly powerful practices available to seniors and to anyone living with limited mobility. It offers the essence of yoga - mindful movement, breath, and presence - without the barriers that often keep people away from the mat. In recent years, awareness has grown, and more people are discovering how accessible and transformative this practice can be.

As we grow older, maintaining physical balance becomes one of life's biggest challenges. "Falls are a major problem in the UK: 500 people are admitted to hospital every single day due to a fall." Chair yoga can help by strengthening the legs, hips, core, and ankles. Small, repeated movements - heel lifts, leg extensions, gentle twists - build stability over time and support confidence in everyday activities.

I trained in FLY (ForLifeYoga), which blends gentle yoga with the evidence-based Otago fall-prevention exercises to support balance and stability, shaping the way I teach and enabling me to offer practices that are both accessible and deeply protective for older adults. Many Otago principles translate beautifully into chair yoga, including controlled leg lifts, ankle mobility and heel raises, seated or supported balance challenges, and functional movements like sit-to-stand transitions. Together, these practices help keep people steady on their feet.



Emotional wellbeing is just as important. Anxiety can increase with age, especially when mobility changes or independence feels threatened. Alongside movement, we take a few minutes for simple mindfulness practices - gentle breathing, body awareness, or a short guided relaxation. "These practices help ease anxiety, regulate the nervous system, and create a sense of calm..." Many students describe this quiet pause as their weekly reset.

Practical accessibility matters too. For many people with limited mobility, getting to class is half the challenge. When considering a chair-yoga class, look for accessible parking close to the entrance, a level and easy-to-navigate entry, and a calm, welcoming space. Removing these barriers helps people arrive with ease - and that ease becomes part of the practice.

Chair yoga is not about shapes; it's about connection. It meets people exactly where they are and offers practices that strengthen the body, soothe the mind, and nourish the heart. It can be a path to greater physical confidence, a tool for fall prevention, a practice for calm and clarity, a doorway into community, and a weekly ritual that feels easy to attend.

If you would like to try our local class, we meet term-time on Thursdays, 10.30 - 11.30 at Charvil Village Hall, 100 The Hawthorns, Charvil, Reading RG10 9TT. Booking: jelena@yoganaissa.studio · 07791 252123

Physiotherapy

at Twyford & Wargrave GP Surgeries

Private appointments available

Registered with all major healthcare providers

Book online at www.fitandable.co.uk
or call **07720933192**

For more information email admin@fitandable.co.uk

Fit &Able

1st Charvil Scout Group

Term update and call for new members and volunteers

It's been a fantastic term across all three sections at 1st Charvil Scout Group. Our Beavers, Cubs and Scouts have enjoyed a brilliant mix of activities — canoeing at the Waterside Centre, trying out lawn bowls with local clubs, heading off on hikes, and now preparing for a busy summer of camps and outdoor adventures. The young people have shown huge enthusiasm, teamwork and resilience, and it's been wonderful to see them grow in confidence week by week.

However, like many Scout groups, we are facing increasing pressure on adult volunteers. Despite the commitment of our current team, we have sadly had to cancel a number of sessions across different sections this term simply because we did not have enough adults available to run them safely. This is something none of us want to see become a regular occurrence. That's why we are appealing to the community for both new volunteers and new youth members.

You don't need special skills or previous Scouting experience or even a child in the group — just a little time and a willingness to get involved. Whether you can help once a month or more regularly, every bit of support makes a genuine difference.

Volunteers always work alongside experienced leaders, and we provide simple, practical training so you feel confident from the start.



There are lots of ways to get involved:

- Supporting an evening activity alongside a leader
- Running a craft, game or outdoor challenge you enjoy
- Helping with setup, or clearing away
- Joining us as extra adult support on camps and trips
- Assisting with basic admin or planning

We are also keen to welcome new young members into all sections. Demand for spaces is high, and increasing our volunteer team is the only way we can keep sections open, avoid reducing weekly sessions, and prevent the need to merge groups — all of which would limit the opportunities we can offer.

Scouting is built on community, and volunteering often becomes as rewarding for adults as it is for the children. Many parents join to support their own child and stay because they find friendship, purpose, and a welcoming group of people. If you'd like to know more about joining or volunteering, please get in touch.

A little of your time could mean the world to the young people of Charvil.

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.



www.charvilscouts.org.uk

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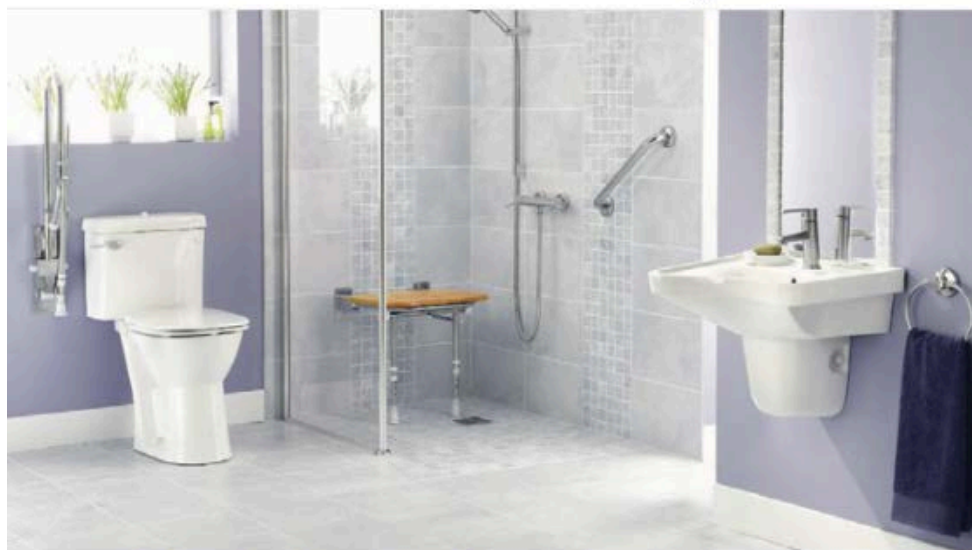




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info@absolutemobility.co.uk | 0330 912 7764

Econet Charvil

Even in the recent hot weather, Econet Charvil has kept up its conservation work in Hawthorns Park. The group is currently focused on clearing snowberry, an invasive plant that has taken over the park's borders. Originally introduced from North America, snowberry spreads aggressively through suckering, forming dense thickets that block light and choke out native ground flora — as has happened throughout the park, with growth in some border areas reaching several metres deep.

It's hard work, but clearing the snowberry will halt its spread and give native understorey plants the chance to return.

New volunteers are always welcome, and no experience is necessary — training and guidance are provided, along with tools and gloves. The group meets on the second Saturday of every month, 10am–1pm. To find out more or get involved, visit our website: <https://econetreading.org.uk/>



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

Parish Council News

The Children's Playground has attracted increasing use in the warmer weather, although the recent very hot days have caused an understandable reduction for health and safety reasons.



New Benches at East Park Farm

Following requests from residents, the Parish Council has installed an additional picnic bench in the playground, along with two new benches overlooking the football and cricket pitches. We hope these new additions make East Park Farm an even more enjoyable place to spend time with family and friends.

From a safety point of view, could park users please try to deter youngsters from throwing stones (taken from the drainage gully around the base of the pavilion) on to the surrounding grassy areas. These stones could easily be caught up by the mowing machines and potentially damage the machines, injure the driver, passers by, and even the pavilion windows when the shutters are open! Have fun and use your improved park facilities responsibly. Please let the Parish Clerk know of any concerns you may have about the field, courts, car park and playground at clerk@charvilparishcouncil.gov.uk.

Pat Sutcliffe - Councillor, Lead for East Park Farm

Tree planting

In 2021-2, we planted several trees as part of the Queen's Green Canopy. Many of these trees are thriving, but some have succumbed due to the extreme weather over the past two summers, especially at St Patrick's Recreation Ground.

Consequently, we plan to pursue a further round of planting to replace these with more drought-resistant trees. We will also be planting a replacement tree for the diseased one felled by the Pavilion, some screening near the East Park Farm playground, and if we can get the necessary permissions, plant some near the Vale View Playground to provide some much needed shade when the weather is hot.



We may also continue with our hedging project, to fill in the gaps of existing hedges we are responsible for. If you have any other areas, you think would be suitable, or if you would like to get involved with this, we would love to hear from you. **Please contact clerk@charvilparishcouncil.gov.uk.**

Our trees need a helping hand!

Tree Warden, Charvil



The recent hot, dry weather has been challenging for many of our trees. While some are coping better than others, giving them a drink whenever possible can make a real difference.

**WATER
ME. ♥
PLEASE**

I noticed, in particular the silver birches planted at the far end of St Patrick's Recreation Ground. They've been planted in threes and most are in desperate need of water. There's no public water supply here, so these in particular are relying on local residents to water them whenever they can. Sadly, these aren't the only ones that need some help. Last year I attached '**Please water me**' tags to many of these vulnerable trees.

Whether a tree has an invitation to water it or not, if you've got some water left in your water bottle as you head for home, please use it to water trees in need near you. Thank you. And while you're out and about, do enjoy the rich variety of trees we have in the area. I was saddened to notice we've lost a large and very beautiful willow in Strathmore Drive. I'm glad I appreciated it every time I walked by, because now it's gone forever. Let's look after the trees we have and please remember to give them a drink whenever you can. It really does help.



Covid memorial tree

A couple of years ago, a resident contacted the Parish Council to tell us she had planted a conker in 2020, and it had grown into a fine young tree, and she would like to donate it to the Parish Council to plant as a memorial to those who suffered during the Pandemic.

The tree was planted last December, and it is growing well, hopefully to be a long-lasting memorial to those lost and adversely affected by the Pandemic. Thank you, Isabel, for your kind donation. The plaque will be installed properly once the ground has softened, but if you would like to visit the tree, it is at East Park Farm, on the left of the Public Right of Way as you enter from Park Lane.



A small commitment that makes a big difference

Loneliness isn't always obvious. It often hides in plain sight: someone who goes days without a proper conversation, rarely leaves the house, or no longer has the social circle they once did. That's where **The Link Visiting Scheme** comes in.

We match volunteers with older people who would welcome a bit more company, usually a weekly visit or phone call. Our volunteers tell us the role is surprisingly ordinary and that's exactly why it works. A chat over a cup of tea. A short walk. Reminiscing about holidays, pets, work or family life. These small moments add up, providing connection for someone who might otherwise feel quite cut off. Volunteering is designed to fit around real life. Visits are flexible, training is provided, and volunteers are fully supported by our small, experienced team.



To find out more about volunteering, please visit www.linkvisiting.org, email admin@linkvisiting.org or call us on 0118 9798019 for an informal chat.

The logo for 'the Link visiting scheme' features a stylized circular icon to the left of the text 'the Link' in a large, bold font, with 'visiting scheme' in a smaller font below it.

Marjie Walker, CEO

The countdown to the Charvil Village Fete is on!



The countdown is on for the return of the **Charvil Village Fete**, taking place on Sunday 6 September 2026 from 2pm–6pm at East Park Farm Playing Fields. The event will be officially opened by the High Sheriff of Berkshire, Ren Kapur MBE.

This year's event will feature a fantastic mix of attractions, including live music from local band Side Project, a petting zoo from Basil & Crew, bouncy castles, climbing wall, singing from the children of Charvil Piggott Primary School, bottle tombola, book swap, local community stalls, food and drink vendors, classic cars and much more. As usual there will also be some amazing prizes on offer in our charity raffle and silent auction.

For something a bit different this year, we are excited to be hosting the first Charvil Dog Show, organised by popular local charity My Cancer My Choices. We're also delighted to be supporting four other wonderful local charities: Smart Works Reading, Me2 Club, Share Wokingham and Camp Mohawk, the latter of which was selected by pupils from the primary school. There will be plenty to keep all ages entertained throughout the afternoon.

The fete is organised entirely by volunteers and we're always keen to hear from anyone who would like to get involved. If you can spare a few hours on the day, help with planning, booking stalls, social media or support one of our activities, we'd love to hear from you: charvil-fete@outlook.com.

For the latest updates, follow Charvil Village Fete on [Facebook.com/CharvilVillageFete](https://www.facebook.com/CharvilVillageFete) and [Instagram.com/CharvilVillageFete](https://www.instagram.com/CharvilVillageFete)



Sunday 6 September 2026
2pm–6pm
East Park Farm
Playing Fields, Charvil
FREE ENTRY

SAVE THE DATE

Sports sponsorship fund

For several years, the Parish Council matched funding awarded to Charvil's young athletes through Wokingham Borough Council's Sports Sponsorship Fund, supporting a promising cyclist and a regional-level swimmer. Although the Borough has now ended the scheme, the Parish Council has decided to continue offering its own sports grants. Small grants are available to Charvil residents aged up to 21 who compete in individual sports at county level or above. Team sports may be considered in exceptional circumstances.

Applications are considered alongside Community Grant applications each July and December. Apply on our website:

<https://charvilparishcouncil.gov.uk/documents/sports-grant-application>

Charvil Community Hub?

For many years the same question has been asked. Should there be a focal point in the village for residents? A café, youth centre, council offices or community hub? The evidence from surveys, resident conversations and youth engagement seems to be a resounding - Yes! This raises important questions, including where the hub should be located, what facilities it should provide, how it would be funded, and whether it could be developed in phases over time.

To answer these questions, the Parish Council wants to establish a working group of local residents, businesses, youth representatives and anyone else interested in joining the team. The objective would be to investigate the feasibility of a community hub, considering the challenges and potential solutions, culminating in a 'go, no go' recommendation to the Parish Council.

Could you join the working group?

No skills required apart from the willingness to participate and contribute ideas.

Rough timescales for the group:

- Recruitment over the summer
- First meeting in September
- Recommendation to the Parish Council late 2026/early 2027

The bigger the working group the faster the many questions can be answered!



To register your interest contact:

clerk@charvilparishcouncil.gov.uk

Councillors will be at the village fete on Sept 6, so please come and sign up to help, or tell us your thoughts and ideas.

Please complete our Pulse Survey

The Parish Council wants to hear from you! The Charvil Pulse Survey is your chance to share your ideas, feedback and local concerns. Every response helps us plan for the future and improve the parish for everyone. Your responses are anonymous and will help shape future decisions about where the council focuses its time and resources.



<https://forms.gle/BXdpxFWCfq1FXJ4a6>

Please complete our survey online or fill in this form and return it to our postbox at:
**Charvil Village Hall,
100 The Hawthorns,
Charvil, RG10 9TT**

1. What is your age group?

- ☐ Under 18
- ☐ 25–34
- ☐ 50-65
- ☐ 18–24
- ☐ 35-49
- ☐ 65+

2. How long have you lived in Charvil?

- ☐ Less than 12 months
- ☐ 3-5 years
- ☐ Over 10 years
- ☐ 1-3 years
- ☐ 5-10 years

3. What do you value most about living in Charvil and why?

4. If you could change or improve one thing locally, what would it be?

5. Which THREE areas should be the Parish Council's highest priorities over the next few years?

- ☐ Traffic/speeding
- ☐ Parking
- ☐ Pavements/walking routes
- ☐ Cycling routes
- ☐ Planning/development
- ☐ Flooding/drainage
- ☐ Youth facilities
- ☐ Community safety
- ☐ Public transport
- ☐ Green spaces
- ☐ Village appearance
- ☐ Environmental issues
- ☐ Support for older residents
- ☐ Other
-

6. How often do you visit our local parks/open spaces?

	Often	Regularly	Occasionally	Never
Charvil Meadows	☐	☐	☐	☐
Charvil Country Park	☐	☐	☐	☐
Vale View Playground	☐	☐	☐	☐
The Hawthorns Playground & Park	☐	☐	☐	☐
St. Patrick's Recreational Field	☐	☐	☐	☐
East Park Farm Playing Fields	☐	☐	☐	☐
East Park Farm Playground	☐	☐	☐	☐

7. What do you use our parks and open spaces for?

- ☐ Visiting the play park
- ☐ Walking
- ☐ Meeting friends
- ☐ Dog walking
- ☐ Using the sports facilities
- ☐ Other
-

8. Would you like to see any additional events run by the Parish Council?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, do you have any ideas you could share with us?

9. Is there a need for improved road safety and reduced speeding?

☐ Yes ☐ No

What do you think about the current speed limits?

	Reduce	Stay the same	Increase
40 mph between Twyford and Charvil	☐	☐	☐
30 mph on Old Bath Road	☐	☐	☐
30 mph on housing estates (Hawthorns, EPF, Gingells)	☐	☐	☐

Would you volunteer for Speedwatch? Yes ☐ No ☐

10. What types of social spaces would young people benefit from?

- | | |
|--|--|
| ☐ Skate/BMX area | ☐ Community café space |
| ☐ Safe green/open spaces with benches and shelter | ☐ Designated park seating with lighting |
| ☐ Village hall youth club evenings | ☐ Other |

11. How satisfied are you with the parish as a place to live?

- ☐ Very satisfied
- ☐ Somewhat satisfied
- ☐ Not satisfied

Please tell us why:

12. Any other suggestions or comments for the Parish Council?

13. How would you like us to communicate with you?

- ☐ Email
- ☐ Printed newsletter
- ☐ Facebook/social media
- ☐ Noticeboards
- ☐ Parish website
- ☐ More public meetings

Thank you for sharing your views!

Please return your completed survey to Charvil Village Hall or to our stall at the Charvil Village Fete.
Or complete our online survey here:
<https://forms.gle/BXdpxFWCfq1FXJ4a6>





My Cancer
My Choices

Make a difference

My Cancer My Choices is a Charvil-based charity supporting people living with cancer, through complementary therapies.

We are looking for compassionate, qualified volunteer therapists, who can donate a few hours of time a week, to join our award-winning team and help provide vital support to people with cancer.

We are currently looking for:



We are looking for
**Volunteer Therapists
in Berkshire**



Acupuncture

Help reduce side effects, ease pain and support wellbeing



Reflexology

Support relaxation, boost energy and promote natural balance



Oncology Massage

Provide gentle and safe massage to support wellbeing

We would also be interested in hearing from therapists trained in aromatherapy massage

Interested? We would love to hear from you:

bookings@mycancermychoices.org

0118 228 0960

Or find out more at

www.mycancermychoices.org/volunteer

Registered charity No. 1162165

Village News Quiz!

Suzanne Newman
Charvil Resident



- 1) What was the population of Charvil recorded in the 2021 census?
- 2) What was the former name of The Heron on the Ford?
- 3) Charvil's original community centre was built in 1952 as the Church of England church of St Patrick. When was it de- consecrated?
- 4) On what day was the new Village Hall on The Hawthorns opened?
- 5) In what year did the Charvil Piggott Primary School open?
- 6) When did the sinkhole appear in the East Park Farm Centre car-park?
- 7) How many miles is it from Charvil to Land's End in Cornwall?
- 8) How many miles is it from Charvil to John O'Groats in Scotland?
- 9) What is the name of the group for parents and their young children who meet at the Village Hall on Wednesday mornings?
- 10) Which radio and television broadcaster lived in Charvil in the 1970's?



Answers on Page 59

The annual Christmas Quiz is back - 2026!

Chemogiftbags
Christmas
Quiz

Tickets £12

Friday 27th Nov 2026
The Masonic Hall
Wokingham



chemogiftbags.org



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Speedwatch needs your help!

CLlr Mark A'Bear, Chair of Staffing

At 40-mph the survival chance for a pedestrian is 10%. At 30-mph the survival rate increases to 50% and at 20-mph survival rates increase further to 90%.

Despite the presence of speed watch the number of vehicles significantly exceeding the 30-mph speed limit is disturbing. Many students cycling or walking to and from school encounter speeding vehicles on a daily basis. During one speed watch session a large red van sped past the team at 42-mph, despite a significant number of students on both sides of the road.



Speed watch activity is not about interfering with neighbours' behaviour; it is a proactive solution to improve the safety and quality of life for everyone in their local community. Most speeding is accidental, a few mph over the limit. The aim is not to catch large numbers of offenders, but through a regular presence, encourage drivers to reduce their speed through the village. The challenge is that we have insufficient volunteers.

For every vehicle recorded driving at excessive speed, at least 5 times this number slows down when seeing the speed watch team.

There is no doubt that speed watch is having a positive impact on reducing the speed of vehicles driving on the Old Bath Road. We need more volunteers to run more regular sessions and it isn't a significant commitment.



- **Registration – 10 mins**
- **Training – 40 mins**
- **Sessions – 2 hours**
(every other week, or less with enough volunteers)

The team has undertaken 4 sessions totalling 15 hours:

- Total no. of vehicles reported = 102 (approx. 7 per hour)
- 50+ mph = 2
- 40+ mph = 27
- High 30s mph = 73

All the sessions were conducted at the same location and at roughly the same time of day, which included students walking or cycling home from school.

At present the number of authorised locations are limited. Two new locations have been applied for and the team is hopeful that at least one of these will be approved by Thames Valley Police.

Without more volunteers speed watch is unsustainable. If you value the work of speed watch in reducing speeding vehicles through the village, please contact the Parish Council to volunteer – clerk@charvilparishcouncil.gov.uk

Charvil speed data - July 2026

Speed monitors have recently been situated in two locations – Park Lane and Old Bath Road.

Park Lane

Analysis for a 36 day period in June/July.

- Average daily traffic = 899**
- Annual traffic = 328,135**
- Percentage of speed violations = 3.22%**
- Vehicles exceeding 50-mph = 10**
- Vehicles exceeding 41-mph = 161**

The highest speed recorded was in excess of 60-mph.



While the percentage of violations is low (certainly compared to OBR), the data needs some context. The location is adjacent to Charvil Piggott Primary School and even during drop-off and pick-up periods, speeds of up to 45-mph have been recorded. With the Bellway Homes development the number of vehicles on Park Lane will increase, and there is currently no formal crossing point across the road. While the Parish Council is pressing for improvements along Park Lane, comments from residents would add weight to the argument.

Old Bath Road

There are two monitoring periods to look at – a 50 day period March to May and a 28 day period May to June. These could have been consolidated together, but separating the data shows the extent to which the volume of traffic has increased.

Old Bath Road towards Reading (March to May)

- Total number of vehicles = 109,349
- Average per day = 2,187 (down from 3,428 in February, which could be roadworks avoidance)
- Average speed = 28.1 mph – up 0.2 mph from February
- 85% of vehicles travelled slower or up to 34 mph, up slightly
- 15% (16,402 vehicles) exceeded 34 mph

The highest speed recorded was in excess of 75 mph.

The peak times for 15% of vehicles averaging 50+ mph was 6 am – 8 am and 11 pm to 1 am.

Old Bath Road towards Twyford (March to May)

- Total number of vehicles = 105,687
- Average daily traffic = 2,114 (down from 3,391 in February and probably due to the roadworks)
- Average speed = 29 mph (0.6 mph up from February)
- 85% of vehicles travelled slower or up to 34 mph (up 0.5 mph from February)
- 15% (15,853 vehicles) exceeded 34 mph

The highest recorded speed was even greater in this direction, over 80+ mph.

The peak times for 15% of vehicles averaging 50+ mph was 7 pm to 10 pm.

Old Bath Road towards Reading (May to June)

- Total number of vehicles = 116,534
- Average per day = 4,162 (up significantly from 2,187 in March to May)
- Average speed = 28 mph – down 0.1 mph
- 85% of vehicles travelled slower or up to 34 mph, up slightly
- 15% (17,480 vehicles) exceeded 34 mph or 624 vehicles per day

The highest speed recorded was in excess of 85 mph.

Old Bath Road towards Twyford (March to May)

- Total number of vehicles = 98,503
- Average daily traffic = 3,518 (up significantly from 2,114 in March to May)
- Average speed = 29 mph (no change)
- 85% of vehicles travelled slower or up to 35 mph (up 1 mph)
- 15% (14,475 vehicles) exceeded 35 mph or 517 per day

The highest recorded speed was over 80 mph.

Peak times for 15% of vehicles averaging 50+ mph were the same as the previous period.

In conclusion

Traffic volume has increased and while average speeds are similar, the actual numbers of vehicles travelling at high speeds through the village has increased. During the most recent period 1,141 vehicles on average per day were exceeding 34 mph.

When speed watch is operating vehicle speeds drop significantly. However, with a very limited number of volunteers, it has not been possible to run sufficient sessions to materially impact the above data. Please contact the Parish Council to volunteer, on average, an hour per week.

Help us make our local roads safer for everyone.

Can you help make our roads safer?

Two hours of your time could make a difference

Charvil Parish Council

COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH

2 HOURS

Community Speedwatch

Parish Council Contacts

Councillors



Chair of the Parish Council

Cllr Matt Walker

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



Lead for Planning Environments & Highways

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



Chair of staffing

Cllr Mark A'Bear MBE

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



Lead of website and social media

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



Admin & Social Media Assistant

Holly Kearn

Email: media@charvilparishcouncil.gov.uk Tel: 07743 567518

Parish Council meetings 2026

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

September 21st

October 19th

November 16th

December 14th



Amenities Committee

September 14th

November 9th



Finance Committee

November 23rd

Every meeting starts
with an Open Forum for
residents to raise issues
or concerns

The agenda for upcoming meetings, and full minutes of previous minutes, can be found at: <https://charvilparishcouncil.gov.uk/meetings>

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

We have been working with Twyford and Ruscombe Horticultural Association, Charvil Piggott Primary, and the Wargrave Plant Centre to develop a plan for planting the area near the entrance to the East Park Farm car park. The area has been dug over, which had the unfortunate effect of stirring up many perennial weeds – these have now been sprayed, so we hope that by September, the area will be weed free, and ready for planting!



We will be working with our partners to choose some suitable plants and would really love it if some of you would be able to come and help plant them, and plant bulbs around them, to provide a great display next spring. There will also be bulb planting at St Pats for anyone who would like to get involved in that. Dates for this will be weather dependant but if you are interested in becoming involved in this exciting project, please contact me on clerk@charvilparishcouncil.gov.uk for more information.



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 stall at the Village Fete, 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>

Charvil Heroes 2026

Winners announced!

After last year's successful introduction of the Charvil Hero Awards, the Council has decided to make this an annual event and altered the categories slightly to reflect what goes on in Charvil.

INDIVIDUAL AWARD

There were several nominations for this, and the winner was Bev Lines, who has been a champion for the village's young children for many years, working and becoming the supervisor at the much-missed Charvil Pre-school, and then moving into teaching, she worked for several years as the reception teacher at the Charvil Piggott Primary, before taking well-earned retirement last summer. Not someone who would blow her own trumpet, she declined to be photographed but was awarded a beautiful rose.



SPECIAL AWARD

A further nomination was received for Rob Jones, who worked tirelessly on the Neighbourhood Plan from the first thoughts on how to put this together in 2020, to its adoption in May 2026. He took it upon himself to find out everything there was to find out about Neighbourhood Plans, and in the early years worked with all the various people who wanted to help, and once that essential groundwork was in place, he worked closely with Lee Searles of Andrea Pellegram Ltd, to produce the professional plan that you adopted this spring. As a result, the Council decided to award a special Charvil Hero category to recognise his great and hopefully long-lasting contribution to the village.

GROUP AWARD

A new category for a group that contributes greatly to the village was added this year, as it became clear there are some wonderful small organisations that work to improve the village, and again there were several nominations.

Runners-up were AFC Charvil, which has provided football teams and coaching for many young Charvil footballers, and although they do not play in the village, have helped to bring Charvil youngsters together and keep them active in to their teenage years.



The winners of this category were Econet Charvil, a conservation group who have been tackling the years of neglect in the park behind the Hawthorns, fighting brambles, and invasive garden plants, in the hope of increasing biodiversity, as well as improving the conditions for our young Community Orchard.

They hope to be able to cast their net more widely in time, so that they can improve other areas that need some love. The leader of the group, Adrian Larkham, could not attend the awards ceremony, but one of the other long-standing members attended to receive the award and prize at the Community Connect Event in May.

Well done to all the winners, and we hope that you are all thinking of other deserving groups and individuals who help to make the village what it is for next year!

Borough Councillors Report



We hope you are enjoying this warm summer weather we are enjoying and doing your best to keep cool and hydrated. Your local Thames ward team has been bolstered since we communicated with you last; we are delighted to welcome Cllr Leon Cook to our ranks following his election win in May. As a collective we look forward to making a real difference for residents.

As the summer holidays begin there's a real sense of energy and goodwill across the ward. In the last number of weeks there have been a plethora of local events to enjoy showcasing the very best of our beautiful part of the world and the community we are very proud to serve. Accordingly, please find below an overview of some of the highlights of things happening across the ward:

Planning for Progress

Over the past year, Cllrs Smith and Akhtar have served on the borough-wide Planning Committee. It's painstaking work, looking at each development carefully and working through applications properly to make sure they're right for our communities. Ever more so given the lack of an agreed Local Plan by WBC. As a team, we're focused on getting the balance right between progress and preserving what makes the borough special.

Housing Development/Local Plan

Wokingham have now opened up a 'call for sites' for the latest version of a Local Plan. It will be referred to as the Wokingham Borough Local Plan 2045. You can see the notice and the timetable on the dedicated [Local Plan 2045 webpage](#).

The timetable, which reflects the new national plan-making process, sets out the steps required to be followed to prepare a local plan. It also includes the dates we currently anticipate for public consultations and undertaking other key steps. The Local Plan 2045 will replace our current guidance, including the Wokingham Borough Local Plan Update (LPU), which is currently at examination by the Inspector, with adoption anticipated in 2027.

Landowners are free to apply at any point to build, unfortunately under the current government even in the Green Belt. Most will consider the implications of a refusal before applying and on certain occasions, they may apply for PIP (Planning in Principle) or outline planning.

Larger sites can be proposed under the call for sites process that forms part of the local plan preparation. This allows WBC to review all sites across the Borough and determine the best locations, based on highways infrastructure etc.

When a Borough doesn't have a plan and is short of its 5 year land supply, developers can try their luck with an application. An example of that was Riverways Farm where the developer used the lack of a Local Plan to win an appeal after an initial refusal from WBC. As soon as we have more definite information regarding potential sites/plans, we will communicate and potentially hold surgeries to discuss.

Bellway planning application

Cllr Cook has liaised extensively with the local community and on the boundary of the proposed housing development application to ensure resident concerns are heard and expressed to both the WBC planning department and the developers themselves Bellway. Charvil Parish Council has separately also met with WBC to express their concerns about the plans as they are currently configured. A number of versions of the plan have been redrafted as a result of engagement but a number of matters including interconnectivity from one development to another, boundary distance not to mention section 106 commitments still remain.

Cllr Cook has listed this application to ensure that it is heard by the planning committee given the sheer plethora of issues identified. If you would like to ensure that your concerns are also captured, please ensure your comments are uploaded to the WBC planning portal, planning application number 253071: <https://planning.wokingham.gov.uk/FastWebPL/welcome.asp>

Cllrs Smith and Akhtar Serve on the planning committee therefore not able to publicly comment on this issue. Should you have ongoing concerns please contact Cllr Cook directly.

Local Schools

Cllrs Smith and Cook recently attended a meeting with Wokingham's Education and SEND team regarding the shortfall in school places for a number of families and children applying to local schools, principally in Wargrave. To ensure the financial viability of schools Wokingham have reduced the Public Admission Number (PAN) for Wargrave Piggott Infant School from 45 to 30 for the 2026/27 school year. All other PAN numbers for local schools remains the same.

We are aware that a number of families intend to appeal the allocation of places due to their own circumstances including siblings at their desired school of choice. Six families currently sit on the wait list for Piggott Infant School, two of them with siblings at the school. Both Wargrave infant and junior schools have now joined the Agape Multi Academy Trust but will remain for the foreseeable future under WBC's coordinated admission scheme. If we can help families affected through the appeals process, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Hedges/Verges/Footpaths

We have received a lot of correspondence regarding the state of hedges, verges and footpaths across the ward. WBC's current administration decided to reduce the budget which meant that summer cutting would no longer be part of the annual programme. WBC are obligated to cut back if there's a safety issue, or related to sight lines and an obstacle to footpaths etc. Residents are encouraged to report problem paths and blockages on our website. If WBC are slow to act and you will like help escalating an issue, please contact us.



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Road Safety

This is an issue that is brought up time and again with all of us and something we have repeatedly pushed WBC to act on, including on the corner of Milestone Avenue. That blind bend is genuinely dangerous for children cycling to Piggott School. We have requested for yellow lines to be put in place to improve visibility and make it safer. Cllr Akhtar will table this issue at July's full council meeting. It's exactly the kind of issue that needs action. We won't rest until we've got a solution that keeps our residents safe.

WBC have also recently unveiled a survey to ask for comments with regard to measures to introduce cameras at a number of problematic junctions across the borough, including New Bath Road and Park View Drive North and South. To provide your comments to the survey, please visit:

<https://engage.wokingham.gov.uk/en-GB/projects/have-your-say-on-changes-to-moving-traffic-offences-mtos>

More broadly, The borough-wide Safer Streets initiative has now entered into the review phase. The general public will be invited to comment on proposals come August 4th. To keep up to date with the consultation and initiative, please visit: <https://engage.wokingham.gov.uk/en-GB/projects/putting-people-first-on-our-streets-safer-streets-programme/2>

Thames Valley Park Data Centre (TVPDC)

Cllr Cook last month engaged the TVPDC planning application consultants to understand the specificities of the scheme and how it will impact the local area. Subsequently, both Cllrs Cook and Smith attended the recent public consultation day at Pearson Hall in Sonning. This was very well attended by the local community with a number of issues addressed to both the developers and us as borough councillors with regard to environmental impact, line of sight, safety of the proposed fuel cell deployment and grid connectivity issues, amongst others.

The developers are now putting together their pre-application proposal. If you would still like to ask questions of those building out the application and pass on your comments, please do so at: <https://www.tvpdc.co.uk/have-your-say>

Protecting Our Pets

At this time of extreme heat, please do your best to keep them off the pavements and tarmac during the middle of the day. The radiated heat up can cause real damage. An early morning or after sunset walk means they stay safe and comfortable. It's simple, but it matters.

Checking on Your Neighbours

More importantly, use this time to check in on the people around you. Neighbours living on their own. Elderly residents. Anyone you know might struggle with the heat. A knock on the door, a quick phone call, making sure they've got enough water and somewhere cool to sit. These small things genuinely save lives. Heat can catch people quietly, and often all it takes is someone noticing and caring enough to check. Be that person for someone on your street.

Getting Involved with Our Monthly Litter Picks

We run monthly litter picks across the ward year round. We always welcome new volunteers, whether you can join us regularly or just fancy lending a hand when you can. It's a great way to meet neighbours and keep our area looking good. If you'd like to find out more or get involved, please get in touch.

Getting in Touch

If you spot something that needs attention, whether it's potholes, overgrown areas, planning concerns, or road safety issues, please get in touch. We're here to help.

Enjoy your summer, stay cool, and look out for your neighbours.

Councillors for Thames Ward

Covering Sonning, Charvil, Remenham, Wargrave and the surrounding villages of Crazies Hill, Kiln Green and Hare Hatch.

Wayne Smith - wayne.smith@wokingham.gov.uk

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Leon Cook - leon.cook@wokingham.gov.uk

Mobile: 07733 323342



WOKINGHAM
BOROUGH COUNCIL

WBC Countryside Services

Simon Bartlam (wokingham.gov)



Nature thriving at Canberra Lake

The main Canberra Lake reedbed has come on fantastically since we carried out our clearance of the trees. Interestingly the planted reeds have survived and establishing nicely, but the sedges Glyceria Reeds, Burr reeds and Purple Loosestrife that were already present have colonised the whole area in less than a year.

The Purple Loosestrife will be covered and provide food for insects and butterflies while the reeds and sedges provide fantastic cover for dragonflies and damselflies which will use the area to hunt mosquitos and gnats as they emerge from the wetland area.

This is all a great indication that the lakes wetland margins will now become a haven for wetland species and wildlife while also removing nutrients from the lake, improving the water quality.



The dragonfly pictured below left is an Emperor Hawker dragonfly, while the damselfly (below right) is a Red-eyed Damselfly.



Blue Green Algae confirmed at Charvil lakes

The Environment Agency has carried out tests at the lakes in Charvil and confirmed the presence of Blue Green Algae.

We always put up signs asking visitors to keep dogs out of the water, as warmer temperatures can encourage algae to grow. With the Environment Agency now confirming its presence, we wanted to remind all residents and visitors to take extra care.

Please:

- Avoid contact with the water
- Keep your dogs away from the lakes and do not let them to drink the water
- Wash yourself and your pet if they come into contact with it.

Improvements planned around the lakes

The Charvil Angling Club has once again been successful in securing Environment Agency grant funding to improve access around the lakes and support angling facilities. Some of this funding will be used for fishing swim upgrades, while we hope to see improvements to the footpath link around the Heronry area. This route can become particularly difficult to navigate during the wetter winter months.

Free online wellbeing support for families

Residents across Wokingham Borough can now access a range of free online resources to support children's and families' emotional health and wellbeing. A funded licence for the Togetherness online learning platform means local people can access NHS-informed wellbeing support at no cost. The resources include guidance to help families understand big feelings, support children's development, and recognise the importance of nurturing relationships in helping children thrive.

The free online resources include:

- Antenatal courses
- Postnatal learning, including specialist support for NICU parents
- Support to understand your child from toddler to teenager, including a tailored advice for children with additional needs
- Support to understand adolescence, for both parents and young people
- Adult mental health resources, including trauma information and relationship support

All pathways have been written by NHS psychologists, psychotherapists and health practitioners.

Emma Cockerell, executive director of children's services, said: "We all know family life can be busy and sometimes overwhelming and all of us need support or advice at one time or another in navigating being a parent. That's why it's so important that people can access trusted support in their own time and in a way that suits them."

More than 330,000 learners have already used Togetherness, with satisfaction rates consistently above 90 per cent. Residents can get started by creating a free account and using the access code `bwfamilies` via the link below:

<https://togetherness.co.uk/pathway-library/>



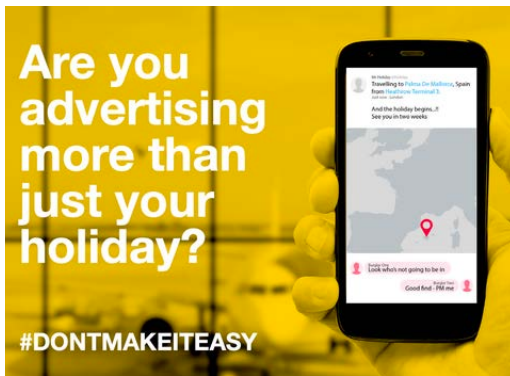
Thames Valley Police update



Burglary prevention advice whether you are home or away this summer

Home

- Lock all doors and windows at night and when you are out. Ensure all sheds and garden buildings are secure when unoccupied. If you have a UPVC door, remember to lift the handle and lock it with the key.
- Keep all valuables and keys, including car keys, out of sight and reach of windows and letterboxes. Double check your vehicle is locked too.
- Ensure all gates are locked to prevent access to the sides and rear of your property. Move bins away from side walls and fences.
- Keep ladders and tools stored away. Don't leave them outside where they could be used to break into your home.



Away

- Use a timer switch to make your house look occupied, even when it isn't.
- Don't advertise that you are going on holiday on social media – wait to upload your snaps until you get home!
- Consider installing a video doorbell and ensure it is fully charged.
- Ask someone you trust to keep an eye on your home while you are away.
- Don't leave spare keys in obvious places such as under doormats or plant pots.

Please secure your vehicle

Having your car broken into and losing your things to thieves can be very distressing. Here are a few steps you can take to help keep your vehicle, and what's in it, safe.



Lock your vehicle

Locking your vehicle, even when filling up or parked on your drive, greatly reduces the possibility of it being targeted by an opportunist thief. If you have electronically locked your vehicle, double check it. Many thieves will not hesitate to walk up your driveway and try the door handles to see if your car will open.

If your vehicle has wing mirrors that fold in automatically, ensure it is locked. Opportunist thieves and criminal gangs may look for vehicles like these where the wing mirrors are still out because it is clear that the vehicle is not secure.

Display and you will pay

Please don't tempt thieves – your mobile phone, spare coins, sunglasses, packs of medication or other items that can earn quick cash are irresistible to the opportunist thief. And it should go without saying that wallets, handbags, purses and credit cards should never be left in an unattended vehicle. Even an old coat or a plastic bag left behind can tempt a thief.



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Keyless entry

Cars with keyless entry unlock automatically when the key comes within a short distance of the car. This can be from inside a pocket or bag. If you have to push a button on your car key to open your car, you don't have keyless entry. Keyless car theft or 'relay theft' is when a device is used to fool the car into thinking the key is close by. This unlocks the car and starts the ignition. Thieves only need to be within a few metres of your car key to capture the signal, even if it's inside your home. This means that even if your car and home are secure, thieves can still unlock, start and steal your car.

- Fit a steering wheel stop lock as a physical deterrent. Some models can link to pedals and gear sticks.
- Consider blocking your keyless car in with another non-keyless entry car if you have one.
- When at home keep your car key (and spares) well away from the car.
- Put the keys in a screened or signal-blocking pouch, such as a Faraday Bag.
- Re-programme your keys if you buy a second hand car.
- Turn off wireless signals on your fob when it's not being used.



If you have seen anything suspicious, have CCTV or Dashcam footage of suspects, or any information regarding car crime in your neighbourhood, please report this by using the Thames Valley Police on line reporting portal at www.thamesvalley.police.uk or by calling the non-emergency number 101. If a crime is in progress, dial 999.

For more crime prevention advice, please visit our website:
www.thamesvalley.police.uk.

You can find out your local neighbourhood policing priorities on our website:
<https://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/area/your-area/>

Recent planning applications

Planning matters considered at recent Parish Council Meetings

The Council had no objection to the following applications:

260226: Reserved Matters pursuant to Outline Planning Consent 223455 (as approved under APP/X0360/W/24/3350170) for a residential development of up to 230 dwellings, open space, internal accesses and parking, drainage measures, landscaping, demolition of all existing structures, and all other associated works. Details of vehicular access for the development to the A4 on land to the north of A4, New Bath Road

260645: APPLICATION FOR WORKS TO PROTECTED TREE(S) TPO 122/1977, T17 and T19 T1, Maple (T19 on TPO) – Section fell to just above ground level. T2, Oak (T17 on TPO) – Crown lift to approx. 5.5m by removing 1 no. primary stem and secondary growth only; reduce 1 no. branch growing over the garden by 1.5-2m at 2, Gingells Farm Road

260667: Householder application for the proposed development of single-storey front extension and garage conversion forming habitable room at 8 Farmer's End

260743: Application for the proposed conversion of existing loft to create habitable accommodation including the insertion of a rear dormer, extension of existing rear canopy roof, alterations to external staircase width plus insertion of rooflights at 12, Farmer's End

The Council commented on these applications as follows:

253071: Application for the 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 – Revised Plans

1. Housing Mix and density

The Parish Council welcomes the adherence to the 40% affordable homes, and that there has been some attempt to spread out these homes throughout the development. It also welcomes the introduction of a buffer, although it acknowledges this is not as wide as some of the existing residents would like. It appreciates that there has been some effort made to put some of the densest level of housing behind the widest point of the buffer, although it must be noted that this has not been wholly successful. Consequently, the layout is still contrary to MS02 of the Charvil Design Guide. There is still concern, however, that the current plan is contrary to Charvil Policy 2, Meeting Local Housing Needs and the S106 agreement signed in May 2025. The agreement states that it should not be possible to tell whether a dwelling is affordable or not from the exterior; given that there are no open market smaller homes – semi-detached or terraced, in this development, it is very easy to tell the majority of affordable/social homes from others.

Charvil Policy 2 states that there is a need for 1,2 and 3-bedroom homes on the open market, and there is not a single open market home that is not four or five bedrooms in this design. While the Parish Council acknowledges the difficulties in providing a development of this type that is wholly in line with this policy, it believes there needs to be some provision of open market smaller homes to allow for downsizing etc.

2.Sustainability

We welcome the provision of sustainable homes, and the use of solar and heat source pumps where appropriate – these points align with Charvil Policies 4 and 5. We also welcome the use of passive design where possible, and efforts to reduce water usage. We have concerns, however, about no mention of greywater recycling or rainwater harvesting, contrary to SE02 of the Charvil Design Guide.

3.Green corridors and biodiversity net gain

The Parish Council is pleased that at least some of the biodiversity net gain is now onsite, and that street trees, hedges etc are included as part of the boundary treatment. This is an improvement upon the original design. One area that could be improved in terms of boundary treatments, is the provision of hedgehog tunnels through the garden fences to create hedgehog streets, in line with MC04 of the Charvil Design Guide.

4.Effects on the community facilities

Inevitably, new residents increase pressure on the existing facilities of the village, and it is well recognised that Charvil is not blessed with a wide range of facilities (There were two things that the village thought they were going to get from this development; a teenage play facility, and allotments). There is no allotment provision included in this development, which is disappointing, and the play area still seems to be marked as a LEAP. While we note that there is reference to the specifics of the play provision being provided as a condition, rather than in the plan, the Parish Council would prefer a commitment at this stage for such a facility, to align with Charvil Policy 1.

5.Pedestrian and cycling environment

There are two elements to this; active travel around the development, and links to the wider village. In terms of traversing the development, the Parish Council would like the inclusion of pedestrian and cycling routes linking the three main cul-de-sacs within the development, and support the path into Canberra Lake Way, as this will allow connectivity, not only to Canberra Lake Way, but also through to the wider Hawthorns development. This is in line with AM02 of the Charvil Design Guide. There has been a further desire line identified, along the north of the site, to the entrance of Canberra Lake Way, and while this would be in line with AM02, the Council recognises police concerns for paths running along the back of existing properties, so this may not be viable.

The Council also recognises that residents of Canberra Lake Way have concerns around the proposed path, but there is little evidence that similar paths in other areas of the village have negative effects.



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6. Concerns about the geology of the site.

The Parish Council continues to have concerns about the possible impacts of development on this site on the area it manages to the east of Park Lane, and expect the further surveys promised to be objective, thorough, and to include investigations into possible wider areas than just the site, including the road, the car park at East Park Farm, the tennis courts and the sports pitches. The Council would like to see the results of any surveys and investigations so it can be satisfied that its interests on East Park Farm will not be compromised as a result of this development.

261132: Permission in Principle Application for a maximum of six dwellings on land adjacent to Huckleberry, Waingels Road

1. Location. The site is outside of the settlement limits of Charvil, in the "green gap" between Woodley and Charvil. It is fully visible from Beggars Hill Road, and any development would fundamentally change the character of the area from open fields and gardens to a much more built up form. This is contrary to CP 9, CP11, and Policy Charvil 3,4 and 8. The site will be accessible from Waingels Road, a bendy road with a narrow footpath on the northern side of the highway. Most day to day services are too far away from the site, and pedestrian access sufficiently poor to suggest that anything but the private car would be used regularly, and this is contrary to CP1, and CP6, and Policy Charvil 11. A previous application on this site for a single dwelling was dismissed on appeal because it would be contrary to CP1, CP2, CP3, CP6, CP9, CP11 and CP 17. While only the policies regarding location, current land use and amount of development are material for this application, it is clear that the inspector did not feel this was a suitable location for development, and that development here would be very damaging to the character of the wider area and would eat into the green gap between settlements.

2. Current Land Use. The site is in the open countryside and is a mixture of paddocks and private gardens. These all constitute land that has not been previously developed, and as such, this is not a suitable land type for development.

3. Amount of development suggested.

As previously stated, the inspector refused one dwelling in one of the paddocks on the grounds of changing the character; four to six dwellings would cause even more harm, and would be out of keeping with this corner of the countryside, and would not be sustainable in terms of supporting active travel.

The following applications were approved by Wokingham Borough Council:

252204: Application to modify planning obligation within the Section 106 Legal Agreement dated 05/05/2025 in relation to planning permission 232704. The proposed modifications concern clarifying each signatory's responsibility with respect to reptile translocation as well as the provision of supplemental text with respect to affordable housing on land west of Park Lane

260358: APPLICATION FOR WORKS TO PROTECTED TREE(S) TPO-0266-1984 T1, Beech Tree - in the back garden boundary neighbouring 2 Foxes Walk. The Crown is trespassing into 2 Foxes walk. To Reduce trespassing crown only, by approximately 15%, equivalent to removing from lower crown (previously reduced branches) approximately 1m from branch length, removing from upper crown approximately 2.5m branch length. Thin leafing volume area of remaining crown evenly by approximately 15%. Raise crown by removing secondary growth only. T2, multi stemmed Catalpa Indian Bean Tree – in the Front garden RH side of driveway. One Decay in unions at ground level. Reduce crown by approximately 20%, equivalent to removing approximately 2-2.5m from height and side growth. T3, Back Garden Purple Plumb Tree, with large dead stem. Fell leaving a low stump at 1, Foxes Walk

260645: APPLICATION FOR WORKS TO PROTECTED TREE(S) TPO 122/1977, T17 and T19 T1, Maple (T19 on TPO) – Section fell to just above ground level. T2, Oak (T17 on TPO) – Crown lift to approx. 5.5m by removing 1 no. primary stem and secondary growth only; reduce 1 no. branch growing over the garden by 1.5-2m at 2, Gingells Farm Road

260466: Application for a certificate of lawfulness for the proposed erection of a single storey rear extension at 38, Charvil House Road

The following application was refused

261132: Permission in Principle for a maximum of six dwellings on land adjacent to Hucklebury, Waingels Road

The following appeal was dismissed

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 REFERRED TO ABOVE CAN BE FOUND ON:
www.wokingham.gov.uk

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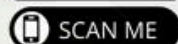
Quiz answers

- 1) 3158
- 2) The Lands End
- 3) 2011
- 4) 14th May 1988
- 5) 2013
- 6) November 2023
- 7) 288 miles
- 8) 667 miles
- 9) Caterpillar Club
- 10) Diddy David Hamilton

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 .



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Planning Decisions

wokingham.gov.uk

Charvil Parish Council

charvilparishcouncil.gov.uk



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