



Chair's update,

Charing parishioner's this is my first update since becoming Chair of the Parish Council (PC). It has been a difficult time for us all during the pandemic and with the PC only being allowed virtual meetings, which in truth is not the same as face-to-face meetings that we are accustomed too. I would like to thank the previous chair Jill Leyland who did a sterling job throughout her chairmanship term and continues to give us her support.

Back to what is happening throughout the parish, as you may have seen the Orbit site on the A20 has now been completed and is being advertised locally and throughout the surrounding villages for occupation of the over 55's.

The development next to Orbit on the A20 is due to start soon and we are in consultation with the developer over protecting the Alderbed ancient woodland and the maintenance of the streams and boundaries of the completed development.

Other developments in the parish continue to trundle on, but in the main, are being held up by the Stodmarsh issues with contaminates from developments and farmland polluting sites of scientific interest further down the Stour, we will continue to up-date when we can.

The Neighbourhood Plan is nearing completion and further information will be provided by the Neighbourhood Plan Team in due course.

Anti-social behaviour is still a significant problem within the parish, and we continue to have dialogue with the police and Ashford Borough Council but unfortunately it seems to fall on deaf ears most of the time, however we will continue lobby both parties. **Chris.**

The Council

Through the co-option process four new councillor's will be joining the council over the next two months. These replace Cllr Anita Gudge, Cllr Jill Layland, Cllr John Watson and Cllr Sarah Hawkins. .

Finance report 2022

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After a very challenging year financially for the Council we were pleased to be able to keep any increase in the precept to 5%. We have had some challenging times of late with vandalism to council assets and equipment requiring some further measures to prevent recurring repair costs, we should all be mindful that council assets are YOUR assets. The installation of CCTV equipment is still being progressed, but we have to gain the required consents from all the authorities whose buildings and structures we wish to affix the equipment to, this has been hampered by the pandemic but we are hopeful that things can progress now that the situation is returning to some sort of normal. Repairs and modernisations to the Parish Hall and its facilities are ongoing and more will be carried out this year. We are always trying to gain grant funding for any works or new equipment that are necessary and we are sometimes successful, but central government are reducing the monies they hand down to borough councils, and they in turn are reducing what they give to us, so we are investigating ways that we can increase our revenue streams so as to reduce the burden on rate payers yet still provide the services and facilities which are needed. **Dave.**

Annual Open Meeting (Save the date)

This years Annual Open Meeting will be held on the 3rd May 2022 at the Parish Hall. The meeting will start at 7.30pm.

The meeting will comprise of a report of council business, The community award and a chance for parishioners to meet and discuss village matters and concerns over an informal glass of wine, fruit juice etc.

Further details will be published on the notice boards, website and social media outlets nearer the event.

The council welcome, and indeed invite a wide diverse attendance of the people of Charing, Charing Heath and Westwell Leacon to attend.

In Memory

Charing Parish Council have planted a memorial tree (*Prunus subhirtella autumnalis rosea*) (winter flowering cherry), in the sundial garden, in memory of Cllr Anita Gudge. Dennis and Natasha pictured here on the right, attended the planting ceremony with some close friends, family and some members of Charing Parish Council.



Queen Platinum Jubilee

Charing Parish council has planted a tree to mark the event (pictured below) (Kindly donated by Mr John Hosking) in the corner of Clewards Meadow. The tree is a Liquid Amber (*Liquidambar styraciflua*) and will be commemorated with an official Jubilee plaque.

Other events for the Jubilee will take place later in the year, to be notified nearer the time. **CPC**



Field of Cloth of Gold Celebrations/Fete

The Fete will include Field of Cloth of Gold celebrations with Re-enactors here on Sat 18th and Sunday 19th June. Henry VIII and his Queen (Catherine of Aragon) will attend the Fete and the Re-enactment. Although there will be a Tudor flavour to the Fete we will still need lots of helpers so volunteers please to put up and take down marquees and side shows.

CCTV Update

Charing Parish Council would like to thank the parishioners for their patience in the delivery of this asset/project for the community. Covid has delayed many of the necessary permissions for the sighting of aerials, cameras ect, and along with ensuring the information collected by the cameras and the real-time monitoring of the images is right for the village has been a drawn out process.

The Council are waiting on just one more permission to be granted, which is fundamental to the technology working and its then all systems go. **Dawne.**



Land South of the Swan (Planning application 20/0508/AS)

An exhibition by Countryside and Orbit will be held in Charing Parish Hall on Friday the 11th of March from 3pm till 6.30pm.

This will be open to the general public. Members of both Countryside and Orbit will be in attendance to answer any question regarding the application. **(Note.** Outline permission has already been granted this application and this meeting is to look at the detailed plans) **Susan**



Replacement trees.

The Council has replaced the three diseased Cherry trees on the (A20 Picnic Area) with a flowering tree called (Cotoneaster conubria). Unfortunately replacement Cherry trees cannot be planted where disease has prevailed.

A replacement Beech tree (Again kindly donated by Mr J Hosking) has been planted on the grass area next to the racecourse as the previously planted Beech tree had died. **Dawne.**

Vandalism / Anti Social behaviour

The village along with many other villages in Kent has seen an increase in vandalism and “Anti social behaviour.” Damage has occurred in various areas within Charing & Charing Heath. Residents houses, gardens and cars have also been targeted. The Parish Council ask that all incidents, regardless of how minor are reported on 101 to the police, or report on www.kent.police.uk. Reporting online can be done within 10 minutes.

All reported issues are automatically passed on to our PCSO who will look into each issue. The more incidents that are reported the more police presence we get within the parish. If residents are not reporting then we are seen as a village with minor issues and our PCSO spends more time in other parishes. **Dawne.**

Cemetery

The Parish Council would like to remind people that a separate area within the Cemetery for the specific interment of ashes is available.

Plots cannot be pre purchased but are available on request from the clerk at cpclerk@charingkent.org or Tel 01233 713599 for further information.

Community & Youth Award 2022

The Annual Community & Youth award is presented to residents of Charing or Charing Heath who have given outstanding service to their village over a period of years. If you know of any candidates who have given this sort of service please do nominate them. The Youth element of this award is for 11—18 year olds.

The Community & Youth award 2022 will be presented at our Annual Parish Open Meeting on Tuesday 3rd May. A nomination form is printed below. All Charing / Charing Heath residents are invited to submit a nomination. Only one nomination per category, per resident, but all adult members of a family may submit a nomination form. Just photocopy the form or phone the Clerk, Dawne Austen, on 713599 for extra forms, or pick up another newsletter from the Post Office.

Completed forms, in a sealed envelope, should be sent to the Clerk at 6 Haffenden Meadow Charing TN27 OJR, or given to any councillor. The closing date for receiving voting forms will be 5th April.

Community & Youth Award 2022 / Nomination Form

I would like to nominate for the Community* / Youth* Award (*Delete as appropriate)

.....**Signed**.....

Print Name.....

Only one vote per resident. In the event of a tie the award may be given to more than one person. For details of returning this form see above.

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| <p style="text-align: center;">Parish Councillors - Charing</p> <p>.....</p> <p>Lady C Bain Smith (vice chair) 712594 Mrs S Easun (vice chair) 07761448607 Mr J Gilliver john@charingkent.org Mr T Hayward 07803161631 Mrs J Strike 07855064707 Mr T Reed 713136 or 07767861003</p> <p>Rural Community Warden Diane Wakeling 07977981990</p> <p>PCSO Laura Langridge (Charing) 101 PCSO Laura Langridge (Charing Heath) 101</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Parish Councillors Charing Heath</p> <p>.....</p> <p>Mr D Bennett (vice chair) 712054 Mr C Prinn (Chair) 07872190187</p> <p>Borough Councillors</p> <p>Mr G Clarkson (Charing) 712081 Mrs C Bell (C/Heath) 07970885065 Mr C Simkins (County Cllr) 756705</p> <p>Parish Clerk</p> <p>Mrs D Austen 713599</p> <p>Burial Clerk</p> <p>Mrs H Evers 632671</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Charing Parish Newsletter</p> <p>.....</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Editor: Dawne Austen</p> <p>Contributions or correspondence for upcoming Newsletters should be sent to: 6 Haffenden Meadow Charing Kent TN27 OJR Tel: 01233 713599 Email: cpclerk@charingkent.org</p> |
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