

Chillaton Newsletter

No. 5: 29th January 2013

This edition of the Newsletter contains:

1. Feedback on items concerning Chillaton that were discussed at the Parish Council meeting on 9th January, including an update on traffic issues.
2. Further details about the vacancy for a Parish Council Clerk.
3. Details of a Mayoral award for local environmental heroes/heroines.
4. Charity Pub Quiz.

1. Parish Council meeting - 9th January

The Minutes of this meeting will be on the website, once they are approved by the Parish Council at its meeting on 6th March 2013.

Local Plans: Michelle Luscombe, Policy Planning Officer, West Devon Borough Council [WDBC] took us through the various options for producing local plans.

Following recent changes in national planning policies, an area that does not have an up to date local plan is more likely to have development imposed on it, than one that does. WDBC did produce its borough-wide plans fairly recently and these should only need fairly minor changes.

However, those plans don't necessarily reflect what development local communities might want to see in their area, nor what local features or characteristics might need special protection. That could be done by producing either a Neighbourhood Plan or a Community Plan. A Neighbourhood Plan has more legal status than a Community Plan and goes through a different method of preparation, but the work involved is fairly similar for both types of plan. The cost of producing a plan should be met by Government grants, or by WDBC, as appropriate.

The Parish Council needs to consider carefully what it should do. It could do nothing, but the consequence would be much less local influence over what housing is built here, for example. If it wants to produce either type of local plan, it must be something that, although led by the Parish Council, is developed and owned as much as possible by the residents of Chillaton, Milton Abbot and elsewhere in the parish.

Unless local residents want to get involved, the Parish Council would probably be reluctant to produce a local plan. Although parish councillors would take part in the plan process, it would be essential for other local residents to be involved with specific aspects of the local community that interested them.

They might include:

1. An accessible community, well served by walking and cycling links, with opportunities for using public and community transport.
2. A successful community, with a good local economy and a range of job opportunities.
3. A sustainable community that has well-designed housing, to meet the needs of local households of different sizes and incomes.

This would be an opportunity to work out what we want for Chillaton. What would you prefer to do? Be involved in planning ahead and shaping our community, or have to join an action group at some point in the future, that's fighting inappropriate development about to be imposed on our village?

If everyone leaves it to someone else, nothing will be done. If we take a conscious decision not to have a local plan, that's fine. If we don't have one because no-one could be bothered, that's another matter entirely.

If you are interested in finding out more about the local plan process and how local residents could make it happen, please click the 'Contact Us' button and email your contact details, using the on-line form found there, or ring Howard Asbridge on 860378.

Traffic in Chillaton: Following the public meeting about traffic in Chillaton, the Parish Council authorised Chillaton parish councillors to discuss the recently gathered speed data with the County Road Safety Officer. Howard Asbridge and Ray Brewer met with two Devon County Council officers on the 7th December. The notes of that meeting are on the website and can be found by clicking the 'Traffic in Chillaton' button.

Since then, the County Road Safety Officer has provided some further observations on traffic calming measures that might be appropriate for Chillaton and these will now be considered by the group set up at the public meeting in October. Once a more definitive set of ideas has been produced, there will be another public meeting to see if we want to take any of those issues further.

As was mentioned at the public meeting, there are Parish Council funds available to purchase a flashing speed warning sign for the village and the Road Safety Officer has now clarified how this could be obtained.

The Parish Council has therefore authorised Chillaton parish councillors to discuss with residents the options for siting a flashing sign in the village. This will initially be considered by the Traffic Group referred to above, at a meeting being arranged for mid-February. Following that, there will be further public consultation.

Parish Council precept: Some very complicated changes to Government funding of local authorities meant that the Parish Council either had to reduce the amount of money it requires from WDBC [the precept] by £81, or add a small amount to the Council tax rate for next year. It decided to reduce the precept.

Planning: Land adjacent to April Cottage Chillaton: Following a site meeting, Chillaton parish councillors decided to object to the granting of planning permission for the erection of a detached house on this site, because it would over-develop the site, overlook adjoining properties and would not result in much of the unsatisfactory appearance of the area being improved.

Howard Asbridge, Ray Brewer, Amanda Westcott

2. Vacancy for Parish Council Clerk

The vacancy for a Parish Clerk to help us run the Parish Council, which serves Chillaton, Milton Abbot and nearby hamlets has still not be filled. The duties include taking minutes at evening meetings

(usually six a year), preparing agendas, dealing with correspondence and general enquiries. On average this will take up two hours each week, for an annual salary of £750. The post would suit someone with general office and computer skills, as well as an interest in the local community.

There is no closing date for applications, at present, but if you are interested please contact the current Parish Clerk, Mrs S Snow, 01822 870301 for further information, as soon as possible.

Howard Asbridge, Ray Brewer, Amanda Westcott

3. Nominate Your Unsung Hero!

The work of the borough's unsung heroes and heroines is to be celebrated with the 2013 West Devon Mayoral Awards. Nominations are currently being sought for the awards which recognise the inspiring work done by individuals and organisations to help communities across West Devon.

They fall into three categories - a young person under 18, an organisation or business or person over 18 and an individual or group who have made a significant contribution to the conservation and protection of the natural environment of West Devon.

The awards are a way of saying thank you to people who work to make things better for the borough and its communities. They also recognise particularly noteworthy achievement within the borough.

Nomination forms are available from the reception of the Council's Kilworthy Park offices, Okehampton Customer Services Centre at St James Street and the Mayor's Secretary Janet Rosser on 01822 813629.

Forms are also available in the libraries at Chagford, Princetown, Tavistock and Okehampton and online at www.westdevon.gov.uk/MayoralAwards

All entries should be received by the Mayor's Secretary no later than Thursday, February 28, 2013.

4. Charity Pub Quizzes at the Chichester Arms

On the first Tuesday of the month the Chichester Arms traditionally holds a pub quiz, usually in aid of the Devon Air Ambulance, but often shared with other charities. You don't need to be a general knowledge expert to take part, nor even to win, as many of the rounds are 'less traditional' than you may be used to. If you want to give it a go, the next quiz will be on Tuesday 5th February from 8pm.

Chris Beighton

If you know someone who needs some help to access the website or to join the mailing list and you aren't able to assist them, please let us know who they are and we will try to help.

Also, if you know anyone who you think would like to receive a copy of this newsletter by hand, then let us know by using the contact page and we will endeavour to get a copy to them.