

Charlton Marshall News February 2011

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The Village Design Statement

By now, you will have all received a questionnaire which went to every household within the village settlement boundary (and those just outside) and will have had the completed answer sheet collected. Many thanks to the Organising Group who based the questions on advice received. Even bigger thanks go to the magnificent 20 or so volunteers who distributed and collected the sheets and, of course, those who spent their time filling in their thoughts.

If you did not manage to complete the questionnaire by the deadline but would still like to contribute to the data already received, please let me know via the Parish Clerk by Sunday the 20th February. There is also a PDF file on the village website www.charltonmarshall.org.uk. This is a downloadable questionnaire and answer sheet for both adults and young people. You can use the village website to keep up to date with the Village Design Statement under the 'news' link and then by clicking on 'Design Statement'.

The Village Design Statement will be a vital reference point for any type of future development in the village. It has become an increasingly important project because of the Decentralisation and Localism Bill which will be going through parliament in 2011. North Dorset and one other district in England have been selected by the Coalition Government to monitor the production of their newest village design statements. So now, unwittingly, we have national significance!

The next event to look forward to in the village is the photography week in the spring - another good way to get the community involved! Although there will be strict guidelines in place, the shots will be put on public display and it's even possible that your photo could feature in the village calendar for 2012 as well as being printed in the final village design statement!

Cllr Tim Hill, VDS coordinator

Local Elections

Election time is here again and with it the chance to join the Parish Council. This year we have had interest in some of the activities of the Parish Council particularly in relation to its role in the planning process, but there are also many other areas in which the Parish Council is involved. The change in Government has brought its own challenges, but also opportunities to shape the local environment and services. If you would like to become a Parish Councillor and help shape the future of Charlton Marshall, please contact the Parish Clerk before noon 31st March 2011.

Ian Rodd, Chairman to the Parish Council

Charlton Marshall Youth Club

The youth club has now been up and running for 2 years but sadly unless we find a leader, either permanent or temporary, and more parents to help on the rota, after all our efforts, the youth club will have to close down. Numbers have dropped after 2 families moved away and last year's year 6 moved schools and understandably have decided to join clubs in Blandford to be with their friends in town.

The next sessions are 27th Jan, 10th Feb and 24th Feb, AGM on Thursday 3rd March at 7.30pm in the Church Room opposite the Charlton Inn. If nobody comes forward, then the club will close at the AGM.

A letter will be sent to all parents of Club members and to all parents in year 5 and 6 via school. The Club is financially sound, has modern equipment and takes place in the warm and safe environment of the Church Room on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of every month. The dedicated committee members are all CRB checked and have done courses on first aid, child protection and health and safety. If you think you can help, please call Jean on 452457.

Grit Bins

The very unusual but severe weather hit us hard in Charlton Marshall with many residents unable to leave their homes due to the ice. I am glad to say that our elderly were well cared for in general by helpful neighbours but it was a difficult time for all of us. Some residents have contacted your Parish Council regarding the need for grit bins but as usual there is more to it than buying a bin and filling it with grit. We have agreed a list of possible sites for the new bins with the County Council but due to the number of distinct areas around the village, we are unable to provide bins at every location. We will also have to provide people with instructions on how to use them. There is no budget for such expenditure which is around £3,000 for 20 bins, so we are asking groups of residents that wish to have a grit bin located near them to contribute £100 toward the cost of a grit bin and the Parish Council will subsidise the remainder of the cost. If you would like a bin located near you and feel able to contribute toward the cost, please contact the Parish Clerk.

Ian Rodd. Chairman to the Parish Council

Notices

The Blandford Leisure Centre

The Parish Council took the decision in September 2009 to support the Leisure Centre to ensure its future for three years - 2010 -2013. North Dorset District Council has appointed Sport and Leisure Management (SLM) to operate the centre starting 31st January 2011. All contributing Town and Parish Councils will receive a number of swimming tickets for a free swim to be used by 31st March 2011. This Council has been allocated 200 tickets. At the January Parish Council meeting it was agreed the tickets would be allocated as follows:

1 ticket per person, up to a maximum of 4 tickets per household, on a first come first served basis.

Only to be issued to an adult with proof of address.

Please contact the clerk on the above phone number or by email if you are interested.

Information Pack

The Parish Council produced an information pack with lots of local telephone numbers and addresses to help when settling into the area. If you are new to the village please contact the clerk on the above telephone number or email address and she will put one through your door.

Trailway

It has been reported to the Parish Council that mini motor/scrambler bikes have been used on the trailway. A reminder that this is for use by pedestrians, cyclists or horse riders. Please be considerate to the environment.

The Field in Hopegood Close

The hedging that was encroaching on the field has been removed by the Countryside Rangers at the Parish Council's request. This is in preparation for the installation of new play equipment in the near future.

Village Hall Quiz Night

The next quiz night is being held on 19th March at the Village Hall. If you would like more information or to book a team (max 6 per table) please contact Roger Higgins 01258 488431 by 12th March.

Highlights from the Parish Council Meetings

November 2nd 2010

Land at Church Lane: The Parish Council received notification from John Hammond - the proposed development would not be put before the planning committee on 26th October. No new date has been confirmed. The Action Group held a public meeting on 12th October for members of the community who had objected to the proposed development. Local media came along to report on the evening. The main point of the evening was to consolidate the objections, in preparation for when the proposals are put to the committee. The letters of objection will not be automatically sent to members of the planning committee, but are available for reading.

Play Area: The report from Cllr Plant was read. The fence posts were tested and two were found to be rotten at the base and should be replaced a.s.a.p. The cost for a new surface is still to be explored. The cost of a new rope for the mound slide would be £532.44 from SMP. After discussion it was felt other avenues should be explored as this was quite expensive. An update on the Community Project was given - Planning permission is not required. Site meetings have been held with the companies who will be giving quotes. Research for funding will begin for the equipment and the cost for a manager to oversee the project. Open Space funding is the biggest to apply for. A lottery licence has been acquired and a grand Christmas draw will be held to raise community funds. This will be drawn at the Afternoon Tea being held at the Village Hall on 18th December.

Notice Board at Thornicombe: Permission has been given for this to be placed next to the phone/post boxes

December 7th 2010

Play Area: The report from Cllr Harper was given. The repairs will be carried out a.s.a.p. The Community Project - The plans, with prices for equipment have been received. A final decision will be made in the New Year.

Land at Hopegood Close: The transfer of the land is in process. Giles Nicholson has given a price for the clearance of trees/shrubbery that has encroached on the playing field. Mike Coker will be contacted for permission to carry this out. A letter had been received asking for permission to plant a tree in the village. After discussion, it was agreed the play area was the only area available. As some screening will be needed in the far corner of the field when the new equipment is installed, this might be an ideal place.

11th January 2011

Play Area: Cllr Cooper gave her report. The clerk will contact Gavin Alderman regarding a missing post in the fence and repairs to the tops of some posts. The chippings need re-distributing around the swings.

Land at Church Lane: The Parish Council will meet with John Hammond on 19th January to discuss 106 agreements. The plans will not be put before the committee until 15th February due to some issues regarding the access arrangement and further talks taking place with Highways. The clerk will contact DC Cllr Cox for her comments. Marcel Shillig informed the Council that the booklet regarding the Action Group's concerns about the application has been sent to the Planning Committee to ensure they are well informed when the plans are presented. Cllr Rodd will represent the Parish Council and give the Council's concerns and District Cllr Moyle will represent the ward with his comments.