

News from Chidham & Hambrook Parish Council

Pynham and Hawthorn Meadows

Progress continues with the landscaping of our two Meadows situated on the west side of Broad Road. The focus of our recent Annual Parish Meeting, to which all residents were invited, was to provide a report back on the Meadows project and developments underway. This report-back was given by parish councillor Peter Bolton who also provides this update:

Following much work by our landscaping partner major progress has been made turning the Pynham Meadow area into a resource for the local community and with wide open eyes on local wildlife support. The ditch required across the meadow is complete. As part of this we have created a Hibernaculum to help protect and provide support for local reptiles. This is in the trees on the northwest side of the new ditch near to the ditch running north to south. An information board will be added in due course. The central parkland or amenity area has been levelled, ploughed, harrowed and grass seeded. Please join us in hoping for a suitable mix of rain and sunshine to stimulate the grass growth. The allotment area has been levelled, ploughed and harrowed. The gap between Pynham and Hawthorne meadows has been opened on the west side and that well known mud bath that develops on the footpath in that area has been banished as the footpath level has been raised and a firm surface laid. Next steps are to install a security fence around the allotment area and a fence around the parkland area to retain young children inside whilst keeping dogs outside to provide a safe and secure area. The pathways will be raked level and compacted, and the service vehicle access will be completed. Once all this initial work is complete, we need patience while the undergrowth develops to provide a green outlook across the whole area.



Future enhancements include planting an orchard, additional trees around the area, play resources within the parkland area, installation of seating benches and a picnic table. If you have suggestions for additional features, please do let the Parish Council know.

New Heritage Board

Next to the Catchpond which lies mid-way along Chidham Lane, the Parish Council has put in position a heritage board explaining the history of this part of the parish. With many new residents moving into the parish, and a constant stream of visitors wishing to enjoy walks, it was felt it was one way of integrating the community and encouraging a love of this part of the parish. The theme of the board is what can be seen in and around the Catchpond, it mentions the grand Saxon war fleet that once moored on the nearby water, the medieval field that once supported villagers with food and the origin of the Catchpond.

Neighbourhood Plan

The results and analysis of the residents survey, a questionnaire delivered to every accessible home in the Parish of Chidham and Hambrook during the summer of 2020 will soon be available on the parish council website. A summary of the results was also given at the Annual Parish Meeting. Your responses were needed to support the preparation of a new plan for the future of our community that would cover the period to 2037. This will be the 'Chidham and Hambrook Neighbourhood Plan'. However, progress of that plan is dictated by the progress of the wider 'Local Plan' being prepared by Chichester District Council (CDC). Consequently, and guided by professional advice, the Parish Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group (NPSG) prepared a document entitled 'Chidham and Hambrook Neighbourhood Plan Interim Strategy'. It was this Interim document, dated October 2021, on which the questionnaire was based.



The document itself supports:

- The maintaining of green spaces between houses and across developments to encourage biodiversity.
- The establishment of wildlife corridors to provide connectivity between the South Downs National Park and the AONB to the south.
- The scope of new developments appropriate to the setting in which they are to be located.
- Developments being away from unsuitable locations and those that would create a heavy reliance on cars.
- New developments being located around existing settlement areas.
- Improvements to the parish infrastructure and amenities.
- Retaining existing settlement boundaries between Hambrook and Nutbourne as defined by existing fields and farmland.
- The limitation of development within the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).
- New housing responding to local needs.
- All new housing of a design that is energy efficient, of a high standard with housing developers offering a variety of housing types (bungalows, housing and flats).
- The protection of the iconic views of the parish.
- The protection of the parish heritage, history and buildings of importance.

Introducing Cliff Archer - a Chidham & Hambrook Parish Councillor

I have lived with my wife Delph in this lovely Parish for many years and have always tried to serve its community. I have filled several roles on the Parish Council, including that of chairman and as member of various committees, including those of planning and environment. At present I have special responsibility in drainage & sea defence, reflecting an aspect of my professional experience as a civil engineer. I also serve on the PCC (the St Mary's Chidham church council) and have been chairman of Chidham School Governors and of Chidham Village Hall Committee.



I have led on many parish council initiatives: drainage projects, public defibrillators and village signs to name just a few – and have spoken at public enquiries on behalf of the council. The three villages in the parish – Chidham, Hambrook and Nutbourne East – have distinct characteristics and face different problems. The Parish Council works hard to provide what is needed and protect what is good for both current and future generations.

Outside of the parish, I am a skipper on the trip boats on Chichester Canal and my hobbies include music and reading. These activities, together with nine grandchildren and a good-size garden, keep me quite busy.

Please feel free to contact me if I can help in any way; my contact details are on the parish council website at: www.chidhamandhambrook-pc.gov.uk

Chichester and District Gardens and Allotments Association

The Chichester and District Gardens and Allotments Association had a wonderful celebration of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, held at their allotment site at Blackberry lane Chichester on Sunday June 5th. We erected our three brand new gazebos and put out tables and chairs. Members brought along their own picnic or food to cook on the BBQ. Thirty seven members duly arrived to enjoy the day. There was a quiz, a raffle and a sales table of books and plants. On June 19th the members are off to Merriments Gardens in Kent. We have been there before but members enjoy going there. Our next trip out is to The Hat Fair in Winchester on the 2nd of July. Our speaker on the 16th June is Mr. Marin Frost telling us all about book binding and fore edge painting. Our July 21st meeting is a bring and buy sale, our only fund raising event of the year and also three of our club members will be telling members how to exhibit items for our Annual Show in August. Any enquiries to Mrs. Judy Rogers on 01243 531273.