**SeptEMBER 2022**

**VILLAGE MATTERS – Chidham and Hambrook**

**Planning issues**

**20/03320/OUTEIA, 20/03321/OUTEIA or APP/L3815/W/22/3295004 & APP/L3815/W/22/3295000** ‘Pallant Homes Appeal ‘: D.Cllrs attended the first day of the and have since been liaising with Officers over a suitable location to hold the re-start of the Appeal in January 2023. Further details are provided in the report below.

**21/01910/OUT Willowbrook**

D.Cllrs have followed up with Officers and are checking with Natural England’s response to the application as they are now satisfied with the application.

The revised site layout is now available on the website and the consultation expiry date is Thu 15th Sep 2022 :  <https://publicaccess.chichester.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=dates&keyVal=QUUPZ1ERJO200>

**Committee Date stated on the website Planning Portal = Wed 09 Nov 2022**

**West Chidham Tideway -**

A site visit and walk were undertaken by Robin Yeld, Pete Baldwin, Stephen Johnson and Adrian Moss. A full report was provided to the Conservancy and to CDC. ***A response has now been received from The Conservancy (Richard Austin***) and the full text is copied at the end of this report.

**Litter in the playground**

Large anti-litter signs have now been procured and advice given by CDC on the location of litter bins and dog-poo bins, whether best placed inside or outside the playground itself.

**COUNCIL MATTERS**

**Levelling Up grant bid for £13.7m**

CDC has submitted the £13.7 million **Levelling Up bid** to help revitalise Chichester. You have already been sent the media release, but just in case you missed it, you can also find it again here: [Council pursues £13.7m Levelling Up Fund grant to provide economic boost to Chichester District: Chichester District Council](https://www.chichester.gov.uk/article/36821/Council-pursues-137m-Levelling-Up-Fund-grant-to-provide-economic-boost-to-Chichester-District)

**UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) allocation of £1m**

CDC has been allocated £1 million from the **UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF)** to encourage economic growth and improve quality of life in the district. This month, the council submitted an Investment Plan, setting out how this money would be used, to the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities. The UKSPF is intended to support places and communities through encouraging pride in the local area and increasing opportunities for residents and businesses. With that in mind, the council’s plan includes a particular focus on supporting projects that have been identified through the district’s Vision groups.

**‘Supporting You’ campaign**

Many people are finding things tough due to rising goods and energy prices, inflation, and cost of living pressures. In response, we are launching our ‘**Supporting You’ campaign** in September. The campaign aims to highlight the range of support that is available to those who may be struggling, including help with finances; help with saving money on household bills; help with housing; help with health and wellbeing; and help for businesses. We will be delivering this campaign in partnership with the Observer series this September.

N**ew grant scheme to help our communities support Ukrainian refugees.**

Community groups and parish councils can now apply to CDC for one-off grants (up to £1k) to help refugees who have come to live in the district as part of the Homes for Ukraine scheme. The funding has been provided by WSCC, which has passported some of its government funding to district and borough councils to fund community support.

Parish councils and community groups can find more information here:

[Council launches new grant scheme to help communities support Ukrainian refugees: Chichester District Council](https://www.chichester.gov.uk/article/36851/Council-launches-new-grant-scheme-to-help-communities-support-Ukrainian-refugees) and can download a simple application form here:

[Supporting Ukraine refugees: Chichester District Council](https://www.chichester.gov.uk/supportingukrainerefugees). Applications will remain open while funds are still available.

**GROWTH**

**Pop-Up shops Initiative in Crane Street**

There will be an artist taking one of the units in September and a Chichester College group might be taking a unit this autumn, with a scheme covering Arts, Media and Business involving 200 students enabling them to sell goods produced on their courses and engage with customers. Businesses can find more information on eligibility criteria and the application process at:

[Pop-Up Shop initiative welcomes year-round applications : Chichester District Council](https://www.chichester.gov.uk/article/36697/Pop-Up-Shop-initiative-welcomes-year-round-applications)

**Grants and Concessions Panel**

The grants and concessions panel has already seen a huge demand on its resources in the first quarter of the year. The panel has agreed to grant £68,625 across six projects, which represents 39% of the annual grant offer.

These projects include solar panels on a community hall to reduce costs; providing additional play equipment in a public park; and isolation pens for a bird sanctuary to help prevent the spread of avian influenza through their colony. One project really deserves highlighting — we are supporting the restoration of a Greater Horseshoe Bat roost. In 2019, the Sussex Bat Group discovered that a growing number of Greater Horseshoes are using a dilapidated former stable block as a maternity roost.

Any queries about grants and concessions, please email: funding@chichester.gov.uk

**HOUSING, REVENUES AND BENEFITS**

**Chichester – Hyde 205**

The principle of this new Agreement is that by working together collaboratively we will achieve a far greater outcome for people that live, work, and visit the district, by facilitating:

• Delivery of housing on brown field land, including garage sites, under-used amenity land and redevelopment of outdated stock.

• Investment in existing stock to meet climate change requirements and modern standards.

• Creating greater tenant mobility, by making the most effective use of stock by ensuring the right people are in the right homes by using flexible tenancies for all new lets in line with the council’s adopted Tenancy Strategy.

• Place making, including the creation of great places to live and reducing the stigma attached to social housing.

**The Pilot Scheme in Bosham:**  A small pilot has been chosen to create an exemplary estate approach, starting the delivery of the objectives within the strategy. Hyde are looking to deliver a small number of EPC A+ affordable homes on infill sites, using modern methods of construction to minimise disruption to residents, and creating several estate improvements.

**£150 Energy Rebate Scheme update**

CDC continues to pay households their Council Tax Energy Rebate. To date, we have paid out £4.7m to 31k households, representing 92% of all eligible households in the district. The remaining households who have not directly requested this rebate will instead have their £150 rebate credited to their Council Tax account in early September and will receive an amended council tax bill to inform them of their reduced instalments.

**The Discretionary Energy Rebate Scheme**

CDC received funding to allow for 1,831 Discretionary awards. So far, we have issued 414 awards, paying out a total of £62k from a grant allocation of £275k. The Discretionary Scheme is intended to support those who are financially vulnerable and those who exposed to higher energy costs, such as those with disabilities, on means tested benefit, or low incomes. We are also looking at ways that we can automate payments to certain groups, within the guidance of the scheme, to ensure that the fund is spent by 30 November 2022.

**Financial help for residents -** For further information please visit www.chichester.gov.uk/helpwithfinances

The site is useful to anyone who may benefit from financial support and/or checking that they are receiving every benefit or grant due. This includes financial help, debt management advice, along with a range of other services.

**DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT**

**Pallant Homes Appeals (Land North of the A259, Chidham & Hambrook Parish)**

The public inquiry for these appeals was due to commence on Thurs 18 August 2022. Due to the number of interested parties who attended the appeal, which was more than 140 people, it was not possible for the appeal to commence at the venue selected. The appeal is now due to commence in January 2023 and will likely be held over the course of three weeks. Officers are working hard to find a venue that would be large enough to accommodate the number of interested parties anticipated, in a location that is accessible and can be reached by public transport. Officers from the Facilities, IT and Planning teams are also investigating how the appeal could be live streamed from the chosen venue. Full details of the dates and arrangements will be made public nearer the time.

**Local Plan Update**

**Gypsy, Traveller, and Travelling Show people evidence update**

Further work from the GTTS consultant has identified some further need for pitches but also other areas showing potential supply, both important in informing the council’s approach to this issue in the Local Plan Review.

**Drafting of the Pre-Submission Local Plan** is continuing, following the Member session in July 2022. Amendments to draft policies have been made where appropriate and a list of policies and amendments will be circulated to members shortly.

CDC is working closely with National Highways and West Sussex County Council to establish the effect of the revised Development Strategy on the A27 and the local road network.

There is an ongoing study to look at ways of overcoming the water neutrality issues in this area. For more information, please go to:

https://www.chichester.gov.uk/chichesterlocalplan2035

https://www.chichester.gov.uk/localplannewsletter

**ENVIRONMENT**

**The Solent and South Downs area** moved into ‘drought status’ on Friday 12 August. This is a change in categorisation, indicating the impact of prolonged dry weather (driest summer in 50 years) is having on water resources and the environment. It does not automatically trigger actions itself but moving to drought status means that the Environment Agency and water companies will step up their actions to manage the impacts and will press ahead with implementing the stages of their pre-agreed drought plans. The Chichester District is mostly supplied by Portsmouth Water, and they have not currently introduced a hosepipe ban, but they continue to monitor the situation closely.

**CDC’s Climate Change Video**

CDC sent an email in August to share our new video on how we are helping to tackle Climate Change in our area. The video highlights the range of work that we have done to date on this important work, and we have already had some great feedback. This is now being used across our channels. If you haven’t seen it yet, you can view it here:

[Working with you to help tackle climate change in the Chichester District - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YmNH9_2g4SY)

**CHICHESTER CONTRACT SERVICES**

**Traveller incursion at East Broyle**

On 6 August, travellers gained access to East Broyle by flattening an earth bund next to a public footpath. Within four days, the police used their powers, and the group left the site. CCS attended immediately and ensured the area was cleaned thoroughly. Despite initial concerns that the ditch and bund had offered an inadequate deterrent, it was recognised that determined travellers will always find a way to gain access. Nevertheless, residents and CCS worked together to bolster the bunds and place additional soil at vulnerable points. Further work will be completed in the autumn, including reseeding the bunds. If we experience ‘normal’ winter weather conditions, the bunds should become compacted and covered in grass, thereby providing a sturdy deterrent.

**DEMOCRATIC SERVICES**

**Duties of the council to purchase goods and services lawfully**

the Monitoring Officer has written to parishes reminding them of the rules that local authorities must follow relating to procurement and emphasising that the process of tendering for work must follow the strict requirements of the procurement regulations. This arose from some parishes receiving presentations from individuals promoting themselves.

Some members will have seen discussions at parishes about the use of *waivers* (previously known as *exceptions to tender*). These only apply in exceptional urgent cases or where there is no genuine market for that service. These will not apply to contractor work for design work and matters of that kind, which are always looked at in a proper considered manner and in a market that has many bidders competing.

***The response about the West Chidham Tideway is copied below, from The Conservancy. (Richard Austin****).* Thank you very much for preparing and circulating this report on the West Chidham Tideway. It is very helpful to have this feedback and photos. In the context of the coastline of Chichester Harbour, we currently reviewing:

* Langstone Footpath 56 (sea wall brickwork, collapsed on to foreshore)
* Emsworth/Thorney Island Footpath 202 (near Eames Farm, managed by the EA)
* Thorney Island Sailing Club Footpath 202 (concrete sea wall bags, on to foreshore)
* West Chidham Tidebank Footpath 224 (over-topping, erosion)
* Cobnor Foreshore Footpath 224 (slippage of rocks onto the foreshore)
* Colner Creek Footpath 230 (currently closed, sea defence deteriorating)
* Apuldram/Fishbourne Footpath 3059 (sea defence compromised)

We are taking a multi-agency approach through the Chichester Harbour Protection & Recovery of Nature (CHaPRoN) partnership. This includes the Conservancy, Natural England, the Environment Agency, Chichester District Council, Coastal Partners, and others.

I absolutely agree that we need to develop a strategic approach that is consistent across the whole Harbour. This will be tabled for discussion at the next meeting of the partnership. I will also discuss with Richard Craven, the Director & Harbour Master, about tabling this as an agenda item for the next Conservancy meeting.

I would like to reassure you that maintaining access is very important to the Conservancy and the CHaPRoN partnership. Whilst Chichester Harbour is a dynamic estuary, it is our view that we can work with nature *and* maintain the public enjoyment of the Harbour at the same time.