

CHIDHAM & HAMBROOK PARISH COUNCIL
MARCH 2023

VILLAGE MATTERS

Reported separately

COUNCIL MATTERS

ENVIRONMENT

Trees

I'm pleased to tell you that almost 8,000 trees will be planted in the district this winter. Residents, community groups, schools, parish councils, charities, businesses, landowners, and tenant farmers applied for the subsidised trees as part of a scheme to increase tree planting across the district. The trees were supplied in bundles of 10, 20 or 25 that were tailored to suit the location and soil type of the area in which they were to be planted. The funding covered 50% of the cost of the trees applied for, with applicants contributing the remaining 50%. This is all part of our Tree Chichester District scheme, which has already seen over 24,500 trees planted across the district since it was launched in January 2021. The initiative is funded by HM Treasury's Shared Outcomes Fund and aims to test different ways to increase tree cover in rural and urban areas.

Tree Chichester District

As part of HM Treasury funded Trees Outside Woodland programme in Chichester District, we took part in four tree planting pilots during the 2022/23 tree planting season; a subsidised tree scheme; planting trees in the farmed landscape; an agroforestry and orchard scheme; and a community tree nursery scheme.

We distributed 7,910 subsidised trees to residents, community groups, parish councils, businesses, and landowners. The trees were subsidised at 50% with applicants paying the remaining 50%. We funded nine agroforestry and orchard projects, five of which were community orchards, and funded five planting projects within the farmed landscape. We also funded enhancements to two community tree nurseries in the district. In addition, a mini urban forest was planted in Hambrook, which was funded by a grant from The Tree Council. In total over 13,000 trees have been planted across the district this planting season. For further information, please see <https://www.chichester.gov.uk/treescheme> or email treescheme@chichester.gov.uk

CHASM: Crustaceans, Habitat and sediment movement

The universities of Brighton, Southampton and Portsmouth have submitted a funding proposal of £1million to NERC (Natural Environment Research Council). The outcome will be known when the grant panel next sits in June. The work of CHASM in relation to the Manhood Peninsula Partnership has been included in the recent government report on crustacean mortality in the north east of England. Causes for the occurrence were considered individually in the report, however, a key point for CHASM is that a combination of factors is more likely to be responsible for the decline seen here and elsewhere in the UK. The report also considers this possible and states It is also possible that several of the

HARBOUR VILLAGES COUNCILLORS REPORT TO PARISH COUNCILS

Penny Plant - David Rodgers - Adrian Moss

stressors considered in this report operated together to degrade the marine environment and lead to the unusual mortality.

Work has begun on a sediment workshop examining marine sediment influencing Selsey and the rest of the Sussex Coast in which CHASM will partner with BLUE Marine Foundation. The workshop is due to take place in May 2023 and is being funded by Blue Marine Foundation. A new monitoring unit is due to be placed on West Pole shortly. This replaces the unit damaged during exceptionally bad weather in December.

CULTURE

Novium

We enjoyed a very busy February half-term at The Novium Museum!

All our planned events sold out ahead of time, which included 30 children and their families attending an interactive storytelling performance of 'Pirates Ahoy' by Treehouse Theatre in The Guildhall.

Our final Art of Chichester Family Day on Friday 17 February was also well attended and our busiest day of half term, with 370 visiting the museum on that day.

In total, across half term we welcomed over 1500 visitors to the museum.

Magic of Middle-earth exhibition, opening on Saturday 1 April, presents a magical treasure trove of objects and artworks celebrating the epic fantasy novels 'The Hobbit' and 'The Lord of the Rings'. This exciting exhibition is dedicated to the incredible fantasy worlds brought to life by J.R.R. Tolkien and the generations of creators his writing has influenced.

Featuring over 200 incredible artworks and objects from across the decades, as well as an interactive 'Hobbiton' family area (featuring a Hobbit chair and animatronic version of Smaug the Dragon!) this exhibition will capture the imagination of all ages!

The Magic of Middle earth opens on Saturday 1 April and will run until Sunday 24 September 2023. Tickets to the exhibition are available to book now and cost £4 for adults, £2.50 for a child and £12 for a family of up to five (maximum 2 adults). For more information and to book, visit www.thenovium.org/magicofmiddleearth

Tesco Blue Tokens

We've been shortlisted for a Tesco Community Grant, and you can vote for us now!

The money we receive from this grant will go towards funding this year's Chichester Roman Week, including our popular annual Roman Re-Enactment in Priory Park which is free to attend.

This is where we need your help!

Tesco customers can vote now in Chichester stores, using the blue tokens received at checkout, to decide how much funding we get, so please support us next time you shop at Tesco! Voting is open in the following stores from now until March:

- Chichester Extra PO19 3JT
- East Wittering Express PO20 8BJ
- South Street Chichester Express PO19 1EL

PLACE

Parking Charges April 2023

Revised parking charges will be introduced April 1, 2023, and the Parking Services team are working to get everything ready. The charges were considered by the Chichester District Parking Forum and reflect different circumstances and different methods of operation and

HARBOUR VILLAGES COUNCILLORS REPORT TO PARISH COUNCILS

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various towns within the district. Changes to the parking charges are in accordance with the council's Fees and Charges policy which was subject to public consultation. The parking consultation which ended Jan 26, 2023, also provided the opportunity for the public and stakeholders to comment on some changes being made to the Parking Order which underpins all the conditions in car parks. The consultation ended without representations being made.

COMMUNICATIONS

Moving the website into the Cloud

A huge amount of work has been carried out to date to enable us to move the website into the Cloud. At the moment, this is scheduled to happen in April. We will continue to keep you posted on this.

Initiatives

We are about to sign the latest initiatives off and this will be distributed in April. This year we have brought in £42,566 from advertising income from both initiatives and our share of advertising income from Arun Times – which we sell on behalf of Arun District Council. The money covers the design, print and distribution of the magazine. Havant Borough Council is bringing back its magazine and wanted to meet with us to find out more about our approach and how we generate income to cover our costs.

Pre-election period reminder

The pre-election period starts on Wednesday 22 March. If you have any questions or need any support, please speak to Sarah Parker or Nick Bennett. new appointments will have a positive impact on the teams.

GROWTH

St James Industrial Estate

Commissioning of the mechanical and electrical installations is complete, and a familiarisation session has been arranged for the operational team in Estates who will manage the site following practical completion. The outstanding contamination remediation planning conditions have now been discharged by the contractor and with the final snags being resolved, practical completion is due to take place on 1 March 2023.

Priory Park

The flint wall conservancy works is nearing completion, along with the final stages of the alterations to provide a new equipment store. Earthworks, grass seeding and soft landscaping works are also nearing completion. The resin finishing layer to the new footpath link is the only piece of work that remains outstanding. The contractor is waiting for a full 24-hour dry period when the temperature does not drop below 7oc (including overnight) in order to complete the finishing work. The works are scheduled to be completed on 28 February, and the final footpath topcoat will likely be completed in early March when the milder weather arrives.

HOUSING

Damp and Mould Update

Following the tragic death of Awaab Ishak in Rochdale last year, the government has tabled amendments to the Social Housing Regulation Bill currently going through parliament to introduce 'Awaab's Law'. The new law will require social housing landlords to investigate and fix reported health hazards including damp and mould in their properties within strict

HARBOUR VILLAGES COUNCILLORS REPORT TO PARISH COUNCILS

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new time limits. The new rules will form part of the tenancy agreement, so tenants can hold landlords to account by law if they fail to provide a decent home. The government has also committed to a rapid review of existing guidance on the health impacts of damp and mould, followed by new guidance tailored to the housing sector, to be published by Summer 2023. Officers will ensure this is shared with Members. The Housing Standards Team continues to provide advice to residents on how best to manage moisture in the home through our media platforms. Tenants experiencing damp and mould within their property should always notify their landlord in the first instance. If the problem worsens, or the landlord's response is unsatisfactory tenants should contact the Housing Standards Team for help and advice. Members may also wish to share the following leaflet with tenants as necessary [Damp_leaflet_Nov2021.pdf](#) (chichester.gov.uk)

CHICHESTER CONTRACT SERVICES

Electric Refuse Collection Vehicle

CCS has taken delivery of the first electric 26 tonne refuse collection vehicle. The vehicle was inspected at the supplier's works just before Christmas and has now completed all its inspections and commissioning checks. The workshop staff will now be trained in the correct maintenance procedures for electric vehicles before being passed to the operations team for introduction into the daily collection rounds. This and the second electric vehicle due to be delivered in April, will provide invaluable experience in operating an electric HGV fleet. This is the first electric RCV to be delivered into operated within West Sussex.