

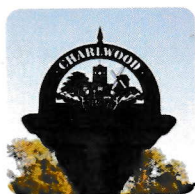
FUTURE

spotlight

Your Parish Council Newsletter

ADDRESSING THE NEEDS OF THE COMMUNITIES OF CHARLWOOD AND HOOKWOOD AND PLANTING THE SEEDS FOR A STABLE FUTURE.

WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO



The Parish Council comprises of nine elected councillors, six from Charlwood and three from Hookwood. We are the community's direct link to district and county councils and to central government. It also has responsibility for maintaining the leisure & recreational areas in the community - The Recreation Ground, The Millennium Field and the Withey as well as management of the Glebe Field.

Recognising community issues

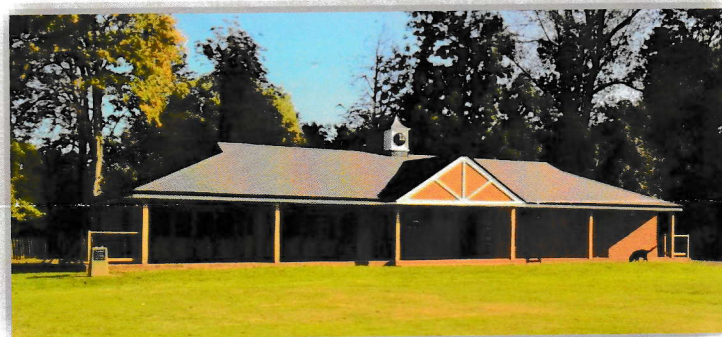
YOU HAVE TOLD US WHAT IS IMPORTANT TO YOU.

Traffic Calming Last August, you may have noticed monitoring strips across roads in and out of Charlwood and Hookwood. Once fully analysed, we will learn the frequency and intensity of traffic movements. When these are known, we can take the next step to improving the road safety in our parish.

Off Airport Car Parking Firms A constant source of bother to all. The council are working together with Gatwick and Mole Valley District Council planning enforcement team to ensure rogue companies are penalised.

Footpaths and Verges The entrance 'gates' to Charlwood have recently been refurbished with the Parish Council picking up the bill as Surrey County continue to reduce their services. In some areas we are liaising with Gatwick to ensure our verges and hedgerows are kept neat and tidy. **But it is a householder responsibility to keep hedges trimmed and ditches clear outside your home.**

Public Transport We are working alongside various agencies trying to provide a better public transport system for residents and acknowledge that the current timetables do not afford many commuters from Charlwood to link with national rail to be able to get to work. We are as frustrated about this as you must be, but we will persevere to get the necessary results.



Sports & Community Centre

A jewel in the crown of the parish, our state-of-the-art pavilion has become a central part of community events. Used weekly by two Charlwood Football Clubs and Ifield Cricket Club, the venue has also hosted Venture Week, Singaround Folk Club and CHEWI.

With reasonable rates and a great outdoor space, it's also been a hit for children's parties. For details on hire rates, contact Sandy Bowling, Booking Clerk on 01293 862840 or email bookings@charlwoodparishcouncil.gov.uk.



Traffic Calming

The council contracted 2020Consultancy to look at measures to improve traffic and road safety in the parish. Their results have now been released to us, and once reviewed by the council there will be a public consultation with maps and drawings to display

the proposals in both Charlwood and Hookwood. We know speeding, heavy goods vehicles and excess traffic are issues that affect most residents and your views on the proposals will be integral in making the right decisions to improve road safety for our communities.

Highways and Footpaths

Highways and verges are the responsibility of Surrey County Council and they undertake two verge cuts a year. If you notice any areas that need an additional cut or a footpath that needs repairing, please report it directly to www.surreycc.gov.uk. This also applies to potholes, blocked drains, overgrown vegetation etc.



GATWICK AIRPORT

Our nearest neighbour is Gatwick. The Parish of Charlwood has the longest continuous boundary with Gatwick Airport of any local community.

Whilst the benefits to the local economy, employment, national and international connectivity are recognised they come at cost to our residents. Noise and air pollution are the obvious negative impacts but the pressures on local infrastructure, particularly our local roads is significant. Road traffic servicing passengers, workers and ancillary businesses use our local routes and growth at Gatwick is accompanied by growth in road traffic. Off airport car parking services (legal and illegal) contribute thousands of additional vehicle movements each week through our

community. All of this a further contribution to noise and air pollution and damaging our health.

Gatwick have published their Draft Master Plan which highlights their dreams for the future. In addition to forecast growth on the main runway (possibly up to 10%) there is a startling and very concerning plan to develop the Emergency Runway (located north of the main runway) into an operational runway after the Legal Agreement expires in August 2019. This would add up to another 30% capacity to Gatwick's operation.

This would dramatically increase the problems already being experienced by local communities - noise, air pollution and excessive road traffic. It would also put even greater pressure on the tottering road and rail infrastructure both locally and further afield. And there is nothing in the Draft Master Plan to mitigate these impacts.

In response to this your Parish Council has passed the following resolution:

That Charlwood Parish Council would oppose Gatwick plans for any unsustainable growth and development that impacts on the Parish of Charlwood and this would include any changes of use of the emergency runway.

As more information becomes available the Parish Council will pass this to residents via the council website and social media.

What is the precept & how is it spent?

The precept is the amount of money the parish council set for residents to pay annually. At their January meeting, council set the precept for 2019/20 at £68,790 i.e. a Council Tax of £68-80 for a Band 'D' Property

- CPC is responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of recreational facilities throughout the parish. These include Charlwood Recreation Ground, the Millennium Field, the Glebe Field and the Withey and the play equipment.
- In addition to pollarding trees, and cutting hedges and grass on a regular basis, our play equipment's requires regular maintenance and safety inspections.
- The council is also responsible for contributing towards maintenance of the church clock and a contribution towards upkeep of the churchyard.
- Being close to Gatwick Airport, the council also maintains a fighting fund in case there is a need to support actions to prevent the growth of the airport.
- The parish council employs 5 part time staff including the parish clerk and the groundsman. In addition to their salaries, there are other administrative costs including the public liability insurance, internal/external audits and the maintenance of the council office. To offset our expenditure, the council's income is derived from pitch/community letting fees, a concurrent spending grant from Mole Valley DC and the remainder from the council precept.

Future Mole Valley - Modest Expansions of Existing Villages

Various proposals using Greenfield and Brownfield sites were put forward by developers and land owners to Mole Valley DC for housing development. Mole Valley DC have prepared their 'Modest Expansion of Existing Villages' as one of the options to take forward and recently published proposals for our parish.

CPC have responded stating we are totally opposed to the encroachment of the Charlwood boundary into the well-established green belt and feels the National Planning Policy issued by government fails to reflect local variations and concerns particularly in rural areas. In Hookwood, CPC strongly objects to the proposed incursion into the green belt by the sites put forward. In addition, the difficulties of access and road traffic impact would be significant. CPC would insist that for any future developments irrevocable conditions are attached that ensure a high proportion of affordable housing is included in any development.

More information at www.futuremolevalley.org/villages



Looking to the future

There are many ideas for future parish projects. These include two potential car park sites. Both are still in the early stages of planning and there will be a full public consultation before any definite plans go ahead. Other items to consider are an outdoor gym circuit, refurbishment & replacement of play areas and cycle racks.

Getting in Touch

Charlwood Parish Council
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Telephone: 01293 863848

E: charlwoodpc@btconnect.com

W: www.charlwoodparishcouncil.gov.uk

Parish Council Elections

What matters to you in your local area? Is it providing more things for young people to do, improving services for older people, making the roads safer, or ensuring that local businesses can thrive?

Charlwood Parish Council can only be as effective, relevant and vibrant as the people elected to run it. The Council needs councillors who are capable, energetic and engaged. Councillors should be able to stand for what they believe in, be able to make a commitment to local people and show a passion for change. On **Thursday 2 May 2019**, all 9 Charlwood Parish Council seats are up for election. This is an opportunity for you to stand as a representative of your local community and become a parish councillor. No other role gives you a chance to make a difference to the quality of life of people in your area and influence the way issues are dealt with locally and across Charlwood and Hookwood. If you think being a Charlwood Parish Councillor is for you, read on to test your eligibility to stand and find out more.

<https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/candidate-or-agent/local-elections-in-england>

Join Us At Our Meetings

Meetings start at 8pm and the public are welcome to attend. There are slots on the Agenda which offer the opportunity to speak and ask questions.

- **The 2019 Annual Parish Meeting will be on Weds 22nd May at Hookwood.**

Charlwood meetings are held in the Sports & Community Centre

Hookwood meetings in the Hookwood Memorial Hall

2019

18th February Charlwood

18th March Hookwood

15th April Charlwood

20th May Charlwood

17th June Charlwood

15th July Hookwood

16th September Charlwood

21st October Charlwood

18th November Hookwood