

# Campton & Chicksands Parish Council Newsletter January 2024

## New Year's Day Peal

1st January 2024 - 1pm to 4pm approx  
at All Saints Church, Campton



Parish Council Meeting - all welcome  
Thursday 4th January 7:00pm  
at Campton Village Hall



Trugs and Trowels Gardening Club  
Monday 8th January 7:30pm  
at Campton Village Hall



## Beds ladies peal attempt

14th January 2024 - 1.30pm to 5pm approx  
at All Saints Church, Campton



Welcome to the Campton & Chicksands Newsletter  
published by the Parish Council  
[www.camptonandchicksands-pc.gov.uk](http://www.camptonandchicksands-pc.gov.uk)  
If you have any news or views you wish to share  
please contact the Editor, Liz Bishop - details on back page

## Campton & Chicksands Parish Council

The Parish Council held their most recent meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> December 2023.

Every Winter Central Bedfordshire Council sets its budget and financial plan for the four years ahead, and this includes consulting taxpayers on the proposals. The budget includes spending plans, any proposed changes to services and proposals for Council Tax. The Executive Committee will meet on 5 December to consider the draft budget proposals and public consultation commenced on 6 December. Following this public consultation, the Executive Committee will meet on 6 February to consider the feedback and recommend a final budget to be considered by full Council on 22 February 2024. All of the meetings are webcast, and you can watch them live or at a later date via the CBC website. Just search for 'webcasting'.

Ward Cllr Tony Brown was able to report that CBC have a £1.9million shortfall for the budget and therefore are looking to make savings. The precept increase is likely to be 5% for 24/25 and then 3% for the following 3yrs. Of this 5%, 3% will be for adult care. The proposed savings include:

- To reduce subsidies by £1.2million.
- £0.3million savings by diming lights.
- £126,000 reduction by the removal of the Ward Cllr scheme.
- Food waste bags will be removed and not available to residents.
- The period of no green waste collection will be extended.

CBC are once again offering the libraries and leisure centres as an available Warm Space during the winter. Residents can use these spaces during the day to keep warm as temperatures fall and as gas and electricity costs are set to rise. Four of the six leisure centres have cafes available for people to use, and libraries offer free Wi-Fi and access to public computers, as well as seating so people can enjoy time with a book. Residents are welcome to take their own food and drink to our libraries. More information is available at [www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/warm-spaces](http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/warm-spaces)

## Campton & Chicksands Parish Council cont.

CBC have a dedicated cost of living information hub on their website, which is full of information and resources that can help anyone concerned about the cost of living. For more information visit [www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/cost-of-living](http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/cost-of-living)

Kerbside collections of household garden waste will pause as usual during the winter months across Central Bedfordshire. Garden waste collections will be suspended for 12 weeks from Monday 4 December 2023 until Friday 23 February 2024, inclusive. Over the winter, very low volumes of garden waste are collected so it is not cost-effective or environmentally friendly to provide the service during these months. The council is encouraging residents to sign up for email alerts to receive timely notifications about the resumption of garden waste collections and other waste service changes throughout the year. For more information about garden waste and collection dates you can also visit: [www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/garden-waste](http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/garden-waste).

During the break, garden waste can still be recycled at any of the council's four Household Waste Recycling Centres which are open seven days a week from 9am to 5pm, including bank holidays. For further details visit: <https://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/tidytips>

The new school project in Shefford has now been frozen and will not now be completed until at least 2026/27, Campton Lower School will remain open until the new school is ready.

An article appeared in the local news on 21/12/23 stating that CBC plan to extend the 30mph zone along Gravenhurst to include the barns at the entrance to the village. The public have 28 days to comment. We will keep you updated with the outcomes.

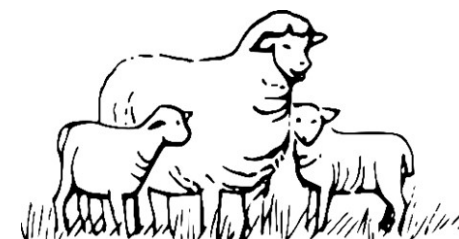
## Campton & Chicksands Parish Council cont.

For a while the Parish Council has been considering acquisition of the grassed land running alongside the village hall in Brookside with a view to creating a small number of additional parking spaces for Village Hall users. Cllrs have agreed to continue a dialog with the owners re: acquisition of the land at this stage; and will also look at the possibility of being able to provide some additional parking spaces at some future time.

Several years ago, there was a community support team in the Parish, this group offered help with transport for residents to medical appointments as well as collection of prescriptions and shopping. The group was successful and offered the support, but the requirements of the group fell to the point it folded as it wasn't required. The Parish Council set up the group again during the pandemic to offer support and once again at the end of the pandemic it was no longer required. The Parish Council would like to review whether there is any need for the group to be set up again in the Parish? Would any residents benefit from this additional support? and would any residents be able to offer the required help? Are there any residents who would be able to volunteer or co-ordinate a scheme if there was found to be a need? Please do let me know your thoughts.

The dates of the next 2 meetings are Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2024 and 1<sup>st</sup> February 2024, both at 7.00pm in Campton Village Hall.

Clerk to the Parish Council,  
Tammy Medley  
Tel 01908 505558 / 07955 521174  
[tammy.medley@btinternet.com](mailto:tammy.medley@btinternet.com)  
<https://camptonandchicksands-pc.gov.uk/>



## News from the Tower

As I mentioned last month we have several new ringers learning to ring at Campton on Tuesdays, for example a young lad of 12 and a teacher of IT in a local secondary school and scout leader who started in September.

As proof we do a lot more than ring bells endlessly, we are having a social gathering at All Saints on the last Tuesday before Christmas instead of our ringing practice. About 25 of us will be attending, Campton and Meppershall ringers as well as regular visitors from other towers in the local area.

Our New Year's Day peal will be on January 1 2024, 1pm to 4pm approx

On Sunday January 14th, 1.30pm to 5pm approx, there will be a peal attempt by a band of Beds ladies.

### **STILL YOUR TURN TO LEARN?**

We still need to teach more ringers.

How about if it were YOU that came forward to learn? Bellringing is about acquiring a centuries old skill that's part of the fabric of our community and is it's loudest noise. Teamwork and fellowship goes with it and bellringers are part of the wide church community, performing in the oldest and most fantastic building in our village.

To learn more please join us on a Tuesday evening 7.30pm to 9.00pm at All Saints Church Campton or contact any of our ringers or me, John Loveless, on 07803 206161 or email [jloveless5040@outlook.com](mailto:jloveless5040@outlook.com)

## Trugs and Trowels Gardening Club

As 2023 comes to a close life is in abundance in our gardens, that is if you have transformed your garden into a winter wonderland after the autumn colours have faded. If not a little creativity in a few key areas which you walk by daily such as your front garden and door can make all the difference. An addition of outdoor lighting will bring it back into play as we often come home in dark evenings and miss seeing the garden altogether. A few twinkling tea lights in jars is a simple addition this festive period although many christmas lights are available some solar lights are great for easy installation. Timers are good to ensure they are switched off at bedtime.

Add evergreen topiary will add interest to a pot or bed, formal shapes, ball and cubes for box or yew along with small conifer types are great additions and can be pruned in cloud shape or any design which appeals to you. Many winter flowering shrubs deliver a rich fragrance such as chimonanthus, daphnes mahonias, sarcococca and viburnums. These are not for the back of borders but planted where their scents can be enjoyed, close to entrances and pathways, many of which are happy in pots and can be in focus and centre stage then shifted for the summer.

Pots can be planted so enjoy a mix of complimentary planting such as cyclamen, heathers, hellebores, pansies and variegated ivy. In larger patio pots a shrubby evergreen with rosemary or sarcococca are all available now to buy in garden centres. A wonderful selection of fire pits and braziers are available, placed on a patio for winter gathering - marshmallow toasting, festive drinks and some people even BBQ.

Improve your window outlook as we spend more time indoors - I call it seasonal rearranging - by relocating a nice planter or bird feeder to create a lovely focus point. If by just removing some lower branches of a tree to reveal a better outlook is a easy fix. Have a go at weaving some will which can be bought by the bundle or perhaps you have a plant you can coppice. Try winding into a simple ball shape and hang outdoors from a tree. A great winter project and fun for all the family. This is the time for forage your greenery, berries and holly and create indoor table arrangements and bring the outdoors into dress your home. If you haven't already, create a bug hotel of small or large nooks and crannies for hibernation.

A reminder that Trugs and Trowels will resume from Monday January 8th and all are welcome to join us with a new year ahead. On the 8th we shall have a group discussion on the plan for our 2024 meetings. I look forward to seeing you all.

Maryika 01462 851729



A regular bus service open to everyone.  
Cash fares and concessionary travel passes accepted.

**Travel to:**

Biggleswade every Monday @09:16 Greenway - all stops

Hitchin every Tuesday @09:18 Greenway - all stops

Cambridge on the 4th Wednesday of the Month

@08:46 Greenway - all stops

Welwyn Garden City on the 1st Thursday of the Month

@08:48 Greenway - all stops

Monthly excursions take place on the 4th Thursday of the month,  
please contact Wanderbus for more details.

Tel: 0300 123 3023

www.wanderbus.org.uk e-mail: thewanderbus@gmail.com

## Campton Village Hall

The VHMC will continue with the monthly get togethers following the successful bowls evening. More details to follow in future newsletters.

Our village hall kitchen is kitted out for birthday parties and events.  
Contact us to hire the hall. Days are available next year.

Please can we bring to your attention that smoking is not allowed on the Village Hall premises which includes the forecourt.

Please contact us by email: [camptonvh@outlook.com](mailto:camptonvh@outlook.com)

For a booking form and other information go to:

<http://camptonandchicksands-pc.gov.uk/village-hall/>



January and February 2024 winners will be announced in February's newsletter

## News from the Pews

We had a busy December: at its heart was a beautiful wedding for Izzie and James. After the service there was mulled wine, sausage rolls and mince pies. It was lovely to have a Christmas wedding, with the community helping and joining in. The bell ringers supported the couple with a joyous peal and Janet did the flowers.

Congratulations to the happy couple!

Our coffee and chat is still well supported by volunteers who can help out just once or twice a year. Please contact me if you might be able to volunteer for the coming year. Our thanks to Morrisons for donating the mince pies for the December event. Here is a picture of the beautiful setting!

Wishing you all a Happy Christmas and New Year



Church Warden: Beth Sullivan Ash 07523 079507

Rector: The Revd Roni Goodman 01462 339962 / 07533 376880

The Rectory, Church Road, Meppershall, SG17 5NA [ronigoodman@gmail.com](mailto:ronigoodman@gmail.com)

Website: <https://churchofallsaintscampton.com/>

Items for the next Newsletter must be submitted to the Editor, Liz Bishop no later than 15th January 2024  
Email: [candcnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:candcnewsletter@gmail.com)