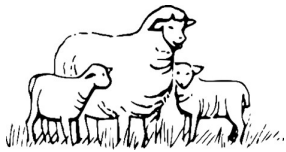


# Campton & Chicksands Parish Council Newsletter

## February 2024



Parish Council Meeting - all welcome  
Thursday 1st February 7:00pm  
at Campton Village Hall

Coffee and Chat

Friday 2nd February 10:30am - 12 noon  
at All Saints Church, Campton



Trugs and Trowels Gardening Club  
Monday 5th February 7:30pm  
at Campton Village Hall



Hertfordshire ringers Day Peal  
Sunday 25th February - 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 (PC) held their most recent meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> January 2024.

The meeting was attended by two residents and our Shefford Ward Cllrs Tony Brown & Mark Liddiard. Cllr Brown provided an update on 2024/25 budget setting in Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC). Initial consultation was based on a £1.9million shortfall for the budget, though this is now thought to be closer to £4million. CBC are therefore still looking to make budgetary savings. Clearly, statutory services must be provided, and it's important to remember that core provisions in Central Bedfordshire are better than the statutory minimum. There are no core grants planned from the Government, but small grants may become available during the year to ease pressures.

CBC have opened a public consultation regarding moving the location of the 30mph sign/zone at the Gravenhurst Road approach to Campton village; the plan is to locate the 30mph sign/zone adjacent to/just before Campton Court at this approach to the village, aiming to slow down traffic before the sharp bend. If there are no objections it will not be necessary for it to be discussed at the Traffic management Committee. The PC have supported this application and will keep you updated with any further news.

CBC are holding an "Evening Meetings" consultation, looking to adopt a more hybrid approach to council meetings. If you would like to comment on the consultation, please follow the link: [Snap Surveys \(welcomesyourfeedback.net\)](https://welcomesyourfeedback.net)

There is to be a CBC "Home to School" transport consultation, looking at whether transport should be funded for 16-18yr olds for those attending just their catchment school rather than others? Ward Cllrs will update us when the consultation is open.

The Parish Council have now agreed the precept request for the financial year 2024/25 and this will include a 7.1% increase due to the rise in costs or services provided by the PC. This will amount to an annual increase of £2.97 for a Band D property.

## Campton & Chicksands Parish Council cont.

The PC carry out an inspection of the play area weekly, to ensure all equipment is safe and the football pitch surface is free from rabbit holes etc. We have noticed a significant increase in dog fouling on the football pitch, this is a serious health risk for footballers and children using the Recreation Ground, who may fall and cut themselves on an area where there has been dog fouling. If you walk your dog on the Recreation ground, can you please pick up after them and put it in the dog waste bin outside the Recreation Ground. Thank you.

The PC has recently gone out to tender for the Campton Village grass cutting and maintenance contract, this is to ensure we are getting value for money and the work is carried out to an acceptable level. Of six companies approached we had four submit a tender and at the meeting Cllrs voted to continue to employ our existing contractor, D J Granger Grounds Maintenance Ltd. David Granger has been responsible for the grass cutting for many years, remains competitive on pricing and has always done a good job.

Also discussed at the meeting was the recent reports in the press that the government has announced that Chicksands military base could be sold from 2030. The base and the military community form a large and important part of the parish and are a local employer. The PC will watch for updates on this announcement.

In our December Newsletter we reported that the PC have been pursuing an opportunity to improve the availability of publicly accessible greenspace for personal recreation in the parish. This aspiration coming from the outcomes of the 2021 Neighbourhood Plan and the related consultation exercises. The PC have been exploring the potential of acquiring some meadow land adjacent to the rear of the Recreation Ground with the provisional vision for this greenspace to include additional tree and hedge planting, meadow mown footpaths and seating. Longer term the PC would consult extensively on any future leisure facilities. We have recently been discussing the possible acquisition with the owners and in November applied to CBC for a

## Campton & Chicksands Parish Council cont.

Community Infrastructure Grant that could have funded up to 80% of project costs. The PC considered that we made a very strong and well evidenced case in our application; the application was also supported by our Ward Cllrs. Unfortunately, we must report that we were not successful in our bid for the Grant. This was very disappointing and has put our ability to proceed with the project in question, at least in the short term. However, Cllrs remain keen to pursue this venture for the long-term benefit of parishioners and continue to explore alternative funding options. We will update you further in future editions of this Newsletter.

The dates of the next 2 meetings are Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2024 and Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March 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/>

## Community Support within the Parish

Several years ago, there was a community support team in the Parish, called the Good Neighbour Group. 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 considered to be 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 Tammy (01908 505558 / 07955 521174 [tammy.medley@btinternet.com](mailto:tammy.medley@btinternet.com)) know your thoughts. The Councillors will be deciding whether to look further into this at their meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2023.

## News from the Tower

A quieter month in February but behind the scenes we are busy training new ringers learning to ring at Campton on Tuesday evenings.

As I write Bedfordshire Young Ringers have reformed and held their first practice at Campton in January - there's been no activity since 2020, another consequence of Covid.

There is a peal attempt by Herfordshire ringers on Sun Feb 25, 1.30pm - 5pm approx.

### **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 its 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. People from age 8 to age 80 are bellringers!

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)



#### CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR JANUARY WINNERS:

1st (£35) - No. 6 - Mrs A Hewitt  
2nd (£25) - No. 216 - J Claridge  
3rd (£15) - No. 172 - I Clare

#### CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR FEBRUARY WINNERS:

1st (£35) - No. 130 - C Carvell  
2nd (£25) - No. 20 - K Laviola  
3rd (£15) - No. 3 - T Bishop

## Trugs and Trowels Gardening Club

Happy New Year to you all and here we are already looking at February where the birthday flowers are violet and iris, and the birthstone is amethyst.

Exciting year ahead for 2024 at gardening club so feel free to join us. We have some great guest speakers on Dalias, wildlife and weaving willow along with a private tour to Kathy Brown Manor House at Storrington. Our meetings are the first Monday each month unless a bank holiday when we meet the 2nd Monday. We meet at Campton Village Hall at 7:30pm. There is also a free and swap table for passing garden items and plants on. Also a raffle.

We have had a considerably wet January which has led to our restrictive outdoor time. A great reason to boost our moods and create tranquil healthy spaces indoors and plan outdoor areas. Plants have a remarkable ability to enhance our surroundings and positively impact and uplift our overall wellbeing and mental health. Incorporating mood boosting plants indoors and out can cultivate a sense of tranquility and calmness. Many beautiful plants are known for their mood enhancing properties: Lavender with its beauty and enchanting fragrance renewed for its calming effects indoors and out; winter jasmine with its intoxicating fragrance and mood enhancer, also historically used in medicine for sleep and relaxation; chocolate cosmos with its luxurious blossom and captivating fragrance carried in the wind to create a serene sanctuary for senses, where chocolate is associated with serotonin, a neurotransmitter, to promote relaxation and feelings of joy.

Many more flowers including chrysanthemums are renowned for connection to happiness and proven to cleanse the air eliminating toxins as well as frequently being used in teas. Basil contains a compound known as linalool which helps reduce stress levels and anxiety promoting calm and is delightful in aromatherapy. Some other performing indoor plants are air improvers and cleansers such as the snake plant and the peace lily with its elegant flowers reliving pollutants and combats against formaldehyde found in some cleaning products. Boston ferns, a humidity loving plant, help combat dry air which can be an irritant as well as promoting a sense of freshness. Lastly, aloe vera with its decorative and soothing properties and natural remedy for small burns with its leaf structure a pleasing addition to surroundings.

## Trugs & Trowels cont.

Now what to plant this month? If not already, plant onion seeds and early crop lettuce, aubergine, chilies and sweet peppers. Thinly sow the different seeds in seed trays or pots growing indoors can significantly increase your success rate. Propagators can be purchased for window sills for seeds with high or minimum temperatures to germinate. Soak sweet peas overnight before planting and broad beans do not need propagating, and its a must to get your garlic in.

Always give consideration to what crops sit best together. Companion planting for success. Indoor seeds does not mean you need to purchase a propagator as a nice sunny window sill may suffice. Good luck.

Look forward to seeing you on Monday 5th February 7:30pm at the Village Hall.

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

## News from the Pews

Thanks to Malcolm and Libby for getting our monthly coffee and chat off to a good start in January. Don't forget that it is held on the 1st Friday of the month. 2nd February and 1st March are our next couple of dates.

You may have noticed planning notices for the church recently. We are hoping to be able to make access to the church more accessible for those in a wheelchair and to allow for better parking for mobility scooters and wheelchairs.

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/>

## Flowers for Church

Would you like to arrange flowers or indeed put a bunch of flowers in a vase, maybe in memory of a loved one, even just once per year for a Sunday Service in Church.

If you would like any help or guidance June or Janet (07712248844) would be delighted to point you in the right direction. Oasis, tape and vases are already in the church and there is an allowance for buying flowers.

We always need all hands on deck at Christmas, Easter and Harvest for decorating and you would be very welcome to join our little team of flower ladies.

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