

Campton & Chicksands Parish Council Newsletter

August & September 2026



Call for Sites Consultation

Complete by 17th August.

See page 4 for details

People's
Emergency
Briefing

Wednesday 26th August 7pm for
7:30pm, Campton Village Hall

See page 4 for details on how
to book your free seat!

Coffee and Chat

Friday 4th September 10:30am - 12 noon
at All Saints Church, Campton



Parish Council Meeting
Thursday 3rd September at 7pm
in All Saints Church, Campton or via Zoom



Bellringing - lots of visiting ringers
See Page 8 for dates and times
All Saints Church, Campton

Welcome to the Campton & Chicksands Newsletter
published by the Parish Council

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 Monday 29th June 2026. An Extraordinary meeting was also held on Monday 13th July, primarily to discuss the Call for Sites Consultation.

The Councillors and I were very pleased and grateful for the number of residents that attended the extraordinary meeting. It is fantastic that so many of you care about the village you live in. As I'm sure you will all be aware CBC have now published a list of submitted sites as part of the Local Plan, these sites will now form the basis of the Call for Sites Consultation. There are a number of sites within the Parish, and the PC will be submitting their comments for each of the sites. The PC feel that developments of this size will have a huge impact on a small rural village, changing it forever. There is inadequate infrastructure within the Parish for the identified sites, the A507 is running at full capacity so will not be able to cope with additional traffic, there are issues with supply of water and management of sewage and there are not enough places in school. **The Councillors urge you to come forward and submit your comments to this Consultation to try and preserve the rural nature of the Parish. It is VERY important that the Parish is represented by both the PC and by you as residents. The Consultation page can be accessed using this link <http://centralbedfordshire.oc2.uk> then select Submitted Sites Consultation to register your comments / objections for EACH SITE in the Campton and Chicksands Parish.**

There will be some disruption in the village over the coming weeks. As you will be aware there is a new gas main being laid throughout the village which is going to cause some road closures. Also, Anglian Water are carrying out some major repairs at the end of Gravenhurst Road during August which will mean closing the Campton Road to Meppershall for up to two weeks. There will also be traffic lights at the end of Gravenhurst Road for a period of time. Details will be available in due course on the Parish Council website <https://camptonandchicksands-pc.gov.uk/>

Cllr Brown was able to provide the following updates:

- The £4million in unused Highways budget has now been relocated to reserves.
- The Consultation for the local Plan Call for sites was commencing 1st July; it will now be 6th July and will run until 17th August.
- Friends of The Earth have surveyed all Councils in England based on criteria supplied by the Environment Agency. The findings for the Shefford Ward are:

- 38% of the homes are poorly insulated, 1438 houses do not meet the requirements. 21st worst Ward out of 31 Wards.
- The Ward just met the Tree canopy cover requirements, by 0.5%.
- Currently have 129 homes that are at high risk of flooding, this could increase to 223.
- Air pollution within the Ward was 29th worst out of 31 Wards.
- The land at the top of Ivel Road in Shefford will be created into a community area, the landowner has also agreed for it to be used for a Scout premises.

The Councillors are awaiting the update regarding the Local Plan Call for Sites and will then make a response on behalf of residents, depending on the areas identified the Cllrs may choose to meet over the Summer period to discuss this response in detail and to provide residents with an update. We will communicate via the website, noticeboards and Facebook. (N.B. A meeting focused on the Call for Sites consultation has since taken place.)

We have come to the end of another financial year, the Internal audit for the Parish has been concluded and we are currently undergoing the external audit. The Parish Council held their last meeting at the end of June, which was the July meeting brought forward by a couple of days. The Parish Council will now take a break for summer and reconvene in September. If anything important comes up over the summer break we will share it with you on our Facebook page, website and noticeboards so please do check regularly.

Shefford Town Council have a new company covering grass cutting and maintenance, including the cemetery. There has been a delay in works being carried out due to an issue with areas agreed. We are working hard to get back on track and hope that everything will be well maintained going forward.

We wish you all a very happy and safe Summer.

Residents are welcome to join meetings via video link, please email the clerk with at least 24 hours' notice and a link will be sent to you.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be Thursday 3rd September 2026, 7pm in the Campton Village Hall.

Clerk to the Parish Council, Tammy Medley

01908 505558 / 07955 521174 / clerk@camptonandchicksands-pc.gov.uk
<https://camptonandchicksands-pc.gov.uk/> 3

Take Action Now - Locally and Nationally



Calling All Residents!
**Now is the time to have your say
 on planning site locations**



It's vitally important that as many people as possible object to sites that overdevelop our village and Parish, and overload the already stretched local facilities and services, so please provide your support.

The **consultation closes on 17 August 2026** so please act now if you want your views heard. The Consultation page can be **accessed using this link** <http://centralbedfordshire.oc2.uk> then select Submitted Sites

Consultation to **register your objections for EACH SITE in the Campton and Chicksands Parish**. You must give a brief objection statement of up to 100 words....maybe type this in "Word" or handwrite it out to keep a copy for any future consultations which may come our way.



National Emergency Briefing

Have you heard of the Peoples Emergency Briefing film?

The film presents strong evidence that the government have under estimated the effects and speed of change of a warming climate, and what this means for you and I. The aim is to leave people informed, grounded and motivated; to establish a shared baseline of understanding; and to signal the need for coordinated action across government, business and society.

A screening of the film has been arranged at **Campton Village Hall on Wednesday 26th August 7pm** for 7:30pm start. After the film there will be a discussion/Q&A and our MP Alistair Strathern has been invited to attend. Tea, Coffee and Biscuits included.

To book your free seat please book online
<https://buytickets.at/camptonvillagehall/2318140>
 or email candcnewsletter@gmail.com

**People's
 Emergency
 Briefing**

In the meantime, please consider showing your support for urgent action by putting your name to Chris Packham's call for a UK-wide briefing on climate and nature risks. 100,000 signatures are required for debate in parliament:
<https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/767687#main-content>

News from the Pews

You might like to know that there are some big changes ahead in our Diocese. Firstly we look forward to welcoming the Rt Revd Andrew Rumsey to be the next **Bishop of St Albans**. His **Installation** at **St Albans** Cathedral will take place on Saturday 19 September. Why not join the online live stream to participate in the service? **Bishop Richard the Bishop of Bedford** has announced that having received the consent of both HM the King and the Archbishop of Canterbury, he will be **retiring** at the end of the year. Bishop Richard asks for our prayers as he prepares to move on.

But, welcome now to August and September and to the Summer Holidays. I wonder if you have a summer holiday - and if you do what you have planned? Hopefully some time to slow down, to rest and relax, to be refreshed and revitalised - time to enjoy family and friends - and maybe, if you are lucky enough, to explore and enjoy either a favourite part of God's world - or a place that you have never explored before. One year when our children were small we had very little money for a holiday - so we looked around for all the things that we had always meant to do just around where we lived, all the places we had meant to visit. We divided them into wet days and dry days, and cheap and expensive days - and we kept ourselves wonderfully occupied and entertained for that whole summer and beyond.

When I think about all our young people for whom this is moving up or moving on time - I think maybe it is also a good time for us all to pause and take stock, and to make new resolutions, find new hopes and dreams and visions.

Of course we are going to need to take some things with us from today and yesterday! I have got some bad memories - things I got wrong - I think that I might choose to learn from them and then leave those behind so I can start again tomorrow. I have got some really happy memories though - of things I did well - things I liked doing - and of course I will choose to take them with me into tomorrow. There were some times that I was a sad last year - I will learn from them if I can - but then I think I will leave those behind. There were some people that I didn't really get on with last year - a few arguments. Perhaps I can forgive "old enemies" and let them start again just the same as I want to. I made lots of good friends last year too - I think I will take their love and friendship into tomorrow - perhaps I will be able to keep in touch...but I will look forward to making new friends as well. I learned lots of things last year and I practised new skills - I think I will need them in the future so I will take them with me!

And then I have got some hopes and dreams for my life - some things I would like to do and to be - I think I had better take those with me - don't you? Then, I think I am ready for tomorrow . but I forgot one thing ... I forgot to ask God to be with me - of course He will anyway because He loves me so much - but He does like me to think about Him and to thank Him when things are going well and to ask Him for help when things are a bit difficult.... I wonder what joys and what challenges lie ahead!

I think young or old it is a good time to pause and ponder! Wishing you a great summer.

Sunday 2nd August	11.15am	Holy Communion
Sunday 9th August	11.15am	Morning Praise
Sunday 16th August	11.15am	Holy Communion
Sunday 23rd August	11.15am	Morning Praise
Sunday 30th August	10.30am	Benefice Communion St Marys Meppershall
Friday 4th Sept	10.30-12noon	Coffee and Chat
Sunday 6th Sept	11.15am	Holy Communion
Sunday 13th Sept	11.15am	Morning Praise
Sunday 20th Sept	11.15am	Holy Communion
Sunday 27th Sept	11.15am	Morning Praise

Rector: The Revd Roni Goodman 01462 339962 / 07533 376880
The Rectory, Church Road, Meppershall, SG17 5NA ronigoodman@gmail.com
Website: <https://churchofallsaintscampton.com/>
Church Warden: Beth Sullivan Ash 07523 079507

Defibrillator/CPR Training

Campton Village Hall Management Committee have arranged a training session at the hall, on Friday 18th September 17:00 to 19:00.

The training is run by volunteers so we suggest a donation to the charity for attendance. If you would like to attend, please email to book a space: camptonvh@outlook.com

Art Exhibition 2026



Shefford Art Society
Shefford Community Hall.



Original Work by Local Artists
Saturday 19th September 10.00am-4.00pm
Sunday 20th September 10.00am- 4.00pm

Free Entry

Raffle

Refreshments



Trugs and Trowels Gardening Club

As Britain is adjusting to increasingly extreme weather you find yourself with a battle on your hands to save your garden. Gardeners are urged not to brave new plantings, it is the time to protect what is already growing. The temperature records have been repeatedly beaten this year and for gardeners this changes everything. The real danger of the hot weather is the heat and the lack of moisture. What looks healthy one minute can suddenly look limp and tired. Pots dry out in hours and struggle to establish in a drought situation and shortage of rain. All new plants are already struggling with transplant shock, heat, a lack of moisture while trying to build strong roots. What is the answer?

Let's take action early morning and in the evenings avoiding the brutal heat of the day.

1) Attention to all small baskets and pots using a watering can direct to soil and roots, do not wet leaves and flowers and ideally place in a shaded spot to help stop pots from heating up and drying out the soil. Evening watering may stay damp overnight leading to fungal problems especially in crowded planting.

2) Mulch where possible, it is a life saver to retain moisture and adding organic matter will shield the soil assisting to slow evaporation and keep the root zone cooler. If you are tempted to fill gaps resulting from plant loss it demands constant care, deep watering, shade cloths and moisture checks as plants are vulnerable to drying out of the soil. Do not plant for instant beauty during a heat wave, the one thing it needs is protection.

3) There are many products on the market to help with this which could mean installing solar irrigation to help overcome extreme drought.

4) Also planters with reservoirs; frost resistant, light weight and recycled material with a 2 litre reservoir for indoor and outdoor use. Multifunctional sprayers enable you to target areas which saves water, it minimises waste and comes with 4 settings for delicate planting, seedlings and also fast settings for beds and borders.

5) Whitewash the inside of your greenhouse if you have plants in the ground and wet hard standings to create moisture in the air, ideally remove all plants if possible.

We are now within a hose pipe ban area so I urge you to reuse bath water, washing up water and salvage any rain water. Have a wonderful summer and enjoy your outdoor space which you have worked so hard on this year.

Please join us at Gardening club on 3rd August at 7:30pm in Campton Village Hall, everyone welcome.

Maryika - Tel: 01462 851729

News from the Tower

Bellringing is an important, centuries-old tradition at All Saints Church and also for the wider community in Campton. We're keen to find and teach new ringers to join our team. Our ringers, all volunteers, ring for special occasions for the village as well as on Sunday mornings for 11.15am service.

Bedfordshire Young Ringers Group hold their monthly events here. They recently **won their section of a national bellringing contest at Nottingham**. And Campton's a great place for young people to ring and make the village's greatest noise!

We practice on Tuesday evenings 7.00pm to 9.00pm at All Saints Church, Campton. To find out more speak to any of our ringers or contact me, John Loveless, on 07803 206161 or email jloveless5040@outlook.com

Visiting bands of ringers:

- Tuesday August 4 - Quarter Peal - Somerset ringers - 2.30pm to 3.30pm approx
- Sunday August 9 - Bedfordshire Young Ringers - 2.30pm to 4.30pm approx
- Monday August 17 - Quarter Peal - Biggleswade area ringers - 2.30pm to 3.30pm approx
- Saturday August 22 - Bedfordshire Ringers Association meeting - 4.30pm to 6pm approx
- Monday August 24 - Peal - SRCY London ringers - 1pm to 5pm approx
- Sunday September 13 - Bedfordshire Young Ringers - 2.30pm to 4.30pm approx
- Saturday September 26 - Cambridge area ringers - 2pm to 3pm approx



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR AUGUST WINNERS:

1st (£35) - No. 24 - D Taylor
2nd (£25) - No. 160 - P Fisher

3rd (£15) - No. 12 - L Callaghan
BONUS (£60) - No. 44 - D Maggs

Healthy Living Area: Help needed

- We are now entering our third period of very dry weather and we have been working hard to keep the 2000 trees and bushes alive via constant watering.
- If you can spare half an hour of so once or twice a week to help water the plants please contact Paul by email. paul.booton@camptonandchicksands-pc.gov.uk

Items for the next Newsletter must be submitted to the Editor, Liz Bishop, no later than 15th September 2026 for the October 2026 edition
Email: candnewsletter@gmail.com