

By Pass and J11A

The By Pass and the new M1 Junction 11a have finished and the By Pass was open to traffic in April this year. It has had a positive effect on the village with traffic through Luton Road being considerably reduced. There are exceptions, when the M1 has accidents, which at this time of the year appears to be regular. We have seen the lorries passing through the village in less numbers, but despite the signage at the southern end of the village, it has not ceased altogether.

The Parish Council are regularly contacting Central Beds to deal with this. The main problem is that there are no lorry ban signs on the approach roads from the north. CBC have told us there are 500 such signs that need to be put in the county. We are still pushing for these to be in place as soon as possible.

Another negative effect is that the By Pass has proven to be a popular race track. Many of us have made the police aware, but no-one has had a positive response from them yet.

Russell Currell,
Chairman, Chalton Parish Council.

Changes to Buses

Central Beds have withdrawn subsidies from many bus routes in the county. Our village is effected, as the No 20 bus has been withdrawn and replaced by the No 74. These changes have been implemented from May 2nd onwards. There will be no service on Sundays and Bank Holidays. Although operated by Dial-a-Ride, it is being run as a normal bus service. A new timetable is overleaf.

Russell Currell,
Chairman, Chalton Parish Council.

Call for Sites

During the early part of 2016, Central Beds did the Call for Sites. This allowed landowners to put their land up for consideration for development, to count towards the housing numbers required to meet the numbers of houses needed in Central Beds. Over 800 sites were put forward County Wide. 10 sites were

put forward in Chalton Parish. Only 3 – 7% of these sites will actually be used.

Chalton Parish Council are not keen on additional land to be handed over for development as the North Houghton Regis development will take 22% of the Parishes land. There will also be 2% taken by the Solar Farm application that was granted last year. The Vauxhall sites (2 warehouses) is over 6%. The rest, if allowed would take the amount of development to over 32%, so we have made it clear to Central Beds that we do not wish to have any more development in the Parish, as we have a far higher level than anyone else in the county at present. We also feel that if one site is allowed, this would be difficult to stop any further development in the Green Belt. All sites put forward are in the Green Belt.

There is Public Consultation scheduled to get the public's opinions, which was due out last December. It was however, postponed, the exact timing is not known but it will be this year. It will be on Central Beds website on the Planning pages.

You can also catch up on any Planning Application in the Parish from the website and keep up with the status and make comments during the period leading up to the decision.

People have asked me that they have heard there will be houses built on land in the village. If no Planning Application has been submitted, then it is only talk, although things will no doubt be in certain people's pipeline.

There have already been two applications in the village that have been turned down on the grounds they are in the Green Belt, amongst other reasons. We hope this is because our constant dialogue with Central Beds, stating that we have been hit hard already, has had some positive effects.

Russell Currell,
Chairman, Chalton Parish Council

Traffic in the Village

Since the introduction of the speed camera in

the village has reduced the number of vehicles speeding. We have data comparing July 2014 figures with Sept 2016 show that the vehicles driving at the higher speeds (40 and over) have reduced considerably. In 2014, there were over 250 vehicles doing 40 – 45mph, but in 2016 there were only 4. When the J11A is opened, we would expect less traffic, no lorries and hopefully vehicles moving at a sensible speed.

***Russell Currell,
Chairman, Chalton Parish Council.***

22Mw Peak Power Station

An application for nine gas powered generators was submitted for installation on land adjacent to the Sewage Works entrance on the Luton Road. The proposed site was some 300 yards from the houses at the northern end of Luton Road. We would all have been affected by the noise and pollution emanating from this power station.

The Parish Council objected strongly and were supported by Tom Nicols, one of our District Councillors.

Following a village meeting 48 objections were lodged with the CBC Planning Dept. We are grateful to all those who took the time to register their objections..

We understand the application was to be rejected as the proposed site lies within the Green Belt. On learning of this decision the developer withdrew the application.

It is too early to know if the developer will submit a revised application.

As the generous subsidies for peak power generators are being cut the pressure to find suitable sites will hopefully reduce.

***Russell Currell,
Chairman, Chalton Parish Council.***

Pensioners Christmas Lunch

It was another enjoyable Pensioners Christmas Lunch this January 3rd. A big thanks to Nicole and her staff at the Star.

If you wish to come in the future, please let me aware. I then send out invites and then places are allocated on a first come basis when the invites are returned. We are limited in numbers, so if too many wish to come, unfortunately some may be disappointed.

This years Christmas lunch has will be taking place on Monday 8th January, 2018. When the invites have been sent out later in the year, please respond early to avoid disappointment, as I expect demand will be greater than supply.

***Russell Currell,
Chairman, Chalton Parish Council.***

Footpath at Chalton Heights.

Chalton Parish Council managed to persuade Carillion, the contractor who built the By Pass to lay (as a gesture of good will) an all weather surface on the footpath at the top of Chalton Heights. This should make access much better in the winter when it has been muddy and slippery. We would also like to thank Frank Porthouse for his co-operation with this work

***Russell Currell,
Chairman, Chalton Parish Council.***

Screening along the M1.

The Parish Council have been in discussions with Highways England about screening the now exposed section of the Motorway. Despite some initial reluctance Highways England have put forward a plan to plant 60 broad leaved lime trees on the motorway and retention pond embankments. There will in addition be a natural hedgerow planting along the full width of the embankment. Hopefully it will not take too many years before the motorway is fully screened. We are told that the planting should take place in early November.

***Russell Currell,
Chairman, Chalton Parish Council.***