Cherhill Parish Council Newsletter Autumn 2026

Since the Spring edition of this Newsletter the dominant issue locally is the decision by Wiltshire Council to close 2 of it's household recycling centres (HRCs), including our own at Lower Compton.

The Parish Council continues to oppose these ill-judged plans and is working closely with Calne Town Council and our neighbouring parish councils to co-ordinate the effort.

How can residents express their views and oppose these plans?
Residents will have seen our A5 leaflet recently dropped to all households in the parish, urging opposition to the scheme by **emailing:**
Cllr Ian Thorn – Leader of the Council :
ian.thorn@wiltshire.gov.uk
Cllr Gordon King – Cabinet member for Waste, Climate and Environment :
gordon.king@wiltshire.gov.uk

A chance to quiz the Leader of Wiltshire Council, Cllr Ian Thorn. An Extraordinary Meeting of the Parish Council has been arranged for Thursday 12th November at Cherhill Village Hall. Cllr Thorn has agreed to take questions on the following topics:

- **Domestic waste collections and Household Recycling Centres**
- **The Planning Process**
- **Road Safety and the Local Roads Infrastructure**

Questions to Cllr Thorn to be sent in advance please to the Clerk @ clerk@cherhillparish.gov.uk

Emergency First Aid Training continues for our parish residents
A second session of training took place in Cherhill Village Hall on 11th August, attended by more than 20 parish residents. The PC arranged this event once more through Wiltshire and Bath Ambulance Service. The PC has established a budget for further events involving our local residents. Any suggestions are welcomed.

Footpath and Bridleway Maintenance.
The PROW Working Group continues to consider repair, maintenance and access issues across the parish. Councillors carry out repair work themselves whenever possible, to save the cost of contractors. Volunteers wishing to join a work party please consult the website or contact the Clerk.

Cherhill Village Traffic and Parking Group
Following our Extraordinary Parish Council Meeting in May, convened specially to discuss the parking issues in the village, a Group has been established, comprising councillors, residents and relevant stakeholders including Cherhill PreSchool and Cherhill Primary School. The Group has met twice at the School and surveys have been carried out, on residents and school parents. One result is that the School is revising it's traffic plan, in consultation with Wiltshire Council. Further, meetings and consultations have taken place with Wiltshire's Highways Department to establish what can be done on the ground to improve safety for all road users, including improved signage and road markings.

Tommy Croker Memorial Playing Field - maintenance
Many will know about our much used park at the top of Mill Lane in Cherhill. This recreational facility is run as a charity and is managed and maintained by a committee of volunteers who raise funds for it's upkeep and capital projects. Less well known is the role played by the Parish Council in the funding of maintenance, under a longstanding agreement with the Playing Field Committee. Each year substantial funds are budgeted by the PC as our contribution to this unique facility in Cherhill Parish.

Cherhill Parish Amenity Fund
Since the parish expanded in 2025 we now wish to provide financial support to new recreational and amenity projects across the enlarged parish. The PC is now setting up and budgeting a new fund to encourage residents in all wards of the parish to formulate proposals for projects that would benefit the community. This is in addition to the Community Grants Fund already established. Please contact the Clerk for further details.

LHFIG/Road Safety Working Group

Thie PC's Group continues to work closely with **Wiltshire Council's Local Highway and Footpath Improvement Group (LHFIG)** on improving road safety. Last year the first Speed Indicator Device ('SID') was purchased and set up on the A4 at Cherhill. Data from the SID continues to show a strong deterrent effect on speeding vehicles. A second SID is now being planned and funded, for installation and operation elsewhere in the parish before the end of this financial year.

Re-chalking the Cherhill White Horse; a Great Success

Our iconic White Horse was re-chalked on **23rd May**. Re-chalking is necessary every few years to keep the White Horse visible, protected and true to it's historic form. A team of over 130 volunteers, including our stalwarts the Cherhill Scout Group and the Cubs worked under the leadership with our Parish Council Chairman, Cllr Dave Grafton and local farmer, Rob Pickford. Around 20 tons of locally sourced chalk were crushed, bagged and moved up to almost the top of Cherhill Down. Then volunteers formed a human chain to pass the heavy chalk bags down to others who spread the chalk out before levelling it. Quite a feat!



Lansdowne Monument - update

Anyone passing on the A4 will not fail to notice the impressive scaffolding bristling it's way up to the top of the monument. Shield Services Group completed the bespoke structure for the National Trust. Masons and restorers from Cliveden Conservation, also appointed by the Trust, have been hard at it since early summer, replacing eroded and damaged cornerstones and damaged coursing stones with new. The main phase of restoration is intended to be complete by the end of 2026, though much depends on weather conditions, even more unpredictable at the top of Cherhill Down. It may take some time before all safety hoardings can be removed.



Community Grants

The Parish Council has set up and budgeted for a fund to support projects across the parish that would benefit the community. The first such grants have been awarded, but more are welcomed. Grant deadlines are 3 times yearly for standard grants (31st March, 31st July and 30th November) and 30th September for larger grants. Application forms and grant criteria can be obtained from the Clerk but also can be accessed via the website and completed online.

The most recent grant award has enabled a **book exchange** to be set up in the grounds of Cherhill School.

Website. The Parish Council's website can e accessed at www.cherhillparish.gov.uk.

Contact details for the Cherhill Parish Clerk:

Email : clerk@cherhillparish.gov.uk

tel : 07404 154576

Parish Council Meetings

Meetings commence at 7pm and will be at Cherhill Village Hall unless otherwise stated. They are on the 4th Thursday of each month and public participation is always scheduled relatively early on the Agenda. The next meetings are:

12th November 2026 – Extraordinary Parish Council Meeting, with Cllr Ian Thorn

26th November 2026 – Regular Parish Council Meeting

17th December 2026 – Regular Parish Council Meeting