



Chinnor Parish Council

Annual Reports 2023-2024



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Chinnor Parish Council Chairman's Annual Report by Cllr Maggie Mackenzie

The council had an uncontested election in May 2023, said goodbye to 3 councillors and welcomed one new one plus 2 who were co-opted. One councillor has recently resigned and we are currently advertising a vacancy.

We were very successful in the planning appeal against 150 houses on the Thame Road, in October 2023 where the inspector dismissed the appellants appeal. We worked together with our colleagues from Sydenham Parish Council taking rule 6 status and employing our own barrister to represent us. Our new District Councillors were also very supportive.

We thank our local residents who came out in force to show the inspector the strength of feeling in the local community.

We supported Parish organisations with grants totaling £25293.73

As a council we keep a close eye on the S106 developer contributions that are available to our Parish. We have over the last year, identified funds and supported:

- *Chinnor community swimming pools application for refurbished changing rooms and the purchase of a hoist to assist disabled swimmers to use the pool.
- *The allotments application to improve car parking facilities on site.
- *Chinnor cricket club to purchase new cricket nets and a new roller.
- *The Village Centres application for funding to upgrade their disabled toilet.

We are also working with a local artist to build "art work" installations on 3 of the new developments with S106 monies as specified by the developers.

We have recently advertised for a new Deputy Parish clerk and are hoping that they will be in post in the next few weeks.

Our Skills zone project has been very successful in providing free activities for our local young people during school holidays. This has included, cookery, punch hub, DJ mixing and Street dance.

We are making progress with the Chinnor skatepark project and have recently been talking to SODC planners and companies that build skate parks. We hope to be ready to apply for planning permission in the next few weeks.

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We were successful in our planning application to refurbish and upgrade the community building on whites field. We are currently sourcing grants to move this project forward

Planning permission is currently being sought to put a temporary building for use as toilets and changing facilities onto the playing pitch at Old Kiln Lakes using S106 monies given by the developer for this purpose when the estate was built.

We held our first Community awards evening in August 2023 where we gave awards to people who were nominated by the community.

The council are liaising with the Princes Risborough Community bus about the possibility of them extending their route into Chinnor.

We continue to make frequent representation to both South Oxfordshire District Council and Oxfordshire County Council about the issues that affect our Parish, these include, flooding, parking, potholes, footpaths, speeding, and many more that you identify to us. We are a superuser on fix my street.

August Bank Holiday Weekend

We will have the traditional
Marquee on Whites Field over the
August Bank holiday with all the favourites
Beer Festival, Church Service and Flower Show

If you are a local club or organisation that would like to use the marquee for an event please contact the Parish Council for an application form or go on our website.

Closing date for applications 31/3/24

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CPC Grants Awarded in our community 2023 / 2024

The Parish Council allocated a budget of £20,000 in order for groups providing services to the local residents to apply for funding towards worthy projects.

Financial contributions were made to the following groups:

£875.00	Chinnor Players
£1000.00	Chinnor Tennis Club
£206.34	St Andrews Church (After school club)
£1000.00	Chinnor Village hall
£862.84	Mill Lane Community Garden
£680.00	Royal British Legion
£430.00	Youth Club
£992.89	Ladybirds Preschool
£500.00	WI
£1000.00	1 st Chinnor Scout Group
£1000.00	Chinnor Community Pool
£916.66	Chinnor Community Pavilion
£1000.00	Chinnor Cricket Club
£1000.00	Jack & Jill Preschool
£600.00	Activity Club
£730.00	C&PRR
£500.00	Heritage Group
£1000.00	Red Kite Centre
£1000.00	Citizens Advise Bureau
£10000.00	Village Centre

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Planning Committee Report by Cllr Martin Wright

This year has shown that the Neighbourhood Plan has been of great value in keeping and encouraging the development of the village in a sensible and planned fashion. Many thanks are due to the team of Councillors and others who managed to produce the revised plan in such an effective and timely manner.

The Neighbourhood Plan has been particularly helpful in our successful work against the appeal for the development of 150 houses on Thame Road. This was a long process, and thanks must go to the Councillors who put up such a well-researched and well-presented case. It was also impressive to see so many members of the public present through the full length of the appeal hearing.

The Plan was also in use in our objections to the development of 10 houses off Lower Ickneild Way, which was refused by SODC after a long and detailed SODC Planning Committee meeting. Again, many thanks to Councillors for their research and for their speaking at the meeting.

We continue to examine all planning applications to ensure that they fit with the Neighbourhood Plan, that they are in keeping with the village character, and that all village assets and amenities are protected.

Parking and public transport continue to be problems. Unfortunately, in the older parts of the village the Victorians did not plan for two and three car families. In the rest of the village we are plagued by the results of rules set by planners (who all live inside the M25?) and who do not realise that the multi-generational inhabitants of isolated villages such as Chinnor need cars to go in many directions for work and other purposes. Public transport is only effective if it goes frequently and regularly to many destinations and cycling is only viable when distances are short and routes are safe. Neither of these conditions apply in Chinnor. We continue to expose these concerns to higher authorities, and exhort people to park as considerately as possible.

In order to keep our Neighbourhood Plan effective and up to date, we need more volunteers to carry out the necessary work. If you feel that you can contribute to the future of the village, please contact the Clerk for further information.

5 Amenities Committee Report by Cllr Jackie Webb

The current members of the Committee are: Councillors Ashdown, Boyle, Edwards, Mackenzie, Sarai and Webb (Chair).

It has been a busy year for the Amenities Committee as the Committee has responsibility for the following Council Services, Activities and Projects:

Play areas and recreational facilities; Annual village community marquee events; village maintenance, youth activities and allotments.

One of the Council's exciting projects which is progressing well is the Public Art and Art Trail which is being overseen by Councillor Ashdown aided by Helen Ambridge, the Council's administrator. Each of the new housing developments, at Oak Hill Park, Carriages and Chiltern View will have a themed Art/Sculpture representing Chinnor's association with Wood, Chalk and Iron. Marker posts or information posts at selected points of interest throughout the village will provide an interesting trail for residents and visitors.

Youngsters within the village were involved in the summer holidays in specialised activities as part of the Skill Zone project initiated by Councillor Boyle. These activities included a 'Punch' hub, curry club and DJ mixing. In February half-term street dancing sessions were held.

In April the Garden of Remembrance at the Pound adjoining the Village Centre was given a makeover overseen by Councillor Mackenzie and now contains a splendid display of planting and new garden furniture for all to enjoy.

The King's Coronation in June was marked by a community event, well attended by many residents of Chinnor and the weather was good too. Similarly, further Community events, including the Beer Festival and produce show were held over the August Bank Holiday weekend all of which utilised the Marquee provided by the Parish Council.

In August a Community Awards event was organised by the Council to recognise those residents willing to give their time to help others in the village and in September a commemorative service was organised for the addition of Molly Sherwell's name to the War Memorial. These are a few of the achievements in 2023/2024 and there are many other exciting projects on their way.

Chinnor Community Awards



2023



MAKE A CHANGE BECOME A LOCAL COUNCILLOR



**IF YOU CARE ABOUT
WHERE YOU LIVE AND ARE
PASSIONATE ABOUT YOUR
COMMUNITY, WE NEED YOU**

JOIN US AND MAKE A LOCAL CHANGE

**Deadline for applications:
Friday 19th April 2024**