

# Chedworth Parish Council

## News from our October Meeting

### **Discovering the scale of the flooding problem**

The trial to clear the pipe under Tuns Hill and solve the flooding problem has been partially successful but the contractors hit a snag – or rather an old drain rod which had been left in the system years ago.

In an effort to solve the flooding the parish council negotiated an arrangement with county highways whereby we would arrange a trial to clear the limescale and if it was successful they would pick up the bill and carry out the remainder of the work.

After a promising start the contractors hit a snag in the shape of the abandoned drain rod which had become completely embedded in the scale deposits and prevented the flailing equipment from working.

Following our meeting, councillors met with representative of the highways department who have agreed to pay the full costs of the trial.

The next step will be to remove the drain rod and then clear the remaining 10 to 12 metres of pipe and highways have agreed to fund this work which it is hoped will be able to be carried out in this financial year.

We will continue to keep pressure on the county council and keep you up to date with progress

### **Thames Water proving hard to pin down**

The council is determined to get answers from Thames Water following a number of problems with supply and a lack of information but this is proving trickier than it should be.



The water company has agreed to come to a public meeting to hopefully explain why Chedworth has been suffering so badly.

However, having initially offered us dates in September and October they have been unable to confirm a suitable date with us because the Senior Case Manager has 'not been able to speak' to the person who is due to come to the village!

The Parish Council is determined that the meeting will take place so please keep an eye out for information about it and hopefully as many of you as possible will be able to come along – we may not have had an interruption in our water supply for a few weeks but that doesn't mean that the problem has been solved!

## **Keeping Chedworth Tidy is a challenge for us all.**

Complaints about the untidy state of the village are increasing and the unruly undergrowth is regularly debated at our meetings.

Maintaining the verges is the responsibility of the county highways department but repeated cuts in their budget have left them without any cash to do the job. Where in previous years they would do several cuts throughout the summer they are now restricted to one, and hedges have got out of hand and brambles are taking over.

For many years the parish council took on responsibility for cutting the verges and received a contribution from the county but we were forced to stop this work because of difficulties in finding suitable and willing contractors.

### **You have to do your bit**

Residents also have to bear their share of the responsibility – landowners and householders are responsible for any overgrowth which is coming from their property and hanging over the verge or highway.

At our October meeting it was agreed that we would do a survey of the village and identify which problem areas were the responsibility of the highways and which were down to local landowners, and you can help.

### **Send us your pictures**

We want to know which areas of the village are of particular concern so have set up a page on our website where you can post pictures along with a brief explanation of where it is. Just go to [chedworthpc.org.uk/verges](http://chedworthpc.org.uk/verges)

### **Are you prepared to pay?**

We will be considering the results of the survey at our November meeting when we will decide the best way forward.

This could include contacting landowners when the overgrowth comes from private land and then deciding if the parish council should employ contractors to do the rest of the work – something which will cost money which the parish council currently does not have in its budget.

We would therefore be interested to know if you would be prepared to pay more council tax in order to allow us to tidy up the village so please comment on the website or get in touch with one of the councillors or the clerk.

## **Mini mobile network progressing**

Plans for mobile operator EE to create a micro network to bring mobile signal to those areas of the village which are currently in a 'not-spot' are moving forward. Sites for the aerials, which are just 50cm (20in) high and 18cm (7in) wide, have been identified and the next step is to find out if the property owners are willing for their buildings to be used

## Even more reason to be prepared



The South West Ambulance Trust has changed its guidelines on when callers will be told if there is a defibrillator close by.

Unless you live within 200m (previously 250m) of one of our 3 defibrillators then the operator will not let you know there is a potentially lifesaving piece of equipment on hand – even though we have the VETS

system which means that there are volunteers who will fetch one for you. Other ambulance trusts do acknowledge the value of VETS and we are hoping to help persuade ours to do the same.

In the meantime, don't forget – in an emergency first call 999 and then, if a defibrillator could help call 610230

## Still looking for a new councillor

The council has now been running without a full complement of members since May and we really need to get back to full strength.

Because 10 electors called for an election Cotswold District Council will now continue to ask for nominations until someone comes forward, so please give some serious thought as to whether that person could be you.

Ros Jess

To contact the council, email the clerk, Elizabeth Broad ([clerk@chedworth-pc.org.uk](mailto:clerk@chedworth-pc.org.uk)), or call her on 720313. You can also contact any of the councillors direct.