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Churt Parish Council Newsletter March 2021

High Speed Fibre Broadband for Churt?

At our Council meeting on 17th March we received a presentation from Mashood Ahmad, managing director of a company called Grayshott Gigabit. Mashood has an impressive background in technology and lives in Grayshott. His company is to provide high speed fibre broadband to Grayshott, Hindhead and Beacon Hill. He is now looking to expand the roll out to include Churt and surrounding villages. It sounds an exciting project. To secure government funding to install the fibre network, he needs at least 150 pre-registrations of interest from residents and businesses in Churt. There is no obligation following pre-registration, but if there was sufficient support to secure funding, all properties in Churt would be connected to a fibre network. It would then be up to the resident to decide if they wished to use the fibre network or stick with what they currently have. To pre-register please follow this link to Grayshott Gigabit and click the register button.

https://www.grayshottgigabit.com/?utm_campaign=4558010e-d711-4510-924e-5cb29cd07809&utm_source=so&utm_medium=mail&cid=bdee95f4-c878-4cd3-a72f-20d783a138cb

I reiterate that there is no obligation and no cost in registering. Once the network is in place, Mashood told us that the anticipated costs would be in the region of a one-off installation fee of between £25 and £75 and then a subscription fee of about £30 per month for private use or about £40 per month for a business.

Mountain Bike Damage and Litter

Mountain biking has become ever more popular during the Coronavirus crisis. Green Farm in Churt, which is owned by the Countryside Restoration Trust, is a 200 acre estate open to the public and is criss-crossed by footpaths. Unfortunately, more have been carved out by people using the area with mountain bikes and causing extensive damage. This current problem is not just confined to

this particular area and huge amounts of litter are also being deposited. Whilst we do not wish to discourage recreational pursuits, we would ask that these "bikers" offer **some consideration, ride responsibly and comply with the Countryside Code** which basically says, "Respect, protect and enjoy". If you are mountain biking anywhere please do so in such a way that damage is not being caused to our countryside and open spaces.

Depositing litter is illegal and the practice appears to be rampant. It should not be necessary for residents to clear up other people's rubbish, but in the area of Green Farm alone one person is collecting a bag full of rubbish every day and there is still more where the mountain bikes have left their tracks. **Please take your litter home and protect the countryside and our environment.**

I am afraid that this type of problem is not solely confined to Green Farm, but appears to be a growing problem and fly tipping was recently even encountered in the woodland off Pond Lane.

I apologise to all those of us who are considerate and law abiding. I am afraid that an ever growing minority are spoiling things for everyone else.

Churt Heroes - 3 become 5!

You may remember me telling you about our three SW Surrey Heroes, Dawn Barrow, Myra Johnson and Jo Corfield, honoured by the initiative run by our MP, Jeremy Hunt and the Farnham and Haslemere Herald. We now have five Churt Heroes as Marion Mitchell our Churt WI president and Gina Finbow, who runs a catering business in Churt have also been honoured. Marion has been relentless in keeping her members informed of news and generally keeping their spirits high as well as co-ordinating a WI scrub- making initiative. Gina, I believe has provided extensive catering to Frimley Park Hospital during the pandemic and was also a volunteer within the Churt Community Support Group. Congratulations to both Marion and Gina. Your recognition is richly deserved.

Churt Environmental Working Group (CHEWG) Report

Work this month has focussed on adding further content to the excellent environment website at www.churtzero.org with the addition of three more of the revised and digitised Michael Stenning walks in and around Churt at <https://www.churtzero.org/walks>. Councillor Myra Johnson tells me that Walk 6 takes in some of the best views that the commons and National Trust land around Churt have to offer - but it is 13 miles long, so you may need to take a picnic lunch until the pubs are able to reopen! The website now also has some activities for children, with the addition of content from both Surrey Wildlife Trust and the Field Studies Council, as well as the recent lockdown series of our St John's Forest School nature videos - all at <https://www.churtzero.org/young-people-s-space>. There is more content to come soon for the website as well as some village environmental projects - but if you have any special requests, please email churtenvironment@gmail.org. We are very pleased that a number of village and other local organisations are signed up as partners in our 'Net Zero for Churt' initiative - see <https://www.churtzero.org/partnership-links> and would welcome additional partnerships to help Churt achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2050.

Community Orchard

At our meeting on Wednesday 17th February the council resolved to develop the rough piece of grassland adjoining the tennis club on the left hand side when entering the recreation ground from the main road. We have not been idle and the area has already been cleared, re-turfed and seeded. It looks very tidy and much improved. We shall now consider how best to utilise, implement and maintain this piece of land as a community orchard. Further news will follow soon.

Parish Council Feedback

There have been several instances of comments, criticisms and complaints about Churt Parish Council recently, both by anonymous letter and anonymous posts on social media. We do not claim to be perfect and anyone who does have a complaint or comment should please contact the Parish Council directly and then we will be able to respond appropriately and fully understand concerns. We would also be delighted to hear of anything you are pleased with or think we are doing well!! Contact details are included on our website, www.churt.org and also at the top of this newsletter.

Churt Community Support Group

The Community Support Group has been hugely successful during the pandemic, but the time has come to review it. There has been virtually no demand now for several months and so we have taken the decision to withdraw the phone number for support. We do not, however, plan on disbanding the group but rather "mothballing" it with a view to reactivating it if required in the future whether it be Covid related or for any other reason. Our thanks to all the army of volunteers who selflessly made sure that residents' needs were fully met. The group has been a huge credit to Churt. Thank you all and please don't go away. I am sure you will be needed again sometime in the future.

Post Covid Celebration

Both the Churt Fete and BBQ have been cancelled for this year which is a huge disappointment. Plans are at an early stage, however, to hold an event on the recreation ground in early autumn to celebrate the survival of the Covid pandemic. The plan is that this event would involve the entire village. Watch this space. Further details will be revealed soon.

Churt Annual Assembly and Parish Council Annual Meeting

Legally we must hold an annual village assembly this year before 1st June. To that end we have decided to hold it virtually via Zoom on 21st April. All village organisations will be invited to attend and participate. Invitations will be sent out soon.

We must also hold a Council annual meeting this year and we shall hold this virtually via Zoom on Wednesday 5th May 2021 at 7.30pm. This is the meeting where all council officers are re-elected.

The reason we have brought the annual meeting forward and holding the assembly via Zoom is that we cannot legally continue with virtual meetings after 6th May. We consider that it is just a little early to hold face to face meetings, so we have decided to hold both virtually whilst we are still legally allowed to do so.

Pavilion Redecorating

Our decorator, Piotr Gawor (Peter) has been hard at work in the pavilion for nearly three weeks now. He will be finished soon. He is doing a fantastic job and we are delighted with both his hard work, skill and attention to detail. We have a very smart pavilion.

David Crossley. Chairman

The next meetings of the Churt Parish Council and Recreation Ground Trust will take place on Weds 14th April 2021 at 7.30pm. These meetings will be conducted by virtual means.