

ChalCAN CG Meeting Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30pm at The Parish Centre.

Present: Jim Boccock (JB) (Chair), Liz Baldwin (LB) Hilary Burgess (HB) Liam Nolan (LN)

Kate Arnold - Administrator

Apologies: Katherine Dalton (KD) Grace O'Donovan G'OD) Andy Williams (AW) David Wood (DW)

- 1) Administrator Vacancy – KA has been offered and accepted the role of Parish Clerk. This means that KA won't be able to continue ChalCAN administration and so there is a vacancy for the Administrator position. Given the synergies between the PC and ChalCAN, the idea of bringing the ChalCAN role back within the PC was discussed. There were some reservations about this, and concern was raised regarding the timescale of recruitment as this could mean a delay in getting someone new into role. Following a lengthy discussion, it was agreed to approach the PC to express an interest and gauge initial thoughts, a decision can then be made as to whether to advertise independently. **Action: KA to email the Finance and Management Committee and advise CG.**
- 2) Minutes of last meeting/actions arising. Group leads have provided the names of their 'active' supporters. KA to update mailing lists: KA to look for email from JB. **Action: KA.**  
AW still to return 4 postie mates. **Action: AW**  
KA contacted the head of citizenship at TK, who has forwarded our email to the Head and two horticulture teachers, we wait to hear more.  
Bussage School have responded to our email confirming that they would love to work with ChalCAN and would look forward to meeting with JB. KA has put JB in touch with Andy Ferguson. **Action: JB to e-mail Andy Ferguson to arrange meeting.** HB attended the CAN Forum. The main message was about youth engagement and best practises to encourage this. There is a local project called 'seed', this will provide training for students and teachers and will include whole school development projects.
- 3) Energy plans/update – LN provided an update. Despite everyone's best efforts, a meeting was unachievable this month. AW is currently very busy with other engagements, so LN is happy to handle energy survey enquiries in AW's absence. AW has contacted the Frith Youth Centre Administrator about carrying out an energy survey. LN will follow this up. A few residents have contacted KA to ask when they will be contacted about an energy survey. Richard Dean has contacted one resident about this. **Action: KA to forward details to LN.** LN will send an updated list of residents that have expressed an interest so that we can ensure no-one has been missed. **Action: LN/KA.** LN is providing wording for the FB post about the findings of the energy surveys which have been carried out so far and to provide tips about roof insulation. **Action: LN/KA.** No further information regarding the solar farm at this stage.
- 4) Biodiversity plans/update – Plans are underway with Nature Street. Lindsey has designed flyers which have been printed and are ready to deliver to the residents of Sycamore Grove, Middle Hill. Contact will also be made with the developer, Greensquare to discuss the ongoing maintenance of the green spaces within the development. **Action: KA** to provide a contact at Greensquare. On the 18<sup>th</sup> March, there is a workshop about ponds, this is being held in association with Stroud Valleys Project. In April Biodiversity are taking part in a joint

community walk held with the transport group, date tbc but the 29<sup>th</sup> April would be the preferred date. This will be held early in the morning not quite in time for the dawn chorus! but could be called the 'early bird walk'! **Action: HB to contact KD to confirm date.**

Tree planting – everyone present agreed to the purchase of 5 additional trees which are to be planted in Bussage Pleasure Ground. 12 trees were planted previously, one was vandalised and the other 4 make up the 18 that were initially agreed by the PC. These will be ordered asap to ensure that planting can be carried out. **Action: JB to contact Carole Clayton. JB to liaise with LB to confirm payment details.** Website: some of the information on the Biodiversity page needs updating, as two of the links have never worked. Also need to look at the QR code. **Action: JB to provide KA with more detail in order to rectify this.**

- 5) Transport plans/update - KD was unable to attend so an update was circulated prior to the meeting (attached). Everything is on target with the installation of the bike racks. The last walk was well attended with around 15 people. The next walk is Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> March. The next walk in April tbc as detailed above. The visit to Chalford Hill Primary School that JB and HB did regarding parking/traffic went well. Parking and congestion remain an ongoing problem. Leaflets were handed out to parents.
- 6) Finance Update – LB circulated a treasurers report prior to the meeting. There is some upcoming expenditure for Rowan trees, energy surveys and bike racks. There is currently £10,000 in the bank, £7,000 in reserve and £3,000 which is not earmarked for anything (after tree expenditure this will be £2,500). A request needs to be made to the PC F&M committee for a grant. LB to draft and send to the group leads, once finalised this will be sent to the Clerk. **Action:LB**
- 7) BBB Completion Date Review – All projects are well underway, but it seems sensible to request extending the deadline as they are taking a bit longer to complete than originally anticipated. Everyone was in agreement to request an extension of 6 months, which would mean the completion date would be 1<sup>st</sup> July 2024. LB will draft a request and send this to GCC BBB project team. **Action: LB**
- 8) Food & Waste Group Re-Launch update – After advertising for people to get involved to help re-launch the F&W group, ten people made contact. A meeting was held on the 6<sup>th</sup> March at The Parish Centre, unfortunately not as many people could attend as originally hoped, but everyone who expressed an interest would like to be kept updated and they hope to attend the next meeting. JB will write an update for KA to circulate to everyone who contacted us, it was agreed to ask each person which particular area they are interested in. Consideration needs to be given as to whether it may be better to separate the food and waste groups. A second meeting in the evening will be arranged to discuss further. **Action; JB/KA.**
- 9) Chair for next 3 months – Everyone in attendance has been chair for a period of time, and due to other commitments no one who was present felt that they were in a position to chair again at the moment. It was agreed to ask AW and DW if they would consider this. **Action: JB to contact AW/DW.**

10) Big Green Week – GBGW is 10<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> June this year. HB has drafted a letter to send to community groups to see how they can get involved. Everyone agreed we should contact local groups. There is an excel spreadsheet with all contact details of local groups. **Action: HB to send KA draft letter. KA to speak to Penny Starr to see where this is saved.** Biodiversity will be holding a stall at the garden trail near to where the tickets are sold. They will be giving a composting demonstration. Banners could be purchased, HB will look into this further and will feedback on costs. Transport will be getting the bus to Stroud Brewery and will be walking back through Brownshill. The Energy Group will give this some consideration when they next meet. There could be a link with Friends of Frithwood.

**11)** Newsletter – Time is quite tight for the next deadline on the newsletters. KA is short of time so HB will assist with the collating of information and submission of newsletters. John Seex is going to write a piece about a food sharing initiative which he is looking to start up, connecting with the local food bank. LN will put some wording together about roof insulation. Biodiversity, JB will write about ‘nature street’ and unusual nature events. **Action: KA, HB, LN, JB.**

AOB/Date of next meeting.

A fairly new resident to Chalford visited the Parish Centre and spoke to KA. During the conversation KA asked if the resident would be interested in an energy survey. This was of interest, so once KA has full details she will forward to LN to make contact. The resident also has a keen interest in dark skies. KA has asked JB to contact the resident to discuss further as he may like to ‘join’ ChalCAN. **Action: KA, LN, JB.**

Chalfest; what do we want to do about a stall? Add to April agenda.

Date of the next meeting is Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30pm.