



## **CHAIRMAN'S QUARTERLY REVIEW**

The free micro-chipping event, organised with The Dogs Trust in January, attracted over 40 dogs and their owners. Over £70 was raised for the charity by donations and the sale of tea, coffee and light refreshments.

The recent Sunday afternoon open events welcomed residents to see firsthand the renovation work carried out at the pavilion. I thank all who took the opportunity to attend, and those who met Cllrs and gave their views, opinions and comments on the future of the Pavilion, the rural bus services and the new play equipment for young teenagers. The remodelling and refurbishment of the Pavilion was, without exception, met with positive comment. The support for the age- and ability-appropriate play equipment for teenagers was overwhelming compared to other suggestions, and endorsed not only the Parish Council's decision regarding its need in the community but also its decision to pre-emptively seek funding. I would therefore like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who was involved in ensuring this success, particularly those community groups and individuals that supported the Parish Council. The installation date for the youth play equipment is scheduled for w/c 10<sup>th</sup> March 2014 so please take extra care at the recreation ground during this time. It is hoped that the increase in free-to-play equipment, together with better facilities and the increase in available floor space at the Pavilion, will encourage wider community use. For more information, or to book the pavilion, please refer to the council's website at [www.cheveley-pc.org.uk](http://www.cheveley-pc.org.uk) or contact the Clerk.

For the third year running, Cheveley has been successful in its bid for Minor Highways Improvement monies from Cambridgeshire County Council. Last year's project, to provide a village sign and flashing speed indicator lights near the school, is underway. This year's "Project B1063" has been successful in obtaining an award of £10,000 to reduce speeds through Cheveley on the B1063 (Ashley Rd & Newmarket Rd) from 40 to 30mph, plus other safety improvements along this stretch of road. Project B1063 will now move to technical and costing phases over the summer months. The anticipated costs for this project are believed to be in the order of £20,000. The Parish Council's contribution will be 10% up to the first £10,000 (£1,000) and thereafter the shortfall will be made from S106 monies held for transport infrastructure improvements in the Parish. Other than the 10% contribution there will be no additional financial burden placed on the ratepayers of Cheveley Parish. Once completed, these improvements should not only increase general road safety but make residents along this stretch of road feel less isolated from the main village. The Council continues to pursue active community initiatives and ambitious governance goals, and a summary of the major achievements to date is set out below:



## **Internal governance and policy changes, Compliance to Legislation and Good Practice:**

Adoption of numerous policies and procedures to regularise Council activities; Legal compliance to FOI and Data Protection Legislation (non-compliant since 1998); Commitment to becoming an "eligible" parish council (enables Council to use the General Power of Competence for the benefit of the community); Clerk remunerated to Nationally agreed levels; Introduction of electronic asset register database and an Accounting package (replacing old spreadsheets - in progress); Cllr training and education programmes; Quarterly Newsletters to every household; Updated website to include non-parish council community service and news; Correction of financial errors in the use of S137 monies for the Rayes and Reeves Charity; and resolving confusion about the charitable status of the Cheveley Pavilion and Recreation Ground.

**Automated External Defibrillator:** An AED has been installed at the Pavilion. This equipment may save a life if someone has a heart attack.

## **Support (Financial & non financial) to the following groups, organisations, volunteers and events:**

Cheveley Sports Club, Cheveley Primary School (and PT&FA), British Legion (Poppy Appeal, car boot sale & dog show), Dogs Trust, MAGPAS, Victim Support, Heartbeat, Voluntary Network, URC Tennis Club, Speedwatch (MHI), Tree Warden, First Responders, Cemetery, End of Holiday's Shin Dig, Private functions and Public Consultations.

## **Pavilion (and Recreation Ground):**

In addition to the AED, football goalposts have been installed; Compliant fire protection measures; Food safety certification (5 star – highest level); Essential remedial repairs; Returning Recreation Ground back to PC control; Refurbishment of external toilets at Pavilion - opened and maintained during summer months (Big Society Loo Ladies); Premises Licences for Pavilion/Recreation Ground; Wall restoration; BBQ installation; Ground maintenance to improved standards including pitch & track marking; Provision of dog fowl and improved general litter bins; Seats and benching at recreation ground.

## **Grants successfully applied for:**

MHI 2011 (Lines, junction Park Rd and School Close); MHI 2012 (Flashing speed indicators and new sign Park Rd; Flashing speed indicator, High St); MHI 2013 (speed reduction measures at Broomstick corner); Remodelling of pavilion £8K; Teenager equipment 28K; S106 monies.

### Other activities:

Refurbishment and reuse of telephone boxes (High St); Regular ground maintenance and caretaking service in Parish, cemetery and recreation ground; Public consultations including Local Development Framework, Rural Transport, Pavilion and recreation use and sustainability; teenager equipment; Street Light replacement programme to current standard; Community oil buying - Average price per litre last quarter 55.95p. If you wish to join and save on your fuel costs please contact Cllr Humphries, Scheme Co-ordinator, for details.

### Proposed activities for 2014:

Accessibility compliance at Recreation Ground including toilets (external and internal, with further modifications to RHS Pavilion); Social & Entertainments Committee to steer activities needs and use of the Pavilion in 2014.

All these achievements remind me that most worthwhile things are rarely achieved without a struggle, but as Einstein said: "You never fail until you stop trying." The Council's success is built on the persistence, perseverance and dedication of its staff and Cllr members and also the support of volunteers and residents. I thank the quiet majority of residents that continues to provide persuasive evidence of support for this Council and its activities.

The Annual Parish Meeting (APM) is on 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2014 at 7pm in the community rooms of Cheveley Primary School. Please note that whilst parish Cllrs may be in attendance and, if present, I as Chairman will be in the Chair for the meeting, **this is not a parish council meeting**. Cllrs attend as residents of the parish. The Council will present information but is only one of the participants, along with invited organisations, guests and speakers. District and County Cllrs will also be there to make presentations. Residents are reminded that the McCalmont Cup is awarded at the APM to a parish resident who has demonstrated significant community spirit or achievement. I would request that nominations, with supporting reasons, are submitted to the Clerk on or before Friday 28<sup>th</sup> March. The Council will review the nominations at its April 2014 meeting and decide who will be named the worthy recipient.

This quarter, the Council completes its Annual Financial Return for 2013-14 and looks forward to the start of those projects approved in the budgeting and planning processes in late 2013. Council then looks forward to a well-deserved summer break.

*The Chairman, Cheveley Parish Council*

## ACTIVITIES, UPDATES AND INITIATIVES AT THE PAVILION & RECREATION GROUND

**Children and parents already know Alex Buxton** of 1st Steps through his involvement with Cheveley Primary School. Alex will, in conjunction with the Council, be continuing the after school activity sessions on Friday afternoons commencing 25th April 2014, so there is every expectation for a smooth continuation of the activities.

Council understands that the children were keen to see the major use of the recreation ground facilities continue this year. In addition, at the request of parents, the Council's arrangements with 1st Steps will also allow the activities to continue throughout the school holiday period. It is not just that the children enjoy themselves; the outside activity has health benefits for them as well.

Council is also proposing that after the activity sessions the bar will be open for parental refreshments when the children will be able to play, not only on the existing play equipment, but also the new play equipment which is currently being installed.

Council remains committed to increasing active and financially sustainable use of the Pavilion. Questionnaires in regards to its future from the recent Sunday open afternoons proved very useful. The results will be used to target activities, as well as to inform and steer the Parish Council in its decision-making processes. Facilities have recently been further improved with a combination oven that, together with other basic kitchen equipment, allows hot snacks to be served.

In 2014 Council will concentrate on accessibility at the pavilion, security at the car park entrance and the toilet facilities. The five-year refurbishment of the antique perimeter wall will recommence this summer so we have a busy year ahead. If you have any fun ideas or wish to volunteer for the Social & Entertainments Committee please contact the Clerk.

### Proposed and confirmed events:

| EVENTS  | Dates   | Details  |
|---|---|--|
| Afternoon recreation and (sports) fun sessions for 7-13 year olds | Friday after school from 25 <sup>th</sup> April 2014 (3:15pm to 4:30pm) | Alex Buxton of 1stStepSports in charge – cost £1 per child session |
| Friday evening social sessions                                    | TBC   | bar [5-7pm] <b>Fish-&amp;-Chip</b> van                             |
| Film and IT club  | Sat morning TBC   | Volunteers wanted  |
| Frankie Harris Fairs  | W/c 9 <sup>th</sup> June 2014   | children's fairground rides  |
| Opening ceremony new play equipment                               | TBC   |  |
| Dog Show – with British Legion                                    | TBC   | Volunteers wanted  |

East Cambs District Council has listened and residents can with immediate effect apply to have an extra **GARDEN WASTE ONLY** bin. These bins will be issued **under license** by the Council for an **annual fee of £48**.

To order or discuss an additional garden waste bin please call Customer Services on 01353 665555. Payment can be made over the phone by Credit or Debit card. (Please note there is a 2.5% charge for payment by credit card.)