



Charlbury Town Council News

Contact: **Lisa Wilkinson, Town Clerk**
07311 259412 / clerk@charlbury-tc.gov.uk
c/o Corner House, Market Street,
Charlbury, OX7 3PN
<https://charlbury-tc.gov.uk/>

New playground equipment

A **ground-level trampoline and a rope pyramid** have been installed at Nine Acres using funding from the FCC Communities Foundation. User-feedback suggests that this is a welcome addition to the playground, especially for older children.

A resident has suggested that we could do more to **promote activities for older girls at Nine Acres**. If you (or a daughter) have an interest in helping us develop plans, please contact the Town Clerk.



Bus it!

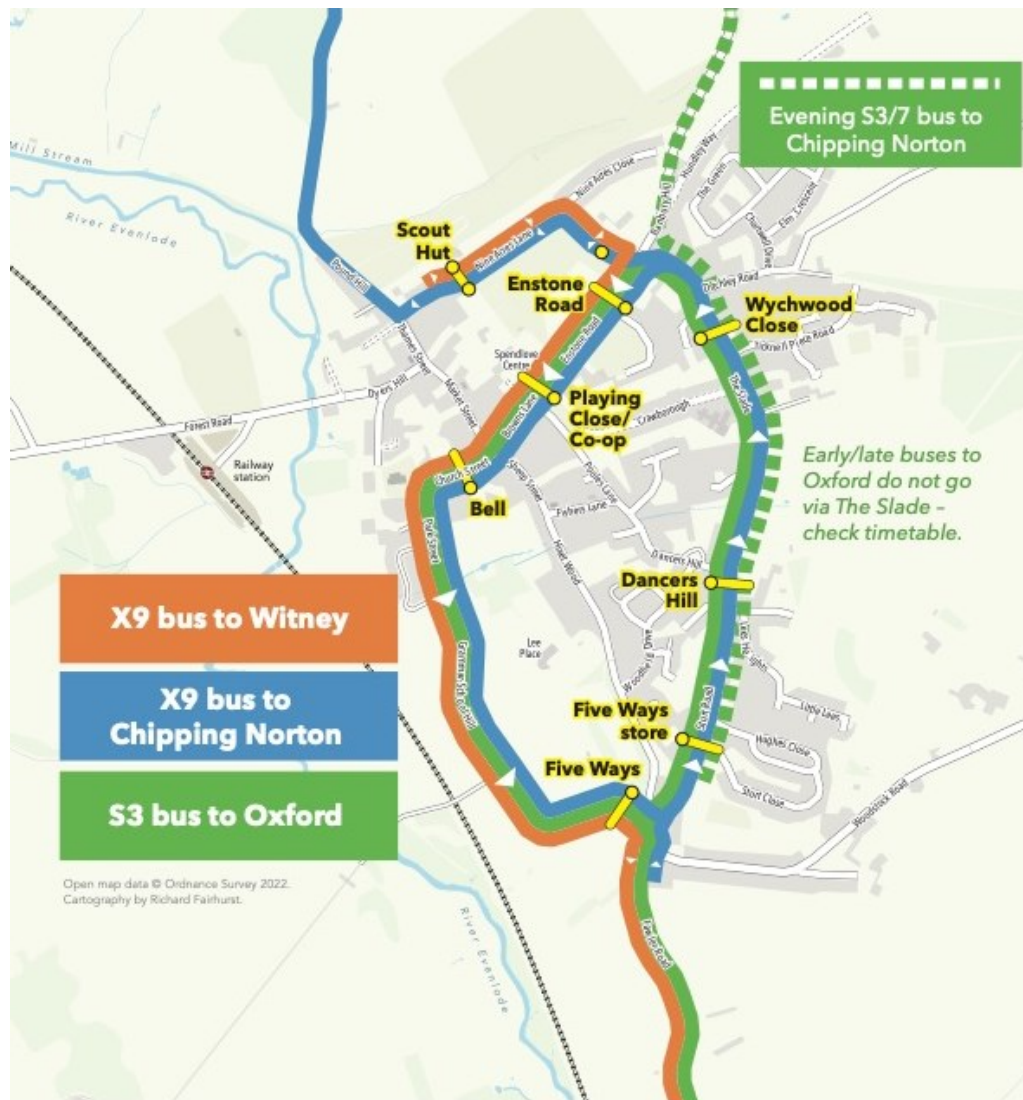
Did you know that under a Government scheme, Stagecoach (which operates the S3 and 7 services) is capping fares at **£2 for single journeys until 31 March 2023**? Just get on the bus and ask for a single fare.

Did you know that from Charlbury there are **9 buses to Witney and 14 buses to Oxford every day**? We are really lucky to have these services which are a lifeline, especially for older and younger residents. Buses also make sense for evenings out in Chippy, Woodstock and Oxford.

Did you know that you can now **pay by card** on X9 as well as S3/7 buses?

Did you know that Charlbury bus services are subsidised by Oxfordshire County Council until August 2024? If we want them to continue after that, we need to **make sure we use them now – or we will lose them.**

Did you know that you can check the **local bus routes and times** at oxontime.com and bustimes.org? For more info, visit <https://charlbury-tc.gov.uk/buses/>.



BUS IT!

<https://charlbury-tc.gov.uk/buses/>



Traffic

We are very pleased so far with the **build-out** on Banbury Hill, which requires drivers who are entering the town to give way to traffic leaving. This is a proven way of slowing cars as they enter town and we will use the Speedwatch speed cameras to check the effectiveness of this intervention. If it works, we could consider installing similar build-outs at other entrances to the town.

The town has also benefitted from the marking of **double-yellow lines** in areas where on-street parking interfered with the safe movement of traffic, for example on the bend by the Pre-School on Grammar School Hill and at the junction of Thames St and Nine Acres. We hope that these measures make it easier to get around town.



Our 20mph speed limit survey at the end of 2022 showed that 77.5% of respondents were in favour of a **town-wide 20mph speed limit**. We have therefore asked the County Council to implement a 20mph speed limit across the whole town.

A second Town Council survey about the possibility of installing of a **zebra crossing** on The Slade just north of Crawborough (outside the school) was also well-received, with 91.5% support from 201 responses. The role of Pauline, our school crossing patrol officer (AKA lollipop lady), would not be affected by this scheme. Pauline would continue to work from the zebra crossing at school start and end times. We have asked the County Council to

progress this safety improvement as well. We can expect formal consultations on a town-wide 20mph and the zebra crossing in the coming months.

Cost of living

The Town Council is working with Cornerstone, the Community Centre and ATIC to provide cost of living information. There is a wealth of **practical advice and helpful information** on our website at <https://charlbury-tc.gov.uk/cost-of-living-support/>.

Council tax

The Town Council's precept (the amount of your council tax that is allocated specifically to the Town Council) will **stay the same for 2023–24** as the rate for the current year (2022–23):-£94.22 for a Band D property.

Low-carbon homes

The Town Council's Buildings group is managing a project called the Home Comforts Project which aims to produce 'whole-house' plans for 10 different house types in Charlbury. A whole-house plan tells a homeowner where energy is being lost throughout their home and which measures can most effectively eliminate the energy loss.

Save the date! The Home Comforts Project is planning an **Open Homes event on 1st April**. It will allow interested residents to view homes that have had significant work done to make them more energy efficient.

Land and nature group

The LNG has met on a regular basis to progress, amongst other schemes, their **Nature Recovery Plan** (NRP). The NRP is based on local knowledge, data and engagement with landowners, land managers and residents, to expand, improve and connect wildlife-rich habitats.

The LNG organised a second training day for **hedgerow surveys**, this one on Hundley Way, led by Wild Oxfordshire. The data is uploaded to the TVERC (Thames Environmental Records Centre) website. The day was a good example of citizen science data collection which is important for the NRP. Recent work in collaboration with the Wychwood Forest Trust, is developing a strategy for the collection of both species and habitat data across the four parishes of the NRP. A start will be made with fixed butterfly transects at Wigwell this summer.

Skilled volunteers from the Cotswold Voluntary Wardens (CVWs), working with OCC, have been carrying out essential tree management work **at Centenary Wood**. At the start of the Christmas holidays, they also coppiced the 30-year-old multi-stemmed hazel at Charlbury Primary School growing in the enclosure by the pond. This will allow more light in to the pond and surrounding area.

A key aspect of the NRP will be **working collaboratively with landowners/managers**. A delegation to Ollie Stobo's farm between Fawler and Stonesfield will discuss the challenges he faces as a mixed farm in the current economic conditions and the opportunities for working with him to deliver some of the longer-term plans emerging from the NRP. There will be further visits with other farms/estates this year.

Community engagement and understanding of the state of our natural environment are also vital features of successful nature recovery and with this in mind, a wide-ranging **Citizen Science Saturday** event is planned for Saturday 22nd April in Charlbury and at the Wigwell Nature Reserve. This is a collaborative effort between the Evenlode Catchment Partnership, Wychwood Forest Trust the Town Council's LNG and the Wigwell Friends. You can find out more about this event in a separate article in this edition of the Chronicle.

Annual Parish Meeting

This year's **Annual Parish Meeting** is on **Friday 21st April** at the Memorial Hall (time t.b.c.). See exhibits from the council and local organisations. Come and hear all about what the council has been up to and ask us anything you want to over a glass of wine (or a soft drink) and cheese. Guest speakers to be confirmed. Don't miss our Honoured Citizens Award presentations.

Boundary Walk

The **Annual Parish Boundary Walk** will take place on Rogation **Sunday, 14th May**. This is a chance to walk the boundary along paths not normally open to the public, by kind permission of the landowners. It starts at 10am at the Boundary Oak – the old oak tree at the top of Forest Road (B4437 to Burford), nearly a mile past the railway station. The walk is about 11 miles in total and takes about 6 hours including a break for lunch at Model Farm, Ditchley, for which we are very grateful to Rob and Maxine Hobill. We need volunteers for stewarding and chauffeuring on the day – if you can help, please contact the Town Clerk.

Charlbury alerts

Join our **email alert system** to be notified about what's happening at Charlbury Town Council and any urgent news in the town. To be added to the Charlbury Alert System, we need your consent. Please fill in your details at charlbury-tc.gov.uk/welcome-to-charlbury-alerts/. We look forward to keeping you up to date!

Cllr James Styring