

Correspondence Feb 22

1. CRAG new resettlement group

Dear Liz

I hope you are thriving!

I am currently part of a group that is being formed under the umbrella of CRAG with the intention of sponsoring and supporting (for an initial period of two years) a refugee family to live here in Charlbury .

We wanted to alert seminal members of the community to our intentions and I am writing to you as chair to ask for the council's support.

Angela Gwatkin is leading the project.

We aim to hold a brief initial meeting soon (probably online) with key community figures and I would hope that with you or a representative of the council might be happy to attend.

Sincerely

Nick

Nicholas Parker

2. Friends of West Oxfordshire Cotswolds

Dear Town Councillors

In case you are not aware we would like to flag the latest conditions release application for Rushy Bank and in particular to again highlight issues relating to the future of the woodland. While we understand the Town Council is not formally consulted, it is free to make comment on the application.

Since our last letter and the last application the woodland has been clear-felled under a felling licence which requires that the woodland is replanted. The partial tree survey and landscaping plan which have been submitted with the conditions applications have disclosed that the woodland overlapped the development site and that several of the dwellings were planned on the rootzones of trees around the woodland edge. Although the felling has been justified as woodland management, these plans have confirmed that it was a requirement for the development. The woodland edge has been completely razed and we have been alerted to the felling of at least one overhanging oak which was not sanctioned under the felling licence. We have attached some photographs.

The application was originally consented without a tree survey or a landscaping proposal. It was also consented with a 5m grass buffer to the adjoining woodland even though the Local Plan and Natural England advice required a minimum 15m tree planted buffer to ancient woodland. Review of the application's detail show that both the applicant and the district council were aware of the ancient woodland status of the site.

The plans submitted with the conditions applications indicate that allowance was never made in the layout even for a 5m buffer and propose that sections of the grass buffer are placed within the edge of a felled woodland which is supposed to be replanted. We have attached two plans indicating the woodland loss. To put this loss into context National Planning Policy requires that loss or deterioration of ancient woodland should only be permitted in wholly exceptional circumstances, "For example, infrastructure projects (including nationally significant infrastructure projects, orders under the Transport and Works Act and hybrid bills)".

The development's conditions included the retention of all trees, some of which have been felled, and approval of a satisfactory landscaping plan and buffer proposal. At the same time the landscape setting of the proposed development has been changed by the felling of the woodland screen and backdrop: WODC's Forestry and Landscape officer has acknowledged that this undermines the applicant's landscape assessment.

We look forward to Councillors' comments.

Yours sincerely

James Whitehead

Jim Clemence

David Pollock

3. Thank you very much for letting me know that the Town Council has agreed a grant of £150 for ATIC towards the cost of taking its work forward in 2022/23.

The Town Council's ongoing support is very much appreciated. Please pass our thanks to the Councillors.

Yours sincerely,

Meryl Smith

4. Dear Lisa,

Thank you very much for letting me know that the Town Council has agreed a grant of £75 towards the work of Dementia Friendly Charlbury in 2022/23.

The Town Council's ongoing support for our work is much appreciated. Please pass our thanks to the Council Members.

Yours sincerely,

Meryl Smith

- 5.

Carolyn Connolly	Objection to Ivy House planning application
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On behalf of ourselves - David & Carolyn Connolly, Coopers Cottage and Jenny Jones of the Coach House both in Priory Lane, adjacent to the garden entrance of Ivy House, also in Priory Lane. We wish to make strong representation to The Town Council against the proposed planning application 22/00043/HHD which we understand should be discussed at tonight's 24/01/2022 meeting. This application concerns the proposed substantial alterations to the existing flat roof garage. This will severely impact on both our properties in particular the creation of a pitched roof. This will result in loss of views within the conservation area, as well as loss of light to the North and West of both properties. The plans also give no indication as to the height or ground level of the proposed garage structure which appear to be much higher than the existing building. We have been informed that when the existing garage was built in 1979/80 that planning was granted on the condition that it was constructed with a flat roof.

We will of course be opposing and submitting objections to the Planning Authority.

We trust that these views will be presented to the Town Council when this proposal is discussed.

6.

Andrew Marlow	Complaint about gravel on Mill Lane
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Hello I'm Andrew Marlow from Ticknell Piece Road Charlbury please can I ask what's happening on the millfield as diggers are here also I have a complaint as I disabled person who has to use an electronic wheelchair I can no longer fish the river along the millfield as the new gravel put down on the lane is too deep for my wheelchair and I get stuck so now I'm forced to only fish the cricket club side I'm not happy about this

7.

Deeo Smith	Painting skate ramps
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I was at the skate park the other day with some friends, and saw the spray paint on there was very faded, which made it look a bit bland. So I was wondering if there are any guidelines or rules in which we should go about it. We are thinking of putting big pieces by the ramps and some smaller tags and smaller pieces on the general floor and painting the rail. Could you please let me know if there are any rules in which we have to keep in mind.

Similar to what Deeo is suggesting:





8.

Rural Services Network	Local Councillor Panels - Rural Vulnerable Young and Older People
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Dear RMTG member,

We are establishing two virtual panels from our Rural Market Town Group, one with a focus on Young People in Rural Areas and one with a focus on Older People in Rural Areas. We would be grateful if you could nominate a Councillor from your Local Council that has an interest in each of these issues, it may be the same Councillor or a different one for each panel. This involvement would require them to participate in filling out a few online surveys in the future.

Focus on Young and Older People in Rural Areas

[At our previous RMTG meeting](#) we committed to further explore the topic of Young and Older People in Rural Areas. Both of these groups have been affected by the cutbacks resulting from years of financial austerity before Covid and the pandemic will only have worsened that situation.

Many services in rural areas have been reduced, or discontinued and this can result in greater risk of these groups becoming more vulnerable. Lack of viable public transport options, difficulties accessing health and care support services and poor connectivity all exacerbate this situation. We would like to set up a list of a nominated contacts for each Local Council for Young People and Older People respectively to form Virtual Panels. These representatives will not necessarily be the appointed representative but will be the Councillors who have a specific interest in Young or Older People.

What will these virtual panels do and how will they work?

While we do work with other National bodies and organisations exploring the challenges facing Young and Older People in rural areas we would greatly appreciate input from those who are actually in the local communities. We appreciate that your time is limited, however we are keen to understand the issues facing both groups from a local perspective. Therefore, to gain invaluable insight from you we propose to send online surveys to nominated Councillors (a maximum of 3 surveys per year). These online surveys would be easy and would take a maximum of 5-10 minutes to complete. The input provided by the Councillors via these surveys would be invaluable as it would provide us with real local knowledge and opinions to help inform our national campaigning – [Revitalising Rural](#).

How you local councillor can get involved?

If you wish to be a part of the virtual vulnerability panel on young and/or older people in rural areas (or know a councillor at your local authority that would be interested), we would be grateful if you could complete the short survey below which asks you to provide nominated councillor names and their contact details. The contact details collected will be used in the future to get in touch with relevant surveys and information.

[Please click here to complete the survey](#)

Please note that by completing any of our surveys your contact details will be maintained in accordance with GDPR and Data Protection Regulations.

Andrew Marlow	Access to Mill Field
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I was out today for four hours didn't get a single bite again I honestly think the river should be restocked with lots of species of fish also I believe in certain places there should be holes dug in the river for fish to hide and have shallow place's to spawn also

Amanda Epps	Small priority post-box being replaced with larger one
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After receiving a negative reply from Royal Mail about the size of the box, I emailed our MP and today received a copy of the reply.

They have agreed to replace the box with a larger one but it may take 12-16 weeks to do so, which begs the question of what happens in the meantime.

In my view they should give the town another box in a more central location, such as Market Street.