

Chiddingly Parish Council

Linda Fittal: I was very sorry to hear of Linda Fittal's passing a few weeks ago. Linda was very concerned and active member of the community, and served as a Parish Councillor for a number of years. In her time on the council she was responsible for Neighbourhood Watch and running the regular Village Clean-Up Days. She was missed when she stood down from the council and will be missed even more now she is no longer with us. Our thoughts go out to her husband, Dave, and her family.

Community Land Trust: There is a proposal by Tony Penrose to re-develop the redundant farm yard at Willets Farm in Muddles Green for housing. You may have seen some early proposals at the Annual Parish Assembly back in May. The plans have yet to be finalised and submitted for planning approval. Tony has agreed in principle to make some of the houses available to a Community Land Trust so they may be rented by local people or bought on an equity share basis (part-purchase). At its September meeting the parish council will discuss whether or not to support the formation of a Community Land Trust to manage these properties on behalf of the community as a whole.

At the time of writing I don't know what the Parish Council will decide.

By the time you read this a decision will have been made. If the council decides to support the formation of a trust we will be calling a public meeting in the near future and asking for volunteers to come forward to form the Community Land Trust.

A Community Land Trust would be independent of the Parish Council, run by a group of volunteers as a non-profit making organisation to purchase and manage property on behalf of the community. Funding is available for housing for those in housing need, and the policies determining who could apply to rent or part-buy such properties would be entirely under the control of the Trust, and hence the local community.

Details about Community Land Trusts (CLTs) can be found at <http://www.communitylandtrusts.org.uk/>

Village Roads: After what seems like years of complaints to East Sussex County Council (ESCC) about the state of the roads in the parish, not only the potholes, but those places where whole sections of the road are subsiding (Stalkers Lane, Broomham Lane, and the junction of Smithlands Lane and The Hale) or where the road surface has fragmented and partly disappeared (Nash Street between Thunders Hill and The Gun is the worst, but there are plenty of other examples), I hope we are finally making some progress. We have started regular meetings with ESCC Highways, and at the first of these discovered that the Highways Steward (to whom we were directed to report all problems) is only responsible for potholes. He was reporting larger problems upwards. We are now in contact with the team that are responsible for re-surfacing and rebuilding roads and will, shortly, be meeting their representatives on-site. I'll report on those meetings when they have happened.

Mike Goss, Chairman, mike.goss@chiddingly.gov.uk or chairman@chiddingly.gov.uk

And should you want to email the whole council you can use council@chiddingly.gov.uk

Claudine Feltham, Clerk to the Parish Council, 01435 810439, clerk@chiddingly.gov.uk

Talk To Us: If you have any questions or comments please ask any councillor or the clerk. You will find a councillor in the village shop on the third Saturday of the month 10-11am, or at the Saturday Morning Market in the Village Hall on the first Saturday of the month 10-12noon . You may also find a councillor or three on most Friday evenings in the Six Bells around 7pm.