

# Chelveston-cum-Caldecott News

Parish Council & Village News – April & May 2025

**Local Elections:** Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> May is Polling Day and you will be voting for the new Councillors on both the Chelveston-cum-Caldecott Parish Council (8 candidates for 7 seats) and the North Northants Council (11 candidates for 2 seats) for the next 4 year term.

Firstly, a big thank you to the 8 community minded residents who have put themselves up to face the public ballot (Poll). We are one of only 23 Town and Parish Councils in the whole of Northants that attracted sufficient candidates to have a Poll.

Inevitably one person won't make it, but if a vacancy occurs mid-term, that candidate will be first on the list for co-option.

Secondly, a reminder that if you are voting in person at the Village Hall (between 7am – 10pm), please remember to bring some ID with you.

As always, the Parish Council encourages you to use your hard won democratic right to vote. Who you vote for is up to you!

**Chelston Rise defibrillator:** This is now live, thanks to a 75% grant from the Michael and Christine Foulger Charitable Trust towards the heated cabinet installation costs. This means there is now a defibrillator in all three settlements.

**Children's size Hi-Viz:** Many parents bring their children along to the Environment team's regular litter pick events. Accordingly, the Parish Council has purchased some colourful children's sizes, supported by a Member Empowerment Fund grant from a NNC Cllr (*alas, the pre-election publicity restrictions mean that we can't name the NNC Cllr*).

**Allotments:** We have three plots available for local residents (please contact the Clerk if interested).

**Grass cutting:** At the February meeting, the Parish Council considered the bids for the parish grass cutting contract, and awarded it to Mowerman again, being the contractor who offered the most cuts for the lowest price.

**Bidwell Lane:** Following a request from the Parish Council, Northants Highways have finally erected "Unsuitable for HGV" signs at the B645 end of Bidwell Lane, due to the narrow width of the lane.

**Annual Parish Assembly:** This will take place on **Monday 28<sup>th</sup> April at 7:30pm** in the Village Hall. It will include the regular reports from the Parish Council, a candidate or two looking for your vote, and an update from the local consortium wanting to take on the lease of the *Star & Garter* (TBC).

**CRE and the proposed new access road off the B645:** If you haven't seen this one yet, go the planning pages of the NNC website and search for [NE/25/00220/FUL](#).

The Parish Council is aware that views are mixed, often depending on where one resides. Some of the views expressed so far are -

For

- Some residents of Chelston Rise may benefit from the HGVs being moved away.
- Some Caldecott residents may benefit from not having the ~700 car journeys of workers passing through the hamlet each morning / evening.
- Traffic turning right into Caldecott Road will be safer (less chance of being rear-ended whilst stationary on the bend waiting to turn).
- Traffic on the Higham Road forced to slow down.

Against

- Some Caldecott residents will see and / or hear the traffic more, and be more affected by the construction works.
- Proposed new road runs through good quality (class 2 and 3a) agricultural land.
- Increased risk of pedestrian-vehicle collision for users of footway MM15 (popular with dog walkers) and the B645 crossing.
- New access road makes the (consented) development of CEIP next to Chelston Rise more likely to go ahead.
- Risk of the new road becoming a "drag strip" for motorbikes / performance cars during summer evenings / weekends.

Due to a technical issue, nearly 2/3<sup>rd</sup> of the consultation documents were not available on the NNC website for the first week of the consultation.

The Parish Council formally complained to NNC and it has been agreed that the issue may have prevented some applicants from responding without the full details. Accordingly the consultation period will either be re-run or extended (not yet decided at the time of printing).

Whilst the Parish Council will consider its formal response at its regular meeting at **7:30pm on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> April**, it has also made the Village Hall available for a **residents' meeting on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> April at 7:30pm**.

Regardless of whether you are for or against, you are strongly recommended to let NNC know your views – email [planning.enc@northnorthants.gov.uk](mailto:planning.enc@northnorthants.gov.uk) with the subject line NE/25/00220/FUL.

**Next Issue:** The June & July issue of the Newsletter should be delivered in the first week of June, so if you want to publicise a parish event, please let me know before the end of May.

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## Events – April & May 2025

**The Parish Church of St. John the Baptist** (contact Arthur Wright - 624530).

There is a communion service **every Sunday morning at 9am.**

Snowdrop Weekend was a resounding success in mid-February and we are most grateful for all the helpers. The churchyard was a picture of snowdrops and aconites for the many visitors to enjoy together with our usual refreshments over the two days. We are also very grateful for the support of all the visitors from far and wide without whom the snowdrop event would not be as successful, enabling us to make significant charitable donations.

We were pleased to welcome recently the grandson and family of a former American pilot who flew from Chelveston in the war and found them most interested in our continuous remembrance of them.

The Knit and Natter group continues to grow and would welcome new members on the **4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month at 1pm** in the church.

Arthur Wright & Andrew Wager, Churchwardens

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### **WeightWatchers comes to Chelveston:**

A new wellness and well-being class has started in Chelveston Village Hall on **Fridays at 09:30am.**

The WeightWatchers programme has been developed and enhanced over recent years. There are a variety of programmes; including a diabetic programme, and one for anyone on GLP-1 medication.

Whilst the scales are important to everyone, the class focuses on the four pillars of health: food, activity, sleep, and mindset. Each week, the technique taught will fall into one of these four categories.

Being a class member gives you access to virtual classes - including many activity classes, well-being classes, and lots of virtual workshops. Come along and join a supportive group who will help you achieve your health goals.

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### **The Environment Team**

Thirteen people enjoyed a lovely 'signs of spring' walk around our villages in March. The children spotted 34 indicators of the changing seasons and we enjoyed chocolate eggs in the sunshine at the end.

Over the last few weeks we've been working with Gen Kitchen (MP for Wellingborough and Rushden) on strategies for progress towards resolution, and related timeframes, around Anglian Water regularly releasing raw sewage onto Water Lane (and into the brook) through storm drains. More information to follow.

Our next meet-up is on **Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> April (2 - 4pm)** for **The Big Village Litter Pick**. Meet at the Village Hall to collect equipment. Everyone is welcome, refreshments will be available.

Our next open meeting is on **Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> April (7:30 – 9pm)** at the Village Hall. Come along if you're interested, no pressure to join the team.

The Environment Team would also like to sincerely thank those people that regularly litter pick throughout the year, it makes such a huge difference!

Finally, would anyone like to help with our shared allotment space? We're looking to build a little team of people that would like to work together to grow some fruit and vegetables this spring. No experience necessary.

Email for more information - [ccvillagewildlife@gmail.com](mailto:ccvillagewildlife@gmail.com)

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**The Parish Council** usually meets on the second Monday of the month at **7.30pm**. Members of the public are welcome to attend and may speak on any agenda item at the Chair's discretion.

The agenda and meeting papers are posted on the website ([www.chelveston-pc.gov.uk](http://www.chelveston-pc.gov.uk)) and the agenda is on the parish noticeboards at least three clear days before the meetings.

### **Parish Council Members & Officers (till Polling Day)**

**Chair: Andrew Seaman**, *Rosemoor*, Raunds Rd.  
**Vice: Jennifer Harwood**, 7 Britten Close.  
**Andy Cuthbert**, 38 The Crescent, Chelston Rise.  
**Clinton Hill**, resides in the parish.

**Carol Parsons**, 5 Pokas Cottages.  
**Martyn Rixson**, *Threeways*, 2 High Street.  
**Peter Smith**, 2 Bidwell Lane, Caldecott.  
**Clerk: Mark Hunter**, *Ashbury*, Caldecott .

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