



The findings of the Chesham Masterplan are in!



As Chesham Society members will be aware, Chesham Renaissance published “A Vision for Chesham” in July 2017, as the first stage in engaging with local people and stakeholders about the future of the town. This is part of a stepped approach to developing a more detailed Chesham Masterplan that will provide:

- ◆ A framework for the regeneration of the town;
- ◆ A set of principles to help steer new development;
- ◆ Guidelines for a range of high quality homes;
- ◆ An evening economy strategy; and
- ◆ Plans to strengthen the vitality and character of the town.

Public consultation

The Chesham Masterplan was the subject of an extensive consultation programme between 3 November

2017 and 31 January 2018. Here, we give a summary of the feedback that we received, although you are able to read the findings in full on our website. In addition, this consultation is the first of an ongoing conversation that will track and monitor feedback at various stages of the development.

A dedicated website (cheshammasterplan.org) hosted all relevant key information on the Masterplan and much of the consultation focused on encouraging the community to use this site to complete the online consultation questionnaire.

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SUMMER 2018 Editor's Letter



One of the aims of the Chesham Society is to maintain and improve the environment and amenities enjoyed by local people and by visitors, as well as encouraging public interest in the history and character of the town and its continuing care. Our work in this respect is continuing – and we need your help!

On 9 September, the town is taking part in Chesham's Heritage Open Day and many of our wonderful buildings are opening their doors. This means that we can explore some of the places that we might not consider visiting. But to show the town at its best, the Chesham Society is organising a litter pick on Saturday 8 September to make sure we are ready for this wonderful day. Our plans are progressing and we need volunteers to help us make this happen all across the town.

We need people to help us – if you, your family and friends would like to get involved, then please email programme@cheshamsociety.org.uk and we can add you to our list of willing volunteers.

Our town

Chesham is our town, which has amazing amenities and assets. The Chesham Society wants to help protect its unique and beautiful character for many generations to come. Please support our Society in making this happen.

Hannah Marsh

Chiltern Voice

Many of you will recall the Community Radio Station for the Chiltern District which 'popped up' two and a half years ago. Since then, the team that created it has been working hard on finding a venue for a permanent studio. We have now been welcomed by the White Hill Centre in Chesham and the tech team has decked out the studio with soundproofing, furniture and equipment.

Since we launched in 2016, we've been streaming music online. But now we're settling in to our new home, we are starting to make programmes again. We are presently organising a training programme for 'wannabe' presenters with a view to putting together a broadcasting schedule. We aim to have an ongoing eclectic mix of local news, events and lots of different music, as well as aiming to showcase community issues.

We're aware that not everyone wants to listen online and therefore we have applied for another FM licence which will run from 18 August to 1 September and, if that goes well, we'll apply for a permanent licence.

As you'll understand, being a community venture solely run by volunteers, we need funds. We have applied for local grants and aim to be self-funding from revenue raised by adverts that we make and record ourselves.

We're very fortunate to have a skilled team of supporters with the technical 'know-how' required to

build a radio station and lots of (yet) untapped local talent at our disposal.

If you're interested in getting involved with the station in any way, we'd be interested to hear from you.

To get involved in programming then you can email Andy at studio@chilternvoice.fm.

For the admin or tech side of things email info@chilternvoice.fm.

If you want to place an ad, then it's Nigel at sales@chilternvoice.fm.

We're always keen to hear about local stories so please let us know if there's something we should be telling the rest of the district about. Meanwhile, please listen in on chilternvoice.fm and while you're there you can sign up for our newsletter letting you know all our schedules and news. We are Your Station, Your Voice.

Emily Culverhouse





The findings of the Chesham Masterplan are in!

The consultation questionnaires were also available in paper format with designated collection points for those that preferred to respond in this way. The consultation included focus groups, presentations, meetings and several public events, ensuring that as wide an audience as possible had access to information. We also ran a social media campaign, which supported the face to face activity.

Chesham Renaissance continued to accept feedback after the published deadline and continues to do so as part of the ongoing engagement strategy.

Results

680 questionnaires have been received to date and 645 questionnaires were completed and submitted during the consultation period 3/11/17 to 31/1/18 from individuals and organisations.

Over 70% of respondents agreed with the overall approaches set out in the Masterplan. Local people are proud of Chesham and understand that the town needs to be developed sympathetically taking into account the history and the unique surroundings within the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Infrastructure also featured highly on the comments received, with local people aware that with housing and business development there is a requirement for investment in already pressured transport systems and local facilities. Many people reported the need for affordable and smaller homes within the town centre. Respondents also highlighted the need for a joined-up approach to road and rail as well as improved parking facilities.

Protecting the Green Belt was of key importance and local people value the safety of Chesham and the accessibility to the Chiltern countryside. The key themes that were reflected throughout the consultation period are shown right:

This consultation has been delivered by Chesham Renaissance, a team that is made up of people that live in Chesham and are passionate about the community.



Left: Park Road towards St Mary's Way roundabout - before and after.



Below left: St Mary's Way - before and after



Many of the comments received throughout the consultation show there is huge warmth for the town and repeatedly local people describe it as a "special place" and a "town with a real heart". Chesham Renaissance believes this too and in partnership with industry leading experts combines the right skillset to deliver the proposals.

We at Chesham Renaissance will continue to carefully consider all comments and suggestions and future versions of the Masterplan's detailed proposal will progressively take these suggestions into account during the next stages of development.

To read the findings of the consultation in full, please visit the Chesham Masterplan website: <http://www.cheshammasterplan.org/masterplan/>

Tony Molesworth & Roger Smith



Comings and goings...

Sad to see two recent departures from the Town.

After six years in Market Square, Chesham has now lost its museum, temporarily we hope. Despite strenuous efforts by the trustees and a small army of volunteers, it was finally decided that the museum should give up its home. With no support, financial or otherwise from the Town or District Councils, the cost of remaining was too much. Hopefully a new home will soon be found or a wealthy patron might provide a new home - any offers?

NatWest Bank closed its doors for the last time on 13 June after over 100 years in Chesham. Its previous incarnations were as the Chesham Bank and Westminster Bank before merging with the National Provincial to become NatWest.

It is seen by many as a short-sighted move. Chesham is the third largest town in the county and it seems astonishing that one of the top banks in the country will have no representation here. This is particularly so as, over the next ten years or more, we expect an increase of over 20% in population and many expanded and new businesses. They only needed to glimpse the Chesham Renaissance Masterplan to see what a huge mistake they were making.



Harefoot Brewery gives Chesham Society



Our members' event in April was a tour of the Haresfoot Brewery, located in Global Infusion Court, just off Nashleigh Hill. The Brewery started life in Berkhamsted by eight friends and businessmen living in and around the town. They were keen to revive the local brewing industry as well as making a contribution to the town's community by employing local people and creating a new destination for the town. Founded just five years ago the Brewery soon made a name for itself and, in fact, Haresfoot was named after the local farm, school and park close to the A41.

A combination of soaring rents and a tie-up with the Chesham-based global catering, logistics and brand support company Global Infusion Group (GIG) entailed Harefoot Brewery leaving its Berkhamsted home in early 2017 and moving to Chesham where it now shares a set of industrial units with GIG. The two companies - as Chesham Society members were to discover - are a good fit with GIG supplying food, hospitality and logistical support to major events and Haresfoot providing premium quality craft beers.

We were given a warm welcome on our arrival by Scott Carter, Haresfoot Brewery founder and Head Brewer, and Simon Spurling, one of the co-owners, who provided a brief overview of the Brewery over some very more-ish Sundial golden ale and Totem American IPA, before moving on to the Brewery itself to see for ourselves exactly how their beer is made.

Fascinating

It was fascinating to see the whole process at first-hand and we got to sample one of the end-products as well, a ruby



Now the good news!

Neptune

Welcome to Neptune. So good to see a new business face in Chesham and even more so when they have enhanced the town with a building of quality.

Descending Amersham Hill and entering Chesham, you are now met by the new Neptune premises - such an improvement and welcome to our town. Combinations of flint and larch cover the exterior - materials that are in-keeping with the local vernacular architecture. Moreover, the design reflects the history of the site - Bois Steam Mill which became Canada

Works and the nearby Amy Mill.

Inside, the new showroom is packed with beautiful home furnishings and decorations and you are guaranteed a warm welcome to this great addition to our town.



members a warm welcome

red ale called Stardust. We then returned to the hospitality room for a Q&A session with Tony Laursen, GIG's founder and Managing Director, and his team where some truly delicious canapés were served, organised by Christine Delaney, paired with some wonderful bottled beers; the Old Tiney plum porter and Banoffee beer seemed to go down particularly well!

The Society would like to thank Tony, and his colleagues for their hospitality and generosity for what was an entertaining and memorable evening, and it would be good to repeat it at some point for the benefit of those who were not able to join us on this occasion due to the over-subscription. Thanks, too, to our newest committee member, Jean Slater, who organised everything from the Society's end.

Berkhamsted's loss is Chesham's gain. The arrival of Haresfoot Brewery marks the recommencing of brewing in Chesham - traditionally one of the four "B"s for which the town is famous - after an absence of more than half a century. We'll all drink to that.

John Graves
Honorary Secretary





Dates for your diary!

Forthcoming events:

1 July:

Charity walk around Pednor: The South Bucks branch of the Motor Neurone Disease Association are hosting a fundraising walk of the Pednor Loop in Chesham on Sunday 1 July, with all proceeds going to the charity. They'll be joined by Welsh international and Brentford FC, footballer Chris Mepham whose uncle died of the disease in 2010.

Details of the event can be found here:

<https://www.mndassociation.org/getting-support/local-support/branches/south-east/south-bucks-branch/events/>

July/August: No meetings

8 September

#cleanChesham: please join other Chesham Society members in a morning of cleaning up our town to prepare for Chesham Heritage Open Day.

9 September

Chesham Heritage Open Day: as mentioned in the last edition of *Focus*, many of the town's key buildings will be opening their doors to the public. Keep an eye out for more information on our website and in the local media.

20 September

Question Time: prior to our annual panel of local activists, poised and ready to answer your questions about the local area, we are delighted to welcome students of the Misbourne School who will be presenting their vision of how to 'sell' Chesham. Our first confirmed panel member is Joseph Baum: Local activist with the Conservative Party and leading light with the Chesham Youth Council.

Please visit our website and sign up for our monthly newsletter which will give you all the up to date news about our events and meetings.

www.CheshamSociety.org.uk

Emily Culverhouse.

All meetings are in the Town Hall at 7.30 for 8pm unless stated otherwise

Admission charges: members £1, guests £2; which includes tea/coffee and biscuits.



The main contractors continue to work on the final design. Meanwhile, HS2 and local residents continue to prepare for the construction phase.

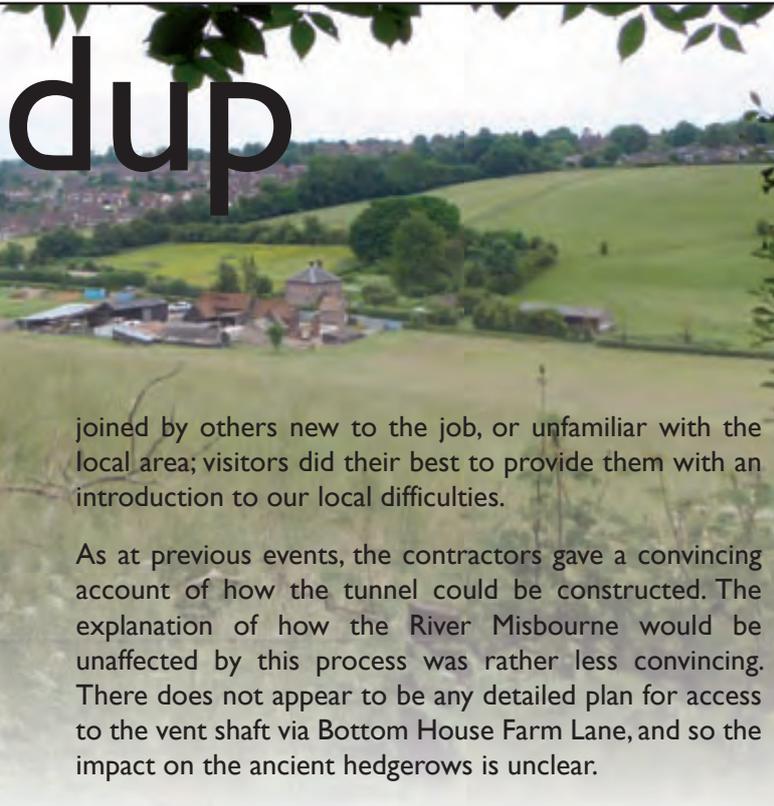
Chilterns Tourism Workshop

A couple of dozen people met at Missenden Abbey in May, to consider how best to promote the area during the HS2 construction period. The discussion was centered on an application to the Business and Local Enterprise fund, and how best to show that the Chilterns are still open for business.

Ideas include promoting existing festivals (such as the recent Chilterns Walking Festival) to a wider audience, staging new and more varied festivals, and possibly arranging tours of the HS2 construction works, for those so inclined (it's an ill wind ...). A Chilterns Explorer 'card' was proposed, implemented as a phone app, and possibly offering parking concessions. See the website www.visitchilterns.co.uk to follow developments, or suggest new ideas.

Chalfont St Giles drop in

HS2 staged a drop in event in the village hall on 30th May. The usual collection of maps was exhibited, supplemented by some plots of the boreholes drilled in the vicinity (for the benefit of visiting geologists). Our local HS2 reps were



joined by others new to the job, or unfamiliar with the local area; visitors did their best to provide them with an introduction to our local difficulties.

As at previous events, the contractors gave a convincing account of how the tunnel could be constructed. The explanation of how the River Misbourne would be unaffected by this process was rather less convincing. There does not appear to be any detailed plan for access to the vent shaft via Bottom House Farm Lane, and so the impact on the ancient hedgerows is unclear.

Little Missenden - Ground Investigation

Users of the A413 cannot fail to notice that one lane of the dual carriageway south of Little Missenden is closed (for 8 weeks). This in some way facilitates access to the vent shaft site. Users of the HS2 website might well fail to notice the closure announcement, on the Little Missenden ground investigations page, while the A413 works page remains blank. The works are not listed by Traffic England, and Transport for Bucks planned works shows a temporary speed limit (of 0 mph !) but no lane closure.



Bottom House, Farm Lane

We will encourage HS2 to improve their notification procedures, before the real construction works commence.

Other planning news

Chiltern District has received an application to build around 100 houses off Asheridge Lane, on Green Belt land within the Chilterns AONB. The Society has joined other bodies including CPRE, Brown not Green and The Chiltern Society in objecting to this development. See the Campaigns page on our website for details of the application, the objections, and updates on the planning process.

Jim Conboy

Cheryl's Corner



Those of you who attended the Chesham Carnival will have seen a slightly different vehicle in the grand parade this year – with yours truly as one of the passengers.

The volunteers at Chiltern Dial-a-ride do a brilliant job and they chose to use one of the Dial-a-ride vehicles to draw attention to the fact that they are always in need of volunteer drivers. Many local people who have mobility problems and who either cannot drive or use public transport have called on Dial-a-ride to help them to travel.

As their friendly team explained to me, the Dial-a-ride registered charity is “dedicated to providing an affordable, accessible and safe transport service for people living in or close to the Chiltern Hills”. They have a range of specially-equipped vehicles which have wheelchair access.

The drivers are trained and caring, with the smaller Dial-a-ride vehicles mostly being driven by volunteers – hence the appeal by the charity, which is based in Latimer, Chesham. They give a warm welcome to the people who will be supporting the local community and enabling residents to get out and about. Dial-a-ride gives a door to door, round trip service.

Volunteers will be given all the necessary training and the Dial-a-ride team emphasise that the volunteers can decide how much time they will be able to give, from one day a week to one day a month.

It really does make a difference to people and gives some much-needed independence to those who may otherwise not be able to enjoy this. I hope all of you who have enjoyed the Carnival so much will also be thinking about how you may be able to really help locally.

If you are interested, please contact Chiltern Dial-a-ride on **01494 766123** or visit the website on <https://chiltern-dial-a-ride/contact-us/>.

By Rt Hon Cheryl Gillan,
MP for Chesham and Amersham

All films considered.....

The world was a different place in 1969. There were brand new human footsteps on the moon's surface, The Beatles were still together and George Lazenby was James Bond...

Into this crazy scenario, a few local people gathered together to form The Amersham & Chesham Film Society, meeting at The White Hill Centre. Usually on Friday nights each season ran for ten films.

They arrived as 16mm reels and two clunky (and noisy) projectors were used. Health and Safety didn't exist then.

Attendances grew; film formats changed (to 35mm); a new home was needed. It was in the 1990s that The Elgiva Theatre began hosting film nights and the society became the Chiltern Film Club - aware that people were travelling from afar to attend the film nights.

In 2002, the name changed again: from Club to Society. Earlier this decade - everything went digital. The films are now streamed direct from the distributors.

As the Society enters its 50th Season, it is wonderful to imagine the surprise on the faces of the original few if they could see what it has grown into. Currently with around



**CHILTERN
FILM
SOCIETY**
at The Elgiva, Chesham

50th season 2018-2019

200 members, all watching the best of international films, the Society keeps growing. It is remarkable to ponder that around 650 films have been shown - we don't know exactly, as early records were not kept!

Ranging from Buster Keaton's classic The General to the blockbuster Blade Runner 2049 ...

... all films are considered.

That's exactly what the committee are about to do: consider and create the golden 50th Season. This continuation is in keeping with the aims of the original Society all those years ago.

So - it will all begin again in September. Another 15 films. Lights down, press Play on the computer and ... Action!

Paul Vates,
Chairman, Chiltern Film Society



The Chesham Society *Putting Chesham first*

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Printed by: Ink Link,
Unit 4, Waterside Business Park
Waterside, Chesham,
Buckinghamshire HP5 1PE

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W: www.inklinkprinters.co.uk