



A much better, happy and fulfilling New Year to all our members!

Introduction

Well, here we are, none almost nine months of being locked down in one way or another, and we, the Chorlton Voice committee, hope you have been managing OK and can see some light at the end of the tunnel. There is a lot of talk about how nothing will be the same again. But I'm not so sure – we will have to work hard to try to preserve some of the good things about this past year and not return to how things were. In Chorlton, there have been a number of initiatives that will help us make our neighbourhood even better than it was before – see, for example, the news items below, including those on Re-Imagining Chorlton, the Our Streets Chorlton (climate action) project. There have been lots of different ways for people to get together online – but spare a thought for those who do not have a smart phone, I-pad (or similar) or personal computer; or those who do have a smart phone but cannot afford to buy data and so miss out on vital information. How hard this period must have been! Hopefully they have been part of a connected street group – but even then, if these are Whats App groups, some will be left out. It seems to me to be one of the big issues, that we must address as a society: if crucial information is going to be delivered digitally, then ensuring that everyone has digital devices that they can use, and that work, seems to me to be a pretty basic requirement. Or maybe we should have the old style public information leaflets delivered through our doors as we used to?

I came across an interesting word recently when I was reading some literature from the charity WaterAid – '*Wenfell*'. In Frat, a remote community in the north west of Ethiopia where access to clean water is scarce, *Wenfell* means

that when someone has a problem, we all help. Perhaps it is this that has characterised the Chorlton experience of lockdowns – I hope so.

We wish you as enjoyable festive season as is possible and very happy and more optimistic New Year, with the spirit of *Wenfell* continuing.

Carolyn Kagan, Chair cmkagan@gmail.com

Planning

We have been considering planning applications on a regular basis and have submitted objections to two recent proposals:

- Plans have been submitted to redevelop the site of the former Co-Op supermarket at 479 Barlow Moor with a four storey building, with retail space on the ground floor and flats on the upper floors. We raised concerns that Chorlton does not need any more retail space, that the flats would overlook neighbouring homes, that proposed parking spaces would be accessed from a very narrow passageway and that the scale of the building would be too big next to the adjoining property.
- There is a proposal to site a container unit on the forecourt of the car wash at 302 Barlow Moor Road to be used as a cafe. We believe that a building of this appearance, situated well in front of the neighbouring buildings, would detract from the appearance of the area and questioned whether it could meet current insulation standards.

Other recent applications include:

- Plans to enlarge and remodel the entrance to Unicorn Grocery, 89 Albany Road.
- A proposal to place a canopy over the forecourt of 59-61 Manchester Road, which was last occupied by Manchester Appliances and is set to open as a food store.
- A retrospective application to retain the new canopy at 478 Wilbraham Road, last used as Cask and Grain bar and soon to reopen as Yara Restaurant).
- Another retrospective application for a canopy at 461 Barlow Moor Road.

Planning applications recently approved include:

- An additional house at Chorlton Villas, at the end of Hardy Lane.
 - 8 new houses on woodland to the North of 9 And 11 Ennerdale Avenue.
 - A new house at 550B Wilbraham Road, replacing an existing bungalow.
 - The alterations at 60 Beech Road, soon to open as Suburban Green restaurant.
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Chorlton Arts festival – On the Road Again

We are planning next year's festival to be September 11-19th. This will be a largely outdoor festival, with virtual elements (building on this year's virtual Festival). Everyone is invited to take part and joining instructions will be available by the end of January after we have re-vamped the website. Art works or performances can be displayed, for example, outside homes, in windows, on hoardings. This is such an exciting possibility with much greater opportunities for families and young people to take part. We will need more volunteers than ever this year, so please contact chair@chorltonarts.org if you are interested or keep an eye on the website www.chorltonarts.org (undergoing a re-vamp)

If you have any enquiries please contact events@chorltonarts.org.

As a taster, watch carefully the hoardings outside the development site next to Leon's on Barlow Moor Road – Southway have worked with us to enable art work to be displayed there,

Re-Imagining Chorlton

The Chorlton Alliance (which we convene) has spawned a project inviting people to explore ways in which Chorlton could be an even more connected, liveable and flourishing neighbourhood.

People have been coming together by courtesy of Zoom, since September to talk, discuss, imagine and firm up ideas for how Chorlton could become an even better place to live once the pandemic is over (or even before). Different people have been involved in different discussions at each meeting, but some trends are emerging, with three concrete ideas on the table.

1. The umbrella Coop of Chorlton – in Chorlton there are already a number of worker co-operatives, which is an excellent way to organise new enterprises whilst at the same time contributing to the building of

community. The idea of the umbrella coop is that rather than each new venture setting itself up as a separate coop, they could do so within the umbrella of a Chorlton Coop. This would save time and energy and reduce risks which all new coops face. Great idea! While this idea is brewing, folk are getting together to tell the story of Cooperative Chorlton, so watch this (and other) spaces.

2. Green Chorlton – in recognition of the wonderful green spaces we have in and around Chorlton, a group are planning to map green spaces and the groups that are working to use, conserve and maintain them. Another great idea!
3. Connected Chorlton – the street connectors worked well and were important lynch points to support and morale during the worst of the pandemic lockdowns. This group is looking into how they can be sustained and what their role might be in the future. Fantastic!

Everyone is welcome to these meetings and there are lots of opportunities to discuss other things that might interest you – contact shaun@chorlton.coop who will put you on the list for invitations to the meetings. Next meeting Sunday 13th December 4-5pm (sorry if you get this after that date!)

CLT and the Picture House

The CLT recently held a successful AGM via Zoom and a new Board is in place. The CLT is inching forward on the development of the picture house (Gaumont) and we are quietly confident that the new year will see the project confirmed – and then the real excitement will begin. The CLT is open to everyone local to join. To contact them: Email at hello@chorltonclt.org Find them on Facebook [@ChorltonCLT](https://www.facebook.com/ChorltonCLT) or follow them on Twitter [@ChorltonCLT](https://twitter.com/ChorltonCLT)

Our Streets Chorlton (the Lottery funded climate action project)

Our Streets Chorlton has nearly finished its set-up stage, ready to get going with enthusiasm in January. Two staff members (George and Pauline) have been appointed; a community forum (on which we sit) has been formed of relevant health and voluntary groups; some open-invitation workshops have been held discussing and consolidating the design concept for the project (watch out for the logo) and another on data and information about Chorlton. These community workshops set the tone for the project which will be as participative as it is possible to be, and every attempt will be made to reach

out to all sectors of Chorlton (both Chorlton and Chorlton Park wards). The main idea is to engage people in discussions about how to make the streets more friendly and safer for walkers, riders and rollers (such as buggies, mobility scooters) whilst at the same time making the air cleaner and all of us healthier. Go Chorlton for climate action !

Cycleway – new consultation

There is a new consultation out regarding the cycleway, what they call area 3 – from Seymour Grove to Sandy Lane). {Please do have your say and attend if you can one of the ‘listening events (sorry, we don’t have details of these – ask your Councillors). Consultation can be found at

https://secure.manchester.gov.uk/info/200024/consultations_and_surveys/8077/manchester_to_chorlton_cycleway_area_3_consultation or you can email the project team at chorltoncyclescheme@manchester.gov.uk

Whatever your views, make them known! Consultation closes on 14th January.

Buses – new consultation

While we’re on the topic of consultations, there is a new consultation about the proposal to franchise the buses – ends January 29th. Transport for Greater Manchester had to do some new workings-out because of changes to bus use during this year. They still propose that franchising is the best way forward. If you want a quick way to respond, take 2 minutes to complete the response from the Better Buses campaign.

<https://weownit.us6.list-manage.com/track/click?u=ef1f3f5b8067610251b19fb6c&id=cef9aa5d0a&e=5595b4b5d>

For more information or other ways to respond, Transport for GM says:

- Find out more information and take part in an online questionnaire at gmconsult.org
<http://newsletters.tfgm.com/tracking/lc/fe7aec20-8168-4656-bf8e-d6847d67de95/83262fed-4b96-4cac-b263-9c6e69e8eac0/37e38865-a9c4-46cc-a172-e9b44712da40/>
- Email your feedback to gmbusconsultation@ipsos-mori.com
<<mailto:gmbusconsultation@ipsos-mori.com>>
- Give your feedback by phone on 0161 244 1100 (they will be forwarded through to an independent research organisation Ipsos MORI)
- Write/send a completed questionnaire to Freepost GM BUS CONSULTATION

- Pick up paper copies of the questionnaire at Travelshops <http://newsletters.tfgm.com/tracking/lc/fe7aec20-8168-4656-bf8e-d6847d67de95/872bcfb6-1692-4a2d-a113-b7693df3e366/37e38865-a9c4-46cc-a172-e9b44712da40/> across Greater Manchester .

We need to make sure our voices are louder than those of the bus companies, so please do respond, supporting franchising.

Christmas Window Challenge

We do hope businesses will decorate their windows this year and will be strolling around the neighbourhood on Saturday 19th to choose the cup winners for 2020. If you have a favourite, let us know – chair@chorltonvoice.org

Health development workers have great newsletters

Fiona (for Chorlton park) and Dawn (for Chorlton), the health development coordinators produce great newsletters, packed with information. To sign up for these contact

Dawn: dawn.harris15@nhs.net Fiona : fiona.vincer@nhs.net

Chorlton Park Trees

You may have seen some of the new trees that have been planted in Chorlton Park. There is an impressive planting of flowering cherries along the path that used to be the drive-way to Hough End Hall; chestnuts and – wait for it – walnuts in the Chestnut Avenue; willow and hornbeams along the path that floods every year; silver birch and some liquidambar (maple like with glorious autumn colour) near the playground. Wonderful! Many thanks to the friends of Chorlton Park and the arboriculture team in the Council as well as the Councillors who have been stalwart supporters of increased tree planting.

Local Traders

Our local traders have had a really tough time of it this year, and so many of us are grateful for the efforts they have gone to to keep us safe during the pandemic - so please do continue to buy local if you can. Several new shops have opened during the year and old favourites have managed to keep going. But all really need our custom. If you can't get to the shops yourself, ask a neighbour to help out, or contact Chorlton Bike Deliveries on chorltonbikedeliveries@gmail.com or on 07561 737986. This is a great way to express *Wenfell* (see introduction)