



## Chorlton Voice Bulletin

December 2021

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### Introduction

Another winter and a return to blustery storms and some of the COVID-19 measures! Whilst the calm between the storms might tempt us out, we are so sorry to see COVID measures tightening again and hope they won't keep you from your friends and loved ones over the Festive period. After our successful social evening in November, we were planning to hold a general, face to face meeting in January. However, COVID is defeating us again, and as restrictions are increasing as I write, and we have taken the view that we should not be organising a face to face meeting. We are very sorry about this. Assuming measures permit, we will be trying to meet for our AGM in March - Tuesday March 8th, almost exactly 2 years after we last met. We hope very much to see you there and in the meantime wish you a comfortable and enjoyable festive season. Carolyn, [chair@chorltonvoice.org](mailto:chair@chorltonvoice.org)

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### Chorlton Voice meeting, in January cancelled.

We were hoping to meet again in January and have decided it would be folly to plan for this as COVID measures are tightening again.

However, I enclose at the end of this bulletin, for your information, the minutes of the last general meeting we held, which was in January 2020. I am doing this as if we are able to meet in March for our AGM, then it will be the minutes of the last AGM that will be presented to the meeting and I don't want to let the January minutes get lost. Having said that, they are now a bit of an historical record!

So, a date for your diary: Tuesday March 8<sup>th</sup>, 7.30, Community Room of the Library for AGM and discussion of all the wonderful things that have been going on during – and in spite of - the pandemic.

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As it will be the AGM, we would welcome new Committee members, so please think of standing or of encouraging people you know who might also.

If anyone would like to discuss what being a committee member entails, please do get in touch. Carolyn – [chair@chorltonvoice.org](mailto:chair@chorltonvoice.org)

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## **Planning News**

The Committee has continued to scrutinise planning applications – some objections we raise have been upheld, as you will have seen over recent Bulletins, but others have not. Here are the most recent applications we have considered.

Recent planning applications include proposals for a covered first floor seating area at the side of Suburban Green cafe, 60 Beech Road and a request to retain a new shop front and rear extension installed during the conversion of the tanning salon at 422 Barlow Moor Road into a cafe.

Planning permission for the external seating area, canopies and fencing to the side of Lux Lounge restaurant at 380 Barlow Moor Road has been refused on grounds of neighbour nuisance and appearance. The work has already been carried out and we understand that the Council's enforcement team are in talks with the owners.

Permission has also been refused for the change of use of a photography studio at 127B Oswald Road into a dental surgery.

Barrio Coffee Bar at 105 Beech Road has been granted permission to extend use of their outdoor areas until later in the evening.

The City Council has recently been consulting on revised proposals for Hough End Playing fields, having withdrawn their previous application after extensive objections. They anticipate submitting a new application before the end of the year. The modified plans still include a two-storey leisure centre extension to accommodate changing facilities, community room/education space, café facilities, and health and fitness space and creation of an overflow car park. The proposal to install baseball and softball pitches on the northern part of the site have been deleted, with this area now likely to be improved for public open space and habitat enhancement. The size of the proposed fenced, artificial grass pitches has been scaled back, with reference to using "organic infill" in the pitches.

Southway Housing Association have also been consulting on their plans for housing on the car park of the Irish Association Social Club on Cross Road. Up to 29 affordable homes are proposed, with views over Beech Road Park and with dedicated parking. The Club has retained ownership of a reduced car park area. Southway also hope to submit a planning application before the end of the year.

The British Muslim Heritage Centre have also been consulting on proposed development of their site on College Road in Whalley Range. The main frontage onto College Road would be untouched, but most of land behind the original college building and fronting onto Clarendon Road would be built upon. The draft plans include a conference hall, lecture theatre and prayer hall with an underground car park for 200 vehicles, 66 apartments, a health centre, fitness centres, offices and a cafe. We don't know when they hope to submit a planning application.

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### **Chorlton Arts Festival**

You can read a review of the 2021 Festival as well as reports of what people said about it via the online feedback and in person during the Festival [here](https://chorltonartsfestival.org/review-and-feedback-from-the-2001-chorlton-arts-festival/). <https://chorltonartsfestival.org/review-and-feedback-from-the-2001-chorlton-arts-festival/>

Next year's 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Festival will be a month-long Festival : 29<sup>th</sup> April – 29<sup>th</sup> May. Andrew Simpson has kindly agreed to do some digging into the last 20 years. Sign ups will be open from January 2022. We hope you will be able to get to some parts of the Festival. This year we applied for, and got a grant to buy some CV gazebos – here is one in situ as part of the Arts Festival.



## **Caldecott Festival in Whitchurch**

While I am writing about festivals, on March 19<sup>th</sup> 2022, there will be a day long Festival in Whitchurch, all focused around the work of the Victorian illustrator, Randolph Caldecott. Over the last 18 months the organisers have done a huge amount of creative work with schools and elders, running workshops, competitions and art activity, in preparation for what promises to be a good day out. Information from <https://www.caldecottfestival.org.uk/about/>

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## **Let's Reimagine Chorlton**

The Chorlton Alliance spawned a new discussion group as lockdowns were fading out last year – Let's Reimagine Chorlton meets every other Sunday on Zoom – 17<sup>th</sup> October, 31<sup>st</sup> October etc. Contact Shaun at [hello@chorlton.coop](mailto:hello@chorlton.coop) to be put on the mailing list for notices of and notes from the meetings. The latest meetings have discussed issues concerned with preparing a Chorlton development Plan as well as for a notice board on Chorlton Green.

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## **Picture House**

No news on the Picture house front – negotiations are still continuing.

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## **Manchester to Chorlton Cycle Way**

Work recently started on phase 3A of the cycleway -the section between the junction of Upper Chorlton Road and Seymour Grove to the Metrolink bridge. This section, due to be finished in summer 2022, includes a new CYCLOPS junction at the Upper Chorlton Road and Seymour Grove intersection, full cyclist segregation on both sides of the road that bypass bus stops and parking bays and raised tables to slow traffic, reduce crossing distance and make it easier to cross on foot.

The only section yet to be started is the stretch through the shopping centre, from the Metrolink bridge to Sandy Lane. No start date has been announced for this phase.

The other sections of the route are now either complete or close to completion.

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## **Chorlton Community Garden**

We had a good response to our on line consultation. The main findings were:

### **Was the garden used?**

The majority of people (45%) responding to the consultation were aware of the garden but had never used it. Some had tried to use it but always found it locked (20%) . A similar proportion (21%) used the garden occasionally in the past and a small number of people (8%) did not know it was there. An even smaller number of people reported that they had used the garden several times a year.

### **What has the garden been used for?**

People have used it in the past for socialising, a place of calm and rest; visiting to admire the plants or to take fruit; doing gardening and maintenance and plant swap; displaying craft or art; attend a community event; and appreciating it through locked gates as they walk past.

### **What functions or facilities might a renovated garden have?**

There were lots of ideas for facilities, underpinned by a concern to make the garden safe and not be vandalised.. These included garden furniture – moveable benches, table, cover for inclement weather; lighting for evening time; litter bins; access to toilets; even a mobile refreshment stall, bandstand and mini wooden tree swing. Attracting wildlife and pollinators and biodiversity was important – so a planting of different varieties of flowers, vegetables and fruit as well as herbs that could be shared, as well as birdbaths, bird boxes and so on. Access for all should inform the landscaping, planting as well as plant labelling, signage and an information board. Above all the garden should be open to the public.

Functions suggested were for the garden to become a green hub: a place for sharing, experimenting, learning about and swapping plants. Ideas for growing vegetables and fruit included donating produce to local food banks. The garden could be a place for both informal and more formal meetings, of friends, clubs and societies; and a place of learning with workshops and activities geared around gardening and other activities. Other ideas were for the garden to be a

place for art and culture: to mount exhibitions, host buskers and have readings and performances. A Chorlton soapbox was suggested for the sharing of ideas. As a place for wellbeing, socialising and meeting up with friends or just having a rest, ideas mirrored the uses to which the garden has already been put: somewhere to rest in a tranquil place in the centre of Chorlton; to allow children to play; to read or talk; or just to be.

We have done an audit of the plants still surviving in the garden. We have joined a network of community growing projects, Growing Manchester, supported by Grow the City, which should be a great help. <https://www.sowthecity.org/growing%20manchester%20programme.htm> We have also applied for a Lottery grant and are in discussion with them over some incomprehensible feedback.

We also ran a stall at the November makers' market and signed up at least one new member to Chorlton Voice!

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### **Carbon Action Plans**

COP26 came and went in Glasgow at the beginning of November – the outcomes can be found here <https://ukcop26.org/the-conference/cop26-outcomes/>

Meanwhile, each ward in Manchester has to prepare a Carbon Action Plan – these are due to be published by the end of the year. Ward Councillors and neighbourhood officers have done a lot to bring residents together to identify priorities for each Ward plan. If you have not been involved in your ward action plan and would like to be, please contact one of your councillors.

### **Chorlton Ward:**

John Hacking: [cllr.j.hacking@manchester.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.j.hacking@manchester.gov.uk)

Eve Holt: [cllr.eve.holt@manchester.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.eve.holt@manchester.gov.uk)

Matthew Benham: [cllr.mathew.benham@manchester.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.mathew.benham@manchester.gov.uk) (who has recently replaced Matt Strong)

### **Chorlton Park Ward**

Joanna Midgley [cllr.j.midgley@manchester.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.j.midgley@manchester.gov.uk) (who has recently been elected Deputy Leader of the Council)

Mandie Shilton Godwin [cllr.mandie.shiltongodwin@manchester.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.mandie.shiltongodwin@manchester.gov.uk)

Dave Rawson [cllr.dave.rawson@manchester.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.dave.rawson@manchester.gov.uk)

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## **Chorlton Open Gardens**

The popular Chorlton Open Gardens is planning to return for a two day weekend at the end of June – 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>. So, if you are one of the people who wishes you could get round all the gardens, or even if you are not, this year, you might be able to! Lots of information and videos of some of the gardens from last year, when we weren't able to view them in person can be found at <https://m.facebook.com/Chorlton-Open-Gardens-389010061112623/>

You still have time to put your garden into the scheme – contact [chorltonopengardens@gmail.com](mailto:chorltonopengardens@gmail.com)

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## **Ideas for getting ore people involved**

We would dearly like to get more people actively involved n the Civic Society. If you would like to be more actively involved please do contact us at [chair@chorltonvoice.org](mailto:chair@chorltonvoice.org)

If you have any ideas for how to stimulate the interests of residents in getting involved with Chorlton Voice, again, do pass them on.

## **Ideas for meeting**

If you have any ideas or requests for Chorlton Voice meetings – speakers or activities, please let Cath know.

[Catherine.Brownhill@ntlworld.com](mailto:Catherine.Brownhill@ntlworld.com)

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## **Minutes of meeting January 14<sup>th</sup> 2020**

### **Chorlton Voice**

**Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 14 January 2020, 7.30pm**

### **Chorlton-cum-Hardy Library**

19 members present. Apologies received from Terrence MacNicol and Councillors Joanna Midgely and Mandy Shilton-Goodwin.

### **Christmas Window Displays:**

The winners of the 2019 window competition were announced:

Beech Road (Mary Paul Cup):

- Runners-up: Floral Affairs and Love Lucy
- Winner: Curious Fox

Chorlton (Chorlton Cup):

- Runners-up: Fosters Cycles, Out of the Blue and Vision Care
- Winner: Chorlton Bookshop

The judges were thanked for their efforts.

### **Speaker: from Emmeline's Pantry**

We had an interesting talk about the work of Emmeline's Pantry, a charity run by women for women in need, ensuring they are provided with the best possible support.

The charity has been running for eight years, originally based at the Pankhurst Centre in the City Centre, but increasingly outgrew the space available. They are now based in the former Sure Start Centre in Chorlton Park. They moved in, in April 2019, with a five year lease from the Council.

Their core service is as a food bank for women. They differ from other food banks in providing fresh food and clothing, cosmetics, baby goods, pet food etc. They also run a food pantry, a membership based service aimed at helping all local women and families that may be struggling to feed or clothe everyone. They work with 62 organisations who refer women to the food bank.

Since moving to Chorlton Park, they have had a 43% increase in footfall, both from local people and city-wide. Most days, the centre is women-only, but Thursday sessions are mixed gender. They also work with Sure Start, who run parents and toddlers sessions from the centre.

They rely on donations (mostly through the Facebook page) to keep the charity going and are having a Jamboree event on 8<sup>th</sup> March. If anyone would like to visit the project, Mondays, Tuesday mornings, Wednesday, Thursday afternoons are the best time to visit.

### **Planning Issues:**

- Permission has been granted for the use of 518 Wilbraham Road as a bar, for the new school at Hough End and for the redevelopment of 419 – 412 Barlow Moor Road with apartments.
- The Council have declined to determine the application by Tutku Cafe, 428 Barlow Moor Road, to retain the canopy they built without permission, as it is subject of an enforcement notice.
- An application has been submitted to use the pawnbrokers at 448 Wilbraham Road as a hot foot takeaway. The proposal does not comply with the policy on clustering of takeaways. It was agreed to lodge an objection.
- Demolition of the unlawful extension to the former Post Office Cafe is mostly complete, but reinstatement of the original building facade and forecourt is stalled. Council officers are still pursuing completion.

- The Council are expected to launch consultation on issues to be taken account in a planned update to the city-wide planning strategy.

### **Chorlton Developments:**

Co-op Funeral Home (Steve Goslyn reported): The Community Land Trust submitted a bid to the Co-op, following a very successful crowd-funding appeal, in partnership with developers Generate. However, they have been told that the Co-op have accepted the bid from Churchill Homes, who plan to demolish the building and develop retirement homes, subject to their getting planning permission. The Land Trust are holding a public meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> January to discuss their next steps. Thought is being given to applying for the building to be listed.

Chorlton Park: The Friends Group are planning to plant 300 new trees including a new avenue from the school to the playground.

The Vital and Viable Chorlton Report, prepared by the Metropolitan University has been published. Among its conclusions are that better promotion of the shopping centre and waymarking within it are needed. Chorlton Voice has helped set up the Chorlton Alliance to co-ordinate the work of local groups and further discussion of the report will be undertaken by the Alliance.

Climate Action Plans for both Chorlton wards are being developed.

Jenny Slee proposed a new project: Civic Society volunteers have previously helped with door-to-door consultation in streets where there are opportunities to plant new street trees. Funding is potentially available for new planting, and it is proposed to repeat the exercise. If there are any new volunteers, please contact Jenny on 07570 879 091. Alternatively contact any of the councillors re new trees or trees that need replacing.

Members are reminded that the Council will stop applying weed killer on stretches of pavement where all residents agree. Inform Pete Whitely of the agreement to stop weedkilling – [p.whitely@manchester.gov.uk](mailto:p.whitely@manchester.gov.uk)

### **Events:**

- Save Ryebank Fields are holding a wassail and fruit tree planting on 17<sup>th</sup> January.
- Chorlton Lifesavers are holding defibrillator training at the Bowling Green PH on 3<sup>rd</sup> February.
- A talk on dementia research is at Chorlton Central Church on 4<sup>th</sup> February.
- Fair Trade Fortnight is from 24<sup>th</sup> February to 8<sup>th</sup> March.
- Chorlton Voice's Annual General meeting is on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March.

- The Friends of Hough End, who manage the area of woodland around Hough End Clough (which follows the course of Red Lion Brook) are running short of volunteers. They are holding a bird walk on 21 March to promote their work.
- Chorlton Voice Spring Social event is on 14<sup>th</sup> April.
- The Chorlton Fun Run, normally held on the first May Monday Bank Holiday, will not be held this year as the holiday has been switched to the Friday (when there will national bell-ringing). However, other events will be run at St Clements Church throughout the Bank Holiday weekend.
- Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March, Helen Pankhurst will unveil a plaque at the Pankhurst centre, Nelson St. 2.p.m
- Chorlton Arts Festival 2020 will be from 17<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> May.

**Any Other Business:**

- There are plans for a bench to be installed on Beech Road in memory of Mary Paul and to provide a resting place on the route to the shops. Funding may be available for other new benches as part of the Age Friendly Initiative ( anyone interested in finding suitable locations in Chorlton, contact Carolyn at [chair@chorltonvoice.org](mailto:chair@chorltonvoice.org)).
  - There have been recent incidents of vandalism around Barlow Hall Road. The police and ward councillors have been informed. Jenny belongs to the Independent Advisory Group to the police so can take any issues forward (contact Jenny on 07570 879 091)
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