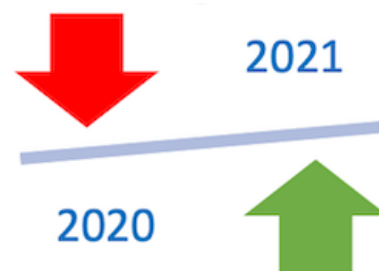


WELCOME TO 2021!

We trust that this Newsletter finds everyone in good health and positive spirits in spite of the continuing impacts of Covid-19. Understandably the pandemic has stymied most of the Committee's plans including those for our October AGM, however, I am delighted to tell you that all our current Committee members, and our recently co-opted member Malcolm Blake, have agreed to continue in their roles until the government gives the green light for larger group meetings. Sadly, that seems some way off at present.



BROADBAND

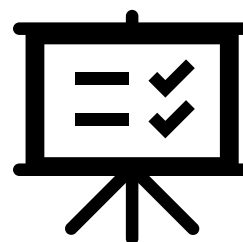
Some further good news is that our broadband is to be upgraded. You may have seen the signs advertising that Swish, a BT contractor, will be enabling Fibre to Property (FTTP) by installing new fibre connection hubs at the top of existing telephone poles. Linking individual properties to these fibre hubs will require a new BT line at the householder's cost but the service will be there for those who need it and are willing to pay. We believe that the hubs will be connected to the 5G cabinet near the bollards using the existing BT cable ducts but this has yet to be confirmed. We are in touch with Swish and will keep you informed.

RESURFACING/PAVEMENTS UPDATES

Our road surfacing programme is progressing but it has been complicated by our parallel project to upgrade the adjacent kerbs and pavements; these must be laid before the actual surfacing. The pavement project is being financed individually by the 18 homeowners who have signed up to the project and we thank them for their commitment to this major improvement in our estate infrastructure. Negotiations with Gibbs, the contractor, have been completed but talking to the residents regarding their individual requirements has taken time, particularly under Covid rules. Their contributions are being held appropriately segregated within the bank account and most have now paid their initial deposit. Work cannot start until the funding is in place but, depending upon the availability of the contractor, we expect the three-week project to commence in late Spring.

2021 ACTION PLAN

The CRA Committee has continued to meet regularly by ZOOM and we remain determined to continue with our programme in spite of the impacts of Covid-19. Progress will, of course, depend upon restrictions imposed because of the virus but here's what we have planned for the year:



- △ Road Resurfacing & Pavement Project (from existing limit in western section up to the roundabout)
- △ Continue maintenance of our four communal areas: Roundabout, Bollards, T-Junction, Pond Corner
- △ Upgrading of Pond Corner – removal and levelling of soil / grassing / bulb planting / and more?
- △ Bulb planting in communal areas / possible wild-flower sowing?
- △ Pumping out of floodwater sumps and road drains by specialist company (as used last year)
- △ Back to normality events - possible summer party? Any ideas?
- △ Bi-monthly Newsletters / including future distribution by e-mail?
- △ Continued development of CRA website including additional useful links

If you have further ideas or suggestions, then **PLEASE** do let us know. All contributions welcome.

POND CORNER/BULB PLANTING

As previously explained, we have improved “Pond Corner” by removing excess soil and rubble and seeding the area to stabilise the surface. The area will require further tidying up in due course but, in the meantime, we have planted Spring bulbs here and elsewhere around the estate. Many thanks to the committee member who donated the bulbs (Laura) and another who planted them (Paul). ROLL ON THE SPRING!!



ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

All of the above, plus other expenses such as Indemnity Insurance and hosting our Website, come at a cost and your continued financial support is essential for us to provide these services on your behalf. You will all recall that our subscription year is calendar (Jan – Dec) and that we encourage payment on or before the first week in February. We are truly appreciative that so many of you support our activities (around 90 % of households) and especially grateful to those of you who help us by paying by Standing Order or direct bank transfer (about 85 %). As a reminder, the recommended range for contributions is £80 - £120 (the current average is around £92) Cheques should be made payable to “Chalklands Residents Association” and left with a committee member. Bank Transfers should be to:

Chalklands Residents Association
Account No: 49020137
Sort Code: 601335

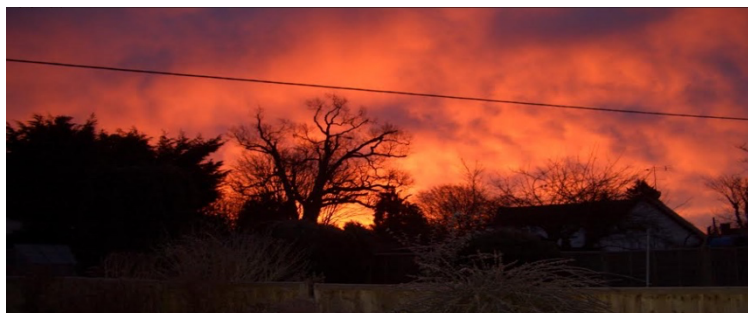
Please provide a reference (name and house no.) so that we know who has paid e.g. “Smith (123)”

SNOW FUN!

The bollards were opened in anticipation of the recent snow



and we will continue to do this whenever we see bad weather is forecast for the area. Whilst causing anxiety and inconvenience for some, we were very pleased to see that the snow gave children (and adults) an opportunity to get outside and have some fun. Pearl Hill spotted you and caught you on camera as well as a stunning pre-snowfall sunrise. Enjoy.....



ANY HELP NEEDED?

Remember, if you or a neighbour needs any form of help please contact one of your Committee members or contact us via the website email address at: info@chalklands.uk
STAY SAFE, STAY WELL and thank you all for your continued support.

Your Committee: *Chairman:* Bill (No. 82), *Secretary:* Margaret (No. 15), *Treasurer:* Jennie/Matt (No 3)
Brian G (No.66) Brian J (No.68) Pam (No. 62) Laura (No.135) Paul (No. 80) Tim (No.35) Avril (No. 111) Clark (No. 99)