

From: Alison Finlay, Local Borough Councillor

February 2019

Dear Residents

Broadband problems: Almost all residents in the main areas of Chilworth are reliant on BT for their broadband facility regardless of their supplier, since BT subcontracts their bandwidth to others such as EE (owned by BT), 3E and TalkTalk. Many are connected to BT's cabinet 7 at the top of Bassett Heath Avenue. If you are unsure of which cabinet supplies your broadband, you can check by typing in: <http://www.dslchecker.bt.com/adsl/adslchecker.welcome> Possible solutions to the problems associated with the overloaded cabinet 7 are discussed further.

Two residents are, independently, collating information about local services to those on this cabinet with a view to gaining improvements to two different problems. The first is the initiative to help those in Chilworth Old Village, Chilworth Close and Manor Road to gain agreement from BT to improve their services, by either repositioning the services onto a cabinet closer to the Old Village, on the Science Park or to provide a different upgrade.

The second is for those in the area close to Heatherlands Road and Hadrian Way to install fast Fibre to the Premises (FTTP) capability. Both initiatives need sufficient numbers to proceed so if you are on Cabinet 7 and haven't yet registered an interest in the initiative close to you, please let me know as soon as possible. Registering an interest does not commit you to taking up the offer but the more interest the more likely a favourable outcome may become.

Apart from these initiatives, some residents have acquired "boxes" from telecoms suppliers in the West Quay shopping centre in Southampton, which they connect to their home broadband connections and which provide boosted signals such that they can receive improved broadband services successfully. Another solution involves relying on services other than BT's infrastructure such as that supplied by BigBlu. The resident who uses this lives in the Old Village and managed to qualify for a grant from Hampshire County Council of about £300.

<https://bigblu.co.uk> . He has subsequently cancelled all connections to BT. A Vodaphone solution is used locally too.

If you would like further information about these initiatives, I will seek to obtain it for you.

Local Motorway upgrades: Highways England's website provides details of the times during the night when work will be undertaken to upgrade the local motorway network to provide the extra lanes by using existing hard shoulders. This is a moving target given previous good progress. Go to: <https://highwaysengland.co.uk/regions/all-regions/>

Local Council elections: The Borough Council elections will be held on 7th May when I and your other councillors for the area, Nigel Anderdon and Phil Bundy, will be standing for re-election. We do hope that you will support us. The number of councillors representing the whole of Test Valley has been reduced by 3, resulting in our ward, Chilworth, Nursling & Rownhams gaining an extra 500 electors, giving us about 7000 in total. This would not normally be a problem but for the fact that we have acquired these additional voters from the southern part of Valley Park. Their allegiance is to Valley Park naturally but because there is a declining population in that area, Valley Park will only be able to support 2 councillors of its own. Hence we have acquired the additional voters. It is most important that you have registered to vote and, if you require it, you let the Council know that you need a postal vote. Go to: <http://www.testvalley.gov.uk/aboutyourcouncil/localdemocracy/elections/elections-2-may-2019> or let me know.

Early reminder: The Old Village Fete will be held on 8th June this year so the organisers ask that you put this date in your diary. They are also seeking any help that you can offer, however small. Please get in touch with Wendy Doherty, one of the organisers, to indicate this: wendydoherty1963@hotmail.co.uk or reply to this email and I'll pass info on.

Interesting events in Hampshire: Brian Luff, the chairman of the Chilworth Hall committee, who all put in a lot of work to ensure the success of this local amenity, has compiled a list of interesting events available in the wider Hampshire area relating to art, science, technology, motor cycling, aeronautical and other topics, which you can attend. You can join the list to be kept in touch too. The full list is at: <https://chilworthhants.org.uk/village-hall/>. You will also find other very useful local information there.

Other dates for your diary:

The Hall is also showing the following films: *A Star Is Born* (Thurs, 14th February) and *First Man* (Fri, 29th March). Well worth the £5 ticket price. Refreshments available – bring your own alcohol. Begin at 7:30pm prompt. Book online at Hall site preferably to help the organisers or pay at door (come early to do so).

Kind regards, **Alison**

Please contact me at alisonf@btinternet.com to be on the mailing list for more frequent updates about burglaries, utility failures, local events, etc. Tel: 023-8076-9987