

CHADDLEWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

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MINUTES

Tuesday 31st March 2026, Chaddleworth Parish Council meeting held in Chaddleworth Village Hall, Upper End, Chaddleworth, RG20 7DY

Councillors Present: Cllr. G. Beard, Cllr. P. Hambro, Cllr. P. King, Cllr. S. McAllister-Lovelock

Clerk: Mr D Jennings

Members of the Public: none

1. **APOLOGIES:** Received from Cllr. K. Brady, Cllr. A. Woodroffe, ward member Cllr. C. Hooker.
2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST ON AGENDA ITEMS:** Cllr. P. King declared an interest on item 4.
3. **PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED:**
 - 3.1. Application 26/00515/HOUSE, Section 73 application to vary conditions 2 (Approved Plans) and 4 (Ecological Enhancements) of approved 23/02766/HOUSE, Orchard House, Chaddleworth, Newbury, RG20 7DY. Council **unanimously agreed** to respond No Objections.
4. **CHADDLEWORTH COMMUNITY PLAN:**
 - 4.1. Cllr. P. King relayed that key stakeholders are reviewing the plan in order to take supporting actions where they can over the next 5 years. The plan is published on the website and an additional briefing paper for the council is available (Appendix 1 below).
 - 4.2. The Council reviewed the plan as a stakeholder and **unanimously agreed** to endorse the Community Plan and the action ideas contained within it, and to include it as an agenda item in future meetings.
 - 4.3. The Council thanked and congratulated all of the Chaddleworth Community Plan team on their excellent work over the past year.
 - 4.4. It is noted that the agreed 2026/27 budget includes a seed funding allocation to support early delivery of community-led actions (particularly in Q2 2026).
 - 4.5. Cllr. P. King kindly volunteered to be the Parish Council point of contact for the Community Plan implementation team.
 - 4.6. The Council notes and approves the plan's submission to West Berkshire Council for formal WBC endorsement.
5. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING:** The next planned meeting is the Annual Meeting to be held Tuesday 12th May 2026 at 7:30pm in Chaddleworth Village Hall.

6. APPENDIX 1: Chaddleworth Community Plan Briefing for Chaddleworth Parish Council:

CHADDLEWORTH COMMUNITY PLAN

Parish Council Briefing

Summary of Plan Themes, Evidence and Action Ideas by Focus Area

Prepared for:
Chaddleworth Parish Council

Date:
March 2026

Purpose of this Briefing

This document has been prepared to support Chaddleworth Parish Council's review of the Chaddleworth Community Plan 2025 ahead of the meeting to review and adopt this.

It summarises the survey findings, the emerging vision, and the action ideas proposed under each of the six focus areas identified in the plan.

Chaddleworth Parish Council's (CPC below) role as lead, co-lead, or partner is highlighted throughout.

The plan was developed following a community survey completed by approximately 80% of Chaddleworth households (147 responses), making it one of the strongest response rates achieved under the West Berkshire Council community planning process. The evidence base is therefore robust and representative of the parish's opinion.

A note on this plan

The Community Plan represents the collective voice of Chaddleworth residents and sets out a shared direction for the next five years. Not every idea will be implemented, and some may take time to gather the support, funding, or volunteer capacity needed to get started. The plan's purpose is not to commit to delivering everything, but to establish a clear set of priorities that Chaddleworth Parish Council, community groups, and residents can rally around, and return to, as opportunities arise.

Overview of Survey Response

Survey responses received	147
Approximate household response rate	~80%
Total questions across survey sections	41
Focus areas covered	Safer, Communications, Prosperous, Healthy, Greener, Community

The six sections that follow cover each of the focus areas in turn: including what the survey found, the vision residents expressed, and the specific ideas proposed.

This briefing focuses where Chaddleworth Parish Council involvement is needed as lead and/or support for the suggested Vision, Objective and Ideas structure described.

1. A Safer Community

Traffic speed is the dominant safety concern, overall residents feel safe. There is a clear and evidenced mandate for action on speeding, pedestrian routes, verge maintenance, and practical infrastructure upkeep.

Survey Evidence

Feel safe in Chaddleworth overall	92%
Support 20mph speed limit in village	73%
Oppose 20mph speed limit	11%
Overgrown verges: moderate or major problem	72%
Not concerned about anti-social behaviour	77%

Main dangerous traffic areas identified: Main Street (most cited), village approaches/exits, Church area (Upper End/Botmoor Way), School Hill, and the pub area. Children's road awareness was the top children's safety concern. Open responses also highlighted drainage and flooding concerns, pothole and road surface maintenance, and connectivity issues for outlying areas.

Vision: Chaddleworth as a place where...

- *Traffic moves at safe speeds appropriate for a rural village with pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders*
- *Children can move safely between home, school, play areas and village facilities*
- *Footpaths and walkways provide safe alternatives to walking on roads*
- *Verges and hedges are maintained to ensure visibility at junctions and along roads*
- *Practical infrastructure issues (drainage, potholes, street furniture) are addressed promptly and systematically*

Ideas and CPC Involvement

Priority	Idea	Lead	CPC Partners
High	Campaign for 20mph speed limit through village centre	CPC (lead)	WBC Highways, Thames Valley Police
High	Work with WBC and landowners to address overgrown verges and hedges at junctions	CPC (lead)	WBC Highways, landowners
High	Improve footpath connections between key village locations	Community group	CPC, WBC Rights of Way, landowners
High	Establish systematic reporting and monitoring of infrastructure issues (drainage, potholes, street furniture)	CPC (lead)	WBC, community
High	Work with WBC to address drainage and flood risk management	CPC (lead)	WBC, Environment Agency, landowners
Medium	Explore traffic calming measures for Main Street and School Hill	CPC (lead)	WBC Highways
Ongoing	Run road safety event for parents and children	WBC Schools	CPC, WBC Highways
Ongoing	Clear roadsides of debris and overhanging vegetation	CPC (lead)	WBC Highways, landowners
Ongoing	Regular road maintenance schedule with WBC	CPC (lead)	WBC Highways

2. Communications

Satisfaction with current communications is generally high, but there are specific gaps – particularly around centralised information, the parish website, coverage in outlying areas, and visibility of Parish Council activity.

Survey Evidence

Satisfied or very satisfied with current communications	78%
No major communications problems	74%
Want better info: local news e.g. road closures	46%
Want better info: Chaddleworth history/footpaths/contacts	45%
Want better info: activities in neighbouring parishes	42%
Want better info: Parish Council updates and finances	29%
Unaware of the Bakers Trust	37%

Top channels used: word of mouth, Chaddleworth News (print), Facebook village group, email. Residents in Nodmore and Glenn Miller Close specifically flagged feeling disconnected and poorly served by current communications coverage. Several respondents asked for greater transparency on Parish Council decisions and precept spending.

Vision: Chaddleworth as a place where...

- Residents know where to find information about parish and neighbouring parish activities, services and important updates
- The Parish Council's work is visible and well understood by all residents
- Communications are timely, coordinated and accessible through multiple channels
- No one feels isolated or uninformed due to communication gaps
- All village organisations work together to share information effectively

Ideas and CPC Involvement

Priority	Idea	Lead	CPC Partners
High	Ensure remote areas (Nodmore, Glenn Miller Close) are included in all communication improvements — noticeboards, newsletter delivery	CPC / Comms group	Community volunteers
High	Establish opt-in email distribution lists for parish information (e.g. Mailchimp)	CPC (Parish Clerk leads)	Community volunteers
High	Redesign and update parish website as comprehensive information hub	Community working group	CPC, all village orgs
High	Create forward-planning calendar of all village events and activities	Community working group	CPC, event organisers
High	Improve communication about PC decisions, planning responses and precept spending	CPC (lead)	Parish Clerk
Medium	Work with Chaddleworth News editorial team to enhance content and reach	Comms team	All village organisations
Medium	Identify and improve usage of parish noticeboards; explore new locations	Comms team	CPC
Medium	Make PC meetings more accessible (timing, location, publicity)	CPC (lead)	Parish Clerk
Medium	Annual presentation to community on parish finances and precept spending	CPC (lead)	Annual Parish Meeting 2026

3. A Prosperous Community

As a rural parish, Chaddleworth has no major employers, but an increasing proportion of residents work from home. The main priorities are digital connectivity, promoting local businesses, and exploring the feasibility of local services — some of which are longer-term ambitions.

Survey Evidence

Want a local shop (prefer something more local)	56%
Want a local Post Office service	48%
Work from home (full or part time)	24%
Work locally to Chaddleworth	8%
Retired	31%
Rate mobile phone coverage as inadequate	14%
Rate home broadband as inadequate	10%
Would use shared workspace regularly or occasionally	19%

A local farm shop or market was the single most requested service. Recurring open-ended requests included a directory of local businesses, more diverse food options, a café, and better bus links to Newbury and railway stations — reflecting the challenges of rural living for those without cars.

Vision: Chaddleworth as a place where...

- *Anyone working from home can access reliable, fast telecommunications*
- *Anyone working in Newbury has access to public transport or shared transport solutions*
- *Local businesses are supported and promoted within the community*
- *Essential services are accessible, even if requiring travel to nearby towns*
- *The rural economy is sustained through a mix of home working, local employment and commuting*

Ideas and CPC Involvement

Priority	Idea	Lead	CPC Partners
High	Campaign for better broadband and mobile phone coverage across the entire parish	CPC (lead)	WBC, telecoms providers, local MPs
High	Create and maintain directory of local businesses, services and tradespeople	Community working group	CPC, local businesses
Medium	Explore feasibility of community WiFi at Village Hall	Village Hall trustees	CPC
Medium	Investigate feasibility of village shop (mobile shop, pop-up, or fixed)	Community working group	CPC, potential partners
Medium	Grow travel options for local working (e.g. car share, bus to Newbury)	CPC (lead)	WBC Highways
Ongoing	Publicise local businesses through village communications channels	Comms group	Chaddleworth News
Ongoing	Keep village shop / Post Office service provision under long-term review	CPC (lead)	Potential commercial partners
Low	Investigate feasibility of community workspace at Village Hall or other location	VH trustees / CPC	Community group
Low	Explore interest in business networking meetings	Community volunteers	Interested business owners
Low	Explore possibility of craft fairs or farmers markets	Community volunteers	Village Hall, local producers

4. A Healthy Community

Health and wellbeing opportunities are rated as fair to good by most residents, with transport to healthcare services a notable concern. Footpath improvements and new activity groups have the strongest support. Inclusion of all residents — regardless of age, family circumstances or location — runs through this section.

Survey Evidence

Rate health/wellbeing opportunities as 'Good' or 'Excellent'	39%
Rate health/wellbeing opportunities as 'Fair' or 'Poor'	58%
Rate transport to healthcare as inadequate or very inadequate	28%
Unaware of Downland Volunteer Group services	24%
Would attend exercise classes in Chaddleworth	41%
Footpath connections: highest priority improvement	57%
Better maintenance of footpaths and bridleways	56%
More benches and rest areas: important	41%
Interested in tennis court in Chaddleworth	35%
Interested in outdoor gym equipment	33%
More activities for elderly residents: needed or helpful	41%

Open responses highlighted concerns about families with young children and young people having insufficient activities, and worry about young people leaving the area due to limited local opportunities.

Vision

Vision: Chaddleworth as a place where...

- *No one feels excluded due to age, family circumstances, or location within the parish*
- *Safe, well-connected footpaths enable residents to walk between key village locations without using roads*
- *Walking groups and other outdoor activities bring people together and encourage active lifestyles*
- *Residents of all ages have access to activities and facilities supporting physical and mental wellbeing*
- *Transport to healthcare services is accessible to all, including those without cars*
- *Green spaces are maintained and enhanced with appropriate facilities*

Ideas and CPC Involvement

Priority	Idea	Lead	CPC Partners
High	Identify and prioritise footpath improvement projects connecting Village Hall, Church, Ibex and School	Community working group	CPC, WBC Rights of Way, landowners
High	Work with landowners and WBC to improve priority footpath routes	CPC (lead)	WBC Rights of Way, landowners
High	Better promote Downland Volunteer Group services to all residents	CPC / Comms group	Downland Volunteer Group
High	Establish regular walking/running groups	Community volunteers	CPC (support)
Medium	Install additional benches and rest areas along popular routes	Community volunteers	CPC

Priority	Idea	Lead	CPC Partners
Medium	Produce map/guide of walking routes in and around Chaddleworth	Community volunteers	Local historians
Medium	Investigate feasibility of tennis court and/or MUGA facility	Community working group	CPC, Village Hall, funders, landowners
Medium	Establish gardening group/club	Community volunteers	CPC (support)
Medium	Organise regular exercise classes at Village Hall	Community volunteers	Village Hall trustees
Medium	Explore additional activities and support services for elderly residents	Community volunteers	Monday Club, CPC
Low	Investigate feasibility of outdoor gym equipment	Community working group	CPC
Ongoing	Monitor and address social isolation, particularly among elderly residents	Community volunteers	CPC, Downland Volunteer Group, Church

5. A Greener Community

Environmental issues are personally important to 88% of residents. Dog fouling, litter, and the desire for more green space and tree planting all have clear majority support. CPC has a direct role in several of these actions, particularly around verge policy, dog bins, and EV charging.

Survey Evidence

Environment and sustainability personally important	88%
Dog fouling is a significant problem	57%
Litter is a significant problem	38%
Support more trees and wildflowers along verges/footpaths	73%
Support a common green space/orchard/picnic area	65%
Want more dog poo bins	64%
Would participate in community litter picking	54%
Support leaving verges uncut to encourage wildlife	52%
Public recycling facilities important	69%
Insulation important	68%

Additional comments reinforced the importance of maintaining Chaddleworth's rural character and avoiding suburbanisation. Residents also flagged the need for more litter bins in key locations, concerns about agricultural runoff, and the importance of protecting wildlife habitats and hedgerows.

Vision

Vision: Chaddleworth as a place where...

- *The natural environment is protected and enhanced through tree planting, wildflower areas and habitat creation*
- *The village actively works to reduce its carbon footprint*
- *Green spaces are created and maintained for community enjoyment and biodiversity*
- *Waste is minimised through better recycling facilities and community initiatives*
- *The rural character is preserved while embracing sustainable living*
- *Dog fouling is no longer a perennial issue*

Ideas and CPC Involvement

Priority	Idea	Lead	CPC Partners
High	Establish policy on verge cutting to balance safety with wildlife benefits	CPC (lead)	WBC Highways, community input
High	Install additional dog waste bins in problem locations	CPC (lead)	WBC waste services, community
High	Create wildflower areas along verges and in suitable locations	Community working group	CPC, WBC Highways, landowners
Medium	Develop tree planting programme along footpaths, verges and appropriate locations	Community working group	CPC, WBC, landowners, Woodland Trust
Medium	Investigate feasibility of community orchard/common green space/picnic area	Community working group	CPC, landowners, funders
Medium	Investigate improved recycling facilities (e.g. collection point at Village Hall)	Community working group	WBC waste services

Priority	Idea	Lead	CPC Partners
Medium	Organise regular community litter picking events (e.g. quarterly)	Community volunteers	CPC (equipment/disposal)
Medium	Provide information/guidance on renewable energy options	Community working group	Experts/installers
Medium	Provide information on insulation and energy efficiency grants	Comms group	Energy providers, govt scheme admins
Medium	Investigate EV charging points at appropriate locations (e.g. Village Hall car park)	CPC (lead)	WBC, EV charging providers
Low	Investigate feasibility of community garden/allotments	Community working group	CPC, landowners
Low	Explore feasibility of oil/log buying group	Community volunteers	CPC (support)
Ongoing	Support protection of hedgerows, mature trees and wildlife habitats through planning process	CPC (lead)	Community monitoring

6. A Stronger Community

Community spirit is rated positively by 70% of residents and 73% are willing to volunteer to some degree. The Village Hall, Village Fete and The IbeX Inn are all rated 90%+ for use and value. The main opportunities are better coordination, more diverse programming, inclusion of all parish areas, and support for new community-led initiatives.

Survey Evidence

Rate sense of community as 'Good' or 'Excellent'	71%
Willing to volunteer (at least occasionally or for specific projects)	73%
Use and value: Chaddleworth Village Hall	94%
Use and value: Village Fete	92%
Use and value: The IbeX Inn	92%
Use and value: Seasonal celebrations	90%
Use and value: St Andrew's Church and Churchyard	84%
Want more regular events/activities at Village Hall	52%
Would use: village annual events (BBQ, photo day etc.)	77%
Would use: pop-up food and experiences	72%
Support closer collaboration with neighbouring villages	64%

Additional comments highlighted the desire for better inclusion of outlying areas (Nodmore, Glenn Miller Close), the need to cater for diverse groups including singles, couples without children, and teenagers, and strong interest in creative new projects such as a film club, community choir, historical society, repair café and village show.

Vision

Vision: Chaddleworth as a place where...

- *Community facilities, particularly the Village Hall, are well-used hubs of activity for all age groups*
- *A diverse programme of events and activities brings residents together regularly*
- *Everyone feels welcome to participate and contribute to community life*
- *Volunteers are supported, coordinated and appreciated*
- *New residents are welcomed and quickly feel part of the community*
- *Communication ensures everyone knows about opportunities to get involved*
- *All residents, regardless of location within the parish, feel equally connected to village life*

Ideas and CPC Involvement

Priority	Idea	Lead	CPC Partners
High	Establish Community Events Coordination Group to plan and deliver enhanced programme of activities	Community volunteers	CPC, Village Hall, Chaddleworth Entertainments
High	Develop annual calendar of community events (traditional and new)	Events Coordination Group	All village organisations
High	Organise new types of events: pop-up food, talks/classes, summer BBQ, village photo day	Events Group / Ents	CPC (support)
High	Prioritise Village Hall improvements: heating/insulation, kitchen, WiFi, equipment	Village Hall trustees	CPC, funders, community fundraising

Priority	Idea	Lead	CPC Partners
High	Create volunteer coordination system to match volunteers with opportunities	Events Group or CPC	Community
High	Strengthen coordination among village organisations and groups	Events Group / CPC	All village organisations
Medium	Investigate footpath and cycle route improvements connecting remote areas to village centre	Community working group	CPC, landowners
Medium	Establish new activity groups: book club, gardening, other interest groups	Community volunteers	CPC (support)
Medium	Create welcome pack for new residents with village information and contacts	Community working group	CPC
Medium	Increase promotion and booking of Village Hall for community activities	VH trustees / Comms group	CPC seed fund
Medium	Create mechanism for residents to propose and develop new community initiatives	Events Group / CPC	Community
Medium	Explore collaboration with neighbouring villages on events and projects	CPC / Events Group	Leckhampstead, Brightwalton
Medium	Maintain and improve playground and sports facilities	CPC / Community group	Funders
Medium	Address cost barriers to participation: subsidised events, free activities, grant support	Events Group	CPC
Medium	Consider village directory or map of community facilities and contacts	Community working group	CPC
Low	Investigate feasibility of creative project ideas with resident interest: film club, community choir, historical society, repair café, village show	Community volunteers	CPC (support)
Ongoing	Continue to support The Ibx Inn as community hub	Community	The Ibx Inn
Ongoing	Continue to support Village Fete as annual highlight	Chaddleworth Entertainments	CPC, community volunteers
Ongoing	Ensure events and activities cater to diverse groups across ages, interests and family circumstances	Events Coordination Group	All organisers

Next Steps

The Parish Council is asked to consider the following in the meeting:

1. Endorsement of the Community Plan and the action ideas contained within it
2. Confirmation of CPC's role as lead, co-lead, or partner for each relevant action
3. Agreement of a seed funding allocation to support early delivery of community-led actions (particularly in Q2 2026)
4. Nomination of a Parish Council point of contact for the Community Plan implementation team
5. Note and approve the plan's submission to West Berkshire Council for formal WBC endorsement

Contact

For questions about this briefing, please contact Piers King, Chair, Chaddleworth Community Plan Steering Group: chaddleworthplan@gmail.com