

Charlton Park Residents' Association AGM May 20th, 2025

Present: *Committee:* Felicity Parnham, Chair; John Rowland, Treasurer; Lynda Rowland, Secretary; Cliff Carter, Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator; Sue Rockett, Lorraine Cox, Donald Hawkins.

Residents: Caroline Priest, Anne Surgenor, Janette Hawkins, Jane Robertson, Caroline Carter, Sara Turner, Tom Adams, Christine Wisdom, Frances Arrow, Patrick Shields, Sue Shields, Lucille Lean, Andy Parnham.

Apologies: Helen Ledger, Newsletter Secretary; Lloyd Surgenor; Sue Clark; Simon Griffin; Cllr. Paul Baker.

AGENDA:

Chair's Report: See attached notes. Additional thanks to Caroline Carter for working on the music for the Carol Singing event.

Treasurer's Report: See attached notes.

A vote was carried to continue with collecting subs of £5 per household for the coming year.

Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator's Report: See attached notes.

Thanks and gifts were given out by Felicity for committee members and other residents who have helped with events and activities over the past year.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

Felicity Parnham announced that she is standing down as Chair. **Lynda Rowland** was proposed and seconded and duly elected as the new Chair.

John Rowland was re-elected as Treasurer.

Cliff Carter was re-elected as Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator.

Helen Ledger had made it known that she is happy to carry on as Newsletter Secretary. A presentation was made to Felicity to thank her for her many years of service on the committee and her long-standing position as Chair.

End of Formal Meeting

A presentation took place by Caro Day, Creative Project Manager at the Everyman Theatre on 'Cheltenham's Theatre'.

The meeting was closed. The next CPRA Committee Meeting will be on June 17th, 2025.

We will start the evening with the AGM and then refreshments, followed by a presentation by Caro Day.

Chair's Report

Charlton Park Residents' Association Annual General Meeting

20 May 2025

Charlton Park Activities 2024/25

Events:

The Charlton Park Picnic was held on Saturday 29 June. It was a lovely evening with music and entertainment provided by the Music Man. Thank you to all who helped to make it happen.

Freecycle was held on the Green on Saturday. Thank you to everyone who turned out and took part. It is ideal to move things on to a good home. Our next event will be on Sat 31 May.

The Halloween Event took place on Sunday 27 October. Our thanks go to Holly Cameron, Sue Clark and their families for making this event happen, and also a big thanks for Donald and Janette Hawkins who coordinate the food and treats. It was a very busy and enjoyable event, so many children, costumes, and pumpkins.

The Carol Singing was a great event. We met on Sunday 15 December. Our thanks to John & Lynda Rowland for organising the music, and to Helen Ledger and Sue Rockett for sorting the mulled wine and mince pies. We collected £87 for the Cornerstone Centre and were able to donate some boxes of mince pies to Cornerstone.

Easter Egg Hunt Thank you to Holly Cameron and her family for creating and setting up a new trail and meeting families on the day. The weather was good (which is always a relief) and there were about 20 children who had fun on the Easter trail.

Other items:

Bus Stop Garden – The garden never fails to disappoint. It is garden full of blossom and flowers to enjoy all year round.

Thank you to our volunteers – Sue Rockett, John Rowland, Jane Robertson, and Barbara Kershaw, who lives next door and is very generous with her time, plants and welcome advice. Also, to Patricia Bielby who occasionally sends her gardener to help and prune the cherry tree. All volunteers are welcome. Please speak to Sue – she will be delighted to hear from you.

Balancing Pond – finally we made some progress! Thanks to Helen Ledger, Vistry sent a small team to tidy up the pond and a couple of ecologists to check if there was anything we should know about or be concerned about as the pond issues are addressed. We are waiting to hear what comes next!

Food Donations – thank you to everyone who gives to the Cornerstone Centre. They are immensely grateful for our continued and consistent support. Also, a very big thankyou to everyone on the rota who picks up and drops off the produce at Cornerstone every week.

Planting on Charlton Park – thank you again to Cliff Carter and John Rowland for planting daffodil bulbs on the CPD grass verges. Another great display!

Facebook - Charlton Park Community page continues to grow. We now have regular contributions, and 216 people signed up. Thank you to Rachel Lavin (KHC) for continuing to coordinate and be the admin.

Web pages – Thanks to Cliff Carter (KWD) for managing the Charlton Park website (KWD).

<http://charltonparkcheltenham.org.uk/>. The Constitution, Welcome Letter, dates of events and the history of Charlton Park can be found on the website – please take a look.

Yellow Lines - Our thanks go to Helen Ledger and Sue Rockett who have coordinated the Charlton Park response to getting yellow lines considered for the entrance to KAC to stop the poor parking which had the potential to lead to accidents. Cllr Paul Baker took this forward on our behalf, and we have been successful in our application. The lines will go down sometime in this financial year.

Parking

We know parking is an issue so we asked residents to respond to a short survey about parking on Charlton Park. We only had 3 responses. The Committee felt this was not enough to take any work further.

Wildlife - we are happy to report that the bird boxes on King William Green, Charlton Park Drive and out toward Moorend Road continue to be used. They were inspected last autumn and lots of old nesting material removed, ready for new occupants this year. Our thanks to Steve Watts (KGC) for cleaning out the bird boxes in the area.

Poppy appeal –The generous people of Charlton Park donated the sum of £635.06 for the 2024 Poppy Collection. Thank you! And especially to Donald Hawkins who visits every home on Charlton Park to collect.

Litter Picking and Weeding - Thank you to everyone who litter picks and does some weeding. So many people on Charlton Park do their bit – it makes a real difference. The area has lots of

people walking through, driving and parking and unfortunately occasionally leaving litter. Despite this the area is well maintained by people who care about their environment. We had a litter pick with Plastic Free Cheltenham in April. Over 10kg of rubbish was collected. A big thank you to everyone who came along.

Queen's Green Canopy

The trees are growing well. We have a rota of residents who water, weed, stake and care for the saplings. I believe they have all survived so far!

Flood Warden

Cheltenham Borough Council set up a Flood Warden Scheme in 2022. It is voluntary and Charlton Kings only has a handful of volunteers and Andy Parnham is the Flood Warden for Charlton Park. He monitors the river levels and flow from the bottom of Cox's Meadow to Moorend Road and he reports any debris e.g. fences, garden ornaments to CBC who get them removed. Thanks to Andy for taking on this role.

Local Trades

It is great to see so many people offering such a range of services. Yoga to financial planning, window cleaning to chauffeur, cake making to electrician. We will do our best to get your information on the noticeboard and in the newsletter.

Charlton Kings Parish Council – as a Charlton Kings Parish Councillor I get involved and lead other Charlton Kings initiatives e.g., CK Futures the Parish Council response to climate change. Also, it ensures Charlton Park is included and actively involved in discussions and initiatives. You should soon receive a copy of the

CKPC Annual Report in newspaper format – but you have a sneak peak. We would be interested to have any feedback.

Please look at the **CKPC website**

<https://www.charltonkingsparishcouncil.gov.uk/> and Facebook page for regular updates.

Library of Things

In October CKPC in collaboration with Gloucestershire Libraries, Vision 21 and Planet Cheltenham started a Library of Things at CK Library. We now have over 40 items to borrow with some duplicates – pressure washer, carpet cleaner, gazebo. These are free of charge to borrow and all you need is the Glos library card. At the 18 month point nearly 500 items had been lent, an estimated £32k has been saved and the emissions of a petrol car being driven 51,000 miles have been avoided. The good news is that Glos CC has recognised its value and have allocated £50K to establishing several more in Glos and I have meetings with people in Tewkesbury and Evesham who want to also take part.

Welcome to new residents – Charlton Park is a great place to live and we want to welcome anyone who moves to CP. There is a welcome letter on our website. If you know of any newcomers, please let someone on the committee know and we can say hello.

The next committee meeting is to be held at 30 KHC on Tuesday 17 June at 7.30 if anyone wants to attend. Any resident is welcome.

Next Events are the Freecycle on **Saturday 31 May**. Please place any items you want people to take at the top of your drive. Don't forget to take them in at the end of the day.

Also, the Summer Picnic on the Green on **Saturday 28 June** from 5pm. Please join us for a lovely evening of music – remember to bring your own food.

Thank you again to everyone for all their contributions to make Charlton Park a great place to live.

Gifts of thanks to:

John & Lynda Rowland, Helen Ledger and Cliff Carter for their work on the Committee and so much more! **Wine and books**

Holly Cameron for coordinating both the Easter Egg Hunt and Halloween activities this year. **Wine**

Don & Janette for being stalwarts of the Halloween refreshments and looking after the saplings.

Bus Stop Gardeners – Sue Rockett, Barbara Kershaw, Jane Foster and Patricia Bielby. **Chocolates and books**

Litter pickers - Tom & Jenny Adams – every fortnight they keep Charlton Park clean! **Wine**

Cornerstone collectors – Steve Watts, Lloyd & Anne Surgenor, Anne Berry, Christine Wisdom, Helen Ledger, John & Lynda Rowland.

Alessia Urso for auditing the CPRA accounts **Wine – already given**

Committee membership

The Committee has 11 active members – to whom I would like to say a huge thank you. Lynda and John Rowland, Helen Ledger, Lloyd Surgenor, Donald Hawkins, Sue Rockett, Caroline and Cliff

Carter, and Sue Clark and Lorraine Cox. Plus, the NHW volunteers and our road reps. We are always looking for more volunteers to support activities, and you don't have to be a Committee member. We need people to step forward as these activities only keep going due to goodwill and getting involved. Please speak to any Committee member or me if you can help. Thanks!

Election of Committee members

After many years I have decided to step down as CPRA Chair. I have really enjoyed this role but with this stint and a previous tenure I believe I must have done at least 20 years – a rather long time, and it is time for change.

The joy of being on the committee is I have had the opportunity to meet so many people, get involved with all sorts of activities – the highlights include:

The Hallowe'en gathering which has grown and grown. The summer picnic, setting up Easter Egg trails, Christmas on the Green, and being involved in planting, encouraging more wildlife through birdboxes, bat boxes, and trying to ensure the balancing pond remains a valuable asset. And so much more...! I would encourage anyone who is interested, to join the committee and be part of something special, with people who are committed and are a real pleasure to work with.

Please note the next committee meeting is to be held at 30 KHC on Tuesday 17 June at 7.30 if anyone wants to join. Everyone is welcome.

Introduce Caro Day:

Welcome to Caro, Creative Project Manager at the Everyman Theatre.

Thank you to Caro - she will receive a £65 donation to an Everyman charity.

CHARLTON PARK NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

REPORT 2024/2025

Reported Crimes / Incidents

This table shows a table of incidents in Charlton Park reported to the police from April 2023 to March 2024. There were 4 incidents (5 less than the previous year)

Month	Violence Sexual	Burglary	Antisocial	Theft	Damage Arson	Vehicle	Public Order
r 24							
May 24							
June 24			1(KWD)				
July 24							
24							
sep 24							
Oct 24							
Nov 24	1 (I<GC)			1 (KHC)			
Dec 24							
Jan 25							
Feb 25							
Mar 2							
Total 4	1		1	2			

Charlton Park is part of the Leckhampton Police area. A total of 331 incidents were reported in this area. In the neighbouring Charlton Kings area, a total of 582 were reported. Together this makes 915 incidents - we in Charlton Park make up about 0.5% of that total,

Some of these incidents were reported directly to the police so I don't have any direct knowledge of what occurred. However, I am aware of two things that happened on the same day in June.

Two retired residents were approached by men who claimed that the roof of their house needed attention. They employed the men who put a ladder to the roof and spent a short time on the roof. They then tried to charge an unreasonable amount of money for the job. They eventually left with some money but not all they demanded, I was alerted and called the police who circulated their descriptions.

As I was walking round the estate looking for the workmen, I noticed a scruffy man rifling through a skip outside a house in KWD. I stopped and talked to him. He was an Irish itinerant looking for scrap. I noticed in the back of his vehicle a Henry Hoover. I was later talking to a plumber in KHC who told me that his Henry Hoover had been stolen from the front garden of the house where he was working. I sent a photo of the Irishman's car to the police.

Unfortunately, no one was arrested for these crimes. So, the lessons to be learnt is never employ workmen who knock on your door looking for work and don't leave anything worth stealing in easy reach of the road.

Fraud and Cyber Crime

Because of the way crimes are reported these types of crime do not show up in these police reports. I am sure this type of crime is more common these days. Please let me know if you hear of this type of crime.

Footpath - Public Safety

I have continued to prune back the overhanging trees and bushes surrounding the lamp posts on the footpath from

Moorend Road to Coxes Meadow. More pruning will take place this year.

Volunteers would be very welcome! Good lighting helps people using the path to feel safe and deters criminal activity!

Signs and Stickers

Making criminals feel uncomfortable is an essential part of preventing crime.

Window stickers are an important part of that process. I have printed some NHW stickers that can be stuck to the side of a wheelie bin. Please take one to stick on your bin.

Communicating

We now have a Neighbourhood Watch WhatsApp group. I feel this is a fast way to pass information around the estate.

If you wish to join the group, please contact me or send a message,

Cliff Carter, cliff@nametags4u.co.uk, 07739899341

Conclusion

Charlton Park is still a great place to live and to be safe.

Charlton Park Residents Association --Annual Accounts Yr Ending 31st Jan 2025

Income/Expenditure Account year to	31/01/2024	31/01/2025
Income		
Subscriptions	E825	E787.00
Carol singing	E100.70	E87.00
Website Grant		200.00
Misc. income	€15.52	
TOTAL	E941.22	E1,074.00
Expenditure		
AGM room hire		E75.00
AGM expenses (drinks, crisps, M Bradshaw)	€20.00	E82.55
BBQ/Jubilee Event-Music man	E200.00	200.00
Plants	€30.00	
Easter -prizes. Quizz	23.00	E18.60 ✓
Website costs	€17.99	E200.00 ✓
Printing costs	€50.00	
Stationery/lamination	E8.76	
Halloween expenses	E47.29	E87.60
Carol singing expenses	€63.91	E73.41
Charity donation Cornerstone Foodpantry	€100.70	E87.00
Treasure hunt	€4.65	
Public Liability Insurance	€56.00	E89.60
Bark Mulch for tree planting	€0.00	E16.00
Miscellaneous	£8.29	E18.00
TOTAL	E630.59	E947.76
Statement of retained funds		
Balance brought forward	€746.51	E1,057.14
Net change (surplus or loss)	E310.63	E126.24
Bank Balance carried forward	E1,057.14	E1,183.38

06/04/2025

Alemaliso