

CHOLMONDELEY & CHORLEY PARISH COUNCIL

AUTUMN TO WINTER • 2026

Bringing our community together through the seasons

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIRMAN

Dear Residents,

Welcome to our latest Parish Council newsletter. As autumn settles in and the evenings draw in, I am pleased to share an update on our work and on some of the activities taking place across Cholmondeley and Chorley over the coming months.

Our priorities include completing the remaining work on the Neighbourhood Plan, maintaining a strong focus on local issues, and supporting our community through the winter. This edition includes information on the carol services, Bonfire Night, the new pickleball sessions and the practical help available with heating and home costs.

Above all, this edition carries one clear request. Our Neighbourhood Plan needs a small team of volunteers to get it across the finish line, and we would be very glad to hear from anyone who can lend a hand.

Thank you to everyone who helps make our parish a welcoming place to live.

— Councillor Chris Crossley, Chairman

YOUR PARISH COUNCIL

Meet your current Parish Councillors

Following the Annual Meeting in May 2026, Councillor Chris Crossley was elected Chairman and Councillor Phil Probin Vice-Chairman.

The current councillors are:

Councillor	Role / contact
Chris Crossley	Chairman Chris.Crossley@cholmondeley-chorley.co.uk
Phil Probin	Vice-Chairman Phil.Probin@cholmondeley-chorley.co.uk
Chris Hopley	Councillor Chris.Hopley@cholmondeley-chorley.co.uk
Tony Fennell	Councillor Tony.Fennell@cholmondeley-chorley.co.uk
Gemma Nicholas	Councillor Gemma.Nicholas@cholmondeley-chorley.co.uk

A thank you to former councillors

The Parish Council would like to place on record its sincere thanks to former councillors Izzy Cundy and Sarah Aspinall for their time, commitment and dedication to the parish. We wish them both well for the future.

Useful contacts

- Parish Clerk / Responsible Financial Officer: clerk@cholmondeley-chorley.co.uk
- Website: www.cholmondeley-chorley.co.uk
- Borough Councillor James Pearson: James.pearson@cheshireeast.gov.uk • 07947 572785
- MP Aphra Brandreth: Aphra.Brandreth.mp@parliament.uk
- Cheshire East Council: 0300 123 5500

Council meetings are open to members of the public. Agendas and minutes are published on the Parish Council website.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN • MOVING TOWARDS THE FINISH LINE

Our Neighbourhood Plan

The Cholmondeley and Chorley Neighbourhood Plan remains one of the Council's most important long-term projects. It gives our community a stronger voice in shaping future land-use and development decisions, and helps protect the character, environment, views, community facilities, footpaths and other features that matter locally.

A draft of the Plan was written a few years ago. Since then, the work needed to reach the next formal stage has moved slowly — and that delay has a cost. Every month the Plan is not in place is a month in which planning decisions affecting our two parishes are shaped without the policies our community drafted.

The Council is therefore making the Plan its priority for autumn and winter. Following the Annual Meeting in May, the Chairman agreed to review the work required to move the Plan forward, with support available from the Clerk and experience from neighbouring parishes that have recently completed this stage. Work has continued through the autumn on the outstanding preparatory work, so that residents can be properly engaged when the Regulation 14 consultation is launched.

Why we need to get this done

- The draft has been waiting long enough. Finishing it turns years of community work into policies that actually count.
- Once adopted, the Plan's policies can be used by planning officers when determining relevant planning applications — giving our parish a real say rather than a reactive one.
- It is our best protection for the character, environment, views, footpaths and community facilities that make Cholmondeley and Chorley what they are.
- It sets out where we would be prepared to see development, and what we would expect of it, instead of leaving the parish to respond application by application.
- Neighbouring parishes that have recently completed this stage can share their experience — but only our own community can put in the work.

What we need to get to the finish line

We are looking for a few volunteers to join our Neighbourhood Plan Working Group. No expertise is required. What the group most needs is a handful of capable, motivated people willing to take a piece of the work and see it through.

Helpful experience would include:

- Planning, or community consultation
- Writing, communications or public engagement
- Data analysis or project management
- Local environment, heritage or rural issues

The work is flexible and voluntary, and it comes in short stages — meetings are held only when they are needed. There is no cost to volunteers, and support and templates are provided, so nobody is starting from a blank page.

HELP SHAPE THE FUTURE OF CHOLMONDELEY AND CHORLEY. If you can offer a few hours to help drive the Plan to adoption, please contact the Parish Clerk at Clerk@cholmondeley-chorley.co.uk or speak to any councillor. Tell us the area you would most like to help with — we will match the work to the time you can give.

Why your involvement matters

- The Plan is about land use and planning – it cannot determine matters such as speed limits or highway signage.
- Once adopted, neighbourhood plan policies can be used by planning officers when determining relevant planning applications.
- The process includes formal consultation and independent examination.
- Residents' views are essential to making sure the Plan reflects the character and priorities of Cholmondeley and Chorley.

How to stay involved

Watch the Parish Council website and noticeboard for consultation information. When the Regulation 14 consultation opens, please take the opportunity to read the documents and respond. If you would like to support the working group or have a question about the Plan, contact the Parish Clerk.

The Parish Council's Neighbourhood Plan pages contain the background, questionnaires and working group information.

PARISH COUNCIL • WHAT WE'VE BEEN DOING

Progress since the winter newsletter

Area	Update
NOTICEBOARD	A new parish noticeboard The Council has progressed the replacement noticeboard project and a new noticeboard is now in place, providing a visible location for parish information and community notices.
LOCAL ENVIRONMENT	Litter picking Councillors Tony Fennell and Chris Crossley have undertaken local litter-picking, and the Council has discussed the possibility of organising a wider community litter-picking event.
HIGHWAYS	Keeping local issues on the agenda Highways matters continue to be reported through Cheshire East's reporting system, with councillors monitoring local road, drainage, road-safety and footpath concerns.
GOVERNANCE	Good governance and financial management The Council reviewed and adopted its key governance documents for 2026/27, including Standing Orders, Financial Regulations, the Scheme of Delegation, Risk Assessment, Asset Register, payroll procedures, IT/Data Protection and Freedom of Information arrangements, and the Reserves Policy.
COMMUNITY	Supporting local events and heritage The Council continued its support for community activity and appointed Councillor Chris Hopley as its representative for the 2026 Czechoslovak Memorial Service, with funding agreed for a wreath.

Annual accounts and transparency

The Council has also completed its annual governance and accounting work for 2025/26. The published accounting information records £8,240 of balances carried forward at 31 March 2026. The Council continues to publish its financial and governance documents on the website.

For the full detail, please use the Transparency and Meetings sections of the Parish Council website.

REMEMBERING • 4 JULY 2026

Czechoslovak Memorial Service



Czech Memorial Service at Cholmondeley Castle • 4 July 2026

Councillor Chris Hopley represented Cholmondeley & Chorley Parish Council at the annual memorial service.

On Saturday 4 July 2026, a commemorative ceremony was held at the memorial in the grounds of Cholmondeley Castle to mark the 86th anniversary of the arrival of Czechoslovak troops in Great Britain. The Parish Council was pleased to support the occasion by providing a wreath on behalf of the parish.

The ceremony is an important part of Cholmondeley's heritage, remembering the Czechoslovak soldiers who found refuge here in 1940. The Parish Council is proud to support this annual commemoration.

We thank Councillor Chris Hopley for representing the Council and all those involved in organising the service.

WHAT'S ON • LOOKING BACK AT 2026

A year of events on our doorstep

It has been a busy year at Cholmondeley Castle and in the parish. Thank you to everyone who came along, took part or helped organise.

Date	Event
20–21 JUNE	Cholmondeley Castle Triathlon & Multisport Festival — the Castle Race Series returned with triathlon, duathlon, aquabike, aquathlon, open-water swimming and running events, together with a festival village.
4 JULY	Czechoslovak Memorial Service — Cholmondeley Castle (see above).
22 JULY	Plant Hunters' Fair — Cholmondeley Castle Gardens hosted specialist nurseries and garden visitors to the Estate.
6–9 AUGUST	Deva Fest — the family-friendly festival returned to Cholmondeley Castle Gardens with music, comedy, food, camping and activities. Water-sports sessions on Deer Park Mere included stand-up paddleboarding and kayaking.
20 SEPTEMBER	Festival of 1,000 Classic Cars — a major motoring event at Cholmondeley Castle with classic cars, motorcycles, autojumble, trade stalls, food and drink.
30 SEPTEMBER	100th Cheshire Ploughing Match — Cholmondeley Castle. The centenary match included ploughing and hedge-laying competitions, demonstrations and trade stands.

Please note that Deer Park Mere is part of the Estate. The paddleboarding and kayaking mentioned above were organised, bookable Deva Fest activities with qualified instructors; the newsletter is not suggesting that the Mere is generally open for public water sports.

WHAT'S ON • AUTUMN INTO WINTER

Coming up

There is plenty happening around the parish as autumn turns to winter. Event arrangements can change, so please check the organiser's website before travelling.

Date	Event
25 OCT	Autumn Festival • Cholmondeley Castle Gardens The Castle Gardens' Autumn Festival takes place on Sunday 25 October 2026. Check the Gardens' website for current opening days and last entry times.
25 OCT	Car Club Meet • Cholmondeley Arms A car-club meet is listed at the Cholmondeley Arms. Check the Arms' events page for the latest arrangements.
1 NOV	Clocks go back British Summer Time ends. Please take extra care on rural lanes as evenings become darker.
5 NOV	Bonfire Night See the Bonfire Night information below for local arrangements and safety advice.

Date	Event
NOV–DEC	Local quizzes, music and community evenings The Cholmondeley Arms continues to advertise quizzes, music sessions and other events. Check its current events pages for dates and booking information.
DEC	Carol services See the Christmas and carol service information below for dates.

A reminder for event days. Large events can mean temporary increases in traffic on the A49 and local rural roads. Please plan ahead, follow event signage and allow extra time for journeys. Residents are encouraged to report any highway safety concerns through Cheshire East's reporting system.

BONFIRE NIGHT • 5 NOVEMBER 2026

Bonfire Night

Bonfire Night falls on Thursday 5 November this year, and organised displays are usually held on the nearest weekend. Local arrangements are as follows:

What	When
Barbecue at the Cholmondeley Arms	Saturday 7 November 2026, from 5.30pm
Bonfire Bash at the Cholmondeley Arms	Saturday 7 November 2026, 6.30pm

Please check with the Cholmondeley Arms nearer the time in case the arrangements change. Other local displays will be publicised by their own organisers.

If you are going to a display

- Wrap up warm, wear something bright or reflective, and take a torch for the walk home.
- Arrive in good time and follow the stewards' directions on parking and where to stand.
- Keep well back from the bonfire and never approach a display area during the event.
- Keep children and dogs close by and never leave them unattended.
- If you are driving, expect extra traffic on the A49 and local lanes and allow more time.

If you are staying at home

- Close windows and curtains and keep pets indoors – animals find the noise distressing.
- Only use fireworks in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and the law, and never return to a firework that has not gone off.
- If you are lighting a bonfire, keep it well away from buildings, fences, hedges and trees, and never leave it unattended.
- Please be considerate of neighbours, livestock and wildlife.

CHRISTMAS • CAROL SERVICES 2026

Carol services

The parish's carol services take place in December. Residents, families and visitors are all very welcome.

Date	Service
FRIDAY 18 DECEMBER	Carol service as notified by the Council. Please confirm the time and venue with the organiser.
DECEMBER	Chapel in the park • Cholmondeley the chapel in the park is open for a carol service this December.

Further carol services and Christmas events in the wider area are also held each December. Details are published locally nearer the time.

Christmas 2026

We wish all residents a peaceful Christmas and every good wish for the New Year.

PICKLEBALL • NOW PLAYING AT CHOLMONDELEY PADDLE, PICKLE AND TENNIS

Pickleball

Pickleball is one of the fastest-growing sports in the country, and it has arrived here in the parish. It is a paddle sport played with a perforated plastic ball over a low net, on a court about the size of a badminton court. It is quick to pick up, easy on the joints, and a sociable way to meet people and stay active whether you have played before or not.

The courts are at Cholmondeley Paddle, Pickle and Tennis Club, next door to the Cholmondeley Arms, and social sessions run five days a week.

Sessions and contact

Detail	Information
Where	Cholmondeley Paddle, Pickle and Tennis Club Malpas SY14 8HN — next door to the Cholmondeley Arms.
Sessions	Five days a week Social sessions run five days a week. Please check the current timetable for the days and times that suit you.
Cost	£6 per session Please confirm the current price when you book.
To book or ask	Email cheshirepadel@gmail.com or telephone 07502 621856. Courts can also be booked online.

Detail	Information
Online	cpadel.co.uk Booking: search for Cpadel – Cholmondeley Padel Pavilion.

Good to know

- A court at the site is marked for pickleball, and the club also has two padel courts.
- Paddles and balls are usually available at a session, so there is no need to buy equipment to try it.
- Sessions suit all abilities, and beginners are very welcome.

Please contact the club direct for the current timetable, prices and whether a session is indoors or outdoors on the day, as these can change. Peak times can be busy, so booking ahead is advisable.

GOOD TO KNOW – HELP WITH ENERGY, HEATING AND HOME COSTS

Could you get help to make your home warmer?

Winter is a good time to check whether your home could benefit from energy-efficiency improvements. Cheshire East's Warm Homes: Local Grant can support eligible households with energy-saving measures, including insulation and other improvements.

Find out more: Cheshire East – Help with heating your home: https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/housing/help-with-heating-your-home.aspx

Support	Details
£150	Warm Home Discount The scheme is due to reopen in October 2026. Eligible households receive a one-off £150 reduction on their electricity bill. Check GOV.UK when the scheme reopens for the current eligibility rules and participating suppliers. https://www.gov.uk/the-warm-home-discount-scheme
£300	Heating oil support If you heat your home with oil and are struggling to pay for it, Cheshire East's Crisis and Resilience Fund may provide one £300 oil-heating payment per household. Current guidance says applicants must be on a low income and have an oil tank at 30% or less. The current application period runs to 31 March 2027, subject to the scheme rules.
£200	If an unexpected bill leaves you in crisis Cheshire East's Crisis and Resilience Fund includes crisis support of up to £200 for eligible households facing a short-term financial emergency. Awards are discretionary and eligibility checks apply.

The Council also has a benefits calculator on its CRF information page.

Need adaptations to make your home safer?

If you or someone living in your home is disabled, you may qualify for a Disabled Facilities Grant towards eligible adaptations such as safer access, bathrooms or heating controls. The maximum grant is £30,000, subject to assessment and eligibility.

Find out more: Cheshire East – Disabled Facilities Grants: https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/housing/help-with-adaptations-and-repairs/disabled-facilities-grants.aspx

Always check the current official guidance before arranging work or paying a contractor.

10-MINUTE WINTER HOME CHECK

A little preparation now can save a lot of trouble later

Before the weather turns colder, why not work through this quick checklist?

- Check smoke and carbon monoxide alarms and replace batteries where necessary.
- Check gutters, downpipes and drains for leaves or blockages.
- Look for slipped roof tiles, damp patches or signs that rainwater is getting into the property.
- Check outside lights and keep a torch handy for darker evenings.
- If you have a chimney or solid-fuel appliance, make sure it is maintained and checked as appropriate.
- Know where your stopcock is before a frozen pipe becomes an emergency.
- Check gates, locks, sheds and garages before the darker evenings arrive.
- If you have trees close to your property, keep an eye on damaged or overhanging branches after strong winds.
- Check your car tyres, lights, screenwash and windscreen before winter journeys.
- Keep emergency numbers somewhere easy to find – particularly if you live alone.

RURAL ROAD TIP

Our parish has many narrow lanes and bends. As evenings become darker, please allow a little extra time, reduce speed in poor conditions and be prepared for pedestrians, cyclists, horses, agricultural vehicles and wildlife.

THE CHOLMONDELEY & CHORLEY WINTER CHALLENGE

Can you tick off five before Christmas?

- Take a photograph of your favourite winter view in the parish.
- Walk a footpath you have never tried before.
- Spot a buzzard, barn owl, deer or another local wildlife species.
- Visit a local event or support a local business.
- Pick up five pieces of litter while out walking – if it is safe to do so.
- Say hello to a neighbour you have not spoken to for a while.
- Make a cup of tea and spend ten minutes enjoying the view!

We would love to see your favourite photographs. Send local photographs or community stories to the Parish Clerk for possible inclusion in a future newsletter.

Please remember that photographs submitted for publication should not identify children or other people without their permission.

COMMUNITY • COUNTRYSIDE • LOCAL LIFE

Making the most of where we live

Cholmondeley and Chorley are fortunate to be surrounded by farmland, woodland, parkland, waterways and a wealth of local history. The Parish Council is keen to support a community that is informed, connected and respectful of the rural environment.

A busy local events calendar

- Cholmondeley Castle Gardens continue to provide seasonal openings and special events, including the Autumn Festival on 25 October.
- The Cholmondeley Arms continues to host car club events and a programme of food, drink, quiz and music activities. Check its website for current dates.
- Major events at the Castle bring visitors into the area and provide opportunities to enjoy the Estate, while residents should be mindful of temporary traffic and visitor pressures on event days.

The Council has agreed that current activities will be published on the Parish Council website, and that printed copies will be available on request for anyone who would rather have them on paper.

Enjoy the countryside responsibly

- Keep dogs under control and follow any Estate or public-rights-of-way signage.
- Take litter home or use bins where provided.
- Be considerate of residents, farmers and other road users, particularly on narrow rural lanes.
- Please do not enter private land, waterways or Estate areas unless access is specifically provided.
- During large events, allow extra time for journeys and follow signed parking and traffic arrangements.

The Council has discussed the possibility of organising a community litter-picking event. If you would be interested in taking part, please contact the Parish Clerk.

Share your local news

Do you have a community event, local achievement, historical photograph or story that you would like considered for a future newsletter? Please contact the Parish Clerk. We would particularly welcome contributions that help connect residents across both parishes.

BE A GOOD NEIGHBOUR

A five-minute knock can make a real difference

Winter can be particularly difficult for people who live alone or have mobility difficulties. A five-minute knock on the door, a phone call, offering to collect something from the shops or simply checking that a neighbour is warm and safe can make a real difference.

Small acts of kindness make a big difference in a small community. 💚

HIGHWAYS • SAFETY • REPORTING

Reporting local problems

The Parish Council continues to raise local highways and environmental matters with the relevant authority, but reporting an issue directly to Cheshire East helps create an official record and allows the Council to track the response.

Cheshire East traCE

Cheshire East's traCE system is now the main online reporting route for issues such as potholes, faulty streetlights, litter, abandoned vehicles, blocked drains and gullies and fly-tipping. It replaces the previous FixMyStreet system.

Contact	Number / route
Routine / online	Report road and pavement issues through Cheshire East traCE.
Danger to life / urgent	0300 123 5025
Highways Customer Services	0300 123 5020 during office hours

Autumn and winter safety

- Take extra care on narrow rural roads as evenings become darker and conditions become wetter.
- Report blocked drains and flooding promptly, particularly where water presents a safety risk.
- If a tree, branch or other obstruction creates an immediate danger, report it through the appropriate emergency route.
- Wear reflective clothing or use a torch when walking on rural roads at dusk or after dark.
- Please check on neighbours who may need additional help during periods of severe weather.

Useful numbers

- Police – non-emergency: 101
- Emergency services: 999
- Cheshire East Council: 0300 123 5500
- Cheshire East Highways: 0300 123 5020
- Highways out-of-hours emergency: 0300 123 5025

PLANNING • MEETINGS • STAY CONNECTED

Planning and local development

The Parish Council continues to consider planning applications that are referred to it and to make representations where appropriate. The Neighbourhood Plan remains the Council's key long-term planning project and is being progressed towards Regulation 14 consultation.

Parish Council meetings

Meetings normally begin at 7.30pm. Members of the public are welcome to attend and may address the Council during the public participation item.

Date	Meeting
24 November 2026	Parish Council meeting
16 March 2027	Parish Council meeting

Meeting dates and venues may be amended. Please check the Parish Council website for the latest agenda and meeting information. The 22 September 2026 meeting has now taken place; its minutes are published on the website.

Stay connected

- Parish Council website: www.cholmondeley-chorley.co.uk
- Email: clerk@cholmondeley-chorley.co.uk
- Look out for notices on the new parish noticeboard.
- Follow the Parish Council's online channels for updates, consultations and local information.

THANK YOU TO OUR COMMUNITY

Thank you

The Parish Council would like to thank residents, volunteers, local businesses, the Cholmondeley Estate, community organisations and everyone who contributes to life in our two parishes. Your involvement, whether through attending an event, reporting a local issue, helping with litter picking or simply sharing information with a neighbour, helps make Cholmondeley and Chorley a stronger community.

Wishing all residents a safe and enjoyable autumn and winter.

Councillor Chris Crossley

Chairman

Cholmondeley & Chorley Parish Council