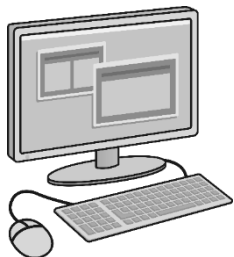


CHURTON PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2025

Project Gigabit - Full Fibre Broadband Delayed



As you will be aware from previous updates, Churton was included in “**Project Gigabit**” - a government funded scheme to provide ultrafast internet connectivity to homes and businesses in areas such as ours that are not included in commercial suppliers’ plans. In Cheshire, a company called Freedom Fibre had won the government contract to deliver the project to over 15,000 properties from 2025 onwards.

However, last month, after Freedom Fibre had carried out initial survey work in the village, we received the very unwelcome news that Freedom Fibre and the Government had “mutually agreed” to terminate the entire Cheshire contract. Naturally the Parish Council has been pressing for more information about what happens now, but so far that information has not been forthcoming. The official statement from BDUK - the Government department responsible for the contract reads as follows:

“BDUK and Freedom Fibre have mutually agreed to terminate the Project Gigabit contract for Cheshire. BDUK is now moving swiftly to put in place alternative plans with other suppliers to connect premises that were due to be connected. Freedom Fibre has not received any public funding for this contract”

As soon as we have any further (hopefully better) news we will of course let you know.



Improvement to Mobile Network Coverage

Despite the bad news on Full Fibre Broadband, there does seem to be more progress on the mobile network. With two new masts proposed at Tilston (planning approved) and Aldford (subject to planning) in the pipeline we should hopefully see vastly improved mobile phone and data coverage in Churton by the end of 2025.



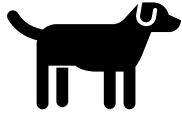
Churton Neighbourhood Plan

Thank you to everyone who responded to Housing Needs Survey at the end of last year.

With the help of consultants, three reports are now being prepared for the Parish Council and Neighbourhood Plan Working Group to help them develop the Neighbourhood Plan for Churton:

- Housing Needs Assessment
- Natural Environment Report
- Conservation Area Assessment

We expect to be able to share the findings more widely over the coming months



Dog Fouling Complaints – New Bin Provided

Following an increasing number of complaints about dog fouling in and around the village, the Parish Council has negotiated a new bin at the junction of Stannage Lane and Chester Rd to fill the long gap between Churton and Farndon. However, in order to do this Cheshire West & Chester Council have had to remove the old dog waste bin opposite the village hall. It was very overgrown and easy to miss. Other bins remain outside the pub, at the junction of New Lane/Pump Lane and on the lane down to Stud Farmhouse. As well as keeping the village clean, hopefully this will also help to reduce the number of poo bags hanging in trees and bushes!

Additional stickers warning that anyone who fails to clear up after their dog can result in a penalty upto £1000 have also been placed around the village. The law states that being unaware a dog has fouled or not having a suitable bag is not a reasonable excuse.



Pump Lane / Marsh Lane Flood Alleviation

Following concerns raised about significant flooding over the winter, the Barnston Estate has now carried out extensive ditch, pond and vegetation clearance around the bottom of Pump Lane and Marsh Lane to alleviate the problem.



Public Footpaths

Several reported issues around the upkeep and potential blocking of public rights of way around the village have been raised with Cheshire West & Chester Council and relevant local landowners.

CHURTON VE DAY CELEBRATION
JOIN US FOR A DAY OF REMEMBRANCE,
COMMUNITY & CELEBRATION!
MAY 5TH
1 PM ONWARDS
AT THE
CHURTON VILLAGE HALL

VINTAGE DRESS
ENCOURAGED!
FOOD & DRINK STALLS
GAMES FOR ALL AGES

WE NEED YOUR HELP!
WE ARE LOOKING FOR
RAFFLE PRIZES

VE Day Celebration – Monday May 5th

Finally, please come and join us celebrate the 80th Anniversary of VE Day at the village Hall.

Monday May 5th from 1pm onwards

All welcome.