



# CPC UPDATE NOVEMBER 2023

**Chipperfield Parish Council would like to wish everyone a safe and joyous festive period.**

CPC are happy to welcome a new council member, **Malcolm Paton**; we are now back to full strength. Malcolm has lived in the village for a number of years and we are looking forward to his help and contribution to council business.

There is an important update on the Dacorum **planning** front.

The draft plan that DBC launched in 2020 was heavily criticised for the amount of development proposed in the Green Belt and was withdrawn for a rethink. A revision themed **'You Said, We did'** has recently been published for fresh consultation. This consultation is open now until December and can be found via the DBC website. Your views and opinions are important, so please take the time to look at the plan in terms of its impact on Chipperfield. Currently there are no designated sites in our village but there can, and most likely will be, an impact on us as a direct result of increased housing and traffic nearby (Bovingdon and Kings Langley, in particular).

The background to the need for a plan is directed from central Government whereby all Planning Authorities must have a valid plan setting out how housing need is going to be achieved over the plan period (Dacorum Local Plan Revised Strategy for Growth for the period 2024-2040).

The Government gives each Planning Authority a target. The revised plan is based on achieving 900 dwellings per annum (reduced from 1017 in the withdrawn plan) in the DBC area. There is now more emphasis on the development of urban sites and less on green belt sites.

**At the end of October this year the Government achieved Royal Assent for the 'Levelling Up Act' which includes measures to increase the voice that local communities have over planning and development issues. These include:**

- simpler alternative to adopting a neighbourhood plan
- reform to CIL (community infrastructure levy)
- neighbourhood priority statement
- neighbourhood design code (e.g. like our Chipperfield Design Statement)
- ability for 'street level issues' to be adopted based on consensus of affected residents
- increased requirement for Developers to consult Parish and Town Councils including pre-app.

As always, 'the devil is in the detail' and CPC awaits clarification in due course as to which measures will benefit Chipperfield but we urge you to look periodically at the DBC site for updates that may affect us.

On other matters, DBC are **trailing a new machine on the common**. The machine trials are being conducted to help DBC to manage path and woodland edges. These may be of the form of a small tracked forestry mulcher clearing some bramble, nettle, holly and birch from alongside the main path that heads from the Cricket Ground car park to the Apostles Pond. By the time this article goes to press other machines should have been deployed and tested in November working around the pond.

*Kevan Cassidy, Chair, Chipperfield Parish council*