

COLNEY HEATH PARISH COUNCIL



COLNEY HEATH • SLEAPSHYDE • SMALLFORD • TYTTENHANGER

Colney Heath Parish Council



2024 report to the electorate of Colney Heath parish
Presented on 9th May 2024 by Craig Tallents, Chair

Your Parish Council



Councillors - elected in May 2023 - are unpaid and volunteer their time



Variety of legacy issues for various reasons from previous Parish Councils



Financial consequences resulting from the April 23 change to the Parish boundary



Need to reset Council's relationship with the community

Parish Council's Vision



Simply : to be a “good council”



Represent all parts of our community



Work positively with the community



Communicate effectively



Work with other parties to get the best deal for our community

Initial objectives



Oppose inappropriate developments



Progress our Neighbourhood Plan



Enhance our environment



Understand residents' issues



Inform residents

Initial objectives



Support community groups



Resolve legacy issues



Simplify bureaucracy



Provide value for money

Working Groups established



SET UP IN JUNE engaging volunteers



Planning



Communications



Roestock Hut



Charles Morris Hall



Community Organisations Liaison

Planning



Parish Council is statutory consultee
not decision maker



Responding to many planning
applications and objecting to several
major developments



Responding to consultations including
SADC draft Local plan
HCC Minerals plan

Planning



Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group re-established following approval of revised area in December 2023



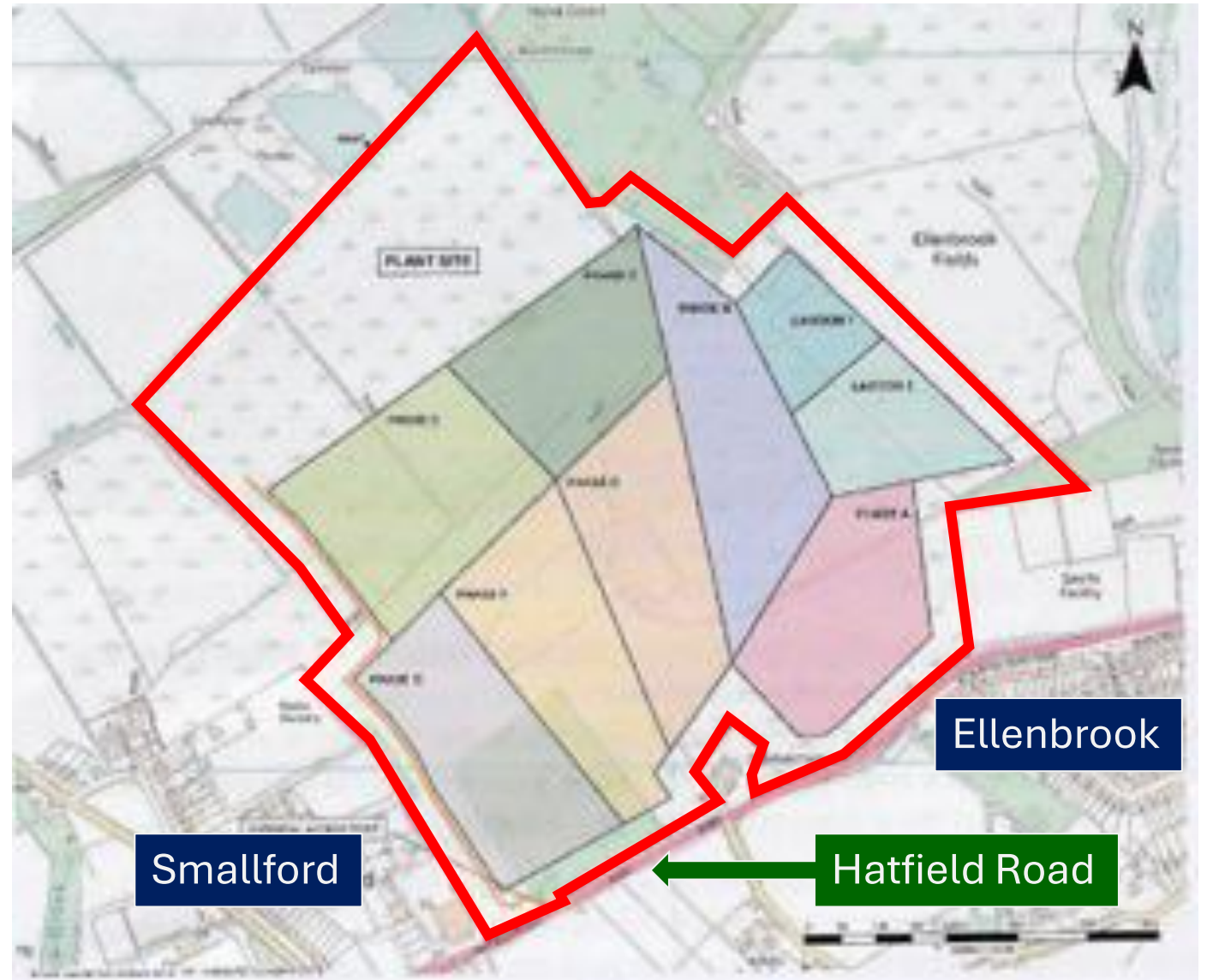
acting as *Rule 6 party* on planning inquiries
for:

Ellenbrook quarry

150 houses on Tollgate Road

45 houses next to school/football club

Ellenbrook Quarry (Planning Inquiry)



150 houses off Tollgate Road (planning Inquiry)



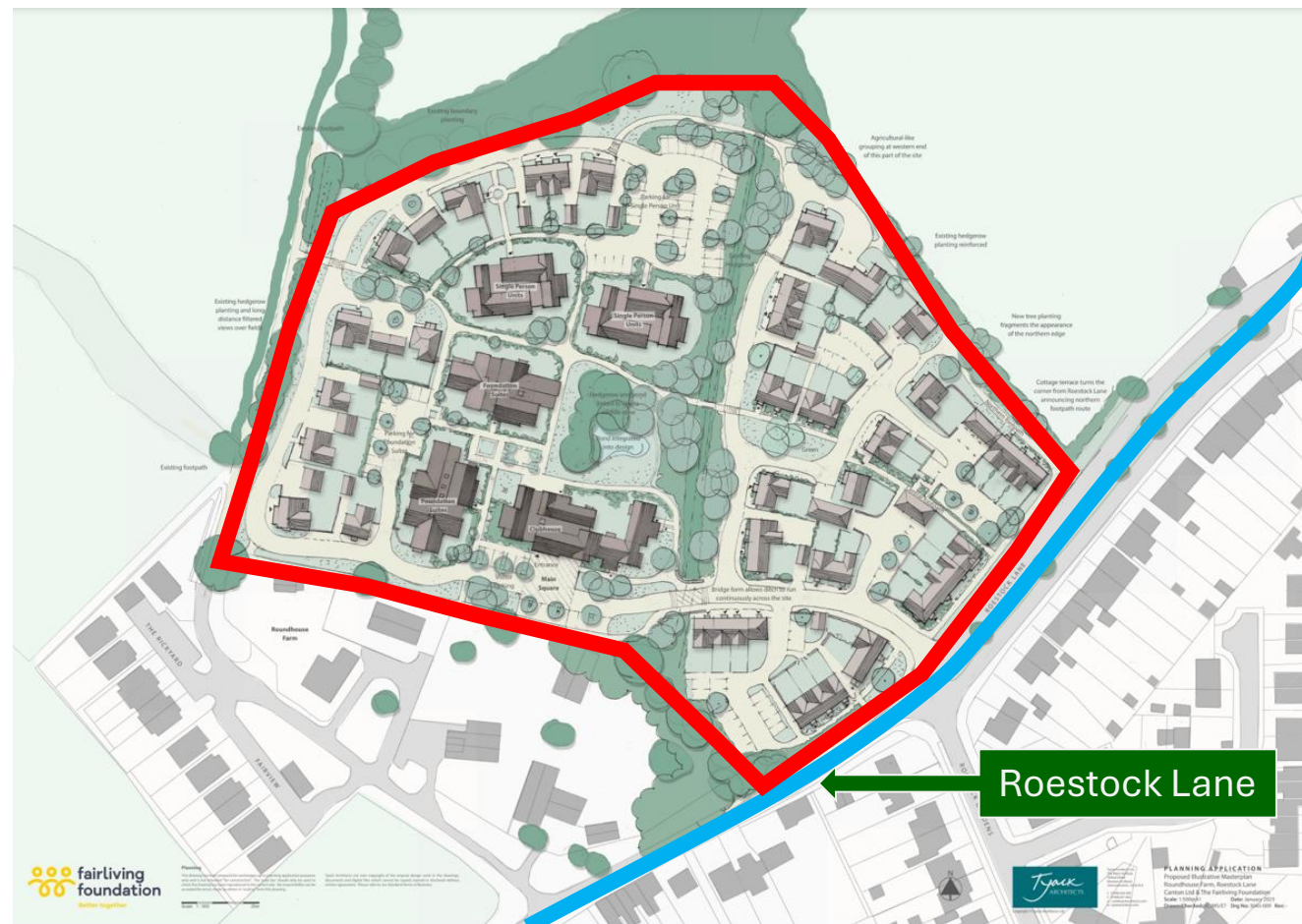
45 houses next to
school and
football club
(Planning Inquiry)



155 houses
on
Roestock
Lane
(submitted
Nov 2022)



110 houses
on
Roestock
Lane
(submitted
Feb 2023)



190 houses
off Colney
Heath Lane
(submitted
Sept 2023)



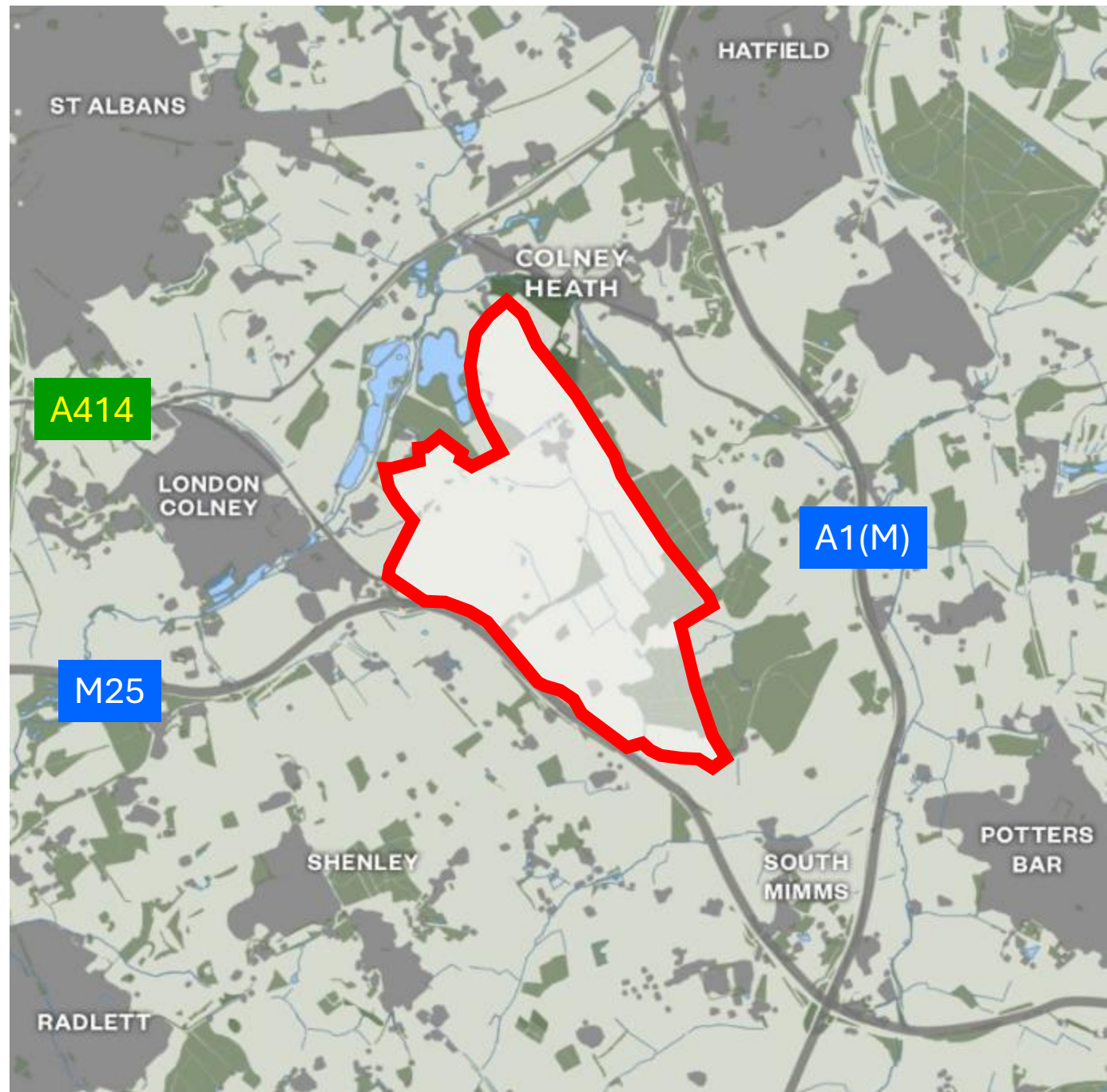
26 houses on Colney Heath Lane (submitted Nov 23)



Bowmans Cross (new town 5,000 houses)



Bowmans Cross
(new town ~5,000 houses)



Progress to date (1/3)



Communications - Council adopted Kite as new logo and three editions of The Kite magazine published and 1,300 copies delivered by volunteers

The Kite September, December and March

COLNEY HEATH PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER | OCTOBER 2023

the kite

COLNEY HEATH PARISH COUNCIL
COLNEY HEATH • SLEAPHYDE • CHALFORD • TYTTEHANGER

A warm welcome



Welcome to the first issue of The Kite, Colney Heath Parish Council's new newsletter. You'll receive The Kite through your letterbox every couple of months, plus you'll be able to read it online on the Parish Council's website. Our aim is to provide a snapshot of what the Parish Council is doing and all that's happening in the Parish that is of interest to residents.

You'll also notice a new Parish Council logo! The logo reflects our community and environment and our refreshed commitment to work for the good of the Parish (you can read more about the thinking behind it on page 3). Our vision is simple and modest: to be a good council. This means representing and actively involving all parts of our community; working positively with voluntary and community groups; articulating community needs through effective communication and plans for the Parish; and to work in partnership with other local authorities and agencies to get the best deal in service delivery for the local community.

We want to create a culture and operate in a way that is: straightforward, open and transparent; effective and properly managed; and positive, approachable and informal (except when formality is required). Communicating with you, the community, is essential. We appreciate that this communication must be two-way, so we'd welcome your thoughts and ideas. As you may know, parish councillors are unpaid volunteers. Volunteering is a great way to make a difference in your community and meet new people. If you're interested in getting involved in community projects or Parish Council working groups, we'd be delighted to hear from you (you'll find our contact details on the back page).

We hope you enjoy the first edition of The Kite. If you would like to advertise in a future edition (which helps cover the cost of producing the newsletter), you'll find details on page 6. Finally a big thank you to all the groups and individuals who have contributed their parish news.

Craig Craig Tallents, Chair

YOUR DIARY DATES

Parish Council meetings: Thursdays 23rd November and 14th December at Colney Heath JMI School at 7.30pm. Residents are welcome to attend.

Bonfire Night at Charles Morris Hall: Saturday 4th November at 6pm. Tickets available from the Plough Pub, Tyttenhanger. They are not sold at the event.

Music Quiz & Bingo Night: at Colney Heath Football Club, on Saturday 11th November starting at 7pm. £5 per person to enter the quiz. Enjoy a fun evening!

OUR ENVIRONMENT: AN UPDATE FROM COUNCILLOR NICK PETTIT

TLC for The Warren

For those not familiar with The Warren, it is the area of heathland that can be seen on the right hand side of Coursers Road as you leave Colney Heath Village past the Mill House. Although part of The Common, it is often forgotten by walkers and visitors, yet it is a great area for wildlife. History books reference it as far back as 1471 and it was used by the 'land army' during World War 2 to grow food. However, maintaining it has proved a challenge post-Covid. Whilst The Common has a regular contractor, The Warren needs a more specialist approach as the invasive scrub sits among areas of natural shrubbery. At the November meeting of the Parish Council, it was agreed to get The Warren cut and cleared. It's an expensive job but an essential one if, going into next Spring, it will have the best chance to support new vegetation and habitats.

Going forwards, the Parish Council will try and find a more cost-effective approach. In the past it has explored the option of grazing cattle and sheep as an effective and sustainable means of management. Unfortunately, finding the best way to do this hasn't materialised. However, if you do have livestock and want to discuss grazing them on The Warren, contact The Clerk at the Parish Council.



Filling up with nature

Sleaphyde resident Derek Crump sent in some great photos of the new ghost ponds on The Warren that are being brought back as a special project by The Herts & Middlesex Wildlife Trust. Nature has taken over and they are gradually filling with water. Life is returning and vegetation is starting to appear. Once The Warren has been cut and cleared, signage will go up to give more details about the project and warn visitors to take care around the ponds and water.

Improving Colney Heath's road markings

It hasn't gone unnoticed by the Parish Council and residents in Colney Heath that something needs to be done to improve the road conditions within the village. County Councillor John Hale is supporting the Parish Council on three issues – speeding, stopping access by HGVs and improving the road markings. The latter has recently been surveyed by Councillors, who submitted a series of photographs to Highways via Councillor Hale to show the sorry state of the painted road signs. The biggest area of concern is outside the school, in particular on the zebra crossing and the approaching 'SLOW' signs. We are hopeful that with the support of Councillor Hale, Highways will attend to the repairs soon.



ST MARK'S CHURCH

Are you being watched or being seen?

In '1984' by George Orwell, he writes, "It was one of those pictures which are so contrived that the eyes follow you when you move: Big Brother is watching you." Since then, this slogan has come to describe a world that will resonate with most of us as we navigate a world of tech – phones, cameras, laptops and an Alexa device that knows our music habits better than our families do! Many of these digital developments are helpful, but I think there is a difference between feeling watched and being seen. The thought of being watched may provoke feelings of concern for many of us, or the fear of being criticised or judged. 'Being seen', however, might lead us to feel loved, wanted or noticed.

I think back to a time when I acted as a character in a stage play as a child and was asked to wear pyjamas. When my Mum and family arrived, my heart leaped as I knew that they had come to cheer me on. However, after the show a person from the audience who had noticed some dirt on my clothes, spent a long time telling me about it in an unkind and hurtful way. Being watched in this way makes us feel judged, whilst being seen makes us feel loved.

The Christian faith is one where we believe that there is a God who sees and loves you like a doting parent attending a school play. He is not watching to criticise your performance, but to love and to show support, even when you make a mistake! Psalm 139 is a perfect example to describe how much the Lord sees someone and knows all about their comings and goings. It says;

1 You have searched me, Lord, and you know me,
2 You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar...

These words brings comfort to many of us as it demonstrates how God lovingly sees every detail of our lives. Importantly, it reminds us that God sees us and loves us.

Rev'd Caroline Keightley, Vicar

PS. Can I please share with you my delight in returning to the role of Vicar, post maternity leave. It's a joy to be part of a loving church and a welcoming community. If you do not know us yet, please join any of our Easter services or The Big Lunch event on 9th April. You'll receive a very warm welcome!

For details of our Easter services please visit the church website: stmarkscolneyheath.co.uk



Colney Cuts Unisex Salon

CUTTING & COLOURING
TINTS & HIGHLIGHTS
CONDITIONING TREATMENTS
PERMANENT WAVES
SHAMPOO & SETS
MEN'S CUTS
UNISEX CLIPPER CUTS

Hair accessories and products available to buy!

Call Anita on 01727 826 600 for an appointment Colney Cuts, 16 High Street, Colney Heath, AL4 0NU

Progress to date (2/3)



Community grants for applicants:

Colney Heath-Boissy Twinning
Association
Colney Heath Girlguiding



**Community Organisations Working
Group** held a community conference in
Nov 2023 followed by survey of local
organisations plans and needs



New playground under construction at
the recreation ground

Progress to date (3/3)



400 trees planted in Roestock Park
by volunteers



New grass cutting contract agreed for
the next three years covering the
Common and other areas in the parish



The Warren "ghost ponds" formed
great crested newts in residence



Ghost ponds at the Warren



Legacy issue (1/3)



COLNEY HEATH FOOTBALL CLUB



March 2021 - lease on Pavilion expired



July 2023 - agreement in principle



Respective legal representatives are
debating details of the new lease...

Legacy issue (2.1/3)



ROESTOCK HUT - 2023



2016 - land lease expired;
2019 - scouts evicted



June - required actions defined and how to
comply with best value legislation



September - recommendations made,
alternative approach to be investigated



October to December - investigation of similar
facilities and example

Legacy issue (2.2/3)



ROESTOCK HUT - 2024



January - “best value” process not required.
Options outlined.



February - detailed assessment of options
required; cost estimate required



April - cost estimator appointed, options being
drafted



Next step - analysis of options to satisfy the
auditor – aiming for June Council meeting

Legacy issue (3/3)



CHARLES MORRIS HALL



March 2021 - discussions commenced

May 2022 - new lease requested by CMH



July 2023 - agreement in principle to new lease term (50 years) and peppercorn rent (£5/year)



CMH developing a new Constitution...
CHPC investigating land holding...



Aim to conclude by **July 2024**

NB: current lease expires in July 2025

Issues to be addressed



Track behind cottages on CH High Street

Working Group to be set up



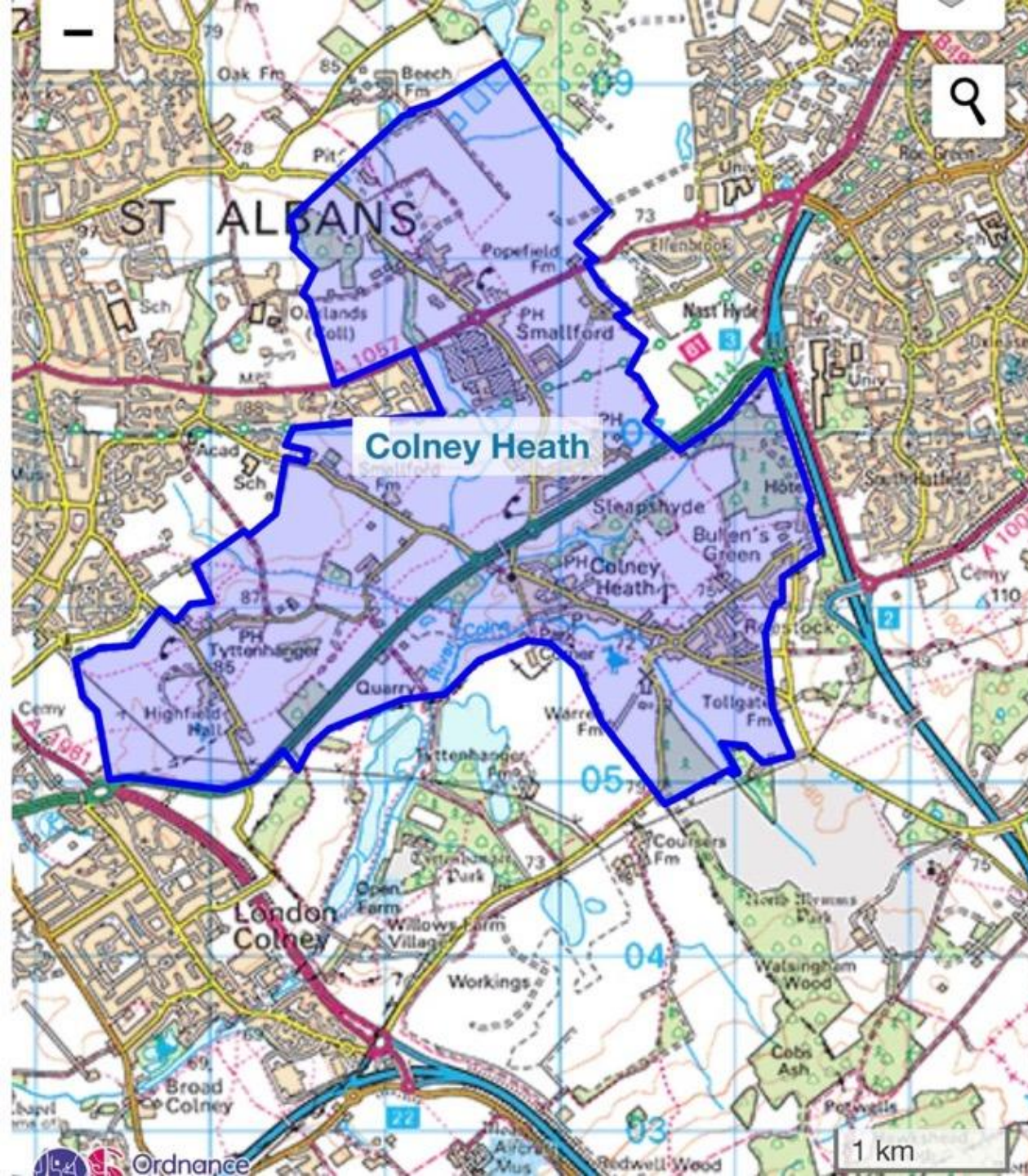
Council precept : value for money

Precept

c.2,480 properties contributed to Parish income before boundary change effective April 2023

c.1,180 properties now contribute (half previous)

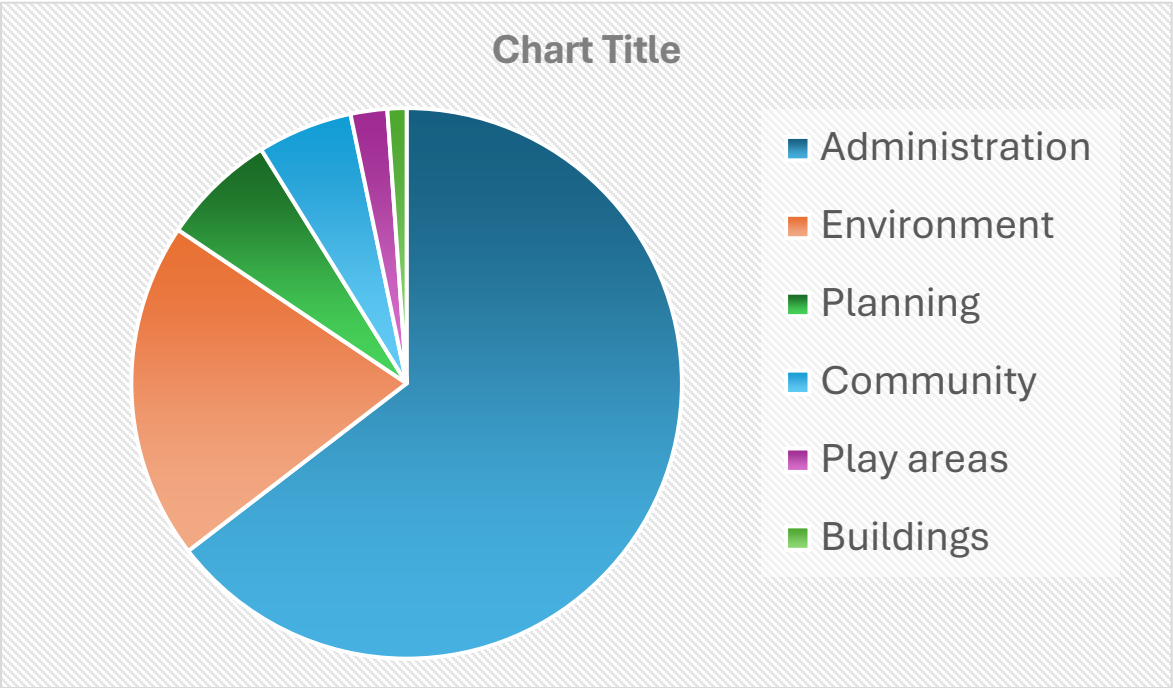
precept was increased in April 2023 by c.85%



Budget 2024/25

Income £185,530
Expenditure £177,960

Administration	115,625
Environment	35,350
Planning	12,000
Community	9,950
Play areas	3,835
Buildings	2,000



Colney Heath Parish Council Budget 2024/25

£185,530 income is coming from...

Council Tax Precept		185,530
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£177,960 expenditure is going on...

Administration		114,625 (65%)	<i>Cumulative</i>
Environment		35,350 (20%)	65%
Planning		12,000 (7%)	84%
Community		9,950 (6%)	91%
Play Areas		3,835 (2%)	97%
Buildings		2,000 (1%)	99%
			100%

Pressures



Small parish with limited resources



Planning applications and appeals



Developing the Neighbourhood Plan



Need assistance of lay volunteers

Thank you all who have helped

Questions



**Response to questions
submitted in advance**

Your questions?



We may need to check
before answering