

Our Community— Working Together

July 2015
Edition

Busy Times in the Parish

CLIFFE WOODS
COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Cliffe Woods
Summer
Fair

Saturday
July 11th 2015
12pm to 4pm

Cliffe Woods Community
Centre
Village Green, Parkside

Bouncy Castle,
Coconut Shy, Smash the
Crockery, Summer Draw,
Face Painting
FREE ENTRY

What is a Neighbourhood Plan? –

A local development plan for the local area, involving and supported by local people.

- What we want
- What we don't want
- Evidence based
- Compatible with Medway Local Development Framework / National Planning Policy Framework
- Local consultation (see survey)
- Public exhibitions (Cliffe Woods Summer Fair 11/7, Cliffe Village Fayre 18/7)

When drafted and approved by a planning inspector – it is subject to a local referendum. If agreed it becomes part of local planning policy for when plans are submitted and a guide for parish council priorities.

The survey in this edition of the *Clarion* will help both the Neighbourhood Plan in deciding the scope of their work and the Parish Council to set their priorities.

You can either complete this online at www.cliffeandcliffewoods-pc.gov.uk/survey or complete the paper version here and deliver to the Parish Council (42 Quickrells Avenue, Cliffe or 133 View Road, Cliffe Woods (or via any local councillor) – by 30th July 2015.

Please supply your contact details for updates, but at least your postcode for survey purpose. There will be updates in *Village Voices* and on the parish council web site. There will be further, detailed, surveys in the Autumn/Winter and it is hoped to have it completed in early 2016.

All Change

As well as changes to the parish council there have been a number of other major changes in our villages. At St. Helen's Church, after more than 20 years, the Rector, Rev. Edward Wright has decided to move on to another church to give him more time to pursue other activities – the church will be looking to appoint a new Rector in the coming months.

At St. Helen's Cliffe CoE Primary School, the Head Teacher Mrs Vivienne Barr has also moved on. She had improved the school performance significantly in recent years. An interim head Ms June Nicol-Dundas is in charge until a replacement is appointed.

In Cliffe Woods the current Head has been on personal leave since Easter and an internal appointment, Mrs Amanda Weallans, has been made to cover for him.

This year has also seen the Cliffe-At-Hoo Parochial Charity rebranded as Cliffe and Cliffe Woods Community Trust – their objectives and constitution remain unchanged – education and the relief of poverty. Although they have limited resources they support the schools, the local Guides and provide a Christmas cash grant to the elderly and disabled (on request).

The Cliffe Woods Community Association (Community Centre) has also been looking at governance issues and has established a new charity, The Cliffe Woods Community Association, (a charitable incorporated organisation (CIO)). It is proposed to transfer the assets of the former (unincorporated) charity to the new incorporated one in the coming months.

Parish Annual Report

It has been an important year in the life of the local Parish Council. We came to the end of another four year term and look forward to the start of the next.

Councillors

There has been a significant change in the local parish councillors in that time with Steve Boosey, Samantha Collins, Julie Moss, Lisa Mills and Dave Green resigning in the Cliffe Village ward and Margaret Emblin, Alan Taylor and Robert Hunt resigning from Cliffe Woods. One of the co-opted (replacement) councillors, Derek Cory, had to resign due to health reasons but it appears there is good news on that front.

Joining us as co-opted councillors were Gill Moore, Joan Darwell (both returning after a short break), Vivienne Walton, Peter Clements and Jim Corrigan – joining shortly before the 2015 elections were Jerry Doyle, Fred Harper and Phillip Stanley. At the 2015 elections there were insufficient nominations to trigger a vote (which would have been at the same time as the General and Medway Council elections) – three of the existing councillors did not seek nomination – Jim Corrigan, Colin Elliott and Ken Kentell. The other councillors were re-elected unopposed. This leaves us one short in Cliffe Village (two soon – see clerk below) and two in Cliffe Woods. The Parish will be co-opting replacements soon – **if you are interested let us know (contact details on back).**



Ken Kentell stood down after 28 years on the Parish Council, many of them as Chair and Vice Chair. Ken joined the Parish Council in 1987 and took an active part in the council from the start. In later years he was also 'Cllr Jim Wenban's apprentice' helping with voluntary repairs and maintenance for the parish, while continuing as Vice Chair and Chair of Finance. A lot of knowledge and experience has been lost to the council – we hope to recognise his service with a memento soon. He continues to Chair the Cliffe and Cliffe Woods Community Trust (formerly the Cliffe-at-Hoo Parochial Charity) and maintain his keen interest in the Bowls Club.

We thank all who give their knowledge, time and experience to the community of Cliffe and Cliffe Woods, there is no payment for this, but we hope there is satisfaction.

Clerk

For five years we have had two joint part time clerks – this provides cover for holidays, sickness and if one should leave. Recently, and since the election, Mrs Alex Jack decided this was a suitable time to leave her role as Clerk. Many residents as well as the parish councillors themselves will miss her, she was always approachable and helpful and contributed significantly to the professional image of the council.

The Clerk vacancy was advertised online and on our noticeboards, but the council have decided to appoint Chris Fribbins, the current Chair to the role and he will be handing over his current Chair's role soon and will be resigning as a parish councillor soon to take it on fully.



Marie Vyse MBE

Although she was not a councillor, Marie had worked tirelessly to support the local community over many decades. The Parish Council together with the Cliffe Woods Community Association (CWCA) have put in place a memorial to Marie Vyse MBE and her husband 'Nobby' with a bench and tree at the Community Centre.

Finance

The finances of the parish continue to be actively managed. There has been a slight increase in the precept that is set (and is passed on to residents as an additional council tax charge) mainly to cover for the costs of any elections that are needed (previously they had been paid by Medway, and before that, the City Council). Indications are that these could cost about £8,000 if elections were needed in both our wards (Cliffe Village and Cliffe Woods). This would be a major slice of our annual precept of about £40,000 per annum. The current council tax bill for the parish (Band D) is about £25 per year/50p per week.

We continue to hold a reserve towards providing changing rooms at the Recreation Ground and we support the Church (£1,000 per annum) and our village halls (each £5,000 per annum). Youth funding is also earmarked.

Planning

There have been a number of ongoing planning issues in the parish and we have reminded Medway Council of some actual and potential breaches that needed investigation and action.

There have been proposals to partially infill some of RSPB's Cliffe Pools and Brett's Alpha Lake (these have been granted permission with conditions – including transporting suitable material by river and rail as appropriate) – to provide enhanced environments for wildlife. There have

(Continued on page 3)



ORCHARD

Bed & Breakfast



Friends or family visiting area?

Business colleagues or guests need accommodation ?

Ideal pre wedding venue for brides & bridesmaids or grooms and ushers

Facilities available for bridal preparation including photographic opportunity

Orchard B&B is a completely self contained facility with five modern en-suite bedrooms, TV with Freeview & DAB radio, Wi Fi

Ground floor en-suite bedroom available

Guaranteed free off road parking within a gated driveway

Extremely comfortable beds with fine linen

Trip Advisor 2015 Winner - Certificate of Excellence

Four Star Silver Award Grading by Quality in Tourism

Breakfast Award by Quality in Tourism

01634 222780

www.orchardcottagekent.co.uk

Email : enquiries@orchardcottagekent.co.uk 11 View Road, Cliffe Woods, Rochester, Kent, ME3 8JQ



Annual Report Contd.

(Continued from page 2)

also been early indications of solar farms on the marshes which are still in the early stages of planning.

Just across our boundary with Hoo parish, proposals to develop Lodge Hill reached the outline application stage. Medway Council granted permission subject to a lot of conditions that would need to be met. The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (CLG) has now called in that decision and a planning inquiry is likely later this year. The parish remain opposed to the scheme as it brings very little benefit to our area and is likely to impact on the road system around the Wainscott Bypass and local roads in Frindsbury Extra that we use. There is also the environmental issue of developing on a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), although only designated in 2013 and proposed mitigation is a concern.

The Howard Davis Airport Commission finally ruled out the option of an Estuary Airport. The reasons for this closely matched those that we have made over recent years – environmental, economical and operational. Two of our councillors – Joan Darwell and Gill Moore have taken a lead in this campaign on behalf of Friends of North Kent Marshes and the wider community. We recognised the work and dedication they have both put into this ever since proposals for a Cliffe Airport were put forward over 10 years ago. The Mayor of London is still making noises about developing to the east of London. He has recently become an MP and is a member of the ‘political cabinet’ but holds no portfolio at present. He will complete his term as Mayor in 2016 so we have to keep an eye on the situation.

Medway Council are at risk of development proposals across the peninsula as they do not have an up to date Local Development Framework (Local Plan), the previous plan was in 2003. Two attempts to get a new local plan adopted have failed and they have now started their third attempt. Early stages are worrying as they are being asked to provide 24,000 homes over the next 12 years (2,000 per year). Although there is a lot of land available (Strood Riverside etc.) this also includes Lodge Hill (5,000 homes). At this stage there has been a ‘call for sites’ and developers have proposed a number on the Hoo peninsula,

including Cliffe and Cliffe Woods – they are currently being assessed by Medway Council and we will hear the preferred options in the Autumn. Partly because of this the parish agreed to support the production of a Neighbourhood Plan for our area (see NHP article and survey).

Publicity- We have recently begun a trial of using the local Village Voices magazine which is delivered to all the households in Cliffe and Cliffe Woods (also Wainscott and Upnor), instead of the Cliffe Clarion, as the former is delivered monthly at no cost to the parish. We will monitor this in the coming months. We have agreed to continue with a special Annual Report as a minimum for now. The web site www.cliffeandcliffewoods-pc.gov.uk continues to be updated (and given enough time will probably be redesigned).

Assets – The parish owns the recreation ground, play area, allotments, ballpark and skate park by the Cliffe Memorial Hall and the Buttway next to St Helen’s Church in Cliffe and the Cliffe Woods Car Park by the shops. These are maintained to a high standard by the Parish Caretaker – Dave Clark and voluntary labour by parish councillors. Sometimes there is misuse and anti-social behaviour which can be a disappointment but we have some of the best facilities in Medway and beyond. We would like to add to these and are likely to give priority to providing changing rooms at the recreation ground, possibly as part of an extension to the Memorial Hall – support from the organisations that will benefit from this will help it happen – although we have some money put aside, we will need to seek grants to meet the full cost.

Allotments- These have undergone a transformation in recent years and there is now a (short) waiting list – they still remain amongst the cheapest in the Medway area. We have continued to have some problems with vandalism and have improved the fencing, installed some CCTV cameras and modified the Ball Court fencing to reduce the number of footballs that go in to the allotments. The CCTV cameras now monitor the Small Hall car park, the Youth Shelter, Ball Court entrance to allotments and the Play Area.



2015 Events

Cliffe Woods Community Association

Regular Quiz Nights— Last Friday of each month
(except August and December)

Christmas Party 13th December 1pm to 4pm (Primary age children from Cliffe Woods only)

Tickets from the school and usual contacts

September 12th—Cabaret Night—Back to School (fancy dress recommended).

Tickets 01634 220864

Cliffe Woods Social Club (Members)

July 11th Summer Fair (with Community Association) and activities into the night in the Social Club.

July 18th Rock ‘roll’ Roll, Pop, Motown, Swing Singer

August 1st Summer Party Disco

August 22nd (Main Hall) Charity Race Night/Auction/Raffle

August 30th Last Bank Holiday BBQ/Bouncy Castle

Cliffe Memorial Hall

Regular Quiz Nights 10th July, 11th September, 13th November

18th August Cliffe Fayre Stall.

Race Night 17th October

The hall needs to raise £10,000 for repairs to the roof.

email: cliffememorial@hotmail.com

Phone: 07510 676638

Crime Awareness Follow-Up

Crime

Before he was co-opted Cllr. Jerry Doyle arranged a public meeting in Cliffe Woods. It was attended by the Police, Medway Councillor Tom Mason and the Parish Council. **Although recognising that Cliffe Woods was a low crime area, there were still issues that affected both Cliffe and Cliffe Woods.** The parish has been working with Jerry and Medway Council to implement some of the suggestions from that meeting and investigate the practicality of others.

Cliffe and Cliffe Woods Alerts (Facebook page) – this has been implemented and is getting urgent information out to residents – a recent post had over 5,000 views. This not a page for comment or discussion (and if there are any they are likely to be deleted). The importance of making sure that incidents are recorded by dialling '101' and obtaining an incident number from the police was the #1 message at the crime meeting (and whenever we meet with the police). With the financial pressures on the police and limited resources, they have to be 'intelligence led'. If it is not recorded it is not considered when allocating these resources. www.facebook.com/canclwalerts

We have been allocated £150 from Medway ward councillor's funds to put up some signs so that people know we take crime seriously in the parish and do have a lot of private CCTV, to act as a deterrent – actual wording yet to be discussed/agreed.

Local CCTV register – the parish have offered to host a private record of CCTV installed by residents and businesses which could be used by the police in the event of a problem. There has been a low take up so far – email clerk@cliffeandcliffewoods-pc.gov.uk with details.

Parking and Speeding – Surveys have been carried out by Medway Council and they are planning to install a 20mph speed limit in Salt Lane to reduce the speed of lorries in the area. They are also discussing the potential for double yellow lines in selected locations in both Cliffe and Cliffe Woods to reduce risks and maintain width for emergency vehicles – also the improving on the enforcement of those parking restrictions. Some suggestions have been made by the parish and these will be considered by Medway Council with a wider public consultation of the areas affected, before any changes – unlikely until at least early 2016.

Neighbourhood Watch Schemes (NWS) – there are some NWSs in operation in the parish but there could be more. The parish have previously supported any administration costs of local schemes. These also get assistance and guidance from Kent Police and special access to information and crime alerts as well as being part of a network of schemes passing experience and knowledge around. The parish can put you in touch with the Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator.

Public CCTV – There was also a suggestion that public CCTV cameras could be located on the road entry/exits in Cliffe Woods. We have had quotes for the installation and the ongoing costs of maintenance and monitoring, but neither Medway nor the parish have the finances. There does need to be a discussion on the benefits these would bring and if the parish residents (Cliffe and Cliffe Woods) would be willing to pay extra for them in their council tax (see survey). **What do you think? Let us know.**

Youth Priorities

The parish have continued to support the youth of our area and have plans for improving how we work with the young people of our area, but this relies on more involvement from them. The youth club meets in the Cliffe Woods Community Centre on the first and third Mondays of each month (except August and Bank Holidays) and the Cliffe Memorial Hall on the second Thursday of each month (except August). Numbers have been good in Cliffe Woods, but more are needed in Cliffe. More adult help is also required at both locations to ensure they can continue in the longer term.

Plans for local youth to help refurbish the bus shelter at Cliffe (by the Six Bells) have not progressed. Financial support and adult help has been identified but we still need to identify youth support (contact the parish if you know of anybody who is willing to help).

Pride in the Parish

Local loft

Not just a store but so much more

SELF STORAGE SOLUTIONS

Units range in size from 30 to 125 square foot

WE PROMISE TO BE THE CHEAPEST IN MEDWAY

You hold the key
24 hour access
Business & domestic use
No minimum rental period
Temperature controlled environment

Tel: 07591 034323
E-mail: local.loft@btinternet.com

**Local loft, Mockbeggar Farm, Town Road,
Rochester, Kent, ME3 8EU**

The Parish Council has supported the Cliffe-at-Hoo Historic Society in their investigations into the rich history of our area. We gave them permission to do a survey of the Buttway and after some encouraging results, we have given them permission to carry out some excavations. These will be open to the public during the Cliffe Village Fayre.

Resident's Survey

This edition of the Clarion contains a survey. This is a repeat of a similar survey 10 years ago. The results will help the parish council understand the priorities for our area and help develop the Neighbourhood Plan scope. You can submit it online at www.cliffeandcliffewoods-pc.gov.uk/survey or by completing Page 5 and delivering it to a parish councillor or either of our clerks—42 Quickrells Avenue, Cliffe, ME3 7RB or 131 View Road, Cliffe Woods, ME3 8UH. **Please reply by 30th July 2015.**

Neighbourhood Survey

What is good about the parish areas and needs to be protected, what is not so good and needs to be improved? How much do some of the issues affect you?

This is a chance to have **your** say. Supported by the Parish Council, the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group are creating a plan for our area to take these issues forward and help the local community to plan for our area - but this has to be driven by the whole community. Please include your contact details if you want to help or want feedback.

What is good about Cliffe and Cliffe Woods (list up to 3)

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____

What is not so good about Cliffe and Cliffe Woods (list up to 3)

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____

Add any other issues/priorities

Your Priorities to what degree are the following a problem for you?

	Don't Know	A Serious Problem	A Slight Problem	Not a Problem
Public Transport	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Crime	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Youth Issues : Youth crime	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Youth Issues : Lack of Youth facilities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Traffic Management : Speeding	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Traffic Management : Parking	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Access to shops	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Availability and access to public green spaces	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Wildlife/Natural Environment	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Litter/Waste	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Housing : Availability of affordable housing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Housing : New housing development	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Health Issues : Access to Hospital	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Health Issues : Access to Doctor	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Access to sport and leisure facilities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Access to community information	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Would you be prepared to pay extra in your parish council tax for crime reduction measures such as CCTV

- Yes
 No
 Don't Know

Please post/deliver the completed survey to The Clerk at 42 Quickrells Avenue, Cliffe or 131 View Road, Cliffe Woods
Name/Address/Post Code/Email (can be confidential only Post Code needs to be supplied)

also online at www.cliffeandcliffewoods-pc.gov.uk/survey

Cliffe & Cliffe Woods Parish Council

www.cliffeandcliffewoods-pc.gov.uk

42 Quickrells Avenue
Cliffe, Rochester
Kent, ME3 7RB

Clerks

Mr Chris Fribbins (PO)
Mrs Laura Farrelly (RFO)

Phone:

01634 566166

Email :

clerk@cliffeandcliffewoods-pc.gov.uk

Chair Chris Fribbins

42 Quickrells Avenue,
Cliffe, Rochester, Kent, ME3 7RB
(to 2/7)

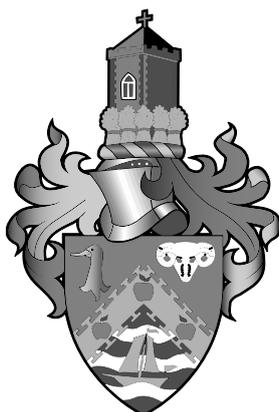
Email:

chair@cliffeandcliffewoods-pc.gov.uk

Vice-Chair Vacant

Email:

vicechair@cliffeandcliffewoods-pc.gov.uk



Cliffe & Cliffe Woods Parish Councillors

Cliffe Village Ward

Chris Fribbins (to 2/7)	566256
James Wenban	222620
Lynne Bush	222103
Gill Moore	222205
Peter Clements	220681
Joan Darwell	220121
Ray Letheren	222224
one vacancy	

Cliffe Woods Ward

Sue McDermid	220864
Ian Petrie	221862
Vivienne Walton	221710
Fred Harper	220537
Jerry Doyle	222665
Phillip Stanley	07837 472722
two vacancies	

You are invited to
CLIFFE VILLAGE FAYRE
'HISTORIC CLIFFE'
Saturday 18th July
12 noon - 4.30pm
St Helens Church & Buttway



**Live Music with Ian Petrie *BBQ *Pimms *Pancakes * Teas & Homemade Cakes *Craft Stalls *Bee Keepers *Classic Scooters *Potter *Coconut Shy *Bouney Castle *Childrens Games *Face painting & so much more...*

**A Time Team style Dig with Cliffe at Hoo Historical Society*

**See & hear about the rare medieval 'Cliffe Paten' plus a talk on Magna Carta*

**Medway Spinners Weavers & Dyers *Cliffe Metal Detectors *Flint Collection*

**Find out more about the Cliffe and Cliffe Woods Neighbourhood Plan and how you can be involved in planning Cliffe in the future*

**Dickens Country Protection Society *Friends of the North Kent Marshes and more...*

ALL WELCOME

Raising Funds for Historic 13th Century St Helens Church

Cliffe Memorial Hall and Cliffe Woods Community Centre are hosting a number of events in 2015.

Apart from the social aspect, these help raise significant funds for maintenance and improvement of the halls.

Hall Bookings

Cliffe Memorial Hall

email: cliffememorial@hotmail.com

Phone: 07510676638

Cliffe Woods Community Centre

email: cliffewoodshall@hotmail.co.uk

Phone: 01474 824367

Who we are and what we do

The Cliffe and Cliffe Woods Parish Council has existed for over 100 years. We are nationally recognised, and the most local level of local government. There are 16 Councillors, (8 for Cliffe Woods and 8 for Cliffe) all who work on a voluntary basis. The Council meets monthly, alternately, in Cliffe and Cliffe Woods. There are a small number of committees that also meet to discuss specific issues in more detail before making recommendations to the Parish Council. The Clerks manage the Parish on a day to day basis and the Caretaker looks after the recreation ground and play area in Cliffe and helps keep the Buttway and Cliffe Woods Car Park clean and tidy and helps with general maintenance.

The Parish is funded through the local Council tax. Residents pay an extra amount on top of Medway Council, police and fire services—**this will raise £46.017 in 2015/2017**, and is, for band D, c. 50p per household per week! We also raise funds from other sources for larger schemes such as the Cliffe Ball Court, Cliffe Play Area, BMX/Skatepark and the allotments and receive a Rural Liaison Grant from Medway Council to spend on other improvements.

We are consulted on planning applications in our Parish as well as local, regional or national issues affecting our area. We also take an active part in liaising with Medway Council, the police and the longer term strategic plans for our area. We also run the Youth Clubs in both Cliffe and Cliffe Woods and work is underway to improve them further. We also support neighbourhood watch schemes, the grass cutting in the churchyard of St. Helen's Church, Cliffe (£1,000 a year) and to support our two village halls (£5,000 a year, each).

Members have to stand for election every four years, if there are more nominations than positions, polling takes place on the same day as the Medway Council elections. (May 2019 is the next date). In between any vacancies can be filled by a by-election if sufficient local electors request it, but more commonly additional members are co-opted. **Why not take a more active part in the community and join us as a Councillor or a non-councillor member of one of our committees (especially the Footpath and Common Land, Youth, and Allotments Committees)? Contact the Clerk or Chair for further details.**