



## Our Community— Our Responsibility

Spring Edition  
2009

### B2000 Concerns Continue

Last year we reported the actions of the Parish Council to raise the problems of speeding traffic on the B2000 and volume of large lorries— mostly generated by the Thameside Terminal site in Salt Lane, Cliffe despite having no planning permission. We were also concerned about the plans for Bretts Landscaping to increase their lorry movements from the same area.

We have continued to liaise with the B2000 Action Group in Cliffe Woods and were present, along with many local residents at the Planning Inquiry into the Thameside Terminal operations (the operators and owners had appealed against planning enforcement action of Medway Council— orders to stop operations and restore the site).

We also established a Liaison Meeting with Bretts and have met on a number of occasions to discuss the plans for their site and brief them on our concerns and activities. Bretts have indicated that they are likely to withdraw their planning applications and replace them with a more detailed application that limits lorry movements in line with their operations, - less lorry movements, but a similar peak of 150 a day in the busy months of May and June - it may also include possible traffic calming measures in Cliffe Woods, Town Road. Bretts have shared with us proposals for other applications within their site. We will also monitor them closely

The Planning Inquiry was a huge disappointment as it was postponed until summer 2009 for further investigation and reports— allowing the operations to continue for another year without planning permission. Enforcement notices have now been issued to other parties involved in the site and they too have appealed against them on the same grounds as before— that enforcement action is not justified, and that planning permission should be granted (without any planning consultation and input from residents!). The Parish Council will continue to support Medway's enforcement action and will be making a similar response to the new appeals and will make sure we are involved when the planning inquiry continues.



### Speeding Traffic —In Your Hands

If you light the 30 MPH warning, you are driving too fast!

### Annual Parish Meeting

Every year the Cliffe and Cliffe Woods Parish Council organises the Annual Parish Meeting. This is **YOUR** meeting and is a chance to hear what is going on in the local area. As usual it is surprising how much does happen in our Parish with the dedication and support of local people— just like you. There are many unsung members of our local community who help provide and maintain facilities, organise functions and events to provide something for the youngest to the oldest in our community or help protect our environment for future generations. Often they wish they had just a little bit more support and help from the local community— **YOU!**

#### **Your Meeting**

You are invited to :-

#### **The Cliffe and Cliffe Woods Annual Parish Meeting**

**Thursday 16th April 2009**

**7:30pm to 9:30pm**

**At Cliffe Woods Primary School,  
View Road, Cliffe Woods**

**Your chance to have your say about what is  
right and wrong in the parish**

# Cliffe and Cliffe Woods

## Chairman's Report

Since the last Annual Parish Meeting in April 2008, two Parish Councillors have left, but four have been co-opted. We now have only one vacancy in Cliffe and one in Cliffe Woods, a much healthier position from last year when we had four vacancies in Cliffe Woods.

Leaving the Parish Council was one of the longer serving Councillors, Lesley Parker. Following her Dad's decision not to stand in the 2007 elections we now have a break in the 'Green Family' Parish Councillors after many decades. Lesley will be remembered for her work on the Cliffe Recreation Ground, Allotments and Play Area and was the main driver of the work to build the new Ball Court. She also took on the Cliffe Carnival as the Parish Council's representative and was a key part in its success over the years, it would be nice to see it back sometime. She will be missed.



Joining the Parish Council for the first time have been Debbie Cunningham, Melinda Smith and Scott Burns to represent Cliffe Woods and Lynne Bush to represent Cliffe, although in practice all Parish Councillors represent the whole parish.

The Clerk, Gavin Meeser has been in the position for less than two years now, but has been settled in quickly and is getting us better organised and prompting us to be more effective in the local community.

Our Caretaker is responsible for helping to maintain the Cliffe Recreation Ground, Play Area, Buttway and Cliffe Woods Car Park, keeping them clear of litter, weeding etc. This year Dave Clark has taken over from Eric Hills who had been doing the job for many years, Thank you Eric for all you did, it can be a thankless task.

Speeding traffic on the B2000 (and volume of HGVs) has continued to dominate the parish council meetings this year (see page 1). We have also had discussions about improving our Cliffe Play Area, with new equipment and surfacing (see page 3).

Last year we reported on the youth shelter in the Cliffe Woods Recreation Ground, although the Parish and some residents were divided about the bright red colour. We have since funded a repaint to a more neutral green and organised official graffiti for the inside.



We have now set our budget for 2009/2010 and have made a decision to help support our Village Halls, running costs directly (£5,000 each). The Cliffe Woods Community Centre and the Cliffe Memorial Hall are key parts of our local community and provide a meeting place for groups of all ages (from the youngest to the eldest). We hope this will encourage people like you to get involved and give the management committees and users of the hall a direct incentive to improve the facilities even further. If this is a success there is no reason why it should not be extended into future years (and even increased in amount).

There has been a lot of money spent on the Cliffe Allotments this year and Cllr. Janet Keates together with allotment holders have helped to improve them significantly. **They are going to be featured in the National Society of Allotment and Leisure Magazine.**

We are still hoping that people will come forward to help drive the replacement Pavilion project forward, as it has stalled in recent years. Many grants are available to help local schemes, our money can often open the door to ones from local and national organisations as it shows 'matching funds', local support and involvement. Contact the Clerk for further information.

*Kenneth Kentell, Chairman*

## Community News

### Boris Island—Flights of Fancy

After the threat and uncertainty our Parish had to go through while detailed consultation on airport proposals including a five runway airport larger than Heathrow on our marshes was considered, the last thing we wanted was for the discussion to open up again. The Mayor of London is proposing an airport of four runways in the Thames Estuary, to replace Heathrow. Even if Boris Island was sensible, which it is not, there is little said about the amount of development there would have to be in both Essex and Kent to support it. Motorways, roads, rail, car parks, hotels and other large scale development would be required along the Thames coast and through our counties—this is already in place in West London for Heathrow.

It was successfully argued in the government's full consultation that an airport in our area would be bad for the environment, ecology and even the economy.

The Parish Council did agree that we would not support a further runway at Heathrow and that more use should be made of rail and new high speed links., but we also strongly object to the Mayor's proposals for a new airport in our area.

To build an airport anywhere in the Thames Estuary would potentially be the most damaging environmental act of vandalism ever perpetrated in the UK.

### Walking between Cliffe and Cliffe Woods

For many years there have been concerns about walking between our two villages on the dangerous B2000. Following suggestions from the Parish Council, Medway Council are now looking at providing a much safer, solid surface on the Footpath between Cliffe and Cliffe Woods.

In historic maps there appeared to be another road between our villages that ran from the top of Perry Hill, under the railway (where a bridge still exists) across to Well Penn Road and then from Cooling Road to Chancery Road—an extension of Thatchers Lane from Chancery Road to Cooling Road.. This is still a designated footpath, although in parts it is still muddy and overgrown with weeds for part of the year.

Medway Council are looking at upgrading this path for walkers and cyclists in a number of phases :-

- Thatchers Lane to Cooling Road,
- Spadgers Cottage (Well Penn Road) to the Railway
- The railway to Perry Hill. (would make sense to do this first as it is often overgrown and not passable in summer because of deep rutting and stinging nettles).

### Cliffe Play Area

In our Parish the play area at Cliffe Recreation Ground is operated by the Parish Council (the one in Cliffe Woods by Medway Council). Although our income is only minor compared to Medway Council we do keep it safe and have regular formal inspections by a qualified third party. We are aware that some of the equipment, and especially the safety surfacing, is coming to the end of its life and we have been looking at what will be required in its place. Cllr Janet Keates has been liaising with organisations that could help fund it through grants etc. and with Medway Council's outreach workers, St Helen's School and kids at the play area to identify what improvements children want. We have also approached Groundwork Trust who may be able to project manage the improvements for us.

Since we began to look at enhancing the Play Area a local community group -Cliffe Children's Committee- has been formed and they also would like to see significant improvement in the play area. They have already run one fund raising event and have more planned. This is leading to a wider community involvement in the improvements and hopefully an understanding of all that needs to be done to make it happen





# Cliffe & Cliffe Woods Parish Council

www.cliffeandcliffewoods-pc.gov.uk

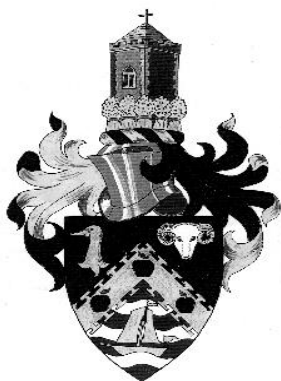
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## Cliffe & Cliffe Woods Parish Councillors

### Cliffe Village Ward

Joan Darwell	220121
James Wenban	222620
Leslie Wicks	220347
Gill Moore	222205
Terry Copsey	220594
Janet Keates	222412
Lynne Bush	222103

**ONE Vacancy**

### Cliffe Woods Ward

Jim Corrigan	220373
Margaret Emblin	220904
Chris Fribbins	220932
Ken Kentell	221434
Debbie Cunningham	221121
Melinda Smith	07842 221974
Scott Burns	222027

**ONE Vacancy**

## Cliffe Village Fayre 2009

The Cliffe Village Fayre returns on Saturday, 18th July on the Buttway, Cliffe. It is organised by the Friends of North Kent Marshes and St Helen's Church. There will be stalls, craft sales, BBQ and teas. As usual the Parish Council collection of historic photographs will be on display.

It will be extended further this year with an Art Exhibition in the church and other activities on the Buttway.

The fayre will again be a part of The North Kent Walking Festival and there will be a number of walks down to the Cliffe Pools to see some of the historic industrial and natural environment.

**Do you have any pictures of Cliffe and Cliffe Woods? Even recent pictures will become part of the history of the area. Pictures can be loaned for the event or added to the Parish Council collection. Contact Joan Darwell on 01634 220121, or email joan.darwell@cliffeandcliffewoods-pc.gov.uk, or just bring them along on the day.**

## Local Housing Survey

Included with this edition of Cliffe Clarion is a leaflet and survey from Medway Council. They are trying to establish the need for **local** housing by **local** residents. The Parish Council are supporting this survey to help establish LOCAL housing need in our Parish (or lack of it)

Please complete and return to Medway.Council

## Who we are and what we do

The Cliffe and Cliffe Woods Parish Council has existed for over 100 years. There is often confusion with the Churches' Parochial Parish Council, but we are a nationally recognised level of local government. Eight local residents represent Cliffe Woods and eight Cliffe. The council meets each month, alternately, in Cliffe and Cliffe Woods. There are a small number of sub-committees that also meet to investigate and discuss specific issues in more detail before making recommendations to the Parish Council. The Clerk manages 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 clear of litter.

The Parish is funded through the local council tax. Residents pay an extra amount on top of the Medway Council, police and fire services. This will raise £28,000 per year, and is only about 24p per household per week (2009/2010 figures)! We also raise funds from other sources for large schemes such as the Cliffe Ball Court and have received a Rural Liaison Grant from Medway Council to spend on other improvements.

We are consulted on planning applications in our parish and local, regional or national issues affecting our area. We also take an active part in liaison with Medway Council, the police and the longer term strategic plans for our area.

We also help fund Youth Clubs in both Cliffe and Cliffe Woods although the one in Cliffe is not currently operating, we would help anybody that wants to get it restarted. Regular funds are also available to support neighbourhood watch schemes in the Parish. We ensure the grass cutting in the churchyard of St. Helen's Church, Cliffe is carried out.

All 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 2011 is the next date). In between elections any vacancies can be filled by a by-election, if sufficient local electors request it, but more commonly additional members are selected by the parish council. There are two vacancies currently. **Why not be an even more active member of the community and join us.**