

Cliffe Parish Council Newsletter

Cliffe, Cliffe Woods and Cooling Street

February 1990

Deangate Ridge sell-off

We have objected to the Rochester-Upon-Medway City Council about their proposals to sell-off Deangate Ridge.

This sports complex, near Hoo, was built by Strood Rural District Council for us, their residents, and is a much needed recreation and leisure facility on the Hoo peninsular.

The golf course is very well used, particularly by Cliffe residents, and has made a considerable profit for the City Council over many years. The other facilities on the site include, indoor bowling Green, floodlit running track, tennis courts and football pitches. RUMCC first proposed to sell-off the golf course alone, but extended the proposal to cover the whole site because they did not want to get 'lumbered' with the 'loss making' parts.

We are very concerned that a "sell-off" would reduce or remove our resident's access to Deangate Ridge, by reasons of cost, or part or total use by a private club that is exclusive or too expensive to join. We want this maintained as a true public leisure facility.

Despite our objections, hundreds of signatures on petitions and many letters objecting to RUMCC's proposals (none in favour of the sell-off) RUMCC have decided to carry on regardless. We will continue to oppose this plan. Please join in with our protest, let us know what you think and/or write to :-

The Chief Executive, Rochester-Upon-Medway City Council, Civic Centre, Strood, ME2 4AW

and/or the local MP :-

**Dame Peggy Fenner MP,
"Tylers", St. Nicholas Drive, Sevenoaks, Kent.**

Rubbish Dumping

The council is very concerned about the continual problem of rubbish dumping in our area. RUMCC has given us assurances that they will act on any evidence that could lead to a prosecution of these dumpers. If you have any evidence, contact RUMCC direct or via the Parish Clerk.

Your Parish Council

The Cliffe Parish Council are circulating this newsletter to the residents of our parish in Cliffe, Cliffe Woods and Cooling Street.

The Parish Council meets on the first Thursday of each month in the Memorial Hall (Small Hall) in Cliffe at 7:30pm. We always allow some time in our Agenda for residents to have their say, unlike other councils, so come along.

The parish council is made up of two wards - Cliffe Village and Cliffe Woods, each ward is represented by 8 councillors elected every 4 years (apart from Bye-Elections and co-opting to fill vacancies). The next full election will be in May 1991. An annual Parish Meeting is held at the end of March each year, for all residents.

The council is funded by an additional rate charged to all households and businesses in the parish. From April 1990, businesses will no longer pay parish rates and our income will come from poll tax payers only, even after this change, we have now set our charge at about **£3.10 only, per person, per year.**

We provide a recreation ground and allotments in Cliffe, and support various projects throughout the parish, and beyond, through grants. We are a **LOCAL** voice and take up your concerns with the local City Council, Kent County Council, local and national businesses and individuals alike.

Chairman

Chris Fribbins,
5 Englefield Crescent,
Cliffe Woods
Phone Medway 220932

Vice Chairman

vacant

Parish Clerk

Mrs Mary Brighthouse,
8 Station Road,
Cliffe, ME3 7RX

Cliffe Ward Councillors

Mrs Thelma Enticknap,
5 North Rd, Cliffe

Mrs Freda Frost, 2 Manor Farm
Cottages, West Street, Cliffe

Mr Derek Green,
Kia-Ora, Station Rd, Cliffe

Mr Roy Harrison,
8 Millcroft Rd, Cliffe

Mr Jack Sullivan,
13 North Rd, Cliffe

Mr Harold Weavers,
35 Swingate Ave, Cliffe

Mr Jasper Wright, Buckland
Farm, Buckland Rd, Cliffe

vacancy

Cliffe Woods Ward Councillors

Mr John Epps,
137 View Rd, Cliffe Woods

Mr John Evans,
8 View Rd, Cliffe Woods

Mr Chris Fribbins, 5 Englefield
Crescent, Cliffe Woods

Mr Ken Kentell, 52 Englefield
Crescent, Cliffe Woods

Mrs Ann MacDonald,
15 View Rd, Cliffe Woods

Mr Peter Prescott,
96 View Rd, Cliffe Woods

Mr Clive Middleton,
Kismey, Cooling Street

Mrs Margaret Windsor, 39
Tennyson Avenue, Cliffe Woods

*We look forward to seeing
you at our regular monthly
meetings or at your Parish
meeting in late March.*

Ron Cornwall, the Vice-Chairman of the Parish Council, died in early January. He was the Parish Clerk for over 30 years and after his resignation as clerk in 1986, he obviously could not keep away from the council and was elected as a councillor in a 1989 bye-election. He was elected as Vice-Chairman in September. His efforts for and on behalf of the village, extend well beyond the Parish Council. The council will be looking at ways to honour the achievements of Ron, in a permanent way.

Many people will also know that Parish Councillor, Bob Hutchings died earlier in September. He was a very active councillor for many years and his hard work and achievements in support of the local environment will be remembered.

The previous Chairman, Cliffe Woods parish councillor George Wedgewood, resigned in August. His work has taken him out of the area.

The Parish Council co-opted Mrs Ann MacDonald, and in January, Mr Roy Harrison to fill two of the vacancies created. We welcome them both to our council (and/or back).

Chris Fribbins - Chairman

Private Security

You may have read in the local papers, or seen on TVS, that the Parish Council has employed a security firm to patrol parts of our parish, on a trial basis. They patrol the Cliffe Woods Community Centre, Parkside Shops, Cliffe Memorial Hall, Cliffe Recreation Ground, Play Area, Allotments, the Church and the Six Bells Bus Shelter and toilets.

This is, in part a response from you the residents, action by local residents to try to resolve the problems in the past has often resulted in considerable verbal abuse and intimidation from the vandals. The Parish, at first, felt that we should close the toilets at the Six Bells Bus Stop and asked for RUMCC to demolish them, but we then reconsidered and felt we did not want to give in to these hooligans, so positive action was required.

The financial commitment is very large for a Parish council and was not taken lightly. Although we realise that the local police cannot patrol the area 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, we have consistently called for the return of 'Bobbies on the beat' and a community based village police. This action is being taken to supplement what is provided by the police.

The problem will only be fully resolved when parents are more responsible for their children's actions or they, and their children, become more aware of the damage they are causing, not only to the bricks and mortar, but also to the community as a whole.