



Airport Beaten, What's Next?

March
Edition
2004

Chairman's Report—Good News

After leaks in the Financial Times in March 2002 about a possible airport at Cliffe, the media spotlight has been on our area and the wider Hoo peninsula. Through three packed public meetings in Cliffe and Cliffe Woods and special editions of the Cliffe Clarion we kept you informed about the issues facing the parish and the council's response.

It has been pleasing to see so many major aviation and government organisations confirming our fears about the impact the airport would cause and how it just does not make economic sense. In December the government announced that they would not support an airport at Cliffe or any of the other proposals for Cliffe, the Isle of Sheppy or the Thames Estuary.

In January a special service of thanksgiving was held at St. Helens, organised by the Revd. Wright and the Campaign Liaison Group. Many representatives of organisations across Kent and the RSPB were present.

There were over 300,000 responses to the consultation with half coming via the RSPB, we know that many of you also submitted your own views so well over half of the responses would have been against a Cliffe airport.

The parish have sent thank you letters to our MP Bob Marshall-Andrews, Medway and Kent Councils and many Parish Councils throughout Kent. Special thanks have also gone to the Dickens' Country Protection Society who got the campaign started with public meetings in Cliffe. Joan Goddard's No Airport@Cliffe who then took on the campaign, with George Crozer's Campaign Liaison Group leading the final push with RSPB and DCPS in the last year. Locally, Cliffe residents Gill Moore and Joan Darwell put in a tremendous amount of work for the CLG. RSPB were strong throughout and proved to be our 'trump card', (we look forward to working with them on the Cliffe Pools project)—There are many others who also did their bit—THANK YOU ALL.

When proposals for a major port development in South Essex included the creation of a new sea wall and flooding of some of the Cliffe marshes, we were involved in assessing the local impacts. We raised concerns when it was proposed to build a construction compound at the bottom of Pond Hill and use the B2000 and Pond Hill through the centre of Cliffe for large construction traffic. The development has now been changed to

bring in plant and materials by sea (from the port) and air (helicopter), so local impacts have been reduced—we are now waiting for the result of a public inquiry.

In May we elected a new Parish Council to serve for four years until 2007. A number of councillors stood down during the previous term - Freda Frost, Rob Davis, Ben Adshead, Carole Gay, Chris Carey, Nicola Boswell, Keith Scarfe and Bob Haughey. Bob, who recently died, will also be remembered for his work with injured wildlife. The parish is very grateful for all their efforts. We also welcomed a number of new councillors to the parish :- Margaret Emblin, Jim Corrigan, James Wenban, and Les Wicks. There are still two vacancies in Cliffe Woods and one in Cliffe. If you would like to know more about becoming a Parish Councillor, contact the Clerk or one of the existing councillors.

Thanks to Cllr. Jaspar Wright and Brett Aggregates, the millstones have been put at the entrances to Cliffe and Cliffe Woods.

Now where do we go from here? We want to hear from YOU.

Ken Kentell, Chairman

The 2004 Annual Parish Meeting will be held at 8pm on Thursday April 8th in the Small Hall, Memorial Hall, Church Street Cliffe—Please attend

What next ? - It's up to you

Now we have beaten off the Cliffe airport option, what next for the area? **YOU** have the opportunity to help shape the future for Cliffe and Cliffe Woods for the next 5 to 10 years through the Parish Plan.

This is a process run by the local community and supported by the Parish Council. It aims to involve everybody that provides services to, or is involved in, the local area (e.g. health care, housing, local shops and businesses, social and leisure facilities, public transport, open spaces). The aim is to identify concerns and help to provide solutions. It will give a focus to the Parish Council's activities and to influence others in their

actions and plans. It will also provide support for winning funds and grants for local initiatives.

The rough timetable is for a discussion at the Annual Meeting in April to kick off the process, a draft plan by late Autumn 2004 and a final plan by early 2005.

BUT WE NEED A RESPONSE FROM YOU!

If you support the idea for a Parish Plan and, especially if you want to be involved, contact **Chris Fribbins**, 5 Englefield Crescent, Cliffe Woods, Rochester, Kent, ME3 8HB or email chris@fribbins.cix.co.uk.

Carnival Report 2003

Thousands of people came to Cliffe from miles around to make 2003's carnival another success. (A review of the RSPB postcard campaign showed over 50% of people from outside the parish with many from Essex, London and even abroad). - Congratulations to the carnival committee for all their hard work. - Ideas for this year's carnival are welcome. One suggestion was to improve the 'Park and Ride' from Cliffe Woods with marshalls. **Contact Lesley Parker on 220503 if you can help or have any suggestions.**

The 2004 Carnival will be on Saturday 10th July in the Recreation Ground, Cliffe—More details later

40 MPH—Drive Carefully—You Know It Makes Sense

Medway Council have introduced a 40 mph speed limit on the B2000, reducing it from the national speed limit of 60 mph (the villages of Cliffe and Cliffe Woods remain 30 mph). Solid white lines have also been introduced to restrict overtaking. Further traffic safety measures have been made to some road edge markings and a beacon at the junction of the slip road from the bypass has been installed.

Although the Parish Council were consulted very late we, along with a number of other local residents, had previously raised concerns about the number of accidents on the road, including a number of fatalities. Although Speed Cameras have not been planned yet, it is very likely that we will see mobile speed cameras to help enforce the new limit. It will be monitored by Medway Council to see how effective it is and to see if further measures are required.

Cliffe & Cliffe Woods Parish Council

www.thelocalchannel.co.uk/cliffeandcliffewoods

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Cliffe & Cliffe Woods Parish Councillors

Cliffe Village Ward

Vacancy

Thelma Enticknap 220487

Derek Green 220240

Ray Letheren 222224

Lesley Parker 220503

James Wenban 222620

Leslie Wicks 220374

Jasper Wright 220184

Cliffe Woods Ward

Jim Corrigan 220373

Margaret Emblin 220904

Dianne Foreman 221193

Chris Fribbins 220932

Ken Kentell 221434

Bryan Mooney 222143

Two Vacancies

Cliffe and Cliffe Woods Computers Connected

In our parish the majority of our residents have had to rely on low speed dial-up connections or expensive ISDN connections for access to the Internet and Email. Now good news—the number of registrations for broadband on the Cliffe exchange passed its trigger level of 250 registrations and was so it is now available in most of Cliffe and Cliffe Woods.

Listening to youngsters

The Parish Council has been approached regarding the anti-social behaviour of some of our younger local residents. Although our powers are limited, we are calling for an all-agency approach from the Police, Medway Council and others to try and resolve these problems. We are already doing something :-

- Progress is being made by the Parish Council to provide a 'kick-around area' at the Cliffe Recreation Ground. Permission has been given to convert some unused allotments, now quotes for the work and further consultation will start soon. Mrs Chaplin from the local fundraising organisation, who run 'Stars in their a**se' handed over a donation of £4,000 towards the project recently.
- Local Youth Clubs will continue to be supported by the Parish Council – we have provided some start-up money for equipment and have paid hall hire costs. *Now we need the active support of parents and teenagers in the area to make them successful.*
- Plans to install a BMX track in the Cliffe Woods Recreation Ground, by Medway Council are currently stalled—although a track designer had arrived and started the work, there were objections to the actual position. Now consultation has been carried out and we are waiting to hear when works will restart.

<BusLink Medway >

On the 1st of September a new Bus service was introduced in the parish. Following your comments in our transport survey in a special Clarion last year, Medway Council have been given a government rural bus grant to support two new evening bus services. The N94 runs from Grain to the Medway Valley Park and the N33 runs from Cooling, Cliffe and Cliffe Woods to Medway Valley Park. **The maximum single fare is just £1, children 50p.**

Daily N33

*TFS

Cooling	1655	1810			
Cliffe Six Bells	1700	1815	1905	2025	2225
Cliffe Woods Primary School	1705	1820	1910	2030	2230
Medway Valley Park	1720	1835	1925	2045	2245

*TFS This journey only operates on Tuesdays, Fridays and Saturdays

On return journeys the bus will return passengers to any point along the line of the route, just tell the driver

Return Bus Sunday, Monday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings running over to the following morning

Medway Valley Park	2125	2215	2250	2330	0030
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Tuesday, Friday and Saturday evenings running over to the following morning

Medway Valley Park	2125	2150	2250	2345	0030	0115	0215	0315*
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* This journey does not operate Tuesday Night/Wednesday Morning

SUNDAY Bus

Buses into Strood and Chatham (via Hoo) leave Cliffe at **09:39, 11:39, 13:53, 15:53 & 17:53** and Cliffe Woods 5 or 6 minutes later. Buses return from Chatham at **10:45, 12:45, 14:45, 16:45 and 18:45** (the last bus is even later than in the week !). **The maximum single bus fare on this route is also £1, children 50p.** Both the Sunday and evening/night buses are run by AMBERLEE. UK

We are looking to publish a full timetable of all the local services (bus and train) with contact numbers for taxis etc. and distribute it to all households in the new year. The Parish Council have also had a number of complaints about the reliability of the Monday to Saturday 133 service to Strood and Chatham and are following these up with Arriva and Medway Council.

Wharf Lane Development

A special Cliffe Clarion was sent to houses in Reed Street, North Road, Green Lane, Marsh Lane and Wharf Lane in May about a planning application we received for the development of land currently part of Wharf Farm. Although it is in the 'village envelope' and therefore a possible development site, there are many issues regarding access through the village and the local roads. No indication of number of houses proposed was included in the plan.

Many residents passed their concerns to both the Parish Council and Medway Council (the planning authority) and the application was turned down—because of the local roads and access difficulties.

Remembrance Sunday

Each year Cliffe and Cliffe Woods pay respect to local residents who gave their lives in the two world wars at the War Memorial at St. Helen's in Cliffe. Local scouts, guides and the fire brigade parade and lay poppy wreaths along with the church, parish council and others.