

## Want to Help Shape the Future of our Parish area?

Autumn  
Edition 2011

### 2012—Diamond Jubilee in Cliffe— Meeting 26th October



Next year is the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and plans are already being considered for our own celebrations. But we want **YOUR** views and ideas as well. There are likely to be events in both Cliffe and Cliffe Woods organised by groups and individuals, are you already organising something? Can you help others?

To hear the early ideas, and suggest your own, a **special meeting will be held on Wednesday 26th October 2011** in the **Memorial Hall Cliffe @ 7:30pm** where we can also discuss 'Thinking Big' issues. If you are unable to attend, there is a questionnaire on Page 2 in this Clarion which you can send to us.

Obviously these events will need to be paid for and we will use volunteer help as well as donations and grants to minimise the cost where possible. An option could be an addition to the parish rates and we want to know what you think. Each £1 for the year (which would add about 10p to the 10 monthly payments) will

raise over £2,000. An option is of course no increase. The parish set the budget for 2012/2013 in January.

There is a specially extended weekend (2nd to 5th June) and both Monday and Tuesday are Bank Holidays. Nationally there is a **BIG LUNCH** on Sunday 3rd June and other events in London and across the country, beacon lighting and a pageant on the Thames in London.

### VillageSOS—Thinking Big

The BBC have recently run a series of programmes about villages that have planned and carried out improvements to their areas. This was supported by the **BIG LOTTERY FUND** with £100,000s of grants available. They also have a WEB site [www.villagesos.org.uk](http://www.villagesos.org.uk) with lots of ideas and support for local schemes. A community page has been set-up for both Cliffe and Cliffe Woods. Both villages qualify as the population is < 3,000 in each. Looking around the Hoo Peninsula there are other, much smaller, villages with more than one general shop/small supermarket each (Allhallows & Grain). Some locals may remember the full range of shops in the 'High Street', Church Street and Reed Street and Cliffe Woods Parkside Parade (even a shop on Town Road).

The Big Lottery is also running a **Reaching Communities Fund** with up to £500,000 available towards projects of up to £750,000 to a limited number of areas around the country—which includes Cliffe (but not Cliffe Woods). Other grants are available to both areas but are dependent on community backing and involvement. But we do need to move quickly!

So what are our local needs? (initial ideas):

**Cliffe**—Supermarket, Pharmacy, Post Office, Memorial Hall Improvements, Recreation Facilities (Changing Rooms for the Cliffe Recreation Ground

are a major priority for our football teams), Youth Facilities, Transport, Improved Broadband speed, local jobs and business.

**Cliffe Woods** - Supermarket, Community Centre Improvements, Youth Facilities, Transport, Recreation Facilities, Improved Broadband speed, local jobs and business.

#### What do you think? Have you any other ideas?

Grants from **VillageSOS** are not available to the Parish or Medway Council. But need a community group to be established—the Parish Council can help. Would you be interested? We would also want to involve current businesses in the area. Can we make better use of what we have got? Can we involve local land owners and developers to fund much of this through planning gain? There will be a chance to discuss this at the public meeting on Wednesday 26th October (see above for details).

**Our Youth, Our Future.** There is funding and support for a youth club in both Cliffe and Cliffe Woods but it needs adult help to make it happen. The Parish allocate some funds each year and are looking at setting up a Youth Parish Council. Can you help? Do you know of any local youth that would be interested in getting involved as well? With other volunteers there need not be a major commitment.

# Cliffe and Cliffe Woods

## Questionnaire (also available on the WEB [www.cliffeandcliffewoods-pc.gov.uk](http://www.cliffeandcliffewoods-pc.gov.uk))

<b>Name/s</b>	
<b>Address</b>	
<b>Phone/Email</b>	

### DIAMOND JUBILEE 2012

I have a suggestion for an event	YES / NO	Details:	
I am organising an event	YES / NO	Details :	
I am able to help at an event	YES / NO	Details :	
I would attend an event	YES / NO / Don't Know	Details :	
I would be willing to pay	YES / NO / Don't Know	Amount per person	
I would support the idea of an additional amount on the parish rates to pay for or subsidise event/s	YES / NO / Don't Know (£1 a year raises about £2,000 - 10p on each of the ten monthly payments)	Amount :	
I will be attending other Diamond Jubilee Events	YES /NO / Don't Know	Details :	
I will attend the Public Meeting on Wednesday 26th October	YES / NO / Don't Know		
Comments			

### VILLAGE SOS—Thinking Big

What does Cliffe and/or Cliffe Woods Need?			
I would like to be part of a Community Group	YES /NO / Don't Know		
I can help with special skills (e.g. Accountancy, Architect, Builder, Project Management)	YES / NO / Don't Know	Area of expertise:	
I can volunteer to help	YES / NO / Don't Know	Area of Help (e.g. Youth)	
Comments			

Please complete and give to any Parish Councillor (details on [www.cliffeandcliffewoods-pc.gov.uk](http://www.cliffeandcliffewoods-pc.gov.uk)) or deliver to the either of the Clerks Mrs Alex Jack, 17 Graveney Close, Cliffe Woods, Rochester, Kent, ME3 8LB or Mrs Laura Farrelly, 8 Elford Road, Cliffe, Rochester, Kent, ME3 7EH or email to [clerk@cliffeandcliffewoods-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@cliffeandcliffewoods-pc.gov.uk)

## Community News

### Big Plans for Medway and Lodge Hill (Chattenden)

Medway Council have issued two key documents for consultation recently. These are the Local Development Framework – Publication Draft Core Strategy and Lodge Hill Development Brief – Consultation draft (LDF). You can see these documents for yourself on the web [www.medway.gov.uk/ldf](http://www.medway.gov.uk/ldf)

The Lodge Hill Development Brief looks at the issues and safeguards regarding the Chattenden/Lodge Hill development of 5,000 houses, 5,000 jobs, health and community facilities as well as 'local' and central shops, two primary schools and a secondary school < mile from Cliffe Woods through Chattenden Woods (pedestrian and cycle access is suggested). Road access to and from the site remains the major concern of most people as this would all feed onto the Four Elms Roundabout (along with other major developments on the Hoo Peninsula at Kingsnorth and Grain). Highway issues could be much wider with rat running through Upnor and Wainscott (and a lesser extent Cliffe, Cliffe Woods, Cooling

and High Halstow to the alternative access in Dux Court Road).

Although there are detailed plans on the environmental mitigation, it remains to be seen how effective they would be in protecting our Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).

The development itself would be mostly hidden from view outside the site.

The LDF has a wider brief and covers the whole of the Medway Towns. It is linked to Lodge Hill as this is seen as the major growth area for jobs, houses and services. There are no specific plans for Cliffe and Cliffe Woods, but many policies that will have an impact. The plan predicts a growth in Medway's population from 256,700 (2010) to 280,000 (2028).

The Parish Council have considered the documents and confirmed our comments and concerns at the October Parish Council meeting.

### Blooming Cliffe

Our congratulations and thanks go to Cameron Ross and his small team of helpers for providing, maintaining and watering the beautiful flower displays that have brightened the approach to, and the main streets of Cliffe for the past few years; a massive undertaking. Cameron had the idea of 'Cliffe in Bloom' back in 2002 and his first fund-raising event was a New Year's Eve Ball, held in Bucklands Farm party barn that year. Each year he participates in a variety of fund-raising ventures and raises the very considerable funds necessary to maintain and expand the

scheme; he currently has floral displays on 33 lamp posts in the village and 7 in the large concrete containers beside the B2000 approaching Cliffe, with more planned. I am sure that donations from members of the community to prepare for next years programme would also be much appreciated; you can contact Cameron on 01634-220221.

How about an equivalent in Cliffe Woods? It needs volunteers to make it happen, but at least we have the experience of Cliffe to help.

### Medway LINK

Are you interested in or have concerns about health and social care services in your local area?

Why not consider joining the Medway Local Involvement Network?

The Medway LINK is an independent network of local people and community groups who work together to influence and improve local health and social care services. By joining the LINK you can have your say about what services are needed and how they can be improved for everyone. The Parish Council maintain a link through Cllr. Sue McDermid and we will pass on any comments as well.

For further information please contact

The Medway LINK at FREEPOST NAT 17761, Folkestone, CT19 4BR

free-phone: 0800 980 3956

website: [www.themedwaylink.co.uk](http://www.themedwaylink.co.uk)

or look out for leaflets in the doctors' surgeries.

### Parish News

At our September meeting, Joan Darwell was co-opted to fill the vacancy left by Steve Boosey who had joined the Parish Council at the May elections. Joan had previously been a Parish Councillor, so after a small break it is welcome back.

We met with the Chief Executive of the Kent Fire and Rescue Service at our August meeting. Concerns were raised and discussed. There are no plans to close our Fire Station. We still have some concerns about the fire cover for our area and will continue to monitor.

# Cliffe & Cliffe Woods Parish Council

www.cliffeandcliffewoods-pc.gov.uk

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## Clerks

Mrs Alex Jack (PO)  
Mrs Laura Farrelly (RFO)

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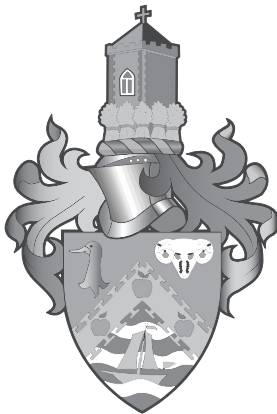
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## Parish Councillors

Full contact details (and photographs) at  
www.cliffeandcliffewoods-pc.gov.uk

### Cliffe Village Ward

James Wenban	222620
Lynne Bush	222103
Julie Moss	222142
Lisa Mills	221442
Samantha Collins	221576
Colin Elliott	220877
Dave Green	221173
Joan Darwell	220121

### Cliffe Woods Ward

Margaret Emblin	220904
Chris Fribbins	566256
Ken Kentell	221434
Robert Hunt	222042
Alan Taylor	220689
Sue McDermid	220864
Ray Letheren	222224
Ian Petrie	221862

## The Villager—Community Transport for the Parish

The project has been running for about 5 years now, with many excursions for local residents and groups. The buses are often in our villages, they are low floor with easy access and seats can be removed to make room for wheelchairs and scooters. The drivers are volunteers (with some local residents, including the parish chair). Some examples of trips are: Eastbourne Air Show, Kent County Show, Knebworth House, Woburn Abbey, Blenheim Palace, Chichester, Broadstairs Food Festival, Xmas shopping in London, Romford & Lakeside, Buckingham Palace, Southend, Hastings, Rye, Canterbury and many more.

Priority is given to those, of all ages, in Medway's rural area that do not have reliable or regular access to a car.

For details ring 01634 336336 or email [rural.projects@medway.gov.uk](mailto:rural.projects@medway.gov.uk) (It would



be good to see more Cliffe and Cliffe Woods residents 'on-board'. The buses can also be hired by local groups (with a volunteer driver, or own driver if qualified).

## Harold Weavers (Parish Councillor 1946-1991)

Harold Weavers passed way in August. He had been a parish councillor for 45 years when he stood down in 1991. The current Chair and Vice-Chair remember him from their early days on the council. He is remembered as a firm believer

in doing what was right and correct. His involvement on the Cliffe-At-Hoo Parochial Charity and the Parish Council has helped leave a legacy to be proud of. Family and friends attended a memorial service at St Helens.

## Who we are and what we do

The Cliffe and Cliffe Woods Parish Council has existed since 1894. We are the most local level of government. There are 16 councillors, (8 Cliffe Woods and 8 Cliffe). The council meets monthly, alternately, in Cliffe and Cliffe Woods. Committees meet and make 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 council tax. Residents pay an extra amount on top of Medway Council, police and fire services—**this raised £40,492 in 2011/2012**, and is, on average, **35p per household per week!** We seek grants from other sources for large projects 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 as well as income from allotment rents and football pitch hire.

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 liaising with Medway Council, the police and other organisations.

We also help fund Youth Clubs in both Cliffe and Cliffe Woods—although neither is currently operating, we would help anybody that wants to get them restarted. Funds are also available to 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).

All members 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 2015). In between elections any vacancies can be filled by a by-election if sufficient local electors request it, but more commonly members are co-opted.

**Why not take an active part in the community and join us? You do not even have to be a councillor to take part on some of our committees.**