



Your Community — Your Responsibility

Spring Edition
2007
Chairman's Report
Public Meeting Feedback
Medway Walking Festival

New Faces at the Parish Council ?

Every four years elections for the Parish Council are held and this May some of the current councillors will not be standing. Amongst these is Derek Green, who has had about 40 years on the Parish Council. Derek would have seen a lot of changes in the Parish Council over those years. We hope to be able to recognise this service in some way. Derek will be remembered most for his time with the Cliffe Fire Station, and with his wife, the local private hire car firm (our Cliffe Taxi). On the Parish he is remembered for his work helping to maintain and improve the Recreation Ground, play area, allotments and contributions to all parish matters. He was also active from the beginning with the Cliffe Memorial Hall and Carnivals and a lot more!

In May there will be elections to fill 8 positions in Cliffe and 8 in Cliffe Woods. How about giving some of your time to help the local community? Nominations close on 4th April. Further details can be obtained from the Chairman and Vice-Chairman (contact details on Page 4).

This year, Chris McLoughlin will also be standing down as the Parish Clerk. He has been clerk for 16 years and has been a massive help to the council and the local community during this time.

We are looking for a local person to take on the role of clerk.. It is a **paid (+ expenses), part-time position**, around 16 hours per week (subject to negotiation), based at home. The Clerk is the primary contact of the Parish. We would expect the Clerk to have experience with dealing with people, in person, by post, phone and email. Experience of financial book keeping, and using personal computers is important. They would be expected to prepare agendas and minutes of Parish Council meetings, attending evening meetings of the Parish and its sub-committees (on average 4 days a month). Occasionally they would represent the Parish at other events and meetings. The Clerk's role is also to ensure the Parish keep to their Standing Orders and Financial Management rules and offer advice on the powers available. Full training is available, possibly leading to a recognised qualification.

For Parish Councillor nomination papers, contact the Electoral Services Department at Medway Council, Civic Centre, Strood, Rochester, Kent ME2 4AU, Phone Medway (01634) 332864, or Email electoralservices@medway.gov.uk. Nomination papers must be returned to Medway Council by 12 (noon) Wednesday 4th April.

To apply or for further information about the Parish Clerk Position, contact the Chairman or Vice-Chairman (contact details on Page 4). The final date for applications is 9th April 2007.

Annual Parish Meeting

Every year the Cliffe and Cliffe Woods Parish Council organise 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**
5th April 2006, 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

S PARISH COUNCIL

CLIFFE & CLIFFE WOOD

the Cliffe Clarion

Cliffe and Cliffe Woods

Chairman's Report

I would like to thank all the people that turned out for the meeting at the Cliffe Memorial Hall on Thursday the 16th of November, some people said it was a waste of time, but a lot of good has come from it, we are now working together. For example :-

At the meeting 16 members of the public want to be part of the neighbourhood watch scheme, - John Haddoway, the Medway Area Co-ordinator has now contacted them, more people are needed- contact me for further information..

6 members are interested in becoming Special Constables, with the view of becoming Parish Constables, this is being dealt with WPC Wendy Knight, if any one wants details contact, wendy.knight@kent.pnn.police.uk

8 members of the public want to help out with the Youth and Youth clubs, they should have been contacted by the Medway youth team.

On Friday the 8th December I was invited to meet the new Chief Executive at the Civic Centre , I used this meeting to talk to our Medway Councillors and Chief Superintendent Jan Stephens, about the problems we were having. After this a special meeting was arranged on Monday 18th December at the Civic Centre with the Police and Councillors to get more policing for our areas villages.

From January we have a new Community Support Officer working in Cliffe and Cliffe Woods, the Police would like to base her at the Fire station. We have had lots of support from Medway Community team, and the youth outreach teams, trying to work with the youths, creating a new youth club at Cliffe. The Police still need help from the Community, to report all crimes no matter how small, then they can get the full picture of the problems they have to address, and put people in place, to reduce the crimes,

We continue to meet with the Police on a regular basis and they are looking for positive suggestions to improve local policing. They also feel that too much is left to them to resolve and not enough within the local community itself.

There have been two meetings with the youth at Cliffe, we are listening to them. We also had five people showing an interest in becoming a Parish Councillor, and more are likely to be needed this May.

There is more to be done so please come forward and lets work together to make this a better place to live. Thanks to our Parish Councillors and Clerk for their hard work.

Kenneth Kentell, Chairman

The Villager—Update

The Villager, Medway Rural Community Transport scheme continues to grow. More groups and individuals have joined and are making use of the two mini-buses for group hire and excursions. The numbers from Cliffe and Cliffe Woods are also growing, but more are needed to ensure excursions continue to serve our area.

The coming month sees excursions to Lakeside, Maidstone and Newnham Court, Battle, Heart of Kent Country Tour (including pub lunch & Tonbridge), An evening visit to the Ideal Home Exhibition, Market day at Faversham, Sevenoaks & Polhill, Spring Festival at Kew Gardens, Romford market, Southend and Hastings. A regular shopping service to the Hempstead Valley Shopping Centre also runs twice a month and could be extended if passenger numbers increase.

This year will see The Villager move from a Medway Council, based, service to a local community based charity. They are looking for people to form a steering group soon to organise the changeover. Experience of work in the rural community, accountancy, running a small company and/or public transport would be ideal candidates.

For more details about The Villager- contact 01634 890100 or visit www.villager.org.uk

Community News

Public Meeting—Feedback and Action

At the November Parish Council meeting in Cliffe Woods, over 100 people attended to raise concern about anti-social behaviour in Cliffe and Cliffe Woods (normally we do not get more than about four people!). Following that meeting the parish council agreed to hold a public meeting in Cliffe and invite other representatives, including the Police. A special CLARION was produced and delivered to every house in Cliffe and Cliffe Woods and the meeting was held in the Cliffe Memorial Hall.

Around 300 people were present, and the local Police were left in no doubt about the concerns of people in both villages. And the need for more positive, visible, policing to help overcome these problems. Despite the extra services provided by Medway Council's Community Wardens and local Police Community Support Officers, which had improved the resources available considerably, there were still real concerns. Some people recognised the problems facing the police, with similar high priority issues in other areas across the Medway Towns, and the need to take some local action. Although there had been occasions when youths had come to Cliffe or Cliffe Woods from other villages or the town, the majority of problems were being caused by our local youth. Problems with vandalism, problems with school buses, general rowdy behaviour and fighting was reported.

Some people reported on the positive actions that were being taken to talk to local youths and some of the services and facilities that had been provided. Although resources and powers were limited, the Parish Council reported on their support for local neighbourhood watch, youth clubs (in Cliffe and Cliffe Woods), the new hard surfaced area at Cliffe Recreation Ground.

Many people went away fearing that nothing would be done, or they had not been listened to, but many did complete a form regarding the problems and many offered to help.

Following the meeting the names of volunteers to help have been sent to the Kent Youth Service, the Medway Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator, there would have been feedback to these people already. The Parish Council have also contacted those people who indicated they were interested in helping them.

Two meetings have been held with local youth in Cliffe and positive steps are being made to establish a youth club in Cliffe and a range of other improvements to their facilities. The Medway Youth Service are coordinating this. The Parish are looking into the lighting the hard surfaced area at the Cliffe Recreation Ground and will continue to support positive action to help overcome the lack of facilities for our youth.

Meetings have also been held with the local police and positive actions are reported in the Chairman's Report on Page 2.

We all know that the problems we continue to suffer are caused by only a small number of people. The Parish will look for ways of encouraging and reporting on the best behaviour in the local community. At the moment there is a lack of respect for our community by many people, not just youth, and we all need to get involved more and help shape the local community into something to be even more proud of across all age groups.

At the public meeting we had over 30 people who said they could help with areas such as youth, neighbourhood watch etc. Now you have a chance to join them. The form used at the public meeting has been included with this Clarion. Please complete it for your household and return to the Parish Clerk, Chairman, Vice Chairman (details on Page 4) or via any other Parish Councillor. If you have any other positive suggestions to make, also contact the above.

Planning for Cramming

The Parish Council has been consulted over a number of applications over the recent months that have raised concerns and led us to raise objections with Medway Council (who determine the applications). There is a growing trend for people to propose further housing on land that has been occupied by one house. We have seen a series of applications for back-land development (houses in the rear of current dwellings), with poor access and overlooking of neighbouring properties. Despite our objections, some have been passed by Medway, and others granted on appeal by a Planning Inspector in the worst case 14 dwellings to the rear of View Road, Cliffe Woods. Now we have seen plans for one property in the front and two in the rear of a property in the Buttway.

We have also raised concerns and objected to plans to develop other spare land in the parish. Examples include 14 dwellings at Courtsole Farm (regarding the impact on St Helen's Church, and in particular views from the churchyard over the marshes), the bottom of Wharf Lane, Symonds Road and the rear of the Victoria Inn. The Wharf Lane site has been cleared, but only outline permission, granted on appeal exists and a further application will be required before any development can take place access to the site will remain the main issue.

We will continue to monitor the situation and raise objections where appropriate.

Cliffe & Cliffe Woods Parish Council

www.cliffeandcliffewoods-pc.gov.uk

Clerk : Mr Chris McLoughlin
19 Spenlow Drive
Walderslade, Chatham
Kent, ME5 9JT

Phone: 01634—861776

Email :

cliffeandcliffewoods@hotmai.co.uk

Chair

Ken Kentell

52 Englefield Crescent
Rochester, Kent, ME3 8HD

Vice-Chair

Chris Fribbins

5 Englefield Crescent,
Rochester, Kent, ME3 8HB

Email: chris@fribbins.cix.co.uk



Cliffe & Cliffe Woods Parish Councillors

Cliffe Village Ward

Joan Darwell	220121
Thelma Enticknap	220487
Derek Green	220240
Lesley Parker	220503
James Wenban	222620
Leslie Wicks	220347
Roland Mitchell	222892
One Vacancy	

Cliffe Woods Ward

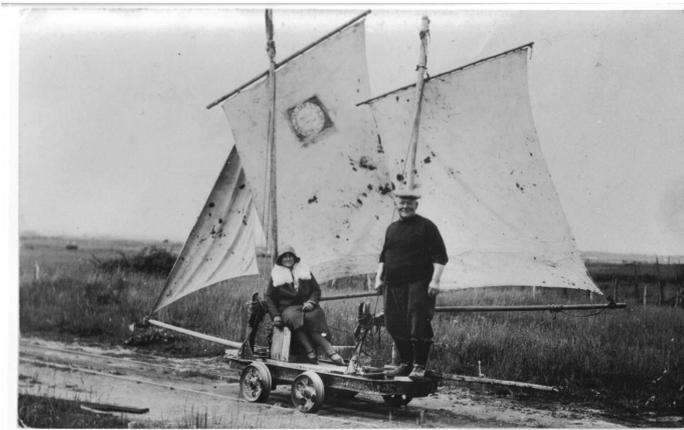
Jim Corrigan	220373
Margaret Emblin	220904
Dianne Foreman	221193
Chris Fribbins	220932
Ken Kentell	221434
Gill Moore	222205
Terry Cosey	220594
One Vacancy	

Cliffe Industrial Heritage Walk and Photographic Display

This year the 'Cliffe Industrial Heritage Walk' organised by friends of the North Kent Marshes on Saturday 16th June will be part of the 'Medway Walking Festival' please come along and find out more about the rich industrial heritage of Cliffe, famous for its bird life, RSPB Cliffe Pools reserve originated as clay diggings, part of the cement industry, which was the main source of employment during the 20th century

Free walks 10.30am till 12.30pm and 1.30pm till 3.30pm will be guided by local industrial history enthusiast Clive Tester (a Friend of the North Kent Marshes) and an RSPB warden

As usual there will be a free Heritage Display on view with refreshments in St Helens Church from 10.30 till 5.00pm with a BBQ and stalls on the Buttway (if you have any photographs of the village that could be copied as part of the event please contact Joan Darwell/Gill Moore - Friends of the North Kent Marshes)



For more information on booking a place on one of the walks please contact 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 is 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. A clerk manages the parish on a day to day basis and a caretaker looks after the recreation ground 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 raises about £17,000 per year, about 8p per household, per week!. We also raise funds from other sources for large schemes such as the Cliffe hard surfaced area and receive 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. A new one in Cliffe is being established. Regular funds are also available to support neighbourhood watch schemes in the Parish. A large grant and also a loan goes towards the funding of the Cliffe Carnival and we ensure the grass cutting in the churchyard of St. Helen's Church, Cliffe is done.

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. 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.**