



Our Community— Our Responsibility

March
Edition
2005

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 Heroes and Heroines 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!**

This year we also want to look forward and help plan for our own future. The Parish Plan is the way we can find what you feel is best in the area and needs to be protected, and what needs to be improved. This can only be done with the active participation of local residents like **YOU**. We need a small group of people to manage the Parish Plan process and input and feedback from as many local residents as possible. The Parish Plan Questionnaire is on Page 3.



Cliffe Woods Community



It is amazing how quickly time seems to go by. The Cliffe Woods Community Centre has just passed its 21st Birthday. The hall has been used by all ages of local residents from toddlers, youth club, through to Cliffe Active Retirement Association. The bar facilities have been run by a separate body, the Social Club, on a 20 year 'license' and this has, generally, provided a regular income to the Community Association.

Now is the time to take stock and plan for the next 21 years. Lessons have been learnt and the Community Association are keen to improve on the facilities and open them up to more local residents and groups.. As with other community facilities it needs local people like you to take an interest—let

the CA know what you would like to be done and if possible help.. All residents of Cliffe Woods are members and there are positions available on the management committee to help drive the improvements forward.

Marshes Flooding ?

There has been some concern regarding the Cliffe Marshes over recent months. Now further meetings have clarified the intentions and aims of the FLOODSCAPE project. Despite the raising of the sea wall over recent decades, this protection will not last forever and with a rise in sea levels and the sea wall reducing in height in some parts, there is a remote chance that the marshes could flood. Now the Floodscape project are consulting with local residents about how we would feel about that and what value we put on that land. Do we want the sea wall strengthened, leave it as it is or even reduce in places? There is no intention to flood it or remove any sea defences. Over the next 100 years, decisions will have to be made about the longer term future of the marshes. In even the most severe of computer models, the built-village of Cliffe was not affected.

Cliffe and Cliffe Woods Community News

100 Years of Cliffe Fire Brigade (continued)

On Saturday December 18th 2004 the unveiling of a Plaque commemorating 100 years of service (1904-2004) by the Cliffe Fire Brigade, now known as Kent Fire & Rescue Service, took place at the Fire Station, Cliffe. The occasion was attended by past and present members of the Cliffe Fire Brigade, members of the Parish Council and the Rev. Edward Wright, along with their wives. The plaque is placed on the left of the front fire doors and was unveiled by Mr. E Butcher who served in the brigade from 1972-1985 (latter years as Sub-Officer) and Mr. D Green who served in the brigade from 1959-1984 (latter years as Leading Fireman).

Current Sub-Officer Wayne Harrison expressed his thanks to all for attending on such a special occasion. Councillor Jasper Wright expressed the Parish Council's appreciation for the work and dedication by all the past and present fire crews, and for taking part and assisting in village functions over the years, and hoped that their competence and ability would continue to go from strength to strength.

Over the years the brigade attended many notable fires. In 1959 nearly all the local haystacks were set alight during a period of two to three weeks causing a lot of damage. Other large fires attended were petrol tanks at Northfleet, Woolworths in Gravesend, a petrol leakage at Isle of Grain refinery, and the largest of all at Chatham Dockyard at which 20 appliances attended.



On the brighter side, the Cliffe Fire Station was well known for winning the county-wide "Pump Competition" throughout the brigade and many trophies including the then famous Glanfield Shield which also included full-time fireman. The competition crew was trained by sub-officer K. Frost. The whole station "lived breakfast, dinner and tea" and it paid off. In the 1970s era all competition stopped owing to financial cuts etc.

In 1904 when the Cliffe Fire Brigade was created much of the equipment was purchased by the Cliffe Parish Council and the part-time crew were called out by a messenger. Over the years however the local firemen installed their own call-out system by installing a bell in their homes, controlled from the fire station. During the war (1939-

1945) the station was taken over by the Kent Fire Brigade and the local firemen were kept busy putting out fires caused by the German bombing and attended any aircraft crashes, one of which has just been marked by its own memorial in St. Helen's churchyard, when a Stirling bomber, coming home from a raid, crashed into Rye Street Farmhouse killing all the crew and one local lady in the house.

After the war the air raid siren, which was used for warning of an air raid and the all clear signal, was retained for use by the firemen as a call-out system during the day. It also warned other villagers, that the firemen would be racing to the fire station in Buttway Lane on their bikes, cars or motorbikes, and the fire engine was on its way out, so stay out of the way. The fire engine used to stop and pick up those that didn't get to the station in time. The indoor bells were eventually replaced by beepers. – then it all changed. Nobody knew the fire engine would be coming out and if people saw you running or chasing about they thought you were mad, until they heard the fire engine's bell (now 'two-tone horns').

As the fire station is part time, all the members have to live locally so you can imagine the number of Cliffe men that have passed through the station over the past 100 years. All dedicated firemen to their cause.

Over the years the local brigade has not stood still and continues to modernise with new equipment and training. My personal experience was of a gleaming fire engine that the village could be proud of. There was a lot of work to keep the brass work shining, steel tools had to be emery clothed to shine, leggings and boots 'shoe polished', axe handle scrubbed and the chrome head polished like a mirror, even the tyres on the appliance were polished with shoe blacking. But although, sadly, there is no brass on a modern appliance, it is most pleasing to see the high standard of cleanliness kept up by our present firemen. Congratulations to our Fire Brigade on their centenary and here's to many more.

Derek Green (Parish Councillor, ex-Cliffe Fireman)

Cliffe & Cliffe Woods Parish – Survey

What is good about the Parish area and needs to be protected, what is not so good and needs to be improved? How much do some issues affect you?

This is a chance to have **your** say. The Parish Council would like to see a Parish Plan to take these issues forward and help plan for our future – but it must be driven by the whole community, – **people like you**, not just the Parish Council. A response to this survey will be a start, we also need people like you to work together and build the plan – this will look at the local area now and what needs to be done over the next ten years – with an Action Plan. Please add your contact details on the bottom of this survey if you can help.

Your PostcodeYour House Name/Number (optional)

What is good about the Parish area (list up to 3)

1)

2)

3)

What is not so good about the Parish area (list up to 3)

1)

2)

3)

Add any other issues/priorities :-

Your Priorities To what degree are the following a problem for you?	Not a Problem	A Slight Problem	A Serious Problem	A Very Serious Problem	Don't Know
a) Public Transport					
b) Crime					
c) Youth Issues : Youth crime					
d) Youth Issues : Lack of Youth facilities					
e) Traffic Management (Speeding, Parking etc.)					
f) Access to Shops					
g) Availability and access to public green spaces					
h) The local environment					
i) Litter/Waste					
j) Housing : Availability of affordable housing					
k) Housing : New housing development					
l) Health issues : Access to Hospital					
m) Health issues : Access to Doctor					
n) Access to sports and leisure facilities					
o) Access to community information					

If you want to see feedback from this survey and/or help create the Cliffe and Cliffe Woods Parish Plan, please provide contact details:-

NAME

ADDRESS

Email

Return to Cllr. Chris Fribbins, 5 Englefield Crescent, Cliffe Woods, Rochester, Kent, ME3 8HB by 30th April – give to a Parish Councillor or drop off at the Post Office in Cliffe Woods or Martin's Newsagents in Cliffe

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 :

chris@mcloughlin9.freemove.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	220374
Jaspar Wright	220184
One Vacancy	

Cliffe Woods Ward

Jim Corrigan	220373
Margaret Emblin	220904
Dianne Foreman	221193
Chris Fribbins	220932
Ken Kentell	221434
Bryan Mooney	222143
Gill Moore	222205
One Vacancy	

Parish News

There is always lots of things going on in our Parish Council and wider afield that will have direct impacts on the Parish in years to come. In this edition of the Clarion, we cover just some of the major issues :-

Planning—We are consulted by Medway Council on all building plans in the parish. Wider afield the new version of the Medway Local Plan is being drawn up—it is called a Local Development Framework and has a broader impact on local issues (Cliffe Parish Council are involved in the very earliest stages). The Kent County Structure Plan is in its last stages and the first South East England Region—Spatial Strategy will set the likely development requirements for the next 20 years—public consultation is now taking place on the Regional Plan—three options for Medway are being considered - **15,000 or 12,000 extra homes on greenfield land on the Hoo Peninsula or brownfield sites only**. There will be a public meeting in Cliffe to discuss this and Floodscape soon—look out for publicity.

Cliffe Youth Recreation Project—Planning permission has been granted and now we will be able to complete the finances required to get it built. We have already received major grants and support from Medway Council, MHS Charity, Brett's Environment Trust, Kent Playing Fields Association, Trenport, Manor Farm, Andrew's Haulage and Awards for All. £4,000 was raised by local residents through 'Stars in Their A*s'es' and presented to the Parish by Mrs Chaplin. Further details in the next edition.

Cliffe Pools (RSPB)—we continue to be represented by Cllr Jaspar Wright and Chris McLoughlin (Parish Clerk) on the steering group. A great deal of progress is being made. The Cliffe Community and Conservation Partnership Project hopes to benefit the communities and countryside of the Hoo Peninsula—your views and assistance are welcome.

Cliffe Allotments—A new water supply is being installed. Some allotments are still available at bargain rates.

Cliffe Airport—Following the Government's announcement that Cliffe and other sites in the Thames Estuary, and Isle of Sheppey had not been included in the Future of Aviation White Paper, and the development of Heathrow, Stansted and, later, Gatwick would go ahead, councils and resident's groups in some of those areas challenged the decision in the High Court. Now the White Paper has been declared legal, we can finally breathe a little more. Before the consultation began there was a great deal of pressure on the government to include a 'new airport' as one of the options and Cliffe was the only one in the document.

Local Vandalism—There continues to be problems with petty vandalism in the Parish. The extra security required on night bus N33 has meant that the service has had to be reduced to just Tuesday, Friday and Saturday.

Local Transport—With a maximum fare of £1.20 single and £2.40 return, the N33 is the cheapest way of getting from Cliffe and Cliffe Woods to Strood and Medway Valley Park and return trips as late as 03:15 from Medway Valley Park (03:20 Strood Town Centre). We are also considering more local 'on-demand' services from our area—Community Transport in response to local needs.

Youth Action—A team of youth workers from Medway Youth Service will be visiting the village from Easter. If you would like to know more please contact Jenni Davis on Medway 338741 jenni.davis@medway.gov.uk

Web Site—A new Parish WEB site is to be launched soon. It is being designed from the top down to ensure it can be kept up to date and give the flexibility to support other organisation in the Parish as well. We hope to publish and track the Planning Applications we receive from Medway Council for us to comment on. We also hope to publish some of our collection of historic photos on an occasional basis. Just go to **WWW.CLIFFEANDCLIFFEWOODS-PC.GOV.UK** - soon

Vacancies—There are still vacancies on the Parish Council—how about **YOU** getting involved and helping.