



Our Community

Special
Edition
September
2021

Trenport Short Term Plans for Cliffe Unveiled



Trenport Investments Limited Development Bid – **Public Exhibition, Bowling Green Pavilion Wednesday 29th September: 3pm – 5pm, 6pm – 8pm.**

Trenport are consulting on their plans to build **250** houses in Cliffe on both sides of Church Street.

The Parish Council have been consulted and are very concerned about this development :

- It could dramatically change Cliffe Village and bring no significant improvements
- Traffic would increase and so too air pollution
- Resources such as the school and medical services are already stretched
- There likely to be no plans to improve the B2000
- Once approval has been granted for 250 houses there could be more to follow.
- There are likely to be more concerns raised by the exhibition and any planning application.

Please attend if you can and have your say on Trenport's Plans. More information will be published on www.cliffeandcliffewoods-pc.gov.uk and Facebook: "Cliffe and Cliffe Woods Alerts"

Cliffe & Cliffe Woods Parish Council

www.cliffeandcliffewoods-pc.gov.uk

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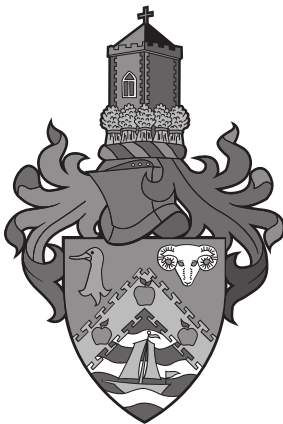
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Cliffe & Cliffe Woods Parish Councillors

Cliffe Village Ward

James Wenban
Joan Darwell
Sandra Fenney
Peter Clements
Andy Keates
Malcolm McLeod
Robert Wyatt
Ray Letheren

Cliffe Woods Ward

Sue McDermid
Fred Harper
Annette Cooper
Vivienne Walton
Ken Kentell
Vacancies x 2

Parish Council Background and Concerns

Trenport own a large amount of land, surrounding the built areas of Cliffe. This was purchased from the former chalk quarrying firms (APCM/Blue Circle) in the 1960s. The APCM sports ground is leased to Medway Council who operate it for Football, Cricket, Tennis and the Cliffe Bowling Club operate from there. Recently the Rookery Lodge replacement in 2017 funded £26,386.92 towards maintenance and improvement of open space land at APCM. Over recent decades, Trenport have shown their desire to develop their land to include housing. In 2019, Trenport consulted the parish on proposals to build 500 homes on their land, but after concerns were raised, there was no planning application. They are now consulting on a reduced scheme for 250 homes. There have been some initial discussions about the implications of this and the Parish Council were clear on their concerns about the impact even the reduced scheme would have on our parish (see overleaf). Any Planning Application would be considered by Medway Council, and even if they refuse, the developers would be able to appeal against that decision to a Planning Inspector. This would be determined against government National Planning Guidance and although Medway Council have not allocated sufficient housing land to achieve the Government targets for the area, this is likely to change when their Draft Local Plan is published for consultation in the coming months. If a Planning Application is submitted, there will be further publicity on www.cliffeandcliffewoods-pc.gov.uk and residents views can then be submitted to Medway Council. **Please attend if you can and have your say on Trenport's exhibition. If there is a planning application you will be able make representations to Medway Planning: planningrepresentations@medway.gov.uk and through your local Medway Strood Rural Councillors: medwaycouncillors@cliffeandcliffewoods-pc.gov.uk let us know what you think at consultations@cliffeandcliffewoods-pc.gov.uk**

Who we are and what we do

The Cliffe and Cliffe Woods Parish Council has existed for over 120 years. We are a nationally recognised, and most local level, of local government. There are 16 councillors, (8 from Cliffe Woods and 8 from Cliffe). The council meets monthly, alternately, in Cliffe and Cliffe Woods. There are a small number of committees that also meet to discuss specific issues in more detail before making 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 clear of litter.

The Parish is funded through the local council tax. Residents pay an extra amount on top of Medway Council, police and fire services—**this raised £60,522 in 2021/2022**, and is only about 36p per household per week! We also raise funds from other sources for large schemes such as the Cliffe Ball Court, Cliffe Play Area, BMX/Skatepark, Cliffe Changing Rooms and the allotments and have received a Rural Liaison Grant from Medway Council to spend on other improvements (although this and another grant from Medway Council are due to stop in April 2022).

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 the longer term strategic plans for our area.

We also helped fund Youth Clubs in both Cliffe and Cliffe Woods—although neither is currently operating, we would help anybody that wants to get them restarted or generally help our local youth. 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) - *because of COVID issues, these grants have been increased this year.*

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 (May 2023 is the next date). In between elections any vacancies can be filled by a by-election if sufficient local electors request it, but more commonly additional members are co-opted. **Why not take an active part in the community and join us?**