



## 'Oyez' - Clapham Parish Council Newsletter - March 2021 -Issue 6

Hello everyone and welcome to Spring!

Great to see some improvement in the weather and the optimistic green shoots in the recovery from the epidemic too.

Your Parish Council has been working during lock down on a number of projects just don't mention the skip...shouldn't be long now.

Join us on the next meeting by Zoom, see the next agenda. We still have the open forum before we start for any issues you might want to raise.

I hope you have all had a chance to sign up for the rural fibre broadband schemes that seem to have turned up like buses in the last few weeks. Our neighbours in Patching have been a great help in administering the enquiries for the Openreach project and we should hear soon the outcome of that.

We have been dealing with the Police over the issues of crazy car drivers in the night and the usual menace of lunatic motor cyclists. We urge any and all instances be reported to the Police as these are reckless and dangerous people as well as being very annoying.

Like last time, lock down has seen a lot of people make a bee line for the walks and scenery around the Parish for recreation. No incidents reported of altercations to us so far but the issue of dog fouling has been raised. As a Parish Council we favour the stick flick in the woods as opposed to the bag, which is not always properly disposed of, and also requires dog bins and dog bin emptying fees.

Hope to see you all around soon.

Stuart Ray, Chairman

## **#Make a Change - Could this be you?**

In a year which saw a Parish Clerk trending at number one on Twitter and a rather unconventional Council meeting go viral, we would like to reassure you that Clapham Parish Council is (generally) a much more civilised affair! So if you think that you might be interested in becoming a Councillor please either speak to Sarah - the Parish Clerk - or one of the Council members. You can also find out more by visiting the website of the National Association of Local Councils ([www.NALC.gov.uk](http://www.NALC.gov.uk)) to read about their campaign - Our Work - Elections #MakeAChange - promoting the role of the Councillor and learn what others have to say about the role.

## **May Elections**

The Government have announced these are to go ahead on the basis that by then most people will have received at least their first vaccination. The deadline to apply for a postal vote for the elections on 6 May 2021 is 5pm on Tuesday 20 April and to be eligible you must also be registered to vote by Monday 19 April. Please visit the Arun District Council website for more information.

## **Census Day 2021**

The 2021 Census Day for England and Wales is Sunday March 21st; conducted by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) it will be predominantly online for the first time, with a target to achieve a 75% online return rate. They are providing a wide range of assistance to the public to encourage online completion, including a dedicated census contact centre, work with community groups, and work by census field staff on the doorstep. Additional arrangements available to make sure that everyone can complete their form, whether online, paper-based or even by phone. You can learn more by visiting their website [census.gov.uk](http://census.gov.uk).

## **Assets of Community Value**

The Council is still waiting to hear from Arun District Council (ADC) as to whether its nominations for St Mary The Virgin, Clapham and Patching CofE Primary School and The Junction have been successful. The level of evidence required this time round is very much more demanding than it was in 2015, although using information and photos for parishioners to build its case, the Parish Council is hopeful of a favourable outcome. The evidence can be in the form of community testimonials, advertisements, lists of clubs/groups using facilities and the frequency of use, photographs, copies of web pages showing history of the property/land or its use for events so please share anything to support the applications with Sarah. Thank you to those who have already contributed but we need more evidence to make it happen!

## **Parish Design Statement**

Thank you to members of the working party, both past and present, who have invested so much time and effort in drafting the 'Parish Design Statement' to supplement the existing Clapham Neighbourhood Development Plan. Thanks also, to all those who took the time to complete the feedback survey which produced a good response. The Council has now approved the content for submission to the South Downs National Park and once adopted this document will form an important part in the assessment of future planning applications.

## **The Recreation Ground**

We haven't let the matter of several lockdowns stop progress so the Recreation Ground continues to take shape and hopefully with a decent spell of dry weather the new path to the play area can be installed! The annual health check of the horse chestnut is due any time now, quotes are being arranged to replace the circular seat which had to be removed and the park benches are being refurbished. The condition of the boundary fencing by the Junction is being assessed and additional measures are under review to deal with the perennial problem of dog-fouling.

## **Rural Gigabit-Capable Broadband**

It's not too late to complete an 'expression of interest' so if you've not got round to it yet please do so to make sure you don't miss out! If you need another form one appears at the end of this newsletter.

## **The Junction - Moving into Spring/Summer 2021**

We are pleased that national lockdown is beginning to ease over the next few months and being able to open The Junction once more. We are looking forward to meeting everyone again to socialise. A big thanks to all that have helped keep the spirit of the facility throughout lockdowns.

Moving forward into the new way of socialising - we need to decide how we would like our Junction to proceed. First, we will be going back to coffee mornings on Saturdays socially distanced and in groups of 6. Second and moving on from there will have to be discussed and decided amongst ourselves, what the next steps will be.

Looking forward to sharing good times at The Junction once again. Do let me know if you have any brilliant ideas on moving forward in these strange times.  
Yvette Fisher.

**Rural Gigabit-Capable Broadband Voucher Scheme  
Expression of Interest**

Parts of the Parishes of Clapham and Patching have poor broadband speed and even those who are reasonably well served might be able to get a better speed. The Government and WSCC are currently offering service providers a grant if they help rural communities improve their broadband connection.

You are not committing to anything at this stage, although if a better broadband speed or connection would be of interest to you please let us know by completing this 'Expression of Interest'.

Patching Parish Council is at an advanced stage of negotiations with Openreach, one of the providers, and the scheme is open to residents of Clapham and also some residents in Angmering.

Please visit the following website for more information.

<https://gigabitvoucher.culture.gov.uk>

**Title and full Name:**

**Full Postal Address:**

**Do you run a business from this address (SME)? Yes or No:**

**Business name at this address:**

**Email address:**

**Landline telephone number:**

**Current Broadband supplier:**

**Usual internet download speed (or range) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_Mbps**

I wish to express my initial interest in this scheme and understand I am not entering into a contract at this stage.

I give permission for Clapham and Patching Parish Councils to confidentially store my personal details for the purposes of the Rural Gigabit-Capable Broadband Voucher Scheme

I consent to Clapham and Patching Parish Councils sharing my personal details (address, post code and landline number) with the infrastructure broadband supplier and West Sussex County Council as part of the process to install a fibre broadband local network under the Rural Gigabit-Capable Broadband Voucher Scheme

**Please complete and return by email to: [patchingpc@gmail.com](mailto:patchingpc@gmail.com)**