



'Oyez' - Clapham Parish Council Newsletter - June 2021 -Issue 7

Chairman's Annual Message 2020-2021

To say this past year has been extraordinary would be an understatement.

It was great to see the community pulling together and the speed at which services and communications were established at the start. I would like to thank everyone who has helped out a neighbour, looked out for someone, made a trip for groceries and pharmacy or came up with a scheme or activity to keep us all from going mad. As we cautiously start to emerge, I wonder if the experience will have changed our community? I hope so for the better.

Throughout the epidemic the business of the CPC has continued. A change of legislation, which allowed the PC to meet virtually until 6 May 2021, meant we could carry on. Decisions are still being made about the return to face to face. Our on-line efforts were sparsely attended to say the least and I hope we get back to normal this year. There is nothing quite like Clapham Village in full hue and cry and I for one miss it.

Members and the Clerk have taken part in a wide range of virtual workshops to ensure everyone stays up to date with ever changing legislation. The Council was subject to an External Audit, required due to the CIL and grant funding for the park, for which we received a clean bill of health with no qualification or comment. Thanks go to our RFO Sarah for all the work this entailed.

CPC has a new website where you can monitor all of our activities and where you will find the finances available for scrutiny. We have made improvements to the site this year to ensure we meet the accessibility guidelines.

We now have 4 of the possible 5 seats filled on the CPC with Emily Dodd joining us making it an even split between the Common and the Street. We do still need to fill that spare seat so if you are interested let any of us or the Clerk know. We are not as lively as the Handforth Parish Council most of the time and it's quite interesting work.

We are an expanding community and with new people arriving my colleagues have been taking on the refurbishment and distribution of welcome packs. I know they are appreciated by the recipients.

With the death of Prince Philip COVID prevented us opening an in-person book of condolence, which was a shame. Hopefully people got the chance to use the digital book provided online or wrote, as we did, as a Parish Council. We received a very pleasant reply, which was published on our website.

The past year has been sprinkled with a few achievements. The installation of the playground and adult gym equipment, disabled access path and removal of the old play area continued and it has been great to see how popular the play equipment is proving. We want to invite people to contribute to the Pocket Park grant evaluation. The Pocket Park grant provided us with funds in addition to the CPR and the SDNPA. The evaluation invites people to submit experiences and memories past and present and how they feel it has benefitted the community.

The Clapham and Patching School was given a new lease of life following the intervention of the South Downs Education Trust. The CPC was proud to fight the campaign alongside the parents and staff for an organisation that provides such a great service from a location that has been doing so since 1817. The school now has a growing roll, a great team of teaching staff and a secure financial status serving as a feed school for Worthing High, the most highly oversubscribed high school in the area.

The CPC wishes the headmistress Jane Jones best wishes as she leaves at the end of this academic year and thanks her for her service. She led the school through some very stressful times and had to recruit a great team and maintain the ethos that will continue to benefit the school for years to come. She will hate that I said this but too bad.

In conclusion I would like to thank my colleagues for their support and work over the past year including Jeff Klückers in particular for his contribution to the parish council over many years' service.

There has been a great deal of work done by many volunteers this year. John and Yvette's amazing efforts to refurbish the Junction and the grocery deliveries throughout lock down, the working group for their efforts in producing the Parish Design Statement, the Clapham Litter Pickers and the flower rota for the care home. So many more I know we have all appreciated and admired.

I want to mention our colleagues in Patching Parish Council who fought very hard for rural broadband. Though they were not successful the effort made was herculean.

So, what does 2021-2022 hold for us all? Better than last years seems at least possible and so CPC would like to invite you all to a Parish Event on the rec when permitted to celebrate new beginnings. Watch this space.

Stuart Ray, Chairman

The Recreation Ground

Things are really taking shape now, with a decent spell of dry weather allowing the disabled access path to be installed and the old play surface removed. Very sadly, the horse chestnut has been assessed as unsafe and must be felled in the interests of public safety. However, the tree stump will be left at a height such that it can be used as a table, The old circular seat can now be replaced which was not possible before as effectively it would have encouraged people to congregate under a tree with the potential to fail. A native walnut sapling will also be planted and Prince Charles' recent unveiling of 'Tree-bilee' to celebrate the Queen's 70 years on the throne will be the perfect opportunity to plant further trees, subject to the trustees' agreement.

Clapham Litter Pickers

Disappointingly the lockdown has again prevented the Parish Council from organising its 'Great British Spring Clean' event, although we are delighted to have been able to support the newly formed Clapham Litter Pickers with the loan of equipment and a grant to cover their insurance. We have also been able to help them with arranging waste collections through Arun District Council and other equipment from the South Downs National Park Authority. This really is a great initiative and thank you to organiser Sian Fletcher and her team of volunteers.



Message from The Junction

We have now opened three Saturdays 10.30-12.30, and the feedback is good. People are pleased to be able to meet up again with the village once more. The garden and renovation have received positive reviews and provided great outside distanced space for our regulars.

One point we have been asked to raise - would people please remember we are still in a pandemic, with suggested distancing in place. Some customers have had to cut their time short on a Coffee Morning as others are sadly ignoring all current Covid guidelines.

There have been a few who have come forward to man the lunchtime sessions during the week - many, many thanks to everyone and their support. We will be looking to open more when things are a bit easier - at present only 6 people allowed in the shop will not bring in enough income to support restocking - Yvette Fisher.

Assets of Community Value

The nominations for St Mary the Virgin, Clapham and Patching CofE Primary School and The Junction have been accepted by Arun District Council and we are now waiting to see whether they have been successful. We are due to hear back by the 9 June so look out for an update on the Parish Council website.

Parish Design Statement

The working group has now completed the document; as well as the revised planning policies, it contains lots of lovingly researched background, as well as numerous photos of the village and surroundings past and present.

The Parish Council has approved the document for formal submission to SDNPA, and we are just awaiting comments from our helpful SDNPA contact before filling in the necessary paperwork. The Authority has a considerable backlog, so it may be some time before the Statement is officially adopted; however, we have been assured that all the policies will actually be taken into account straight away.

Rural Gigabit-Capable Broadband

Sadly, despite the valiant efforts of Patching Parish Council, the bid for funding was unsuccessful. A minimum of 96 valid pledges were needed to cover the build cost of £383,513 (at £4,000 per voucher), although it was only actually possible to secure valid pledges at £244,000, well short of the build cost.

Defibrillator Training

Just before the pandemic struck you may recall that Sally from 'Worthing & District Community First Responders' had very kindly offered to provide free CPR training and defibrillator familiarisation sessions to local residents. As we emerge from lockdown Sally has renewed the offer, so please register your interest in joining a session by emailing us via the Parish Council website contact form, indicating whether you have a preference for a day or evening session.

Meet Clapham's New Police Community Support Officer

A warm welcome to Ronia Rateiwa who also has responsibility for policing in Patching, Angmering and Findon, so quite a big area! However, she has already mobile patrolled the area and is looking forward to getting out and about in the parish to meet residents as lockdown restrictions ease.

Ronia works shifts so, whilst it is best to use 101 or go online to report non-emergency incidents, if you wish to make contact with her directly at any time please contact our Clerk Sarah to arrange this.



Doggy Matters

A doggy bag dispenser has been placed in the Recreation Ground and some new signage appears to have addressed the issue of dogs exercising in the children's play area. We have however been advised of some noise nuisance from barking dogs so do please be mindful of your neighbours.

West Sussex County Council Transport Plan

West Sussex County Council has asked us to highlight that they are currently reviewing the West Sussex Transport Plan (WSTP) for 2022-2036, to be published in draft for consultation in summer 2021, with a view to adoption in early 2022.

The consultation documents can be viewed at <https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/about-the-council/policies-and-reports/roads-and-travel-policy-and-reports/west-sussex-transport-plan-review/>

For further information regarding this consultation, please email ltp@westsussex.gov.uk or phone [01243 642105](tel:01243642105) - leaving your name, email address and interest (i.e. whether you are a resident, business owner, transport operator etc.).

Arun Wellbeing - how much is too much?

Olivia from Arun District Council has asked us to share details of her role as an Alcohol Adviser at 'Arun Wellbeing', offering free, confidential support and advice for anyone concerned about their alcohol intake. If you would like to know more please complete their online referral form: www.arunwellbeing.org.uk/contact-us or phone 01903 737862