



'Oyez' - Clapham Parish Council Newsletter - September 2021 -Issue 8

I hope you all had a great summer. With any luck it isn't quite over. Life seems to have returned more to normal than it has been. I for one will keep up the mask wearing indoors if only because it saves on shaving products. Talking of overgrown, the Parish Council has been working with the SDNP and local landowners to try to recover local paths from this year's growth. Still a work in progress but gradually improving.

There are plans to revive the Horticultural Society with everyone welcome who would like to get involved in an organisation that has been at the heart of village life for so many years. A message has gone out on the WhatsApp groups but please spread the word.

There is a message below regarding membership of the Clapham Parish Council which I would draw your attention to. It's a worthwhile and companionable thing to do for your community. Hope to hear from you.

Stuart Ray, Chairman

Join the Council

John Kelly, who served the parish so well over the last few years has decided to step down which leaves the Council with two vacancies. Parish councillors give their time freely, using their skills and energy to make a difference to their community and if you think this is something you might like to do, please contact our Clerk, Sarah, who will be happy to tell you more. There are a few eligibility criteria, but no formal qualification requirements and a passion for your community is the most important quality. You will be given full training, which can be undertaken virtually, so do please let us know if you are interested.

Pocket Parks Grant – we need your views!

A condition of the grant scheme was that recipients evaluate the impact of the money, which is where you can help us please. We are keen to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to feedback so, whilst we are also encouraging key stakeholders to write something, we have also produced a short survey which we would like as many people as possible to complete. The survey can be accessed via this link - <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/ZKNB2CL> - or a paper copy is also available at the Junction.

Assets of Community Value

We are still waiting to hear the outcome of the nominations for St Mary the Virgin, Clapham and Patching Church of England Primary School and The Junction, a process which started almost a year ago. The decision was due to be announced in June this year and whilst this has unfortunately been delayed do look out for an update on the Parish Council website.

Parish Design Statement

This is now reaching the final stages with the South Downs National Park Authority having provided some useful feedback and minor changes are currently being reviewed by the Parish Council. We are extremely grateful to Sally Morris as Lead for the Working Group and to everyone who has played a part in producing this important document to be referenced when responding to future planning applications.

Neighbourhood Plan

As part of the 5-yearly review of the Neighbourhood Plan, the South Downs National Park Authority has confirmed that Clapham's - which was adopted in 2016 - is not to be considered out of date. Indeed we have been advised to wait for the outcome of the South Downs Local Plan review, which will be starting in 2022/2023.

20 is Plenty!

There is renewed interest in the possibility of a 20-mph speed limit for The Street, which has been considered and discounted in the past. The Parish Council can apply for this as part of a Traffic Regulation Order, but we must demonstrate that there is now widespread support from the community as this will form an important part of the evaluation process. Interestingly, we understand that the unpopular repeater signs are no longer necessary. You can share your views by emailing Sarah, our Clerk, or at The Junction.

Message from The Junction

We have been able to enjoy the Junction once more with the help out of lockdown by Olly Burgess and our usual Junction team. As many of you know he is off to university, in the period up to his departure Olly offered to help run The Junction for a few weeks. To make it worth his efforts we decided to give him all profits for just those few sessions. This seems to be working pretty well and he has been reasonably supported so far.

We are all really enjoying the refurbished kitchen, building and garden for which we mainly have to thank Moose (John) but also all those that have assisted at the different stages when it was needed.

Olly departs for university mid-September, this will be a challenging time for the Junction as at the moment there is not anyone to run it, we are trying to put together a group who will oversee it and make sure it remains within the village for us all to enjoy and use. Do let me know if you are interested in helping in any way.

Many thanks, Yvette and the Junction Team

Defibrillator Training

Sally from 'Worthing & District Community First Responders' very kindly delivered a free CPR and defibrillator familiarisation session in August which was well attended by residents of both Clapham and Patching. Another session will run on Sunday 26 September between 3 and 5 p.m. so if you are interested in joining, please email us via the Parish Council website contact form.

Rural Gigabit-Capable Broadband

A new voucher scheme launched on April 8th. Disappointingly, however, significant sections of Clapham and Patching area in the BN13 3 postal area are now no longer eligible to participate, possibly as a potential beneficiary of a commercial roll out in future. Following our Freedom of Information request to understand how successful the scheme had been elsewhere in West Sussex, we have been in contact with the Digital Infrastructure Team who have also informed us that at present eligibility criteria cannot be challenged. Patching Parish Council has written to Andrew Griffith MP, who championed the scheme, to feedback on our experiences to date and we will let you know any outcome.

West Sussex County Council Transport Plan 2022 -2036

As previously highlighted, the public consultation runs from 16th July to 8th October so please take this opportunity to share your views.

Maureen Chaffe, who some may remember advised on the Neighbourhood Plan, has kindly provided some very useful information on 'quiet lanes', which are unclassified roads - not A or B roads - that do not have white lines down the middle and average less than 100 vehicle movements in a day. Disappointingly they are not mentioned within the Transport Plan so whilst the Parish Council will be responding as part of the consultation, do please have your say too!

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/>

And finally.... it's all change at Arun..

Nigel Lynn, Arun District Council's current Chief Executive is set to take up a new role as Chief Executive of West Berkshire Unitary Council, after ten years with Arun. Details of his successor and exact leaving date have yet to be announced.

Contact details

Clerk@clapham-wsx-pc.gov.uk or via the website www.clapham-wsx-pc.gov.uk