



'Oyez' - Clapham Parish Council Newsletter - December 2021 - Issue 9



A Message from the Chairman

Winter has arrived and if it is to be as hard as predicted with heating costs soaring we must be vigilant. Fortunately, this community has demonstrated tremendous levels of resilience and compassion through the pandemic and I know it will continue to do so and keep each other safe. Your Parish Council stands ready to do whatever it can.

I was doing a spot of research in a newspaper archive and I found a few articles about Clapham Village from the past. One that jumped out reported that in 1955 Clapham Parish Council invited the County Surveyor to see for himself why the village needed a "slow" sign painted on the Long Furlong at the junction with The Street. He did not think it would work and would diminish the effectiveness of such signage elsewhere. Anyway, it was good to read that they solved the speeding car issues back then so we don't need to worry about that again....

On behalf of the Parish Council, I wish you all a Merry Christmas.

News from the Council

We welcome Tony Bird as a new Councillor and there is interest in the remaining vacant position too, which is good news. Tony brings with him a wealth of experience as a retired police officer and he is already immersed in council life, joining our last Council meeting to set the precept for the next financial year and carrying out a quarterly check of our finances.

The Council had an external audit again this year, as its turnover exceeded £25000, and received a clean bill of health with no comments.

We returned to face-to-face meetings in July although understandably we have less members of the public now joining than before, but we hope that things will eventually return to more normal times.

Clapham Recreation Ground

Thank you to all those who contributed to the Pocket Parks Evaluation Report. As the Parish Council did not use an external company to undertake this, we now have agreement to use the five hundred pounds originally allocated for this purpose for other park related expenditure.

The Council would like to participate in both the Queen's Green Canopy - to plant a tree for the Jubilee - and the South Downs National Park's 'Call for Nature' project to identify possible sites where new wildlife habitats can be created. This would complement existing plans to create a wild meadow area and we will also be consulting with the Trustees and our local Tree Warden too. More details to follow in the next newsletter.

The Junction - Season's Greetings

Our lovely village shop/cafe continues to just about survive in the new evolving climate. We would like to thank the village for its continued support. Our first Xmas Table Top event was very successful - looking forward to seeing more at the next. Plans will be explored in the New Year to help The Junction be more open, and if you would like to be a part of this please contact me. Stay safe and well, Yvette.



Celebrating the Platinum Jubilee

We are currently exploring ways to celebrate, combined with the grand opening of the new playground, on the long bank holiday weekend. If you would like either to be involved in its organisation or share your ideas on what you would like to be included, please email Sarah or contact Yvette.

Assets of Community Value

We are promised a decision very shortly on the nominations for St Mary the Virgin, Clapham and Patching Church of England Primary School and The Junction.

Parish Design Statement

The final version of the document has now been submitted to the South Downs National Park Authority, in a queue awaiting assessment and with the outcome expected early in the New Year.

Clapham and Patching Millennium Map

Following a request for a copy of the map Sally (Morris) has kindly researched the cost of this. Single copies can be obtained at £15+VAT or if a group of ten or more people place an order the price reduces to £9+VAT.

'Tis the Season...for Surveys and Consultations

Community Transport Survey for Arun

Arun Community Transport and Community Transport Sussex are working in partnership to carry out a survey of transport needs in Arun and they have asked for our support in identifying the gaps in current transport provision and the particular needs of our community. Sarah has engaged with Ian from Community Transport Sussex to provide an online survey for residents to complete - although do of course let us know if you need an alternative format. The link is on the Parish Council and Village Websites.

West Sussex Fire & Rescue Service Community Risk Management Plan 2022 - 2026

Chief Fire Officer for West Sussex Fire & Rescue Service, Sabrina Cohen-Hatton is inviting residents to feedback on their plan, which sets out the direction of the service over the next four years. The closing date for responses is Friday 21 January 2022.

<https://yourvoice.westsussex.gov.uk/crmp>

Arun District Council's Vision 2022 - 2026

Arun are keen to hear from residents and businesses within the district to help shape this vision. The consultation is open until 13 December 2021.

<https://www.arun.gov.uk/councilvision>

Please visit West Sussex County Council's website to keep up to date with current and future consultations -

<https://yourvoice.westsussex.gov.uk/>

20 mph for The Street

The Parish Council is continuing to explore the possibility of a 20-mph speed limit for The Street, and is consulting with key stakeholders including the School and the Police. If you would like to share your views you can email Sarah, our Clerk, or complete the form at The Junction, and a survey is also being organised for the community.

News and Events from around the Parish

Clapham Church Stonework - the restoration of stonework around the windows and doors is now complete. It is wonderful to see the skill of the stone masons and how the new stone blends in with the old.

The Friends of Clapham & Patching Churches have kindly donated money to purchase a tree for each churchyard to commemorate The Queen's Jubilee. Planting took place at Clapham on Sunday Nov 28th and the date for Patching will be announced shortly.

Litter Pickers

The volunteer team continue to keep the village free from litter. A big thank you to all who help, especially to Boaz Cornford.

School Nativity - Tuesday December 14th 2.00 p.m. at the Village Hall

The children of Clapham & Patching School are putting on a special performance of their Nativity play for residents of both villages. Please do come along and support them. Refreshments will be available after the performance.

Contact details

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