



'Oyez' - Clapham Parish Council Newsletter - March 2022 - Issue 10

A Message from Stuart Ray

I have resigned as Chairman and Councillor and I just wanted to say thanks to everyone. It has been a privilege to serve and a hoot and I am satisfied that I leave the post in safe hands.

I had intended to resign at the Parish Meeting in May but other commitments have gradually crept up on me.

Sarah, the Clerk, as ever has my heartfelt gratitude for all her amazing efforts. Her skill and knowledge have made this job a thousand times easier! I have over the years served with great and committed people and I have enjoyed our time together.

The council will remain quorate and will continue to function, probably better! Of course, anyone considering the role of Councillor should contact Sarah as new people always refresh the institution.

I thought 4 years was a good stretch and I am the only one left from the council I joined, so I feel I have done my bit!

See you all around.

News from the Council

As we bid farewell to Stuart, the Parish Council are very grateful for his considerable contribution, particularly his role in negotiating the lease on the Recreation Ground and delivery of the new play park. Thank you Stuart - you will be missed!

Clapham Recreation Ground

The Council are hoping to participate in the Queen's Green Canopy to plant a tree for the Jubilee. The Trustees have nurtured a native walnut sapling which at about 3 feet is ready to be planted this spring, suitably protected by a tree guard.

20 mph for The Street

The Parish Council is continuing to explore the possibility of a 20-mph speed limit - full details, pages 3 & 4. Please record your vote - those 13+ years only - using this poll, even if you have responded previously. <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/BVMMGGK>

Celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee

Clapham Parish Council are planning to host an event to mark this very special occasion. It will take place on the Recreation Ground on Saturday June 4th with food and entertainment including live music, country dancing by the school children and a band. Please let either Sarah or Yvette know if you would like to help organise the event.

A27 Arundel Bypass Consultation - runs from 11 January to 8 March 2022.

<https://nationalhighways.co.uk/our-work/south-east/a27-arundel-bypass/>

News and Events from around the Parish

A Message from The Junction

At last we have managed to start opening. Saturday mornings only at the moment. If we achieve more volunteers, soon we would like to start everyday lunchtimes once more. Your support in anyway would be much appreciated. We have refurbished the building, tended the garden, kept everything ticking along very slowly for the last two years, come and make it all buzz once more. Call Yvette if you can help.

A Message from Clapham and Patching C of E Primary School

The youngest children have been learning about the Chinese New Year, with a visit to the China Palace restaurant in Arundel for a special lunch to bring the learning to life! Our older children have been learning about the winter Olympics held in China, trying their hand at curling - perhaps some future Olympians!

Recently, you may have seen us out and about in the village, keen to keep ourselves fit and healthy, and in line with the Government recommendation we have set up our own 'Walk a Wild Mile'. This means we can really enjoy our beautiful local area whilst keeping ourselves more active. We aim to be out and about at least twice a week, so do say hello if we are passing!

This half term we are looking forward to pancake races with Reverend Colin to mark the beginning of Lent, and our visits from Reverend Helena. We are also making plans to grow our own vegetables and turn our front garden into a haven for bees and butterflies ready for the summer months.

Coppice Volunteers Needed!

The South Downs National Park Authority is looking for volunteers to join the woodland coppice team at Clapham Woods on a Thursday. If you are interested in finding out more then please email volunteering@southdowns.gov.uk or visit www.southdowns.gov.uk/volunteering

Clapham Church - Flower Festival - Come and take part, open to everyone!

2nd & 3rd July 2022 at St Mary the Virgin Church, Clapham, BN13 3UU. Display theme "Favourite hymns and psalms". For more details and to stage an entry please contact: focpcflowerfestival@gmail.com

Litter Pickers - the volunteer team continue to keep the village free from litter, with another big thank you to all who help, especially to Boaz Cornford.

20 mph for The Street?



Summary

There is renewed interest in a 20-mph local speed limit on The Street, which would require a traffic regulation order (TRO). The Parish Council can submit an application for such an order via the West Sussex County Council website.

Background

This matter has been considered on several occasions in the past and met with local opposition.

An application must evidence community support to have any prospect of success.

Supporting Views

- ✓ Positive relationship between vehicle speed and injury collision.
- ✓ Necessary to improve the environment for safer walking and cycling, busy road with no pavements or streetlights.
- ✓ Safeguard parents and carers using the village school and new playground.
- ✓ Benefits of a safer environment in a small rural community outweigh the cost of implementation.
- ✓ Near misses when pulling out of driveways.
- ✓ Increasing volume of traffic, particularly with more online deliveries.

Opposing Views

- ✗ The Street is a narrow road with on street parking along its length where drivers instinctively drive more slowly with very limited opportunity to build-up and maintain higher speeds.
- ✗ Implementation of a 20mph limit would simply formalise existing responsible behaviour.
- ✗ 20mph limits are not enforced, and the likelihood of being caught exceeding the limit is very small.
- ✗ Use of repeater signs.
- ✗ High cost of implementing the scheme.
- ✗ Previous traffic surveys showed that the average speed was below 20 mph

Considerations

- Evidence is that 20mph limits are appropriate for roads where average speeds are already low (below 24mph) or along with traffic calming measures.
- The layout and use of the road must also give the clear impression that a 20mph speed or below is the most appropriate.
- There is no legal requirement to use repeater signs, but it is West Sussex County Council's practice to follow Department for Transport's (DfT) guidance that they are erected a maximum of 200 metres apart throughout a 20mph speed limit. 3 pairs of back-to-back 300mm repeater signs would be required in The Street or speed limit roundels painted on the road.
- If the DfT guidance is not followed for repeater signs, a robust risk assessment is required and, as Sussex Police may not have the resources to enforce 20mph speed limits, it cannot rely on enforcement making up for a lack of signs. The absence of a need for repeater signs might suggest that there is no issue with speeding and so negate the argument for a 20-mph speed limit with its associated cost (something argued before).
- Highways advise that the total estimated cost of the scheme could be about £10000. Installing the necessary signs for a 20mph speed limit in The Street would be about £1500, and if speed limit roundels painted on the road are preferred to upright repeater signs, the cost could rise to £2000. The staff resource costs were previously indicated at £4000 minimum (information is over 5 years old), though they will have increased, particularly the costs of advertising, and there will be the cost of obtaining the necessary speed data.
- There is no requirement for a parish to contribute to a Community Highways Scheme although it may increase its chances of being part of future works.

Please respond either via the survey link or, if you prefer, via The Junction café. Thank you!

* Delete as appropriate

*** I am in favour of a 20-mph speed limit for The Street.**

*** I am against a 20-mph speed limit for The Street.**

*** No View**

*** Prefer Not to Say**

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/BVMMGGK>