



'Oyez' - Clapham Parish Council Quarterly Newsletter - October 2023

A Message from the Chair, Terry Gale

The Parish Council continues to be very busy. The appeal against the planning authority's refusal for relocation of the Lansdowne Nursery to the site of the Old Gravel Pit was heard at the South Downs National Park on September 26th. A number of residents joined us on this occasion and the Inspector exercised his discretion to allow those from the parish to comment, clarify various matters and ask questions. A big thank you to those who came along and spoke so eloquently, representing grassroots opposition to the development and describing the adverse impact on those living in the parish. We must now wait for the Inspector's decision.

You may recall in our last newsletter that we let you know about the South Down National Park Authority's 'Local Plan Review' which is underway at the moment with an opportunity for those who live, work and visit the parish to contribute to a Parish Priority Statement. Thank you to those who shared their views which have been captured in a document for Clapham and will help inform a business plan for the Parish Council. Fixing the issues will be a challenge but we are up for that! You can read the final draft of the document on our website, which will be considered for submission by the Council when it meets at the end of October and some key outcomes are overleaf.

Many of you will have already seen that the two new seats to commemorate the King's Coronation, made possible through National Lottery funding, have now been installed on the Recreation Ground. At the suggestion of West Sussex County Councillor Deborah Urquhart, the existing seats which were no longer suitable for a public space were offered to the Worthing's Men in Sheds who have given them a new lease of life.

Thank you!

Special thanks to Charlie Smithers who has given his time and services so freely over a number of years to maintain the Recreation Ground for the benefit of the Parish. We are now looking to arrange another contractor – Charlie did an amazing job, so a hard act to follow! Also, to Boaz Cornford who continues to keep our parish looking so clean and tidy – everyone appreciates your efforts Boaz, thank you so much.

The Junction

From January 2024, Hayley Croome (a local school mum) will own and run our lovely facility. We all are looking forward, with support, to this new venture. Yvette Fisher

Message from Clapham and Patching C of E Primary School

It has been a very busy start to the year here at Clapham and Patching C of E Primary School. We welcomed 53 children back to school and also an additional new teacher.

We have set up two book swaps outside the front of the school. One for children and one for adults and the village residents are also welcome to use these. We are also very proud to have received the good news that Clapham and Patching C of E Primary School nomination as an 'Asset of Community Value' has been successful.

Please Join Us!

Parish Council Meetings usually take place every other month and are held on the last Thursday of that month. They are **held at Clapham and Patching Village Hall, now commencing at 6.30 p.m.** (please note the earlier time) The remaining **dates for 2023 are Thursday 26/10/23 and Thursday 14/12/23**. There is an opportunity to speak at the start in the public session so do please come along.

South Downs National Park Authority - Parish Priority Statement

Clapham's Parish Priority Statement – a summary of what you told us.

A vision for the future

1. Development (on a proportionately limited scale) to meet local housing needs, sympathetic to its surroundings in terms of design, and eco-friendly.
2. Improved connections, through enhanced travel options and better transport links.
3. Safer, traffic-free or traffic-calmed routes that encourage walking and cycling and connect local communities. Improved roads, specifically the A280 Long Furlong by Clapham, through initiatives that address speeding and cut traffic emissions.

Development and management of land

1. The consensus is for small-scale development in proportion to the size of the community. This is to meet local demand, and local connection criteria should therefore apply.
2. Development of land for some very limited and specific types of housing.
3. Replacement or re-purposing of existing buildings that become redundant.

The natural environment

1. Environmentally friendly initiatives to restore and enhance existing habitats. For example, the former BMW track provides an opportunity for ReNaturing, possibly as part of a Beelines grant.
2. Retain and increase hedgerows, woodlands and trees as wildlife habitats.

Infrastructure

1. Residents highlight a need for improved access to healthcare including dentists, doctors and other health and wellbeing opportunities.
2. Faster broadband speeds and better reliability are also important, particularly for those working (or studying) at home.
3. Off-street parking options are very restricted, limited primarily to private properties; on-street parking is hard to find, and provides a challenge for traffic on our narrow roads.
4. There is only one bridleway (i.e. cycle path) in the whole of Clapham Parish; this causes many issues, as cyclists try to access the South Downs using public footpaths.

These are just the main points from the survey we carried out so do please visit our website to see the full statement and consider coming along to our next Council meeting on Thursday October 26th if you are interested to play a part in helping the parish deliver on these priorities. We will also start to look at budget setting for the next fiscal year to inform our precept requirement at this meeting.