

Chevron

Clare Castle Country Park update

The Parish Council undertook a survey of all households during March and we are delighted that so many of you participated. Thank you for showing such strong interest in the future of the Park. The response rate at between 40% and 50% is considered to be very good by industry standards and the results are therefore statistically robust.

86% of respondents supported the Parish Council in their proposals for the running of the Park and a very pleasing number of residents offered to become involved as trustees or to help in the Park. The main activities that residents wish to see are for children and young people as well as events such as concerts, children's playdays, "village" events and fun days. Other than refreshments and picnic/barbecue areas there is little appetite for commercial activities.

The Parish Council has also arranged a professional condition survey of the main buildings and the report states that the buildings are generally in a poor condition with little maintenance having been undertaken in recent years. We have written to Suffolk County Council seeking a significant financial contribution from them and await their response.

We are very pleased to report that, under a contract with SCC, St Edmundsbury Borough Council has taken over the management of the green spaces and the car park with effect from the beginning of April. Car parking hours and fees remain unchanged. Work on the footpath alongside the New Cut between Ashen Bridge and the Priory footbridge will be carried out by Suffolk County Council.

We will update you on further progress at the Annual Parish Meeting on 1 May.

Jubilee Events 2012

Trees - donated by the Woodland Trust as part of the Jubilee Woods project - have now been planted in the Nuttery and along the edge of the Common. An oak tree donated by St Edmundsbury BC, with a dedication sign, has been set close to the path running between the allotments and the upper common. Other plantings will follow. A new wooden planter will replace the plastic ones in Market Hill. Thanks to all the volunteers who turned up on 11th April.

Competitions for local school children are being arranged. Churches will hold their own thanksgiving services.

Planned events:

Monday 28 May: 7.00 pm Performance of 'The Hollow Crown', readings from the lives of English Kings with music, Town Hall

Sunday 3 June: 1.00 pm Big Picnic, live music, bar, hog roast, Country Park

Monday 4 June: 10.00 pm Lighting of the Beacon, Country Park

Tuesday 5 June: 4.30 pm Senior Citizens' High Tea, Community Centre

Volunteers, other events and inquiries, please to Phil Gryce (phil@gryce.co.uk or 01787 278 192).

April 2012



Highways and Footpaths - We continue to work towards improving safety and resolving traffic issues in Clare, with councillors holding several meetings with a representative from SEBC. The HGV Group and the Parking Group are still very active and recently a group of local governors and parish councillors was formed to investigate ways in which we can improve transit to and from school.

2012 is the centenary year of Clare Town Hall. To celebrate this and to promote the Town Hall the Trustees of the Combined Halls of Clare, **C.H.O.C.**, are holding an **Open Day on Saturday 26th May**. There will be activities and displays from 10am to 4pm. Look out for more details in the May issue of CHEVRON. For more information please phone Rosemary Warmington, 01787 277933, or Olive Smith, 01787 277 082.

The CHOC AGM takes place on Thursday 3rd May at 7 pm in the Old School, Hall 2.

Cemetery - Councillors continue to make improvements in the cemetery grounds. Areas have now been rotavated so that we can seed grass and plant shrubs to create a quiet garden.

The Stour River - The Environment Agency will continue to inspect waterways (Stour, the New Cut and Chilton stream) annually, cutting reeds, removing debris and dredging as required. They will no longer take responsibility for maintaining river banks and weirs - landowners are responsible.

Additional flow created by the Wixoe-Abberton development is controlled by EA. Flow is cut back during rainfall periods so that no flooding is caused by the extra water - other than the known risks recorded over 80 years. The speed of flow will be increased but not sufficient to cause erosion of the river bottom (sand & gravel), or scouring of the banks. The biological health of the river should improve.

Dog Fouling - The Council often receives comments and complaints about the state of the parish paths, walk ways and play areas and the problem is particularly bad at the moment. Of major concern is the fact that most dogs are carriers of toxocara T canis and that their droppings can cause **significant health problems particularly for children, including blindness**. Fortunately, for dog owners, the parasite takes two to three weeks to develop in dog mess so clearing up fresh dog droppings does not present a danger. However, if droppings are left then they present a serious danger for others. We ask that all dog owners act responsibly and help us to protect our community.

Tool thefts - Thefts from tool sheds and outhouses have increased recently. When most sheds can be readily entered by a determined thief, it is important to mark tools - not necessarily with a postcode, but with a dab of paint or ink mark known to you. If tool theft has taken place and even if it may not be worthwhile claiming insurance, please report it (dial 101) because, if tools are recovered from a 'thief', no conviction can be made unless the recovered items can be traced back to the owner.

Broadband - Suffolk County Council is currently tendering for a Better Broadband for Suffolk programme to deliver a superfast system by 2015, filling in where BT's own programme does not reach. It is probable that Clare will be upgraded by BT as it lies between the new high speed fibre hubs being installed in Haverhill and Sudbury. It is not known how much of the local network will have a fibre-to-home system. BT claims its superfast broadband will reach 88% of all households in the UK by the end of 2012!

And finally

We hope to see you all at the **Annual Parish Meeting** in the Town Hall at 7pm on **Tuesday 1st May** to receive reports from the Parish Council on work this year, updates on the Country Park and the possible relocation of the Library. All welcome. Following the meeting, tea and coffee will be served by the WI....many thanks to them.

Chevron online: <http://chevronclare.onesuffolk.net/>

