



CHEVRON



NEWS FROM CLARE PARISH COUNCIL

- ⤴ Welcome to **the Chevron** ! As a successor for the Parish News (and the recently trialled News Update), the Chevron is designed to provide you with information on some of the work carried out by the Parish Council and other groups that are supported by parish funds. It will be published at the beginning of each month and we hope that you find it useful. Please email parishclerk@clare-uk.com or telephone 01787 277559 if you would like to be sent an electronic version OR if you would like one delivered to your home OR if you would appreciate having a large print version. **A New Web Site:** Parish councillors are busy viewing options for an improved web site for Clare. We hope to have it up and running in the New Year.
- ⤴ We are delighted to welcome a **new Parish Clerk** to Clare PC. Mrs Claire Ebeling will be based in the PC offices on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. We would like to thank Mrs Melanie Butcher for all of her hard work for Clare and wish her well in her new job. We hope that she will not lose touch with us.
- ⤴ The PC has been supporting the newly formed **Clare Youth Association Committee (CYAC)** in their plans for more youth activities in the town. Major projects include the BMX Track and the possibility of a Skatepark for Clare. They are also trying to restart the Youth Club. **If any younger residents have ideas which they think might appeal to others, please look out for the posters which will be appearing on notice boards around Clare. They also have a Facebook page. Just search for CYAC.** 
- ⤴ The **Nuttery** has received two awards this year. One was part of Suffolk - Creating the Greenest County, where the Nuttery was winner in the category of Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty - Dedham Vale. Joint winners of this award were the Stour Valley Volunteers who help the PC in the Nuttery. The other award was part of Anglia in Bloom where the Nuttery was judged to be the best conservation project 2011 across 6 counties. This year the Primary School have started to visit with pupils, there have been two visits from the Geography Class from Stoke College, and Keith Mison attended Stoke College for a Q & A session with the students. Thanks go to Keith and the Stour Valley Volunteers for the huge amount of time and dedication that they give to this project.
- ⤴ **Clare Country Park :** The PC has been carrying out delicate negotiations with Suffolk County Council, St Edmundsbury Borough Council and other groups over many months. Our aim is to secure an agreement that represents the best possible future for the Country Park and best value in terms of use of public money. Options as to how the Park can best be run are now being detailed and the plan is for Suffolk CC to undertake a major consultation with all Clare residents and other interested groups in the new year. Rest assured that the PC is determined to ensure that the Park and all its amenities will continue to be freely available for the enjoyment of Clare residents and visitors alike. 
- ⤴ The PC would like to thank everyone who helped **Clare in Bloom** with the planting of the town tubs recently, and everyone who helped with the organisation and running of the **Christmas Lights** celebration. Both have helped to brighten the winter nights and will no doubt attract even more visitors to our town.

Councillors are currently looking at ways to further improve Clare and would like to hear from any parishioners who have ideas on how to make our vibrant town even better. Please email your ideas to parishclerk@clare-uk.com. Thank you

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- ⤴ The PC was extremely concerned to hear of a **'near miss' on Callis street** when a car almost hit a group of children on their way to school. Driving at an inappropriate speed is a significant issue on certain roads in Clare and crossing roads in areas of heavy parking can be dangerous. The PC is investigating options for improving walking routes, solving parking issues and reducing speeding. We have petitioned Suffolk CC to carry out an urgent analysis of the road lay-out on Stoke Road, to review speed limits on all three roads coming into Clare and to have a zebra crossing constructed near Well Lane.
- ⤴ An independent action group is being set up to campaign against **'40 ton monsters'** coming through Clare, causing major problems for traffic flow, impacting onto buildings and, most worryingly, endangering the safety of pedestrians – particularly the younger and older members of our community. If you are interested in helping them in any way then please contact them on 01787 277244 or email vergy999@hotmail.com. A similar independent group of residents and traders has been formed to look at the problem of **parking** in Clare. The aim of the group is to assess the adequacy, safety and fitness for purpose of current parking provision. The group will also petition for parking solutions that will benefit parishioners, traders and visitors. For further information contact Robin Stone 01787 278105 (before 9pm). The PC welcomes the formation of both these groups and shares their concerns and aspirations. The PC through the Highways Committee will work with both groups to petition for progress. We need your comments and ideas as well as your support to petition for improvement.
- ⤴ The Parish Council have undertaken a critical review of its expenditure in planning the **Parish Precept** for next year. Our priority has been to set a Precept as close to the current year figure of some £100,000, whilst making sure that activities that benefit the whole community are maintained, despite cut-backs in County and Borough Council funding. We have been able to cut our own direct expenditure by some 6%, whilst maintaining the standard of street, cemetery and green area maintenance. This has enabled us to put more money into community activities such as maintenance of the Combined Halls, and guarantee that activities such as the Christmas Lights, Clare in Bloom, Clare Playing Fields and youth groups continue to receive support.
- ⤴ CHOC (the Combined Halls of Clare) trustees have had a very successful year with increased hirings and a programme of repairs and improvements being carried out - including a new sound system in the Town Hall and new audio visual equipment planned for the Old School. Three new trustees have joined CHOC but they are always looking for more caring and committed people to join them. Please contact choc.clare@hotmail.com to join them or to book use of the halls.
- ⤴ Parish councillors have been hard at work cutting back the undergrowth in the **cemetery**, pruning the laurels and tidying the compost areas. We hope to plant these areas in the spring. Many thanks go to James Dennis for his help with strimming this area.
- ⤴ Police have advised that there have been **thefts of catalytic converters, garden equipment and heating oil** in the wider Suffolk area. **There is a new number for non-emergency police calls – 101**. This can be used anywhere in the country and is for less urgent matters e.g. to speak to a local officer, to report a minor traffic collision etc.
- ⤴ Following discussions with PC, the National Grid has made improvements to the **gas supply system** by balancing the flow and installing a baffle filter to lessen the problem of particles entering people's CH systems. Please let us know if you continue to have problems with this.
- ⤴ **We are very keen to update our contact details for all clubs and societies in Clare. Would societies please email details to parishclerk@clare-uk.com. Thank you.**

Finally.....The Parish Councillors wish all those who live in or near Clare, and all who visit Clare, a happy and peaceful Christmas.

