

Chevron

Welcome to this new edition of Chevron.

I hope that this column will be a regular feature. I intend that each edition will concentrate on an aspect of the Town Council's work. This time I would like to say a few words about **community involvement**.

For a town of our size (2030+ pop) I am constantly amazed at the amount of community activity, the breadth and diversity of that activity and the number of people who get involved.

I can hear you asking what this has got to do with the council? Well, quite a lot really. We try to support community ideas and groups that benefit residents of the town as a whole through encouragement, advice and funding.

A case in point is the newly re-formed **Clare Community Association**. Started up at the beginning of the year by a few like-minded community activists (they may not like to be referred to as activists but that is what they are), it has gone from strength to strength, culminating in the highly successful '**Party in Park**' in June in celebration of the Queen's 90th birthday. This was enabled with a £2,500 grant from the Town Council which was used to fund the event, money well spent. Despite the weather the benefits for Clare were obvious: lots of visitors to the town and a good time for residents and their families.

Various people who have lived in Clare for many years said to me that it reminded them of the days when 'we had the carnival'. I think the source of that feeling is that there was a high proportion of the community involved, either in organising it, taking part on behalf of their own organisation or just enjoying the day. I hope that this is the start of an annual event which can be developed and built on by the CCA with the support of the Town Council.

One of the memorable things about the Party in Park was the fact that the '**Clare bunting**' was out again decorating the Station Road entrance to the Park. We will all remember the bunting strung festively round the town during the Magna Carta celebrations last year. I remember how bare the town felt when it was taken down after the summer.

The bunting was made by volunteers for the Magna Carta event and is beginning to fade as it was painted rather than printed. Discussions have taken place between the Business Association and the Town Council to see if there is any way we can get some new bunting made to decorate the town next year. Given that we used just under two miles of bunting for Magna Carta this is going to be something of a project.

I hope to be able to report in the next edition if we have made any progress.



Paul Bishop
Chair of Clare Town Council



East Anglia Devolution

On the 16th March 2016, George Osborne announced a set of measures to devolve power for our region with respect to housing and transport, all overseen by an elected mayor. Suffolk and Norfolk have agreed to continue examining the scheme along with all of the Suffolk District councils and many of the Norfolk ones. There is now a process of public consultation taking place.

The Leaders of Forest Heath District & St Edmundsbury Borough Council (West Suffolk) in a message to all parish councils have drawn attention to these headline gains:

- A single pot of £25 million a year of new money for the next 30 years (£750 million) to support economic growth, development of local infrastructure and jobs.
- £100 million over five years of new money to support the building of new homes across Norfolk and Suffolk.
- A guaranteed £225 million annual transport budget for the next five years.

<http://www.clare-suffolk.co.uk/council-matters/devolution/> has a **simple guide** to the consultation. If you want to have a say, visit: <https://www.eastangliadevo.co.uk/consultation/> where there are several documents and a survey to complete. The consultation is open now and finishes on Tuesday 23 August 2016.

ciné clair

25th August 'The Dress Maker'

22 September 'Eye in the Sky' - to be confirmed

Tickets: £5 Box Office & Venue: Clare Library
Screening 7pm: Doors Open 6.30pm



News from Westfield

Swings in the Play Area were removed for health & safety reasons. Alaric Pugh, our Borough Councillor, has confirmed that they will be replaced shortly. He is currently working on a project to improve and landscape the top area of Westfield to include a footpath to the rear of Maxim Way estate. Through Mary Evans, our County Councillor, Suffolk Highways will install a safety barrier at the entrance to Aragon Court and the Westfield footpath to enhance the safety of pedestrians and motorists at this blind spot.

Cllr Alan Parsley, Clare Town Council

Article 4

Recently the Town Council voted to be included under Planning as an Article 4 area. The intention is to maintain and enhance the unique architectural heritage of our townscape. St Edmundsbury Borough Council is distributing explanatory material with this issue.



New website

In mid-August, the town council will launch a new website: clare-suffolk.co.uk. Councillors' emails are already based on that domain. Our clerk and finance officer will start using new email addresses. The old website will not be updated after the launch and will close a month or so later.

Much of the new website is already working. A survey of businesses is underway, in part to ensure the accuracy of information we are including. A survey of voluntary groups is beginning. This is a more difficult task as many of the contact details we have are out-of-date. If you can help to provide more accurate contacts (name, telephone number, email address), please help - email editor@clare-suffolk.co.uk or ring Cllr Phil Gryce on 01787 278 192.

Clare's New Speed Indicator

If you drive along the A1092 through Clare you have probably noticed the Speed Indicator sign, or 'SID'. It does not contain a camera or a number plate recognition system, but it indicates to drivers their speed about once a second. We all tend to be driving faster than we guess we are without looking at the speedometer, so this helps us keep to 30 mph as we approach the narrow streets and bends at the heart of our town, so often busy with pedestrians.

Clare Town Council wishes to thank Councillor Mary Evans and the highways officer in St Edmundsbury BC for their help in acquiring the machine and coordinating its use. When it has been thoroughly tested and evaluated we plan to hold an information meeting for everyone interested in the information it provides and how we can work towards an efficient and safe traffic management plan for Clare.

Steve Kimminau, Clare Town Councillor



Dog-fouling campaign

A Litter Pick was organised on June 21st. Thankfully very little litter was found. From that date and up to the Party in the Park, each find of dog excrement that had been left on a pavement or footpath or on public grass was marked by a volunteer with a bright orange spray (made of a biodegradable material). Over that period more than 60 markings were made. This is clearly unacceptable to the vast majority of us.

The key areas for fouling include the country park (even in the children's playground), the High Street and footpaths close to the Cemetery. Our street cleaners will continue to mark the pavements where they have had to remove foulings.

We will actively seek the prosecution of anyone allowing their dog to foul in public places. One dog walker used the excuse: "I haven't got a bag on me." Never mind the lack of regard for others, such words cannot be offered as a legal get-out. The person never came back to clean up: she was a local resident. Bags are free from Hudgies and Clare Farm Shop.

Sadly, orange spray will be seen again - the public are invited to help us identify the offenders. Ring West Suffolk Customer Services 01284 763 233 in confidence.



Circular Walks & Tours around Clare

A series of walks and tours have been arranged this summer in co-operation with the Ancient House Museum and Clare Castle Country Park. Further details may be found at www.clarewalks.co.uk

The walks all start from the Park Centre at 10 am.

20 Aug	Houghton Hall	5 ½ miles	2 ½ hours
24 Sep	Long Lane/Hickford Hill	5 miles	2 hours
22 Oct	Clare Circular Walk	3 miles	1 ½ hours

The tours, led by trained guides from the Ancient House Museum, start at the Park Centre and cover different aspects of our town.

6 Aug	11 am	Introduction to Park & Town	2 hours
11 Aug	1.30 pm	Historic Buildings of Clare	1 ½ hours
18 Aug	11 am	Clare Castle and Market	1 ½ hours
20 Aug	1.30 pm	Parish Church and Priory	1 ½ hours
3 Sep	11 am	Introduction to Park & Town	2 hours
17 Sep	11 am	Historic Buildings of Clare	1 ½ hours



Find Clare on the website

Future of Chevron

We have been trying to deliver Chevron (as well as the Annual Report) throughout the parish as widely as possible. We have decided that it is too time-consuming to continue delivery to the more remote houses of the parish - Chilton Street, Maple Hill, isolated houses along the A1092 and Ashen Road (not strictly in the parish but included because of its proximity).

Chevron is available as a PDF file through email. Anyone who wants to receive Chevron by email should send a request to chevron@clare-suffolk.co.uk; this will be acknowledged. The next Chevron will be issued by email for those participants. Physical delivery will cease for the remoter houses - copies will always be available in the Library.

Finally but not least of all, a heartfelt **thanks** to all those volunteers & participants, young & old, businesses, groups & families whose contributions made the Party in the Park such a success. Give yourselves a hug, a pat on the back, a kiss, a glass in the hand, a sigh of relief, a standing ovation.....thank you!

