

PARISH NEWS



Clare
Parish Council

ISSUE NINE - APRIL 2010

Annual Parish Meeting - April 20th.

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held at 7pm on Tuesday 20th April in the Community Halls.

The Annual Parish Meeting gives community groups the opportunity to let parishioners know what they have been doing over the last year and what their plans and aspirations are for the coming year.

Last year we achieved a record 68 attendees and we hope to have even more parishioners come along this year to listen to and ask questions of our range of speakers.

In addition to our County, Borough and Parish Councillors and the police, the traditional report will be received from the Clare Combined Charities.

Special presentations this year will come from CHOC, who will report on their plans to make better use of the halls, Clare Playing Fields who have had a very busy year, and the Clare Business Association Chairman who will update us on the new look CBA and the Tourism Forum initiative.

The main presentation of the evening will be from Nigel Partridge who will deliver the results of the Clare Community Plan to which so many parishioners contributed their views. With over 80% of households having responded to the questionnaire, we hope that as many as possible will come and listen to this first presentation of the results.

The meeting will reconfirm just how busy and energetic Clare is as a community and we hope you will come along, ask questions and encourage debate.

We will round off the evening by inviting you to join us for a glass of wine.

It is your Parish, come along and join in the debate ...



New Parking Permits a success

Radical changes to parking in the Country Park have proved a great success. Parking is now free from 09:00-11:00 each day and an annual, unrestricted, permit is available for £20 and can be purchased in local shops and at the Parish Council Office. The permits have already been very popular with people who work and shop locally as well as regular dog walkers.

As the next step towards improving parking in Clare, the Police, Suffolk County Council and the Parish Council have agreed proposals for new parking restrictions in the town centre. There will be public notices and consultation by Suffolk County Council in the coming weeks.

Shopping parking bays on Market Hill and in the High Street will all now be standardised to a one hour parking limit between the hours of 9am and 5pm Monday to Saturday.

The remainder of the parking available will remain unrestricted to allow longer term parking for residents.

Cllr June Smith, Parish Council lead in traffic matters said 'This is a major step forward and is part of our longer term plans to improve parking in Clare. The one hour restriction allows time for shopping whilst ensuring a rolling availability of shopping parking spaces. It also allows for easier enforcement and the removal of confusion caused by the

present varying restricted times. Additionally the free parking for 2 hours in the Country Park between 9am and 11am allows time for extended shopping or business transactions' said Cllr Smith.



The Parish AGM - April 20th - Not to be missed ... There's a lot going on in Clare.

Have your Say - New housing proposals for Clare

Over recent years St Edmundsbury has produced and consulted on a number of documents within its Local Development Framework (LDF) which set out plans for housing development in Clare. The Parish Council, community groups and many residents have been active in giving feedback to the Borough Council.

St Edmundsbury has now published its preferred sites for Clare and the official consultation will run from 12 April - 24 May.

Full details and maps can be found on St Edmundsbury's website at www.stedmundsbury.gov.uk and in the library.

In response to earlier consultations the Parish Council proposed to support the construction of no more than 100 homes over the next 20 years provided that there were significant infrastructure improvements to cope with the extra demand and a high percentage of affordable housing.

Representing Clare's role as a Key Rural Service Centre the Parish Council insisted that the town could only cope with that additional demand if improvements were made to traffic management, parking, public transport and other essential services. Regrettably St Edmundsbury Borough Council has not yet addressed these valid concerns.

St Edmundsbury will be holding a drop-in session in the Town Hall on Monday the 19th April 2010 from 4 pm until 7 pm during which time the public will be able to examine the plans and ask informal questions of the Borough Council Planning Staff.

At 7:15 pm a public meeting, to be addressed by a Senior Planning Officer, will be held in the Town Hall. Clare Parish Council has invited the other local Parish Councils and Borough Councillors to this meeting.

Parishioners and other members of the public are invited to attend the meeting and when there will be opportunities to ask questions of the planners.

The preferred sites proposed are ...

Location	Use	Indicative Capacity	Phasing
Townsend Nurseries	Residential	28	2011-2021
Church Farm	Residential	28	2011-2021
Land East of the Granary	Residential	60	2011-2021
Land at rear of Nethergate Street	Residential / Business	75	2021-2031
Land off Cavendish Road	Residential	64	2021-2031

Keeping Clare clean

The Clare Parish Council Environmental Services' mechanical road sweeper takes to the streets. The new machine is now fully operational and the improvements can already be seen. Not only does the machine sweep the footpaths and gutters, it removes moss and algae and collects leaves. It will also enable the team to reach areas outside the town centre more frequently.



New Holiday Club

Following the extraordinarily successful Holiday Club provided last summer in the Country Park, Danielle Taylor has decided to launch a 'Before and After' School Club for Clare Families.

This much needed service, which will operate during term time, complements the other child care provision in the town and will significantly increase flexibility for busy working parents and families.

The club, which will operate from the Community Halls, has full Ofsted approval and will deliver and collect children from Clare Schools.

The hours of operation are yet to be finalised but Danielle has asked parents to express their interest to enable her to determine core customer requirements and the staff required to fulfil them.

*Please contact Danielle on either **danielletaylor51@yahoo.co.uk** or on **07833 717 302** for more information.*

Before and after school club coming soon!

If your child attends Clare Primary or Clare Middle School and you would like before and after school care during Term Time only ... please contact Danielle Taylor on either **07833 717 302** or **danielletaylor51@yahoo.co.uk**.



International Football Tournament in Clare

Friends from Châtillon-sur-Indre in France will be coming to Clare in April to challenge us to a friendly football competition at the Clare Playing Fields ground.

The visit follows previous successful events when fire fighters from Châtillon stayed in Clare followed by exchange visits between the two towns.

Clare families will be accommodating young footballers from Châtillon in their homes for a week from Monday 12th April whilst they participate in an exciting programme of events. The Mayor of Châtillon, with parents and Châtillon football club officials, will be accompanying the young footballers.

Events will be launched on Tuesday 13th with a programme of visits for the football teams including 10-pin bowling and swimming. Meanwhile the adults will attend a Civic Reception hosted by the Mayor of St Edmundsbury, Councillor Patricia Warby, in Bury Cathedral. In the evening Clare Town Lions, with support from the Parish

Council, are a hosting celebratory dinner in Clare. Clare Lions, Châtillon and Bures United under 14 teams will launch the competition on Wednesday 14th with a play off for the competition trophy. Meanwhile the Clare Lions under 7, 8, 9 & 10 teams will play exhibition matches in front of hopefully large crowds of supporters.

Events will kick off at 12 noon with refreshments and a BBQ available to all. Please come along and support this fantastic event for the young footballers of Clare and extend a welcome to our guests from Châtillon.

On Thursday the French visitors are taking in the sights of London and will also visit the home of 'Super Spurs', at White Hart Lane, for



a guided tour of the ground and to meet some of the management and players.

At the end of a busy week we hope that our French guests will return to France with fond memories of a special few days spent with new friends in Clare.

Dog owners must keep Clare clean

Unfortunately, despite the successful campaign last year asking parishioners to clean up after their dog, there has been a recent increase in dog fouling on our streets.

Market Hill and the High Street are particularly affected but street cleaning staff report a wider problem.

Dog fouling, in addition to being thoroughly unpleasant, presents a considerable threat of disease and infection particularly to children and the council staff who have to clean the mess.

Most people are responsible dog owners. Those who are less responsible should be aware that the Parish Council operates a zero tolerance policy to dog fouling and Parish Council Staff, Police Community Service Officers and the Borough Council Dog Warden are on the look out for errant dog owners.

Immediate fixed penalty notices with fines of up to £60 can be issued and significantly stiffer penalties will be imposed in court for repeat offenders.

Free dog mess bags can still be obtained from local shopkeepers.

Ellie Lovejoy, the winner of last year's poster campaign, and her friends in the town would repeat their appeal to dog owners to be responsible for their animals.



War Memorial Appeal

Cllr Keith Mison is co-ordinating Parish Council efforts to obtain grant funding to repair the weathering damage to our war memorial.

English Heritage requires extensive historical knowledge of our memorial as part of their application process and Keith is appealing to anyone who can help with the history of the memorial from 1921 to 1924. In particular he needs to know who designed and constructed the memorial.

If you can help Keith would be very pleased to hear from you - **01787 279013**.

Dates for the Diary in April



Clare Coffee Stop

10.30am in the Community Centre



Football Tournament

From 12.30pm at the Clare Playing Fields



Public Meeting

About local housing plans - in the Town Hall at 7.15pm



Annual Parish Meeting

7pm in the Community Centre

Open Gardens in 2010

Following on from the success 2 years ago, the Clare in Bloom Committee will be organising Open Gardens in Clare on Saturday and Sunday 26 and 27 June.

If you would like to open your garden or even just help on the day, please contact Jane on 279182.



By popular demand the Scarecrow Competition is also to be run again this autumn. More detail coming soon.



Clare Coffee Stop a great success

The first meeting of the Clare Coffee Stop was a great success with a pleasingly high number of visitors across all age groups. The visitors were able to benefit from the information available from the County and Parish Councillors present, the police, Age Concern and many others. The CBA also runs its monthly drop-in service on the same day.

The next Clare Coffee Stop is to be held on Monday 12 April so why not come along to the Community Centre between 10:30 and 12:00, meet people and make new friends.

Clare has a new Parish Clerk

After a number of years of outstanding service to the Parish, Sharon Benson has decided to rejoin her family firm and so she will leave the Parish Council on 30 April. The whole community will wish her every success in her new venture.

We are delighted to announce that Melanie Evans will be the new Parish Clerk and Finance Officer. Melanie will join us on 19 April and looks forward to meeting as many parishioners as possible in her first weeks in the job.

Don't forget to visit the Clare website at www.clare-uk.com



CAB Outreach Sessions



The Haverhill Citizens' Advice Bureau will be on hand to give help and advice to any member of the community. No booking required, simply turn up at the Committee Room in The Old School Community Centre between 10am and 12pm. The next session will take place on Monday 12th April followed by Monday 10th May 2010.



The Old School
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Email parishclerk@clare-uk.com

