

# PARISH NEWS



## Clare Backs West Suffolk Option .....

Clare Parish Council has been studying all of the options being put forward for changes to local government in Suffolk and has attended most of the meetings held by the various organisations. The Parish Council met on the 18th September and unanimously endorsed the proposal from St Edmundsbury to create 3 Unitary Authorities in Suffolk: North Haven, covering Ipswich and Felixstowe; East Suffolk, including Lowestoft; and West Suffolk with the administration being centred in Bury St Edmunds.

Originally the Boundary Committee had proposed 2 Unitary Authorities: North Haven and the rest of Suffolk grouped as Rural Suffolk. Suffolk County Council on the other hand had proposed One Suffolk: one giant unitary driven from Ipswich. Your Parish Council does not consider that these 2 options are viable: they will not improve the delivery of services locally nor will they enhance local democracy and decision-making.

Clare Parish Council is of the opinion that the St Edmundsbury proposal for 3 Unitary Authorities provides the most effective approach to value-for-money delivery of services combined with increased local democracy.

Further details of these proposals can be found at: [www.stedmundsbury.gov.uk/sebc/live/BestForTheWest.cfm](http://www.stedmundsbury.gov.uk/sebc/live/BestForTheWest.cfm)

## A Parish Plan - A Blueprint for the Future of Clare.

Your Parish Council proposes to sponsor the development of a Parish Plan for Clare and is holding a launch event on Wednesday 8th October at 7.30pm in the Town Hall.

A Parish Plan is, quite simply, a document that is created by asking the residents and businesses in Clare about their concerns and ambitions for Clare, and then turning those issues into an action plan for the future development of the town.

A Parish Plan will enable the community to record their needs, concerns and aspirations on community, social, economic and environmental issues. This includes housing,

development, highways, transport, health and education matters.

Your Parish Council regards such a document as the means to ensure that Clare develops in a way that residents want it to, and also that Council Taxes are spent appropriately.

In order to ensure that the Parish Plan represents the whole community it is essential that it is developed with as much community input as possible. To begin this process we would like to invite you to our launch event on **Wednesday 8 October at 7.30pm** in the Town Hall.

## Clare wins Village of the Year Competition ...

Clare is the winner of the Village of the Year Competition, beating off other towns in St Edmundsbury. The judges from St Edmundsbury came to Clare and were very impressed by the strong community engagement which has led to the building of the new Sports Pavilion, the developments in the Country Park and the Nuttery as well as the new Clare web site.

They also visited the Town Hall, the Ancient House Museum and the Library, as well as being able to talk to a number of the people who run our leading societies in Clare.

Councillor June Smith will receive a Rose Bowl and a cash prize for the benefit of Clare from the Mayor of St Edmundsbury in the coming weeks.

## Clare meets the Press

Clare has had so much to be proud of during 2008 that the Parish Council decided to hold a "Meet the Press" event in July. All the local newspapers attended and were impressed by the representatives of our associations and societies who just had so much good news. A number of articles have since been published showing what a marvellous town Clare is.

## Clare Open Gardens - courtesy of the Clare in Bloom Committee

We called upon all our regular band of volunteers and many, many more people to help garden owners on the day, to sell tickets, sell plants, make cakes and tea, and put up signs. Our helpers ranged from 8 to 85 years of age. Fair Trade coffee, tea and sugar were kindly donated by the Co-op in Clare.

Advertising posters were sent to garden nurseries, farm shops, train stations and local papers. We put a message on the Look East TV Open Gardens web page. We wrote to all the clubs and associations in Clare and surrounding areas asking them to notify their members of Open Gardens and all our Clare in Bloom sponsors also received letters.

But we had no idea what to expect on the day!

The weather was beautiful, warm and sunny and from noon until 6pm, Clare was buzzing with visitors and townspeople coming to enjoy



the amazing gardens in Clare. The atmosphere throughout Clare was full of warmth and laughter and the scent of flowers. The strawberry and cream sponges couldn't be assembled quickly enough. One visitor shared her 99th birthday with us!

We could not have wished for a more successful day, not only for Clare in Bloom and its funds but also for the benefit of the whole town, as we were able to show Clare at its very best.

The number of helpers totalled 80 and we were delighted to have over 400 visitors to our gardens. All proceeds went to support Clare in Bloom.

We have received many, many positive, helpful and constructive comments and press coverage. Clare Open Gardens may become a regular feature in the Clare calendar.

## Clare in Bloom

At the Anglia in Bloom Awards on Tuesday 9th September Clare received a Silver Award. Thank you to the Clare in Bloom sponsors, volunteers and to everyone who helped towards this achievement.

In recognition of the nomination for the Industrial/Commercial Award the Shops and Town Centre were awarded a certificate, as were the Nuttery for the Conservation Project Award and the Country Park for the Public Open Space Award.



## Clare in Bloom Local Competition

Richard Keating a very experienced landscape garden designer judged the Local Competition again this year.

Best Shop Front - Hurst Bakery  
Best Public House - The Cock  
Best Container - 4 Lutus Close  
Best Hanging Basket - Hudgies  
Best House Frontage - 28 Bridewell Street  
Best Front Garden - 62 Highfield  
Best Street - Daneum Holt  
Judge's Special Award - 1,2 & 3 Church Lane

Prizes will be presented at the Autumn Horticultural Show.



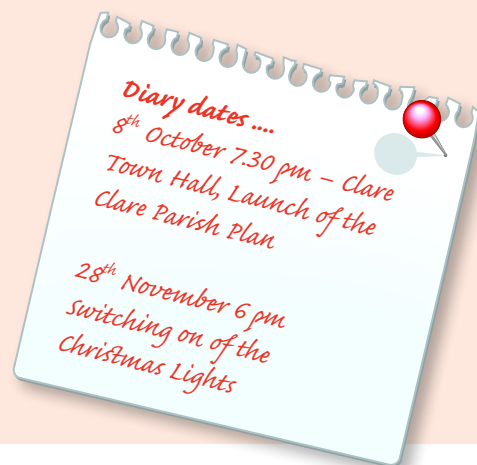
## Car Park Survey - The work continues ....

The car parking survey was completed by a joint Parish Council, Clare Business Association and Clare Society team with a number of volunteers helping out on the various survey days. Cllr Alan Parsley said "We have collected an enormous amount of very useful data, which we will be analysing over the coming weeks". The Parish Council would like to thank all those individuals and businesses that have contributed to the survey and of course the supporters who have so diligently collected the data.

## And where are the Cemetery gates?

Many parishioners will have noticed that the cemetery gates have disappeared. There is no need for concern!

As part of the Town Maintenance Programme the gates have been removed for repair and re-painting. They will be restored as soon as possible and will look as good as new.



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Parish Council

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Don't forget to visit the Clare website at [www.clare-uk.com](http://www.clare-uk.com)