

# PARISH NEWS



Clare  
Parish Council

ISSUE SEVEN - OCTOBER 2009

## Clare Community Plan - The vital questionnaire.

In the coming two weeks volunteer members of the Community Plan Steering Group will be delivering and collecting the promised Clare questionnaire to households in the Clare Parish area.

The questionnaire is an in-depth document designed to seek out residents views on 'life in Clare'. To make the plan meaningful it is really important that your views are expressed.

Many of the themes in the questionnaire originate from ideas that the community submitted to the steering group on the hundreds of post cards that were completed earlier in the summer.

If you have a view or ideas on special or day to day issues - from shops to schools, leisure to transport, the environment, housing, youth services - now is your opportunity to make it count.

The results of the questionnaire will enable the Steering Group to form a collective Clare viewpoint that can be used as an action plan for service improvements. It can also guide and influence planning and other decisions about the future of the parish.

Your views and those of your friends and family are important if the Community Plan is to be truly representative.

So do please complete the questionnaire. It is a little lengthy as there are many issues to be considered. But it has been designed to be quick and easy to complete. If you have any queries or need help there is guidance within the questionnaire.

All the final responses are completely anonymous.



### The Questionnaire - Its importance.

**WHY** - it is your opportunity to influence.

**WHAT** - How you would like to see the parish develop? Which services you would like to see introduced or improved?

**WHO** - The Community Plan volunteers will use the data to create an action plan for improvements.

District, county and regional authorities will have to consider the views expressed in planning and service provision consultations.

**WHERE** - Delivered by hand to your door - and collected too

**WHEN** - During November

## Clare in Bloom wins a Silver Award

Congratulations to the Clare in Bloom committee, the volunteers and everybody else who helped to achieve a Silver Award in the Anglia in Bloom competition 2009.

The judges gave special mention in their report to the fantastic information boards in both Clare Castle Country Park and The Nuttery. And they were pleased to hear members of the community talk about the town with such pride. Special mention was also made of Eleanor Lovejoy, who created the dog litter posters which can be seen around the town. Clare in Bloom would like to thank everybody for their support over the last year.

The local competition was judged by Graham Hurley, a local plantsman who used to live in Clare.

### Clare in Bloom Local Competition Winners

Best Shop Front	D:Fine hairdressers
Best Public House	The Bell
Best Container	72 Highfield
Best Hanging Basket	Clare Cottage, Bridewell Street
Best House Frontage	34 Nethergate Street
Best Front Garden	77 High Street
Best Street	Daneum Holt
Judges Special award	1,2 & 3 Church Lane



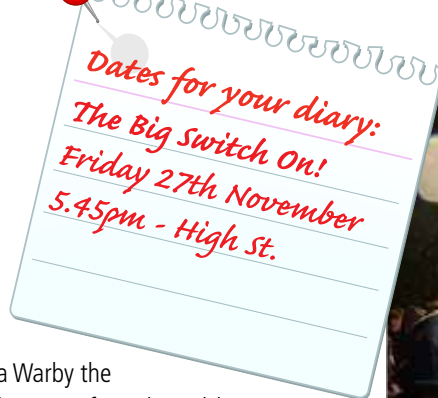
Prizes will be awarded at the Autumn Horticultural show in the Town Hall on 7 November 2009. For information about becoming a volunteer please contact Jane Haisman on 01787 279182.

## Clare Christmas Lights Switch-On

Christmas in Clare will soon be here. Clare Business Association, with the support of the Clare Parish Council, will be decorating the town with lights and a Christmas tree on the Market Hill to make our town a festive focal point.

The 'Big Switch On' will be on Friday 27th November at 6pm after the now traditional, piper led, children's parade. The parade will start from the church on High Street at 5:45pm. Do bring the family along to join us. There are free glowsticks for all the children that follow the piper!

Cllr Patricia Warby the Worshipful Mayor of St Edmundsbury will switch on the lights to signal the start of festivities. The entertainment includes children's fairground rides and stalls, a children's entertainer and refreshments such as mulled wine and mince pies - for the mums and dads of course!



*Last years 'Big Switch On' - A traditional fun filled family event for Clare.*

## Christmas Shops Competition

Clare Business Association members will be decorating their windows for Christmas and we need you to tell us which window is the best! There is a prize for the best window - as well as the honour of being voted the best.

**What could you win?** The prize is a Christmas Hamper. All you have to do is vote for your favourite shop window display.

Entry forms can be obtained from participating stores for a donation of £1 towards the costs of the lights in 2010. Full details will be advertised in shop windows nearer the time.

The cost of the Christmas lights event continues to rise significantly. If you would like help the Clare Business Association and Parish Council by sponsoring the lights please

contact David Sleath in Hudgie's Hardware Store.

Donations for the lights can also be given in most of the shops in town.



## Challenging Times for Clare Combined Halls [CHOC]

It is nearly 20 years since the old primary school and town hall were converted for community use. The halls have been used by various clubs, societies and for private functions during those years.

Regular activities include bridge, slimming, exercise classes as well as many Christenings and wedding receptions and parish meetings. CHOC is also the home to 'Clare Bears' our tremendously successful early years learning centre guiding the first steps of our pre-school children into the community.

However the halls are old and the maintenance of the building fabric increasingly challenges the committee. Costs are outweighing income. Whilst the Parish Council has always supported CHOC to provide the community service that it does, funding from the PC is becoming increasingly vital to maintain the facilities.

Les Warmington, CHOC Committee Secretary said on behalf of the committee, 'These buildings belong to the community and are a vital asset. The CHOC committee is happy to

continue managing them but we would like to see some fresh ideas and enthusiasm to help assure the future of the committee and the community service CHOC provides'. 'Fresh ideas like the free loan of a lap top and broadband access in the Old School for community use is what is needed'.

Mr Warmington went on to say that 'there is no shortage of continued interest in the halls, weekly sessions of children's ballet classes have just started and enquires about a fencing class in the town hall have been received, so there is room for more and exiting activities'.

If you would be interested in helping and enquiring about becoming a committee member, please contact Les on 01787 277933.





## Middle School Swimming Pool re-opens

Clare Middle School swimming pool reopened this summer, the first time since 1997. More than a 1,000 swimmers of all ages but mainly school age children used the pool. It was open for 2 sessions a day for 4 weeks of the school holiday.

Modifications to the depth of the pool which simplify safety regulations enabled the new Clare Swimming Club committee, with much appreciated support from the old committee, to re-open the pool to the community.

Both Clare Parish Council and CLASP financially sponsored the project which was operated by a small group of volunteers. Chair of the new committee, Jane Haisman said 'the summer was a great success that we could not have achieved without enormous support from the various community groups and volunteers, for which we are extremely grateful. We are already planning for 2010 and are looking forward to another great summer'

## CPC lobbies Local Development Framework Consultation.

Clare Parish Council has submitted a response to St Edmundsbury Borough Council's Core Strategy and Housing Development document consultation. Whilst broadly supporting the principles of Key Service Centre status and proportionate expansion CPC expressed concerns regarding the provision of support infrastructure to sustain the proposed development.

The Parish Council consider that only one of the proposed sites for the development of housing is suitable. This is the land to the west of the High Street designated as site WS05 in the Local Development Framework documents. The Parish Council opposes any development towards the boundaries of the town believing that any housing should be within easy walking distance to the town centre.

Chairman Cllr Keith Haisman said 'Whilst we would welcome appropriate development the Parish Council have some considerable concerns about the ability of the plan to fully deliver the infrastructure requirements to support the proposed growth in the district. This is especially so with regard to roads, public transport, water supply, telecommunications and flood prevention. Given the current and future state of government debt and the likely impact on local authority and other public services funds especially after 2013 we have severe doubts that the required investment will be possible'.

### Summary of Parish Council Submission

- Development should be in the region of 60-100 houses only
- To include 50-60% affordable housing
- Affordable housing for individuals and families with Clare connections
- Development will be sympathetic with the history, landscape and environment of Clare
- Growth should be close to the town centre
- Due regard is paid to limiting the flood risk and that dispersal of surface water and sewage is a priority factor
- Provision of appropriate essential telecommunications, road and transport infrastructure
- Generate employment opportunities in and around Clare
- Development should not increase the parking problems but should provide additional public car parking
- Investment in community facilities and health and social services
- No housing development beyond the existing town boundaries

## Police Report for Clare Parish Council

**The Rural Policing Unit** report that they recorded the following recent crimes in Clare

- 6 thefts, including 1 of a motor vehicle
- 2 assaults
- 1 of causing intentional harassment
- 1 of driving with excess alcohol
- 4 of criminal damage
- 1 burglary of an outdoor building

Each month the Neighbourhood Area Panel, which consists of all the agencies involved in local issues, meet and consider the problems that the public have reported to them as concerns and prioritise the tasks for action during the coming month.

### This month's priorities is speeding.

The focus will be on Stoke by Clare, Withersfield, Wickhambrook, Clare and Great Wrattling.

### Community Engagements

On Halloween evening the mobile police station will be on the market hill during the evening and extra patrols will be conducted.

'Not in my Neighbourhood Week', starting 3rd November 2009. Special patrols to address anti-social behaviour problems will take place during week around the town.



### Your Safer Neighbourhood Team:

Sergeant 566 Kevin Horton, PC 18 Trish Sinclair, PC 704 Ruth Horton  
PCSO 3140 Alex Foster, PCSO 3141 Debs Carroll-Beer, PCSO 3218 David Matchett

For emergencies dial : 999  
Safer Neighbourhood Team : 01284 774100  
stedsruralsouth.snt@suffolk.pnn.police.uk



## Clare Parking Survey Report

Clare Parish Council has actioned the conclusions agreed in the Clare Parking Survey which was prepared by the Parish Council, Clare Business Association and Clare Society.

### 1. Monitor loss of parking spaces.

County Highways will update our Parish Clerk of any changes in street lining and parking regulations.

### 2. Police enforcement of parking restrictions.

A positive partnership meeting agreed to standardise the limited waiting restrictions, reinstate yellow lines and remove unnecessary signage.

### 3. Clare Country Park car park.

On street parking portfolio holder for Suffolk CC, Cllr Guy Macgregor, agreed with the parking survey partnership to investigate the possible provision of some free car parking in the Clare Country Park.

### 4. Clare business parking - Rear of The Swan.

A previous idea to provide business parking at the rear of the Swan was reviewed by the PC and Greene King Brewery but failed to reach any agreement.



### 5. Backside Field.

The only realistic prospect that will significantly reduce the demand for car parking is to develop the 'backside field'. The parking survey partnership hope that St Edmundsbury Council will support this option.

## Internet access in the Old School

Clare has become the first town to benefit from a unique £15,000 scheme by St Edmundsbury Borough Council to connect village halls to the World Wide Web.



Ten rural communities are set to benefit from the 'Connected Villages' scheme, to give rural borough residents valuable wireless internet access from their local village hall. The initiative, which forms part of St Edmundsbury's Rural Action Plan, has been designed to benefit the whole community, including home workers, local children and community groups.

CHOC (The Combined Halls of Clare) has been working very closely with the Parish Council to gain this grant which has covered the cost of installing a telephone line in the Old School Committee Room as well as one year's broadband and line rental. At the press launch

earlier this month, a laptop was also presented, which will be available for use by community and business groups.

Rosemary Warmington, Chair of CHOC said "CHOC is pleased to be able to continue to support the community by making space available in the Old School Community Centre for the installation of WiFi access to the internet, and congratulates the Parish Council for their successful bid. It is to be hoped that this new facility will be useful to all residents of Clare. It is not meant to supplant facilities available in the library, but to be an additional resource".

**Cancer Research** is urgently seeking volunteers to either fund raise or practically support the good work the charity does in the area.

Do you have some spare time on your hands? Could you help raise awareness and vital funds for cancer research? If so ...

**Louise** can be contacted at **Louise.Cook@Cancer.org.uk** or by telephone on **01379 588052**



### Statement re "Pre -Election Report"

In the June 2009 edition of Parish News we incorrectly referred to the presentation by County Councillor Jane Midwood at the Annual Parish Meeting as a "Pre-Election Report". Her presentation was in fact a report to the Annual Meeting and not a Pre-Election Report. We apologise for any confusion or misunderstanding this may have caused.

## CAB Outreach Sessions



Following a successful trial held this summer the Haverhill Citizen Advice Bureau have agreed, with the support of Clare Parish Council, to hold monthly outreach sessions in Clare. They 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 sessions will take place on the second Monday of every month, commencing Monday 12th October 2009.

Followed by: 9th November, 14th December, 11th January, 8th February & 8th March.



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