



Clent Parish Council

**You are invited to the Annual Parish Meeting
on Monday 19th May at 7.00pm in Clent Parish Hall
Guest Speaker Daniel Forrester of CALA Developers.
The Parish Council Annual Meeting will follow at 8.00pm.**

Chairman's Introduction

Welcome to our Annual Newsletter.

We hope you can join your Council at the Parish Meeting on 19 May to which we have invited a representative of Cala Homes who will talk about the development of the Strathearn site in Western Road.

As foreshadowed last year, the Local Government Boundary Commission proposed a reduction in the overall number of District Councillors for Bromsgrove. The resulting alterations to District Wards have been approved by Parliament. Our Parish, for the first time, will be divided into two wards. At the Parish elections in May 2015, West Hagley residents will vote for five Councillors and Clent village (historically the other four hamlets of Clent) will return four Councillors.

Furthermore, Hagley Parish Council is asking Bromsgrove District Council for a review of parish boundaries, hoping to take West Hagley and adjoining fields into Hagley Parish. Your Council's instinctive approach to this is to retain the centuries' old boundaries. Parishioners' views will be invited and full discussion will take place within B.D.C's terms of review.

Do join us at our monthly meetings. Parishioners from the whole Parish of Clent are always welcome.

Neill Robb

Coming to a Wheelie Bin Near You!

As we all know, speeding in rural communities is an on-going problem. Clent Parish is no exception. Your Parish Council has in recent times provided flashing signs to remind motorists of the need to adhere to the limit. Due to the high cost of these signs we are limited in their use. So, as part of our anti-speeding initiative we have discovered an interesting and innovative alternative. We are going to provide Wheelie Bin stickers displaying a '30 mph' logo. We hope this will enable residents to remind motorists driving past their homes, exactly what the speed limit is. So, if you live on one of our busy 30mph through roads, your wheelie bin stickers should be with you soon. Put them on your bins and let's see if we can make a difference.

You can help to reduce the blight of speeding in our Parish!

Neighbourhood Watch

The Parish Neighbourhood Watch scheme continues to be a success. Several calls have been made to Police, alerting them of suspicious activity. To help protect our Parish from crime, new co-ordinators have been recruited in;- Pool Furlong, Holy Cross, Bromsgrove road, Kings



Meadow, Adams Hill, and potentially Church Avenue. If you are interested in being a representative in your road please contact the Clerk. We especially need co-ordinators in West Hagley part of the Parish.

News on the Buses

In November 2013 Worcestershire County Council announced its intention to save £3 million from its budget by cutting all the bus subsidies throughout the County. A short period of time was given for objections with a final decision being made in April 2014. Your Parish Council saw this as an attack on some of the most disadvantaged members of society and children. Following discussions with both Belbroughton and Hagley Parish Councils we encouraged Parishioners, whether bus users or not, to protest against these proposals. At our April meeting our County Councillor informed us that County will grant £1.1million to the bus companies to help continue some of their services. The good news for our community is that the axe will **not** fall on routes 107, 192 and 318. Although the 197 will cease from the end of August, thought will be given to the 192 taking over part of its route.

Western Road and other Plans

Your Parish Council's only role in planning matters is to express either approval or opposition to applications. Where a major development is concerned and Bromsgrove District Council are known to be in favour of it, our opposition has little prospect of success. Thus, despite our strong opposition to the development at Western Road, Bromsgrove approved the plans for 70 units to be built on that part of our Parish. However, we secured considerable 'Community Infrastructure' funds for use within Clent Parish. Apart from the above, fourteen applications for extensions/modifications of existing properties and one for a new dwelling were considered by the Council. Almost all found favour with both us and Bromsgrove.

Management, Centenary Field

Last year small changes were made to the management plan to allow car parking for visiting cricket teams and for a picnic area beside the pitch. Our grass/hedge cutter, Steve Tromans is now carrying out the modified plan, cutting at different heights and frequencies for paths, car parking, picnic areas and 'wild' zones. Over time it is hoped to encourage more wildflowers as indicated on the plan.

See www.clentparishcouncil.gov.uk

General Maintenance

Steve Bubb has entirely re-planted the old Holy Cross Green hedge with around 200 whips. He was assisted in the arduous task of weed clearance by volunteers, whose help the Council gratefully acknowledges.

Steve also maintains our recreational equipment under guidance from ROSPA, and has recently placed slabs around the bench at Newfield Road.

Trees

Parish trees are, mostly, in good order. We wish to remind Parishioners that they are responsible for cutting their hedges adjacent to highways and footpaths. Please contact the clerk for the number of a hedging contractor.

As yet we've not seen any 'Ash die back'. But during summer months, please look out for Ash trees showing signs of distress and report them to us for appropriate action. Thank you.

Clent Cricket Club

Last summer, in wonderful weather, we played more than 20 games of cricket both at home and away. Home games at Centenary Field met with very favourable feedback from opposing teams and their supporters.

The Parish Council worked with us to re-arrange aspects of our lease agreement, giving us land around the pavilion, in exchange for returning some land on the west of the ground to public use.

For the forthcoming season we will be installing two entrance signs to inform everybody of our forthcoming fixtures. We have recently purchased wicket covers to try to ensure we lose as few games as possible to weather. Our fixtures this season include a match against a BBC side on June 15th. Their captain, Pat Murphy of '5 Live Sport' has kindly agreed to be our new Club President.

The Club would like to take this opportunity to thank Clent Parish Council and parishioners, for their continued support and look forward to seeing you all in the forthcoming season. We are always looking for new players, and welcome anyone who wants to come along just to enjoy a game of cricket.

For further information please contact Richard Perks on 07735450946 or email Andy Lally at andyally72@gmail.com

Streetlights

In 2013/14 work on streetlights will account for 14.7% of our precept. Our financial surplus will allow us to continue our updating programme over coming months. 'The Rocks' light is a particular concern. Our discussions with Worcester C.C. continue. We hope to make savings by transferring maintenance control to Worcester.

Finance

The Council's total income for 2013/14 was £81,450. Of this, £78,550 came from the Parish precept with the other major elements coming from a Bromsgrove District Council Tax Grant. The District Council have agreed not to hand this grant over directly to Parish Councils next year but to give an amount of monies to all District Councillors to allocate on projects within the Community. Spending in 2013/14 amounted to £76,718, and the table below indicates the main areas of spending. Our major expense this year was the installation of additional skateboard ramps in Centenary Field. As you can see from the figures, we have a credit for the year of £4,524 which will go into our reserve account. This will help us next year when we will be looking at a major street light repair/replacement programme.

INCOME	2012/13 Audited	2013/14 Unaudited	2014/15 Budget
Precept	56,200.00	76,880.00	78,550.00
Bank Interest/Vat	1,530.74	908.54	1,700.00
Charity/Rent etc	453.07	442.01	400.00
Grants	3,011.20	3,011.20	1,700.00
Total Income	61,195.01	81,241.75	81,450.00
Expenditure			
Administration	33,415.56	34,083.82	33,800.00
Open spaces	17,811.12	24,362.18	13,500.00
Highways	3,104.31	4,644.20	6,000.00
Public Lighting	7,968.11	11,099.34	20,000.00
Grants	3,708.78	2,528.00	2,900.00
Equipment	3,862.55	-	700.00
TOTAL SPEND	69,870.43	76,717.54	78,550.00
Surplus/Deficit	8,675.42	4,524.21	2,900.00

Ruth Mullett
Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer

Clent Youth Council



The Youth Council continues to meet half an hour before the full Parish Council meeting each month.

Projects we are working on at the moment include:-

- securing a new bench in the popular skatepark area.

- the planting of flowers and bulbs around 'Clent' road signs.

- supporting the WW1 commemorations with the Royal British Legion, by planting poppy seeds around the Parish in time to bloom on the 4th August.

We enjoyed a recent visit to the Houses of Parliament, meeting our MP Mr Sajid Javid who answered our several interesting questions. Soon we have another visit to Kidderminster police station.

If any young people have ideas for the Youth Council please contact the Clerk.

Newsletter & Parish Website

In addition to this Annual Newsletter, during the year we sent around a notice encouraging you to write to Worcester C.C. about withdrawal of bus subsidies. You achieved some success on this issue!

Our thanks are due to the youngsters and adults who assist us with distribution.

Notice of our monthly meetings appear in Clent Parish Magazine, and of course our attractive Website, www.clentparishcouncil.gov.uk has up to date notice of all Parish Council business and of many other parish activities.

Local societies, clubs and small businesses please contact Ruth at:-

clent.parish@btconnect.com to display your logos and links on the site.

Parish Council Contacts

Parish Clerk
Ruth Mullett Tel. 01562 710255
Clent Parish Council
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Hunnington,
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Parish Councillors

Neill Robb (Chairman) Maggie Latham
Alan Hess Ed Sheppard
Kevin Smith Stan Bloxham
Caroline Howard Nick Sugden
Margaret Sherrey

District Councillors

Margaret Sherrey Janice Boswell

Worcestershire County Councillor

Rachel Jenkins

Parish Council meetings start at 7.30pm.
Further meetings/locations this year;-

16 th June	Hagley Free Church	20 th October	Hagley Free Church
21 st July	Clent Parish Hall	17 th November	Clent Parish Hall
18 th August	Clent Parish hall	15 th December	Clent Parish Hall
15 th September	Clent Parish Hall		

Stop Press

Major traffic disruption M5 Junction 4

We have been informed by the Highways Agency that they will begin a major reconstruction of the **roundabout above junction 4 of the M5 in late May.**

The work is scheduled to take 48 weeks and will involve the following work:-

- widen the roundabout at the junction to provide an extra lane
- widen the two existing bridge structures to create space for the new inside lane
- realign circulatory carriageway between the two A38 approaches, for a fourth lane
- widen the M5 exit slip roads at the junction.

In addition during the summer major reconstruction will begin on the **roundabout in Hagley at the junction of A491 and A456.**

It is expected that both sets of construction will cause **local disruption especially in peak periods.**