



Clent Parish Council

**You are invited to the Annual Parish Meeting
on Monday 20th May at 7.00pm in Clent Parish Hall
Guest Speaker Police Superintendent Kevin Purcell.
The Parish Council Annual Meeting will follow at 7.30pm.**

Chairman's Introduction

Welcome to our Annual Newsletter. We hope you can attend the Parish Meetings on May 20th. Two planning issues have dogged the Parish over the past year. The first was the Cala development, just over the parish boundary in Hagley. More recently the application to develop land belonging to "Strathearn" in Western Road, has absorbed much of the efforts of a number of your Councillors. This land is firmly within our Parish. Together with adjoining land also likely to come up for development, there is the possibility of around one hundred new dwellings being built in Clent.

This serves to highlight the anomalous situation where more than one half of our parishioners regard themselves as living in Hagley. Interestingly, the Local Government Boundary Commission now intends to reduce the number of District Councillors who would in future be elected to Bromsgrove Council. The associated alteration of District Wards would mean that of your nine Parish Councillors, five should be elected by "Clent West" (broadly speaking West Hagley) and four by "Clent East" (basically Clent Village). Given the historic reluctance of Clent West to concern itself with Clent Parish affairs this may lead to some fancy footwork at future elections. In the meantime we are delighted to be joined by Councillor Alan Hess – who lives in Western Road – and also by Ed Sheppard, a former Chairman, following the bye-election in January. Bromsgrove DC planners will receive any objections you may have to the Strathearn application up to May 24th. June 10th is the likely date for the Planning Committee hearing, although even this date is not yet certain.
Neill Robb

Planning

Most of our recommendations to Bromsgrove over the last six months have found favour with the District planners. We objected to the layout of the Mount Hotel development, but it was approved with only minor modification.

CALA Development

With Hagley Parish Council and professional help, we robustly opposed these plans for 175 homes plus offices. Unfortunately outline plans were approved at the January planning meeting. 'Community Infrastructure (sect.106)' funds have already been allocated, with very little opportunity for local input.

Western road, Clent

Plans for 70 houses on this site are of great concern to our parish. With Hagley's support we are opposing this development, which would exacerbate all the problems of traffic flow, pollution, access to facilities, schools and healthcare that concerned us over CALA. Clent has no infrastructure to support the estate. And, if it were built further encroachments into our countryside might well follow. Our professional advisors are compiling technical objections, and our District Councillors are engaged with planners, emphasising the plans' anomalies. We will present our strong arguments at the Bromsgrove Planning meeting, which have been deferred to June 10th. Without prejudice to our objections we are now gathering evidence to support our claims for 'Community Infrastructure' funds, should the outline plans be passed.

Please help us, by responding to the enclosed questionnaire.

Cricket Club

Summer 2012 as we all know, was a wet one, but that did not stop Clent Cricket Club from playing 6 games on the new Centenary Field Cricket Pitch, much to the delight of many local residents who came to give their support. Out of the 6 games played at home, Clent won five and only lost by a single run in the other match. The new ground is already gaining a reputation with the opposition as "Fortress Clent", long may this continue.

Apart from playing some great cricket, the club has been able to forge strong links with Clent Social Club. Dawn the stewardess has been supplying the team teas as well as a warm welcome to all the players after the game, with both home and opposition players enjoying the fine choice of real ales.

Clent Parish Council wish Clent Cricket Club further success and continued support in the coming season. For more information about becoming a player or social member please contact markbrocklebank@btinternet.com or <http://clent.play-cricket.com/home/home.asp>

New Policing arrangements

The retirement of Chris Lord, swingeing financial cuts, and the anticipated closure of Hagley Police station, have combined to cause considerable anxiety within the Parish. Consultations with Superintendent Purcell and the new Police Commissioner, have established that although PC Burling will be based at Rubery, there will be two CSO's patrolling regularly, and that the 'rapid response teams' will continue to respond rapidly to serious incidents. When Hagley Police Station closes, Community Policing Posts will be established for interviews and reports. We will secure more information from Superintendent Purcell, when he attends the forthcoming Annual Parish Meeting. Please get your suggestions and questions ready!

Centenary Field

Now that changes to the cricket pitch boundary, and work on the pavilion have largely been completed, it is hoped to restore other parts of the field to its former role of semi-wild meadow.

The Management Plan adopted last year, based on expert advice, will be followed over the coming years. Account has been taken of parking for visiting cricketers, and a picnic area beside the pitch. To view the plan, go to www.clentparishcouncil.gov.uk

Dog Poo! There's been a lot of this obnoxious waste left in the field recently. Please use the bins provided.

Rural Rides

Some people in the parish will be aware of this service, run by WRVS in Bromsgrove, which enables people having no transport of their own, to attend appointments. Volunteers, several of whom live in Clent, provide the service. Users seem very happy with the freedom this offers them. A modest charge for mileage, is reduced for people who hold a bus pass. If you would like to avail yourself of this service, please ring 01527 879290. We would also love to hear from anyone willing to give a small amount of their time to this much appreciated service.

Footpath Warden

David Muggerridge has been a splendid warden but has now moved on. Anyone interested in stepping into his walking boots please contact Ruth on clent.parish@btconnect.com

Maintenance

Steve Bubb now keeps an eye on play equipment and carries out a variety of essential maintenance work. He has installed the Jubilee bench and oak at Newfield rd. Recently, a small group of volunteers helped him to plant hedge whips by the new access gates, and as replacements for the old hedge on Holy Cross. The Council is very grateful for the help received. Anyone willing to take part in similar projects, please contact Ruth at clent.parish@btconnect.com

Streetlights

The Parish Council owns and is responsible for maintaining a total of 93 street lights. All of the concrete posts are 40+ years old and will require replacement over the next few years. In addition some of the metal posts will require repainting. A working party of the Council is currently looking into the condition of all Parish street lighting and will make recommendations on the repair, removal or replacement as appropriate, over the next 5 – 10 year period.

In doing so we must consider light pollution and safety issues, as well as cost. Just replacing all the concrete posts would cost in excess of £50,000!

On the advice of our electrical contractor the large light in 'The Rocks' on Bromsgrove Rd. has been removed as it was unsafe. Its overhead power supply has been made safe. The working party are investigating the costs of replacing this light including the provision of a safe power supply and will shortly report to the Parish Council so that a decision can be made on replacement or not.

Skate Park

Clent skate park is being extended. Two new ramps will be added and the existing equipment and the basketball stand will be repaired and refurbished. Total cost is £13,000. £11,000 will be taken from reserves, and a grant of £2,000 came from Worcester County Councillor Ed Moore's Divisional Funds.

Finance

The Council's total income for 2012/13 was £61,195. Of this, £56,200 came from the Parish precept with the other major elements coming from a 'skateboard ramp grant' of £2,000 from our County Councillor Ed Moore's Divisional Fund and £2,685 from Worcestershire County Council to fund our Lengthsman. Spending in 2012/13 amounted to £69,870, and the table below indicates the main areas of spending. As you can see from the figures, we have a deficit for the year of £8,675. We have increased our Precept to allow for this, and to take into account our street light repair/replacement programme. You will see this reflected in the budget.

Finance	2011/12 Audited	2012/13 Unaudited	2013/14 Budget
INCOME			
Precept	56,200	56,200	75,000
Bank Interest	1,034	1,530	55
Charity/Rent etc.	1,190	454	0
Grants/Barndance	5,284	3,011	0
TOTAL INCOME	63,707	61,195	75,055
EXPENDITURE			
Administration	35,186	33,416	30,815
Open Spaces	17,529	17,811	18,600
Highways	1,877	3,104	5,000
Public Lighting	8,592	7,968	18,000
Grants	2,520	3,708	11,200
Equipment	304	3,863	500
TOTAL SPEND	66,008	69,870	84,115
Surplus/Deficit	-2,301	-8,675	-9,060

Ruth Mullett
Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer

Clent Youth Council



The Youth Council have had three main agendas since we started. The first one was to improve the Clent skate park. The skate park is now getting extended based on our designs.

The second was our concern over the 318 bus service. This has been updated and is now a much better service.

Our third, and current agenda is to improve the parking at Clent Primary School. We hope to make it as safe as possible for the students of the school.

We will be 'litter picking' around the Parish on June 1st (weather permitting). You're welcome to help us with this! Please contact Ruth for details. Clent Youth Council is really beginning to take shape and we are excited for our future endeavours.

Olly Hughes
Chairman, Clent Youth Council

Newsletter & Parish Website

We distribute one newsletter per year by hand, but you can catch up on all Parish Council news on our website.

www.clentparishcouncil.gov.uk

This is now regularly updated, with monthly outlines of Council meetings, Agendas, Minutes and reports on our activities.

This Newsletter is displayed and can be downloaded, together with photographs of recent 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
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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
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Worcestershire County Councillor

Ed Moore