

CUXTON NOTICEBOARD



The Newsletter by and for the people of Cuxton

July 2020

Cuxton Parish Council in brief

June was another busy month for the Parish Council with two virtual Council meetings and two virtual Committee meetings. An extraordinary meeting was held on 3rd June primarily to draft a letter to all members of Medway Planning Committee reaffirming the opposition of the Parish Council and residents to the Homestead Planning application. It had been suggested that a decision could be decided at the Medway Planning Committee on June 24th and the Parish Council planned to send the letter and a copy of the Parish Council objection to all the Medway Planning Committee members a week ahead of that meeting. In the end the letter was not needed as the planning application was refused by the planning officer.

At the main Parish Council meeting on June 11th the reports from the internal auditor were received. He agreed that all the Parish Council auditing processes were sound and well presented. The only comment was about the level of our reserves. Unfortunately, the wet autumn and winter had prevented the planned repair and replacement of some playground equipment (£20,000) and the spending of the £4,000 in donations towards the renovation of the bike track planned by Cuxton Sports and Recreation Association (CSRA). Now that the weather has improved the planned repairs and renovations can start and the level of Council reserves will be reduced by the end of July. Work on the bike track will start before the end of June. I would like to thank CSRA for their hard work in managing this project and their financial contribution to the redevelopment of the bike track.

At this meeting grants were awarded to Cuxton and Halling PCC to purchase a public access defibrillator to be located outside the Church Hall in Cuxton; to Beehive and Buzz Childcare to purchase additional outdoor play equipment and specialist equipment for children with special educational needs and to the Allotment Association to hire a skip to remove scrub and other rubbish gathered as a result of the annual 'tidy up' of the site carried out by allotment holders.



Cllr Matt Fearn confirmed to council that the A228 traffic light trial has been postponed until August 2020.

Topics for the next CPC meeting on July 9th are the new website, the Parish Council 3 year plan, the WW2 memorial gate, Allotment agreement and contracts and a beacon for Cuxton. If you wish to join the Parish Council meeting using Zoom please email the Clerk so that you can be sent a link to join the meeting.

Cllr Kay Hutchfield, Chairman, Cuxton Parish Council



Active at Home
A guide to being active at home during the coronavirus outbreak



Active at home booklet

A guide to being active at home during the Corona outbreak booklet is available from Public Health England & Sport England.

It has been developed to support older people in the Community, and those shielding, to be active and healthy at home.

To download the booklet please follow the link: www.sportengland.org/news/join-movement

What's happening to the Recreation Ground Bike Track?

The bike track was established by Cuxton Sports and Recreation Association (CSRA) following the death of a young boy, Jamie Kolendo 20 years ago, when he cycled on to Bush Road. The aim of developing the bike track was to provide a safe place away from traffic, where our children can enjoy riding their bikes.

CSRA and Cuxton Countryside Group (CCG) have maintained the track annually, but extensive use and the steady encroachment of brambles and blackthorn has resulted in a serious need for renovation. The main source of funding for this project has come from CSRA with additional contributions from Cuxton '91 football club, the 2019 Cuxton Big Lunch and from the Parish Council. A real collaborative community effort.

The plan was to complete the work by the end of the 2019, but the persistent wet weather and the subsequent Coronavirus lockdown resulted in the work being postponed. Despite the rain again interrupting the start of work on the track, contractors are now on site and the scrub and brambles have already been removed. The work is likely to take about 4 weeks (weather permitting). Once the work has been completed some native trees and wild flowers will be planted.

Only one construction vehicle will be on site for the duration of the project and CSRA will be monitoring progress.



The cycle track will be closed until the work is completed.

Cllr Kay Hutchfield

Cuxton Firework Display

For the last few months, the Parish Council have continued to meet regularly, via teleconferencing. We have recently held discussions with representatives of the Wheel of Cuxton to discuss the annual village Firework Display, as this event takes several months to plan, resource and prepare. Each year this fantastic event is funded by the previous year's ticket sales, supported by the Parish Council and executed by the volunteers of the 'Wheel of Cuxton'.

Whilst the event is open-air, the organizers are naturally concerned about large crowds of visitors filtering through the single access to the recreation ground, and are also considering the implications of the bonfire given the government recommendations to avoid bonfires where possible. If the current social-distancing restrictions are still in place in November, it would be irresponsible for this event to proceed as it has in previous years, and yet this is a very popular community event, that many residents look forward to.

Therefore a couple of options are being considered, and would appreciate residents' feedback.

The options are:

- Having the firework display without a bonfire with the display designed to be seen from around the village, but not opening the recreation ground to visitors, so that residents can view the display from their houses or roads.
- Postponing the event until next year.

However, as the firework display is funded from the previous years event, The Wheel of Cuxton have a budget for this years' display, but if there is no mechanism in place to raise funds towards the 2021 display, then it will necessary to reduce the display budget for the next 2 years, so suggestions for raising funds towards the 2021 display would be welcomed.

Your thoughts on these, and any other alternatives, would be greatly appreciated. Email clerk@cuxtonpc.org.uk



Cuxton Village Paths

All residents are reminded that it is **their** responsibility to ensure any bushes, trees, branches etc. that overhang any pavements or footpaths in the village are cut back to their own boundaries.

Corona Virus (COVID-19)

For health information and advice www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid19/

For Government response www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/coronavirus-covid-19-uk-government-response

The parish office is now closed to visitors and meetings are being held online. The Clerk and Assistant Clerk are still contactable while working from home. Please see the back page. **Cuxton Noticeboard** is displayed on the village noticeboards and on the Cuxton Parish website and Facebook page.

Bonfires: advice from Medway Council (Tel: 01634 333333) Medway.gov.uk/info/200176/report-a-problem/409/report-smoke-and-air-pollution/2

Consider your neighbours while we are all at home and avoid having bonfires that could pose a nuisance to neighbours.

Cuxton Tip

The Cuxton Tip remains closed due to the high demand Medway Council are expecting. This is because traffic queueing for the Cuxton site at peak periods has had a severe impact on the A228 and other local roads. Hoath Way and Capstone are open by appointment only, and visits can only be booked online, or by phone 01634 333333. Monday to Friday 9am-5pm. Don't be tempted to fly tip. It ruins our lovely environment and puts pressure on services that could be better used on the frontline helping keep people safe. Those caught fly tipping will of course face the usual penalties.

Please see below scams that are prevalent at the moment and beware!

1. TV LICENSING Phishing email



The emails purporting to be from TV Licensing claim that the recipient's direct debit has failed and that they need to pay to avoid prosecution. Recipients are told that they are eligible for a "COVID19 Personalized Offer" of six months free. The messages contain links to genuine-looking websites that are designed to steal personal and financial information.

2. HMRC Phishing email

CIFAS (the UK's leading fraud prevention organisation) are warning of a new HMRC scam. This scam appears to be specifically targeting people who are out of work or working less due to coronavirus, and is offering £1,000s in grants. The recipient is told to click on a link to check their eligibility, and answer questions that are designed to steal personal information. CIFAS are stating that this scam comes from the email address "HMRC@hotmail.com", but as new frauds spring up every day, this could change.

3. GOV.UK HM Revenue & Customs

Your Government Gateway account has been created.

Dear ghow@hotmail.co.uk

We would like to notify you that you still have an outstanding tax refund of 503.21 GBP from overpaid tax from year end 2018. Despite our previous letters regarding your refund we are yet to receive your claim. Requests for refunds are time limited, please use the link below to complete your claim online also note the following:

Start Claim

Reference No: 181811/TAX4709-UKnkbcu

We can only process a refund for the tax year we have detailed above

You have until the 06/04/2020 to make your claim

4. Bereavement Scams from CIFAS

Although I am not aware of this in Kent, CIFAS have stated that elsewhere around the country, fraudsters are targeting families organising funerals for loved ones by contacting them and purporting to be from their local authority's bereavement services team and asking them for credit card details to pay their funeral director. These criminals are then putting families under pressure by telling them that the funeral will be cancelled if they don't pay immediately. As a result, a number of councils put out urgent warnings this week on their social media channels warning about the threat.

Anyone receiving this type of call should hang up immediately and report the incident to Action Fraud.

What's On In Cuxton

White Hart	Closed, but offering a take away/delivery service. Please see the website www.whitehartcuxton.co.uk/ or 01634 789969
Cuxton Social Club	Closed. Any queries telephone 01634 718068 but planning to reopen on 6.7.2020
Golden River Chinese	Taking orders by phone, to be collected, cash only. 01634 296888

Term Dates: Academy of Cuxton Schools

Please note due to the Corona Virus (COVID_19) the school is closed at present, other than for Specified children. Please follow the school website for further up to date information

Cuxton Academy is at present closed other than for Key Worker children and Years R, Y1 and Y6 on a part time basis. Please contact the school for detailed information.

Last day of term Mon 20.7.2020

Autumn term: Weds 2.9.2020 to Fri 23.10.2020

Half term: Mon 26.10.2020 to Fri 30.10.2020.

Return to School: Mon 2.11.2020

Cuxton Library—CLOSED

A few returned books have been put through the library letterbox. There is an amnesty for overdue books, but anything that was issued shortly before we closed was given a due date for sometime in May, so no one will get a fine. If the situation continues, those due dates will be moved on a further few months.

If anyone is desperate for books a drop off delivery can be arranged. Please contact Judy Frayne on 07913214252 or email judy.frayne@medway.gov.uk

Report Fly Tipping

Medway Council on **01634 333 333**,

Gravesham Council **01474 337 000**

Parking & Abandoned Vehicles

Contact Emma Patching on 07508 846937 or email Emma.Patching@medway.gov.uk .

Graffiti

The council will remove graffiti for free (even on private property) as long as the owner of the property signs an indemnity form. Email Emma.Patching@medway.gov.uk to schedule an appointment.

Dog poo bins report to [https://eforms.medway.gov.uk/ufs_live/LE DOGS.eb?ebd=0&ebz=2](https://eforms.medway.gov.uk/ufs_live/LE_DOGS.eb?ebd=0&ebz=2) 1589092230864



Next virtual meeting –9 September 2020

To attend or send a question email

cuxtonparish@btconnect.com

Cuxton Parish Councillors

Chairman:

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kayhut@hotmail.com

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Telephone: 07895 940668

Email: cuxtonparish@btconnect.com

Email for newsletter items:

newslettercuxtonparish@btconnect.com

The Parish Office:

The Pavilion, Cuxton Recreation Ground,
Bush Road, Cuxton, ME2 1EZ

Doctor out of hours: 111

Police: 101 for non urgent crime or to talk to local police.

Public Defibrillator: Box on the wall of the Social Club

Co-editors: June Nicholson, Parish Clerk & Josie Griffiths, Assistant Parish Clerk. Articles to be submitted by 15th each month. No publication in August or January. Unless otherwise attributed, the content of this newsletter is developed by the editors. Views contained are not necessarily those of the Parish Council. Every effort is made to check the accuracy of items produced and submitted. The Parish Council and newsletter editors accept no liability for other contributions, which remain the copyright of the contributors.