

CUXTON

NOTICEBOARD

Newsletter by and for the people of Cuxton SEPTEMBER 2020



Important Cuxton Parish News

The Boundary Commission is responsible for national and local government boundaries and ensuring that within these boundaries voters are represented fairly. This year the Boundary Commission have looked at Medway Wards and have identified that Cuxton and Halling Ward are underrepresented by 39%. This prompted a public consultation that began last year. Ninety-nine residents and Cuxton Parish Council responded to the consultation and the Boundary Commission commented positively on the strength of the responses from both Parish Councils and individual residents. However, they have concluded that there are too few residents in Cuxton and Halling for it to be a two Councillor Ward. Staying with one Ward Councillor will not be allowed because Cuxton and Halling residents would remain seriously underrepresented.

Cuxton Parish Council were dismayed that the new Ward boundary proposed by the Boundary Commission extends from Halling to Rochester Bridge and includes a large part of Strood South. This new Halling, Cuxton and Strood Riverside Ward would have three Councillors and include parts of a number of roads currently in Strood South, for example, Maple, Sycamore, and Cedar Road.

Having three Ward councillors may seem a good thing, however, the Parish Council feel that there are significant disadvantages associated with being joined to a large urban area. The main concerns are that it may impact on the rural status of Cuxton and Halling; may make it more difficult for the smaller voice of Cuxton to be heard, and the lack of common concerns between the two communities (rural and urban) that may well lead to conflicts of interest for the three Ward Councillors.

The Parish Council believe that if two ward Councillors for Cuxton and Halling Ward is not possible then linking Cuxton and Halling with Medway Gate and/or the Temple Wharf housing developments would be an acceptable compromise. More than 40% of the children attending the Academy of Schools come from Medway Gate and have links with other organisations and family based in Cuxton. We believe this proposal will result in a solution that meets the minimum number of electorate for two Ward Councillors.

You will find a copy of the Parish Council full response to the Boundary Commission Proposal in the village noticeboards and on the Cuxton Parish Council and ACT websites. Links to these sites will be made available on social media. The next consultation closes on 7th September and the Parish Council would encourage residents to read the Boundary Commission Report (p. 12-14) and the Parish Council response before responding to the consultation by accessing the Boundary Commission website and selecting Medway from the list of consultations. By adding your views to this consultation the voice of Cuxton will be heard.

If you want to know more about the Boundary Commission proposal email the Parish Clerk for an invitation to join members of the Parish Council at a ZOOM 'question and answer' sessions between 7pm- 8pm on Thursdays 27th August and 3rd September. If you do not have internet access then you can leave a message containing your question(s) and your home phone number on 07895 940668 and a Councillor will contact you directly before 7th September. We also hope to produce responses to 'Frequently Asked Questions' that will be posted in the village noticeboards and online.

Cllr Kay Hutchfield, Chairman, Cuxton Parish Council

Children's Play Area

As most of you will know, the children's play area in the recreation ground has been closed since March as a result of the Covid19 lockdown. At the beginning of July, the government issued guidance on how play areas could be opened safely. Unfortunately the Parish Council do not have the resources to meet the government guidelines for monitoring and cleaning the play equipment. Discussions with the Council's public liability insurance provider raised concerns that opening without the necessary guidelines in place would mean our public liability insurance would be invalidated.

Since that time, we have completed the necessary risk assessments and have been liaising with our insurers and other relevant bodies, to ensure that we are able to open safely. As a result the Council were pleased to be able to open the playground on Wednesday 5th August but were disappointed not to have been able to do so sooner. We hope residents understand that it would have been reckless of the Council to open the playground without public liability insurance.



The Council stress that the playground is not regularly monitored or cleaned, so users should be aware of this and ensure that they read the advice notices on the playground entrance, have hand gel for their children to use before and after using the equipment and observe social distancing.

On another note.

We are in the process of upgrading the play area. The safety surface is due to be repaired soon and some new equipment has been ordered. The latest playground inspection report has identified the need to re-paint the playground fencing in order to prevent the fencing deteriorating. As a consequence we are looking to get a group of volunteers together to rub down and paint the play area fences over the summer. If you are willing to volunteer to help us with this task we would be really grateful. Please contact the Parish Clerk on 07895940668 or clerk@cuxtonpc.org.uk. Required materials will be supplied and Social Distancing will be required.

Cuxton Social Club News

Peter Murray has been the Secretary of CSC over the last five years and worked tirelessly to bring the club to where we are today. His dogged determination and tenacity managed to secure various grants that has funded the project of the new football pitch with help from Lee Cooksey and Frans Thorley of Cuxton91 Football Club. He has now decided to retire from his post, and CSC thank him for his work.



Many hours of hard work from an army of volunteers has helped to achieve this goal as well as allowing us to open again successfully after lockdown, caused by Covid19. We look forward to continuing to work together, and we wish Cuxton91FC all the very best this season as well as continuing to welcome the villagers of Cuxton back to a safe Social Club.

Jacqueline Fitzgerald, President Cuxton Social Club

Cleaner Required

Cuxton Parish Council are looking for a self employed cleaner for 2-3 hours/week to clean the Parish Council entrance, corridor, office and toilet in the Pavilion in the Recreation Ground.

Extra hours might be required as lockdown eases and the pavilion is used more often.

Experience of working unsupervised in a secure office environment is essential. A relevant COSHH qualification is required.

For more information please contact the Parish Clerk on 07895940668 or clerk@cuxtonpc.org.uk.

Bike Track Renovation Completed



The renovation of the Bike Track in the Recreation Ground was completed mid July and has been amazingly successful. Covid'19 restrictions prevented a formal opening of the track, but it has been formally inspected and a small number of adjustments will be made over the next month.

A list of rules for the track have been formulated to advise users how to keep themselves safe and sound, the most important of which is for parents to ensure their children

wear helmets, as well as gloves, knee and elbow protectors when using the track.

Acknowledgements to the following organisations and individuals without whose support/input the track wouldn't have become a reality: Cuxton Sports and Recreation Association (CSRA) Cuxton Parish Council, ACT local party, Cuxton91 FC (especially for fundraising), Earl Bournier (contract management), Stuart Moore (for helping with track design), Andrew Baylis (for sorting and printing the plans), Big Lunch committee, Duke Contractors who built the track, plus all those people from Cuxton who contributed financially to the fund at the 2019 Big Lunch event .

We thank you all *Robin Bournier (CSRA)*

RULES OF THE TRACK

- Protective clothing is recommended- helmet, elbow and knee pads
- Children under 7 should have adult supervision-
- Cycles only - no remote control cars, no electric scooters or motorbikes
- Respect other riders
- Allow adequate space between riders
- The small track is intended for children under 7 only
- Inspect the track for debris before riding
- No pedestrians allowed on the track


DISCLAIMER

All cyclists use this track at their own risk

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY

The nearest minor injuries unit

Gravesham Community Hospital Bath Street Gravesend Kent DA11 0DG 01474 360500	Medway Maritime Hospital Windmill Road Gillingham Kent ME7 5NY
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CCTV in operation

Cuxton Sports & Recreation Association on behalf of Cuxton Parish Council
<http://www.cuxtonpc.kentparishes.gov.uk/> - 07895 940668
www.cuxtonpc.org.uk

New Parish Council Website and Logo

The Parish Council's new website is now live www.cuxtonpc.org.uk which we hope will make our information more accessible to residents.

Thanks to Cllr Natalie Jackson and the Clerk for their work on this project.

Thanks too, to local artist Cllr Hilary Savage for permission to use her design for the village sign as the basis for the new Parish Council logo.

Cuxton Speed Watch and Traffic Monitoring

Given the concern of residents over the speed and level of traffic passing through the village. The Parish Council are working with the Cuxton PACT group to collect data on the speed and volume of traffic in the village.



If you would like to be part of this group or have skills that can help us with managing the data we collect please contact the Parish Clerk.

clerk@cuxtonpc.org.uk

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.

What's On In Cuxton

White Hart	Now Open www.whitehartcuxton.co.uk or 01634 789969
Cuxton Social Club	The club is now open, any queries phone 01634 718068. 26.9.2020 Cuxton 91FC play their first game on their new pitch.
Golden River	Open as normal 01634 296888



Term Dates: Academy of Cuxton Schools

Children return to school Monday, 7.9.2020
Half term Monday, 19.10.2020 to Friday 23.10.2020
Xmas break starts Friday 18.12.2020
Children return to school Monday 4.1.2021

Please check the school website as these dates are subject to change.

Cuxton Library

Monday Closed

Tuesday 10.am to 1pm

Wednesday Closed

Thursday 2pm to 5pm

Friday 2pm to 5pm

Saturday 10am to 12.30pm and 1.30pm to 4pm

These hours are for the foreseeable future.

Customers are able to browse the shelves and use the public computers. Computer sessions can be booked in advance by phoning 01634 337799, but only one session per week can be booked.

To be Health & Safety/COVID compliant we will be limiting the number of customers in the building at a time. Anyone entering the building will be asked to give contact details for Track & Trace.

Useful Contacts

Medway Council has a website that deals with a variety of problems including; Dogs, Fly-tipping, Roads, Street Lighting etc. https://www.medway.gov.uk/site_search/results/?q=report+a+problem

Cuxton recycling centre remains closed. You can book to visit the Capstone and Hoath Way centres https://www.medway.gov.uk/directory_record/153/cuxton_waste_and_recycling_centre/category/33/recycling_centres

Parking & Abandoned Vehicles

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

The next virtual meeting of the Parish Council is on 9th September 2020. To attend or send a question email clerk@cuxtonpc.org.uk

Cuxton Parish Councillors

Chairman:

Kay Hutchfield 07762 772134
chairman@cuxtonpc.org.uk

Vice-Chairman

Tracy Thorley 07884 343832
tracy@cuxtonpc.org.uk

Martin Burley 07777 644401
Natalie Jackson 07503 167385
Elizabeth Maisey 01634 727126
Edwina Morrell 01634 716352
Julie Porter 07903 780989
Pat Reynolds 07884202270
Hilary Savage 01634 723027
Simon White 07919 014909
Jakob Seger 07765 077198

Ward Councillor

Matt Fearn: 07739 706432
matt.fearn@medway.gov.uk

Parish Clerk: June Nicholson

Assistant Clerk: Josie Griffiths

Telephone: 07895 940668

Email: clerk@cuxtonpc.org.uk

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.