

CUXTON NOTICEBOARD



The Newsletter by and for the people of Cuxton

March 2021

Parish Council News in Brief

Apologies for the lack of a newsletter in February but hopefully normal delivery services will be resumed as soon as Covid19 restrictions allow us to safely use our volunteer distributors. In the meantime a copy of the newsletter can be accessed from the Parish Council website.

Cuxton Parish Council have continued work throughout 2020 and have held at least one virtual Parish Council meeting and one virtual committee meeting every month since the first lockdown in March 2020. Despite some technical hitches along the way, we have adjusted well to holding our meetings on line and residents can join the meetings by accessing the Zoom link agendas on the Parish Council website or by contacting the clerk.

November and December were particularly busy times for the Parish Council despite having no Christmas event to run. It is the time of year when the Parish Council finances are scrutinised in depth and the annual budget is set for the forthcoming year.

Highways Issues

The pandemic has interfered with the planned January trial of the latest A228/Bush Road traffic management system. The special road surface has been laid and the pedestrian lights have been programmed and are ready to go. At the February meeting Cllr Fearn stated that the trial of the traffic light system will begin before Easter and Medway Highways department will provide us with advanced warning once a firm date has been agreed with contractors.

The Parish Council are hoping the other highways issues raised in 2020 will be addressed in a timely manner.

The Precept

Your next Council Tax bill will contain a contribution to Cuxton Parish Council known as the precept. This year the precept will increase by 2%, equivalent to £1.21 per band D household/year. Consideration was given to rising costs of utilities and IT costs associated with remote working.

Cuxton Parish Council continues to seek grants and other opportunities to keep the precept as low as they can whilst seeking to improve village amenities for residents.

Pavilion Re-Development Steering Group

This group is meeting every 2/3 weeks in order to move this project forward. The cost of the redevelopment of the Pavilion has grown and the grant money that would usually be available for such large projects is focused primarily on supporting individuals, businesses and charities affected by the Covid19 pandemic. It seems likely that the redevelopment will be a 2 phase project .

Phase 1 will be the café, meeting room, parish office and renovated changing rooms. (The meeting place and café area will be able to accommodate between 90-150 people). The hall will be Phase 2. A letter and survey has been developed for circulation during March to provide residents with details of the amended plan.

The Parish Council are seeking residents with financial and business skills who might be interested in joining the steering group to assist with the development of a Board of Trustees and management committee for the redeveloped Pavilion.

Kay Hutchfield, Chair Cuxton Parish Council

Thomas Stevens Trust: Cuxton's Own Charity

We really are living in challenging times, with permanent and temporary jobs disappearing overnight (often with no alternative employment options), heavily reduced hours for those in employment because of reduced ordering of products, severe stress and tiredness because of the worry of providing for oneself and family, or acting as a carer for someone in extra need. Even self-employed family people suffer in these hard times, and needs do not respect race, colour or creed. Often, there are essential low paid jobs, which benefit the local community and individuals at risk. We are here, as a benevolent charity, to provide some support against food and fuel poverty, especially now winter is upon us,



During 2020, we were able to alleviate a number of support issues by releasing nearly £800 to worthy causes. We welcome more confidential requests in early 2021.

If you have lived in Cuxton for 2 years, and believe we can help out in any small way, please contact us in full confidence by emailing: thomasstevenscharity@hotmail.com *Ian Gray, Trustee*

Census Day on Sunday, 21st March 2021

Why is it important you take part?

By taking part you will be helping to make sure you, your family and our community get the services needed for the future. Information collected in the national census is used by the government when deciding funding and priorities across the country including the provision of services such as transport, education and health care.

The census is held every 10 years. It asks questions about individuals, households and how we live. No other survey gives as much information about our society and future needs. Completing the census form is mandatory, so you can be fined if you refuse to submit your information.

The 2021 census will be the first to be held mainly online. Before the 21st March you can expect to receive a letter through the post with a unique access code to the questionnaire on the census website. If you do not have access to the internet don't worry, you will be advised how to submit your information. If it is safe to do so local Census support centres will be available to help people fill in their online census. Help will also be provided from the census website, by phone, webchat, social media or text message.

Field officers will only visit your address if your census details have not been completed after the cut-off date of Sunday 21 March. All field officers will be wearing personal protective equipment (PPE) and operate in the same way as a post or food delivery person who comes to your door. **Field officers will never need to enter your house.**

For more information about the census visit the Census web site at: www.census.gov.uk

2021 Cuxton Big Lunch

The Parish Council are still unsure whether the 2021 Big Lunch will be able to go ahead. If we can't all get together again in June would you support an event later in the summer/autumn? Let us know what you think along with your ideas on how the event could be improved or something extra you would like us to try and add to the event.

If you would be interested in being involved in the planning of future BIG Lunch events please get in touch as it's always good to have new ideas.



Time to renew an older person's bus pass

Do you know someone who has an older person's bus pass issued by Medway Council (or maybe you have one yourself) which has expired or is due to be renewed soon? Did you know that you can renew the passes online instead of going into Strood High Street and visiting the Hub to renew in person?

The online process is really easy, and it can also be completed by someone who has been authorised by the bus pass holder if they do not have access to the internet. The new bus pass is then sent in the post.

Find further details at: <https://www.medway.gov.uk/xfp/form/232>

Councillor Tracy Thorley

Corona Virus Medway Support

Medway Council are supporting residents who have been advised to self-isolate by the NHS Test and Trace Service and residents who are clinically extremely vulnerable.

There are also a range of support services available to residents in the community and via the NHS Volunteer Responders service. If you still need support with food, shopping, medicines or prescriptions, call 01634 333 103 or email covid.support@medway.gov.uk

Cuxton Countryside Groups Replacement Bench Replacement Bench Project

Over the next year Cuxton Countryside Group (CCG) will be replacing some of the benches located adjacent to May's Wood, Dean Valley and near Ranscombe Farm.

The original benches have slowly rotted away and will be replaced by benches made by one of the CCG volunteers (Richard Hutchfield) and installed by members of the CCG.

The new benches are made of tannalised soft wood and are approximately 7 foot long. The first bench will be installed in March weather permitting.



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 for contact details.

During lockdown **Cuxton Noticeboard** is currently only available on line on the Cuxton Parish website and Facebook page. It will also be displayed on the village noticeboards.

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

Open for takeaway Thursday, Friday and Saturday evening & Sunday lunchtime

www.whitehartcuxton.co.uk or 01634 789969

Golden River Chinese

Open as normal for take away only on 01634 296888.
Cash payments only.

Cuxton Social Club

Closed— any queries phone 01634 718068.

Cuxton Library

Cuxton Library is operating a front door service until further notice. These hours are for the foreseeable future:

- **Tuesday** 10am to 1pm
- **Thursday & Friday** 2pm to 5pm
- **Saturday** 10am to 12.30pm & 1.30pm 4pm

Books can be returned, reservations made and books can be collected. Clear recycling sacks and blue and white reusable bags are also available.

Dog poo bags and food recycling bags can be purchased via the council website and collected from the library on a click and collect basis. We are unable to take cash.

The service will be reviewed and updated regularly.

Academy of Cuxton Schools

The school is currently closed except for the children of key workers.

Please check the school website for updates on school reopening. www.cuxtonschools.co.uk

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 Tip is now open. To book a slot go onto the Medway Council site and select a date and time.

NO booking, NO entry. https://www.medway.gov.uk/directory_record/153/cuxton_waste_and_recycling_centre/category/33/recycling_centres

Parking & Abandoned Vehicles

www.medway.gov.uk/info/200176/



Cuxton Parish Council
Serving our community

The next virtual meeting of the Parish Council is on 18th March 2021. To attend or send a question email clerk@cuxtonpc.org.uk

Cuxton Parish Councillors

Chairman:

Kay Hutchfield chairman@cuxtonpc.org.uk

Vice-Chairman:

Tracy Thorley tracy@cuxtonpc.org.uk

Martin Burley martin@cuxtonpc.org.uk

Natalie Jackson natalie@cuxtonpc.org.uk

Elizabeth Maisey buffy@cuxtonpc.org.uk

Julie Porter julie@cuxtonpc.org.uk

Pat Reynolds pat@cuxtonpc.org.uk

Hilary Savage hilary@cuxtonpc.org.uk

Jakob Seger jakob@cuxtonpc.org.uk

Simon White simon@cuxtonpc.org.uk

Sarah Wilson sarah@cuxtonpc.org.uk

Ward Councillor

Matt Fearn: 07739 706432

matt.fearn@medway.gov.uk

Parish Clerk

June Nicholson 07483 349613

clerk@cuxtonpc.org.uk

Assistant Clerk

Josie Griffiths

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: Social Club wall

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.