

CUXTON NOTICEBOARD



The Newsletter by and for the people of Cuxton

April 2021

Parish Council News in Brief

Homestead Planning Application Appeal

Residents may be aware that Medway Council rejected the Homestead Planning application to open a construction plant training school on the Homestead land at the top of Sundridge Hill. The application has now been taken to appeal and is with the Planning Inspectorate for review. The Parish Council and those residents who originally objected have received notice of the appeal and the Parish Council have confirmed their objection to the proposed plan. The opening of a large construction plant training school on the Diggerland site will hopefully support the argument that there is no demonstrable need for an additional, small temporary training school adjacent to our village.

The closing date for comments ended on March 26th.

Outcome of Medway Boundary Commission Consultation

The 2nd March saw the publication of the final recommendations of the Boundary Commission Consultation on the number of Ward Councillors for Medway and the final proposal for Ward boundaries. Medway has been allocated an additional 4 Ward Councillors, making 59 in total (an increase of 3), and Cuxton and Halling have been joined with Medway Gate and the Temple Marsh areas to form a 2 Councillor Ward, Cuxton, Halling and Riverside Ward.

The report states:

"In response to feedback on our draft recommendations and further draft recommendations, we have amended some of our proposals. For example, we have created a two-councillor Cuxton, Halling & Riverside ward in place of our original proposed three- councillor Halling, Cuxton & Strood Riverside ward and made consequential changes to Strood West ward. "



Thanks to all those residents who supported the Parish Council argument for a 2 Councillor Ward. This change will come into effect at May 2023 elections. If you want to read the report in full you can access it from the link below. <https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/have-your-say/19557>

Annual Parish Meeting 2021

This year the Annual Parish Meeting will be held online at 7pm on Friday, 23rd April. At the meeting the Parish Council will present their annual report to you, the electorate, on what has been accomplished during the preceding year. It also offers the opportunity for you to hear reports from other local voluntary groups and ask questions.

This year there will be a short presentation on the progress of the Pavilion Re-development and how that could be funded. There will also be an opportunity to ask questions on the funding of this project and discuss ideas you may have on local and other issues.

It is sad that we cannot get together at our usual venue of the Social Club this year or enjoy your company at our usual buffet, but hopefully you will join us on Zoom and provide us with food for thought for the next year.

To access the meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89566594248?pwd=MWFQZjI0Q1F3bGtwRlZlSEZlOYmkrQT09>

Meeting ID: 895 6659 4248 Passcode: 500529

Update on Traffic Lights on Bush Road

The latest update from Councillor Fearn is that everything is in place and the trial will begin sometime after Easter. When we have more definite information, or if anything changes we will inform you.

As you will recall this is a long standing request from the village to try and improve entrance and exit to the village onto the busy A228.

Cllr K Hutchfield (Chairman)

Cuxton Big Lunch



This year's Big Lunch has been postponed until Sunday 22 August this year in the hope that by then we may be able to meet together again as a village and hopefully celebrate in the park with family, friends and neighbours.

Put the date in your diary and keep your fingers crossed that we are able to hold this event. If not then we will have a very special Big Lunch in June 2022.

Dog Owners

Cuxton Parish Council understand that the majority of dog owners who walk their dogs are considerate owners who follow recommendations for caring for our streets and countryside, and we are aware that since the Lockdown there are a great many people who come to our village for their walks.



But it has once again been noticed around the village that there has again been a noticeable increase of dogs fouling paths and pavements around the village particularly by the tunnel in Whiteleave Rise and Ranscombe Farm area. Cuxton Parish Council have been pro-active to try and reduce this, by installing dog poo bags in holders around the village and there are bins to dispose of the used bags.

Can we remind people that these bags should not be thrown away unused, or thrown into trees, or hung in places where they will not disintegrate.

Thanking you once again for your consideration in these matters.

Dear Cuxton Community,

Firstly, I would like to introduce myself for those of you who do not know me. My name is Charlotte Aldham-Breary and I am the Headteacher at The Academy of Cuxton Schools. I have had a long affiliation with Cuxton, having started teaching at Cuxton Junior School as a Newly Qualified Teacher in 2009. When the two schools merged, I became Assistant Headteacher, then Deputy Headteacher. Finally in April 2020, I became the Acting Headteacher, which turned into a permanent role as of September 2020. For those of you who maybe had children at Cuxton in the past but no longer have, some of you may remember me as Miss Baker.



I meet on a termly basis with Natalie Jackson, a representative on the Parish Council, and recently I expressed my desire to reach out to the community a couple of times year to inform you as to what we have been up to at The Academy of Cuxton Schools.

One of my first priorities when I became the permanent Headteacher at Cuxton was to create a renewed sense of community, which was maybe missing for a period of time. Although one of our school values is 'Community', I felt work needed to be done in this area. I know how important the community is to Cuxton and how everyone associated with the village has a common goal of making Cuxton the best it can possibly be. I have already established good working relationships with stake holders such as Cuxton 91, the Lower Bush Alpacas and the Parish Council. We are very keen to continue to support local businesses, where we can, so would love to work in partnership with a wider variety to have a positive impact on our school, as well as the local area.

Over recent months, we have redefined our vision for the school. It is as follows: *The Academy of Cuxton Schools is committed to providing an enriching, creative and experiential education for all pupils where Outdoor Learning is embedded in daily learning, so that our children appreciate how to look after and enjoy their immediate surroundings, community and the wider world.* As you are aware, we are so fortunate to have such wonderful grounds at The Academy of Cuxton Schools and have plans to use our grounds and the woodlands in Cuxton to promote outdoor learning vision further. If you can support us in enhancing our outdoor areas in any way we would love to hear from you.

We have a Facebook page, which I would also like to bring to your attention. We regularly use Facebook to promote the wonderful achievements of our children in school but also to advertise how we have worked in collaboration with partners.

Please do take a look: <https://www.facebook.com/CuxtonSchools/>

Since September, we have thanked many of the Cuxton Community for donating items such as Christmas trees, outdoor learning resources and Chinese New Year fortune cookies on our page. The list is endless!

I also wanted to inform you of the relationship I have recently established with our new PCSO. I am aware of the challenges we have with parking in the village (although I think this is an issue that every school has) and have asked the PCSO to patrol the areas around Bush Road, to support us in overcoming this challenge. The ever growing popularity of the school, due to its fantastic reputation, has somewhat increased this issue further. I am keen to continue to work with the Parish Council and the PCSO to help resolve the problem as much as I can. Please be reassured, I am regularly reminding our parents to park considerately and reminding them of the areas they shouldn't be parking in on our newsletters.

With Covid 19, we have been unable to have parents and visitors into school as regularly as we would like but we are so excited as to what the coming months will bring, with regards to some kind of normality. We can't wait to connect further with our Cuxton Community!

Kindest regards,

Charlotte Aldham-Breary

Protect your dog against theft key facts

Think twice before leaving your dog fed up outside a shop

- Don't leave your dog alone in the car, even for a few minutes
- Prevent your dog being stolen while out walking by varying your times of walks and routes



According to the Missing Pets Bureau as many as 38 percent of all animals reported lost have actually been stolen and as many as 60 per cent of these are never recovered.

In spite of these figures, many dogs are still left tied up outside shops, or in unattended vehicles where they are easily stolen. Once stolen, a dog can be removed many miles in a short space of time so prevention is vital.

Whilst pedigree pets are at the greatest risk due to the cost of purchasing pedigree puppies, non-pedigree dogs can also be at risk as thieves wait for a reward to be offered.

www.bluecross.org.uk

New Benches for Cuxton Viewpoints

Cuxton Countryside Group have installed the first of a number of new benches to be located along some of our local footpaths. The first to be installed offers a place to sit and take in the views across the fields towards Lower Bush and Cobham.

Sincere thanks to the volunteers from CCG and the Wheel of Cuxton for making and installing this new bench.



Advice from Kent Police

If you see something that needs reporting and it's not an emergency, you can use the Kent Police website

Crime: www.kent.police.uk/ro/report/ocr/af/how-to-report-a-crime/

Anti-social behaviour: www.kent.police.uk/ro/report/asb/af/antisocial-behaviour/

A possible breach of coronavirus (Covid-19) measures: www.kent.police.uk/tua/tell-us-about/c19/v7/tell-us-about-a-possible-breach-of-coronavirus-covid-19-measures/

Lost or stolen vehicles: www.kent.police.uk/ro/report/lsv/report-lost-or-stolen-vehicle/

Volunteers needed to deliver the newsletter

We rely on volunteers to deliver this newsletter and deliveries will resume with the May 2021 edition.

The areas that need a volunteer are Harold Road and part of Rochester Road.

If you can spare some time to help with this please contact.

Contact clerk@cuxtonpc.org.uk

Pavilion Re-Development Steering Group



The steering group of 9 residents and parish councillors have been meeting every 2 weeks since the beginning of February to move the re-development of the Pavilion forward. Next month we will be delivering a new survey to you so you can let us know when you might use a café and community space within in the Pavilion. We really want to know what you think of our proposals so we get the details right and make a success of any new facilities we can create for our village.

If you could help with delivery of the surveys or would be interested in joining the steering group please contact the clerk at clerk@cuxtonpc.org.uk or telephone 07483349613

Grants

Once a year, Cuxton Parish Council awards small grants to local voluntary groups, to help them meet their ambitions.

Applications are now invited and successful groups will receive their grants at the Annual Parish Assembly Meeting in April.

There is a Grant Making policy that governs who can apply, and an application form that would need to be completed by interested parties.

Visit our website for further details and an application form.

www.cuxtonpc.org.uk or contact the clerk: clerk@cuxtonpc.org.uk

Need transport to get your Covid Vaccination?

There are two local charities that offer a transport service for the elderly, those with mobility issues or who have difficulty accessing public transport for whatever reason to attend Medical Appointments. This includes Covid-19 vaccinations.

This is a door to door service and includes waiting for the client whilst treatment is carried out. Further details can be obtained from HANDS and Rochester Volunteer Centre

Tel: 01634 380030. Email: info@medwayvc.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

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 to 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

Last day of term Thursday 1 April 2021

Summer term Monday 19 April 2021

May day Monday 3 May 2021

Half term Monday 31 May to Friday 4 June

Last day of term Friday 23 July 2021

First day of Autumn term Wednesday 1 September

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



Cuxton Parish Council
Serving our community

The next virtual meeting of the Parish Council is on 15 April 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 07483349613

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: 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