

CUXTON NOTICEBOARD



The Newsletter by and for the people of Cuxton

February 2022

Cuxton Traffic Management Group

This group, led by Cllrs Savage and Jackson, plans to meet for the first time in January. The group include representatives from Cuxton Academy of Schools, NuVenture Bus Company and interested Cuxton residents. The Parish Council have employed a traffic consultant to look at the various parking and traffic issues around the village and hopefully help to devise some strategies that may improve the situation.

In December, the Parish Council commissioned a traffic survey to gain accurate data on the number of traffic movements in and out of Cuxton. This was largely because of concerns over the accuracy of the traffic data presented in the Kentish Wine Vault planning application. The results of the survey are pictured in the graph below.



Live Christmas Tree

The Parish Council have purchased a live 6 foot Christmas Tree for the library gardens. Once it has grown sufficiently tall there will no longer be the need to purchase and install a felled tree.

Advice on the species of tree to plant was obtained from the Royal Horticultural Society, subsequently an Abies Koreana was chosen and should be delivered and planted before the end of January. The Parish Council have been working with Medway Library Services and Cuxton volunteers to improve the appearance of the library gardens. Over the coming year, we hope you will see a real improvement.

Cllr Kay Hutchfield

.Kentish Wine Vault

Back in December, members of the campaign group opposing the planning application to build a visitor centre, restaurant, café and processing plant in Bush Valley Cuxton, attended the Medway Planning Committee. Members of this committee agreed to defer their decision as they wanted more information on some aspects of the application and to allow time for a site visit to be organised. A decision will now be made on March 9th.

So why did Cuxton Parish Council decide to oppose this application?

Initially, not all members of the Parish Council were opposed to this planning application. However, the more we have learnt about the consequences for our local green spaces, woodland, wildlife, air and light pollution and traffic congestion the more we are united in opposition. We are not “tree huggers” or NIMBYs but concerned about the destruction of an area of outstanding beauty, plantation, woodland and wildlife habitats that will change the rural nature of Cuxton to an access road to a tourist attraction. No amount of bird boxes and new hedges planned by the winery will restore what will be lost.



These are the main reasons for our objections:

1. Bush Valley is an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), giving it legal protection from commercial development. We agree with Kent AONB unit who describe the proposed development as a mixed use development that fails to meet the criteria for building in an AONB.
2. What other developments will follow? A petting farm, hotel, seasonal worker accommodation? Granting permission for this development will not only lead to the destruction of a beautiful and tranquil valley on our doorstep but open the door to the destruction of more green spaces in and around Cuxton, Medway and Kent.
3. The ambition of this company is to be the biggest in England. Initially we can expect 300 visitors/day travelling to and from the site along Bush Road. This number will increase significantly if their ambition to be the biggest in England is met.
4. A significant number of HGVs will be needed to deliver and collect the 5-15 million bottles of wine this company proposes to produce. This will be in addition to the number of HGV visits to the site during the 2 year construction period.
5. Local employment is listed as a benefit and could offer 50-100 jobs. These are likely to be mainly in hospitality and agriculture—both of which are suffering a chronic shortage of workers. There is no information on how many jobs will be full or part time, seasonal or apprenticeships. To our knowledge only one Cuxton resident has been employed so far.
6. Southern Water currently do not have the infrastructure to deal with the wastewater from the winemaking process.
7. The light from the building and security lighting will prevent any of the badgers, owls, bats and other nocturnal animals returning to the site once construction is complete.

These are just some of the reasons for our objections. Please access our 2 letters of objection on the Cuxton Parish Council website for more detailed information.

CuxtonTinytots

Hello, my name is Melanie Waddington! I started Cuxton Tinytots as a Mum rather than a business woman so people can introduce little ones for socialising, having fun and also giving us grownups a chance to have a cup of tea and a chat as well as meeting other Mums/Dads and Grandparents etc alike!

Cuxton Tinytots will run every Monday (starting 7th Feb) and Wednesday (already started) from 10-11.30am, even through the school holidays, at the Cuxton Social Club.

Tea, coffee, squash and biscuits will be available. Children of all ages are welcome. The cost is £4.00 for one child and 50pence extra for siblings (Cash only at the moment). Please find Cuxton Tinytots on Facebook for any updates and upcoming activities or news. Please contact me if you have any questions on 07977 632458.



Melanie Waddington!

Thomas Stevens Trust—Cuxton's only charity



The Thomas Stevens Trust is here to help those in difficult circumstances to partially adapt their vulnerability to overcome some of their food and fuel supply problems and thereby maintaining a semblance of normal healthy living.

We were able to offer help and financial support and we welcome more confidential requests from you, or someone you feel would benefit from our charity funds, in early 2022. If you have lived in Cuxton for 2 years or more and believe we can help out in any small way, please contact us on thomasstevenscharity@hotmail.com

Ian Gray, Trustee

Cuxton Countryside Group



We would like to thank all the Cuxton customers who visited our Co-op store throughout the year and who chose us as their main sponsor. You managed to raise a magnificent £4,071 for us and we will be replacing a number of old stiles with kissing gates and putting up more benches for walkers in special viewing areas. Our volunteers continue to work throughout the year, either keeping the designated footpaths open for you to walk freely and to carry out the necessary winter woodland management work, as well as clearing fallen trees during the stormy weather.

If you would like to join us, we are out every 3rd weekend of the month and organise several social events. Contact Jan Batley on 01634 712157.

Ian Gray



Cuxton Parish Council Vacancy—Assistant Clerk

Starting Salary—£10.50 to £12.50 per hour

Hours of Work—10 hrs per week worked flexibly to ensure that deadlines are met including occasional evening meetings.

Place of work—Parish Office, The Pavilion, The Recreation Ground, Cuxton or from home, depending on Covid-19 conditions.

Cuxton Parish Council is committed to making a difference to the community. We are currently looking to recruit an Assistant Clerk to help the Parish Clerk manage the deliver of the Council's objectives.

Cuxton Parish Council welcomes all suitable applicants, however, applications that demonstrate an interest in the local community and upholding the positive reputation of Cuxton Parish Council would be advantageous.

Cuxton Parish Council is committed to equal opportunities and values diversity in its workforce.

For a copy of the Job description, person specification and application form visit

<https://cuxtonpc.org.uk/about-us/vacancies/>

Closing Date: 25 February 2022

Cuxton Parish Councillors

Chairman: Kay Hutchfield

Tracy Thorley

Martin Burley

Natalie Jackson

Elizabeth Maisey

Julie Porter

Pat Reynolds

Hilary Savage

Simon White

Sarah Wilson

Stuart Moore

chairman@cuxtonpc.org.uk

tracy@cuxtonpc.org.uk

martin@cuxtonpc.org.uk

natalie@cuxtonpc.org.uk

buffy@cuxtonpc.org.uk

julie@cuxtonpc.org.uk

pat@cuxtonpc.org.uk

hilary@cuxtonpc.org.uk

simon@cuxtonpc.org.uk

sarah@cuxtonpc.org.uk

stuart@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: Linda Elliott asstclerk@cuxtonpc.org.uk

The Parish Office: The Pavilion, Cuxton Recreation Ground, Bush Road, Cuxton, ME2 1EZ

www.cuxtonpc.org.uk

www.facebook.com/CuxtonParishCouncil

Academy of Cuxton Schools

Spring term dates 2022

Term 1: Tuesday 04/01 to Friday 11/02/2022

Half Term: Monday 14/02 to Friday 18/02/2022

Term 2: Monday 21/02 to Friday 01/04/2022

Holiday: 04/04 to 8/04/2022



Cuxton Parish Council
Serving our community

Editors: June Nicholson, Parish Clerk. & Linda Elliott, Asst Parish Clerk. Articles to be submitted by 15th of 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.