



Chevening Parish Council

Judith Hayton - Clerk

16 Beaconfields Sevenoaks TN13 2NH

Tel: 07981 759255

E-mail: clerk@cheveningparishcouncil.gov.uk

14 April 2022

Dear Parishioners

Hopefully we are at last coming out of the worst of the pandemic and as your Parish Council we are actively looking at ways to improve the lives of Parishioners and hopefully bring some joy after the torrid couple of years we have all had.

For the first time in my 18 months as Chairman we can realistically look forward to having an Annual Assembly meeting. This is a fantastic opportunity for everyone to get together, hear what the Council has done and plans to do and for you all to share your ideas and views.

The Annual Assembly is booked for Monday 25th April at 7.30 in the Parish Hall on Homedean Road – please come and join us there. As usual our SDC and KCC Councillors James London and Nick Chard will be there to share news from the District and County Councils. We normally invite a representative from Kent Police too, but if there is any particular group you would like to hear from, please let us know and we'll try and get them there.

Please take a couple of minutes to read my Annual Report on the following pages. I have changed the format slightly in that as well as looking back to the things that have taken up the Councils time, both the challenging and the mundane as inevitably a lot of what we do only becomes noticeable when it is not done, I have taken the opportunity to look forward into the rest of 2022 to share the plans we have started to put in place to both get together and make our Parish an even lovelier place to live.

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible on 25th April, but please do not hesitate to get in touch via the website if you need us

Kind regards

Nigel Williams
Chairman

Chairman's Annual Report 2021-2

This year, despite all our hopes to the contrary we still struggled with lockdowns and the continued challenges with Covid.

We also sadly said goodbye to Cllr Robbie Burgess who has moved out of Chipstead and so resigned from the Council, we have welcome Cllr Val Woodruff in her place.

I hope you agree our "Open Spaces" continue to look lovely. You may not be aware that the Parish Council maintains not only the Recreation Ground in Chipstead and Chipstead Common, but the Burial Ground and Churchyard, Bessels Green, the two open spaces in Chesterfield Drive, the small green in Bullfinch Close and Chipstead Green and Sailing Club Road. Last year's Year 6 from Chevening School very kindly planted "bee bombs" for us beside the river on Sailing Club Road. We are hoping to see wildflowers there this year as a result and then may expand it to other areas.

Fortunately (in this scenario) the summer weather was more "typically British" and therefore we were spared the hordes of people descending on the Chipstead Lakes area and trying break into private land in order to access the lake. Many people still do not realise (despite the many signs to the contrary) that all the land around the Lake is private. The Sailing Club do very kindly allow members of the public on their land to dog walk but it is still private land

An extraordinary amount of Council time this year was taken up with the planning proposal from Chevening Estates to create their "Parkland". A few lines do not cover the breadth of the proposal or it's hugely damaging impact on the lives of our parishioners but also those of surrounding parishes and we were beyond delighted when the District Council's Development Control Committee refused the application. We understand the Estate have requested a Public Inquiry on the Application so watch our website and Facebook page for updates in the coming weeks

Another area consuming much time and effort is the potential for flooding in Chipstead village. There is still work ongoing to sort the drains on the A25 which run across to the layby opposite Rivermere and consequently pose a risk to Moat Close. The Environment Agency check the water flow in the Darent but their remit has changed (with cost constraints) to ensuring the river is flowing and only clearing if it is blocked. Clearing the drains remains a perpetual problem and Highways are aware of the need to keep the drains flowing where the risk of flooding is greatest. I cannot let this section close without passing on the thanks of the Parish Council to Peter Woodruff, who has been our Flood Warden for many years and is now retiring from that role. His role is key in ensuring the members of the flood committee keep sluices clear and tackle problems before they become apparent. The excellent work he has done is borne out by the fact that most people don't know it is going on – which is exactly what you want with flood prevention. Peter has kindly agreed to keep walking the at risk areas and clearing debris and reporting issues, he has just handed over his mantel as flood warden. Thank you Peter.

We continue to raise the issue of the two junction "improvements" implemented by KCC at A21/A25/Westerham Road and at Chevening Cross Roads. The issue of extending the 20mph limit past Chevening School is also grinding along slowly as KCC do not have any budget for this, it will have to come out of Parish funds, but we hope to finally have it underway this year.

It was great to have all our 5 pubs back up and running when the Kings Head reopened at the end of May. Good luck to all of you in Hospitality and thank you for making the Parish more vibrant

The return of the Family Fun Day in August and the Remembrance service and Light up a Life service (which raised over £200 for Hospice in the Weald were also very welcome returns to "normality".

It is so important for the Parish Council to report to you not only what we have done, but also what we plan to do so that we can look forward to meeting expectations and all have things to look forward to.

As part of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations we are arranging for some new trees to be planted on the edge of the Recreation Ground from the gate to the Football field to the storage sheds. We plan to use our existing beacon to join in the beacon lighting on the evening of Thursday 2nd June at 8pm. I cannot guarantee we will have someone with bagpipes present to play the music specially composed for the occasion I'm afraid.

In addition, we will be holding street party on Friday 3rd June in Chevening Lane Chipstead (outside Chipstead Green). Cllr Woodruff is selling the tickets (£15 per table). We plan live music, a marquee on the Green in the event of inclement weather. Please book yourselves a table and come down and join us all celebrating this fantastic achievement

One of the key things I am passionate about is trying to make our Parish an even more beautiful place to live. To this end we are looking at a number of initiatives under what we have called "beautifying the Parish" these include planters on our open spaces on Bessels Green, Chipstead Green, Chipstead Common and overlooking the lake in Chesterfield Drive and at the "village" signs. We are also looking potentially put up small notices to acknowledge houses which had other historic uses as pubs, shops etc.

Some other dates for your diary include the Family Fun Day on Friday 19th August on Chipstead Recreation Ground 10.30am to 1pm. This is a fantastic day of free entertainment for children during the holidays. The Annual Remembrance Day commemoration will be on Sunday 13th November at 12 noon at the War Memorial by the Parish Hall and our Light Up a Life Christmas Service will be on Monday 5th December at 7pm on Chipstead Green. I look forward to seeing many of you at these events.

I think it would be remiss of me not to pay tribute here to Andy Hogg who has been landlord of the Bricklayers Arms for 14 years and is now sadly leaving to pursue other opportunities. I know you will join me in thanking Andy for all he has done for the Parish and to wish him all the very best for the future.

...and finally, the Councillors are all volunteers and we are all doing our best to work to make the Parish the best place we can. We really welcome your thoughts ideas and feedback about what you would like to see or change so please get involved and get in touch. Visit our Website www.cheveningparishcouncil.gov.uk and our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/Chevening-Parish-Council-333124350228065>



**The Queen's Platinum
Jubilee**

Parish Street Party

Friday 3rd June 2022 12 noon – 3pm

Chevening Road Chipstead

£15 per table

Contact: streetparty@cheveningparishcouncil.gov.uk

to book your table *****BOOKING ESSENTIAL*****



**The Queen's Platinum
Jubilee**