

# Catsfield Parish Council

## Newsletter – October 2020



### A letter from the Chairman.

As the autumn and winter approaches, we will all be aware of the challenges facing us in dealing with Covid19 and the impact it had on us all over the past months. At the time of writing this newsletter we appear to be heading for a second wave.

The response from volunteers in the spring and summer in our community has been amazing with a team of local people providing support to anyone needing help in dealing with the Covid restrictions. Our Council Clerk Alexandra Sharp has also made a huge contribution to the organization of this work and we will be reviewing again with volunteers what we may need to do over the winter months. Thank you to everyone involved with this.

The Covid restrictions also meant we had to close our community pavilion and the playground. Both have now re-opened but with limited access due to current social distancing and covid safe procedures.

Looking ahead we will need to keep the provision of services available under review in the short term to deal with a changing covid situation and also plan in a wider context what we want to achieve for our community in the long term when the current restrictions eventually recede.

Over the coming months the Council will be setting out our 5-year plan for Catsfield. This will consider both provision of facilities and services directly under our control and how we can both facilitate and work with Residents, Community groups, Organisations and Businesses in Catsfield to set out the aims and ambitions for our Village and deliver these over the next 5 years.

We will need to consider in our plans the implications of UK Government policy on new housing and development, our public spaces & community facilities, community health & wellbeing, our resilience to emergency (including dealing with Covid), public safety & policing, and how Catsfield may respond to climate and the biodiversity challenges that now impact us all.

We have some powers as a local authority to provide services and raise funds to pay for those services, and just as importantly, as demonstrated by the response to Covid from the community volunteers we can achieve far more by working with local groups and organisations to facilitate change and help with the sourcing of funding.

To manage planning we will set up a Planning Steering Group formed of councilors and residents. We will also as needed set up task groups to deal with each of the specific planning areas again formed of both councilors and residents.

We will engage and consult with residents throughout this process.

This is an ideal moment for you to engage with and contribute to planning for Catsfield. If you would like to take part in this either as a Councilor or a resident please contact our Clerk or talk to any of the Councilors for more information.

Communication is one of the key factors to the successful production and delivery of any plan. The role of Parish Council, what it is working on and how it engages with residents is not widely understood and although our Council has for many years reached out to the community we need to do better if we are to achieve our goals.

To improve our communications, we will use post, email and social media (Facebook initially) to deliver newsletters such as this and other communications. Please let us know by email to [clerk@catsfieldpc.co.uk](mailto:clerk@catsfieldpc.co.uk) if you do want to receive news by email and be able to join with us for on line meetings. We will only use your contact details for Parish Council communications with you.

Further information will be posted on our website. We will also engage via, workshops and surgeries (possibly by Zoom if face to face is not possible).

*Help us make a difference to our Village*

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### Vacancies for Parish Councillor

We have two Councillor vacancies and are inviting residents who would like to be a Council member and support Catsfield to join us. To find out more about the role, please contact our Parish Clerk by email at [clerk@catsfieldpc.co.uk](mailto:clerk@catsfieldpc.co.uk) or by phone on 07483 306 519 or write to the address at the foot of this letter. You can also download an application form from our website <http://catsfieldpc.co.uk/docs/CPCApplicationForm2020.pdf> . We need people with enthusiasm who are willing to set aside some time to help manage and support the Council's activities.

### Current Parish Council Members.

Chairman: Keith Robertson Vice Chair: TBA

Members: Kirsty Curtis, Martin Holgate, Damian Richards, David Scott,

### Safety

#### Roads & Speeding

Speeding has and remains to be a problem for our Village. We have a Speedwatch team which operate using a hand-held radar device to record speeding vehicles, plus some fixed radar survey equipment. The results are passed to the Police who will both contact the registered keeper of the vehicle and will respond with increased enforcement in the area. The more Speedwatch volunteers we have the more effective this will be. If you would like to join the team and take part for a couple of hours a month please contact our clerk [clerk@catsfieldpc.co.uk](mailto:clerk@catsfieldpc.co.uk). Or see [www.communityspeedwatch.org](http://www.communityspeedwatch.org)

#### Speed limit Signs.

After several years and effort led by Cllr David Scott the 30mph speed limit point near to the school has been moved more than 200 meters toward the Church. This will we hope slow traffic passing the school.

### Our Recreation Ground

Covid-19 has required some significant changes to our operation of the facilities. Initially all was locked down. From 1 September we opened some of the Pavilion facilities on a reduced capacity to allow sport groups/clubs using the recreation ground to make use of the playing field with access to a toilet.

It is essential that we know who is using the facility and that users pre book their events. To enable this, we have changed the locks on the Pavilion to ensure that only users who have agreed procedures in place have access.

We will continue to review what capacity levels can be accommodated for teams using the recreation ground and the pavilion in line with Government guidelines and our own risk assessments.

The playground as an outdoor facility was also opened from 1<sup>st</sup> September but all users must ensure that they follow hygiene procedures and maintain social distancing when using the equipment. The procedures to be followed will be clearly signposted.

**If there anything you would like to see happen in our Village or have any comments please contact [clerk@catsfieldpc.co.uk](mailto:clerk@catsfieldpc.co.uk)**

Also Find us on

facebook

**Website:** [www.catsfieldpc.co.uk](http://www.catsfieldpc.co.uk) **or Post to** The Clerk, The Village Hall, Church Road, Catsfield, East Sussex TN33 9DP.

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