

Newsletter

Hextable Parish Council



2018



Dear Residents

I hope you've had a good summer.

There will be an Open Event on Monday the 10th September 4pm – 9pm at The Howard Venue in Egerton Avenue for residents to look at the options to possibly develop the parish complex in the future for some housing and to provide new parish facilities in the village. I must stress two important facts, this does not include building on Hextable Gardens and one of the options will be to do nothing.

The Parish, like all the parishes in the district, has a duty to consider all land that is not green belt to build much needed homes and take the opportunity to provide new parish facilities for future benefit. The councillors believe it is not for us to decide what option to take so we hope you will have a look at the choices and read the information with each one before giving your decision. If the feedback on the 10th is not decisive we will organize a village vote.

Kind Regards,

Darren Kitchener

Chairman



New Parish Councillors for the next Local Elections.

Five new councillors will be needed for the local elections next May due to the retirement of some of the long serving councillors. Please give some consideration to joining the council as Hextable needs local community minded people to come forward. The commitment is for four years with

about 10 Council meetings a year plus committee meetings, work with residents and community groups and some meetings outside the village. Unfortunately the positions are unpaid but any out of pocket expenses incurred will be paid. If you want to shadow a councillor for a month to see the time and commitment the role entails before committing to four years this can be arranged.

Please consider putting yourself forward for a local community role as a Parish Councillor to take the parish forward for the next few years.

Newsletters – New Editor Please!

I have written the newsletters four times a year for ten years but this is the last newsletter from me as I am retiring, so we need a new editor please. The new editor doesn't have to be a councillor they can be any community minded resident who can spare a few hours on a regular basis.

I would like to thank residents who have sent in items for the newsletter over the years and those who have taken the time to send notes to the editor about items in the newsletters.

Dee Morris

A1 Audit for Hextable



The audit of accounts for Hextable Parish Council for the year ended 31 March 2018 has been concluded and it received an A1 rating again. It is a requirement that this information is published to residents. The Annual Return is available for inspection on application to: Mrs Tracy Lane, Parish Clerk, Hextable Parish Council, College Road, Hextable BR8 7LT .

Copies will be provided on payment of £10 for each copy of the Annual Return



Fly-Tipping

Fly-tipping on highways, footpaths or public land in Hextable can be reported at any time to the District Council on 01732 227000. If out-of-hours, a message will tell you that the offices are closed but hang on until the end of the message as you will get through to the Council's CCTV Control Room.

Please supply a description of the waste and approximate bulk so they know what size of lorry to send, its exact location, when you first saw it and photographs are good. If you see fly-tipping in progress dial 101 – but do still note a description of the vehicle and culprit(s), the registration, direction of travel, date/time but please do not move the waste or open sacks because it may be dangerous material, also it could invalidate evidence.

Fish & Chips Monday

Hextable now has a fish and chip van in the centre of the village near the Post Office every Monday early evening. The food is delicious! Use it or lose it.



Untrained Dogs

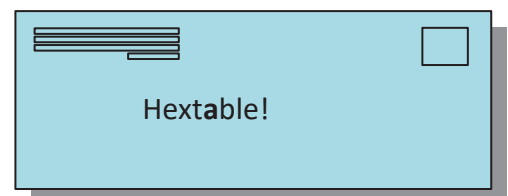
There have been three upsetting incidents involving dogs in Hextable Gardens this summer. These incidents are particularly concerning as the dog owners were unconcerned. Two of these involved dogs running, barking and jumping up at young children which upset them terribly.

On Sunday 1st July a 6 year old girl called Summer was riding her bike around the path by the pond in Hextable Gardens when a dog ran over to her and bit the top of her leg. She was taken to hospital where she needed four stitches and antibiotics. She had to attend another 2 check ups but we are pleased to say the wound is now healing nicely.

If your dog is not trained please keep a lead on them particularly if you see young children. Dog training sessions are held in the village hall. The Parish Council wants everyone to enjoy the green open spaces in the village but please be a responsible dog owner as we want our children and grandchildren to be safe when in Hextable Gardens or Hextable Park.

Hextable Address

Representatives of Hextable Hub and the Parish Council met with our MP The Rt. Hon Sir Michael Fallon on 23 June to discuss bringing Hextable officially into our Postal Addresses. Sir Michael has taken this up with the Royal Mail on our behalf and they have agreed under their Code of Practice to make this change providing no more than 20 % of our residents object. A letter will be sent to every householder giving you this information.



We believe the extra line will mean that when our Post Code is entered online in the future that our addresses will not just show Swanley but also Hextable. We will then be officially identified across the country which we are not at the present time.

Remembrance Service

Sunday 11th Nov

10.50 start Doors Open 10.30am

The Memorial Hall at Five Wents

Everyone welcome



A short service to remember those who gave their lives from Hextable, Swanley Village and Swanley.



Beating The Bounds 15th Sept.

The village tradition of walking the bounds of the village each year is on Saturday 15th September starting at 10am from the Heritage Centre. It will be led this year by Ken Grist. The walk is approximately 4 miles long but there is a short cut for less hardly walkers. This walk takes in wonderful views of the countryside surrounding our village. Residents should wear suitable clothing and footwear and bring a bottle of water. Children and dogs are very welcome.

Heritage Open Day 15th September

'Heritage Open Day' is a national event and Hextable Heritage Society are opening the doors of the Heritage Centre in College Road on Saturday 15th September, as part of the 'Heritage Open Day' celebrations.

This year's theme is 'Unsung Heroines', tying in with the 100th anniversary of women's suffrage. We would be very interested in hearing any stories of local women who broke the mould - women who brought up large families alone after losing their men in the war, or who took over men's jobs during the conflict, such as the famous Land Girls, for inclusion in our 2018 display.



All are welcome to the HOD event which is, as ever, completely free. We will open from 10.00 to 4.00, with the traditional Beating of the Bounds walk departing soon after 10.00. There is some parking on site, the venue is fully accessible, and there will be light refreshments available."

The photograph above shows Hextable House which stood in Hextable Gardens at the end of The Avenue of Limes. *Event held in conjunction with English Heritage's 'Heritage Open Days'.*

For further details, please see the HOD website at www.heritageopendays.org.uk or Sharon on 01322 616424

Improvements to the Village Green

The Parish Council carried out work recently to improve the access to the village green, we hope you like it. A consultation by the District Council identified the village green as not easy to access. So the dark bushes have been removed and a slope provided for push chairs and wheelchairs to allow inclusive and easy access. Our groundsmen are seeding the grass areas that are left bare after the works were completed and a new flowerbed will be planted. The entrance is vastly improved and opened up. The contractor was Coppards and thank you to Cllr Cliff Barnes, Chairman of Open Spaces, for overseeing the project.

Residents may have seen Lewis and Barrie watering the beds in the centre of the village very early in the morning or early evening in recent months due to the very hot summer. The magnificent display in the flower bed on the green is the RAF emblem to mark the 500th Anniversary of the RAF.



Andy Lawrence reports that he is meeting regularly with IPAG and is bringing local concerns to their attention and talking to local PCSOs. Hextable remains a low crime area.

Planning Application

There is a planning application for three houses on the overgrown land next to the former Manzoori Clinic in College Road. This is privately owned land submitted by the owners but they have offered the village part of the land to build a parish office. It is well known that since the parish was formed over ten years ago it has been an intention to have a designated parish office, conveniently situated for residents to visit, but large enough to hold the vast amount of documents that the council is required to keep for 7 years or more without storing them elsewhere. The parish council resolved not to comment on the application to the planning department at the district council as it has an interest.

Pond in Hextable Gardens

Some of the £10,000 that was bequeathed to the Parish Council by an ex college student specifically to be spent in the gardens has been spent on improving the pond. The pond is well used by children for pond dipping and for school visits so will be made shallower for safety but slightly wider with more rock plants. It is hoped it will attract even more pond life.



Eastbourne Trip

There are a couple of spaces left for our Eastbourne trip on Wednesday 12th September, £7.50 for residents and £10 for non residents. The coach will leave the Village Green at 9.45am and leave Eastbourne at 4.30pm to arrive back in Hextable about 5.30pm. Please ring the Parish Office on 668530, or pop into the Parish office in College Road.

Suspected car thief arrested after pursuit in Hextable

In March police patrols saw a silver Skoda being driven in Rowhill Road without a registration plate. When officers requested the car to stop it failed to do so and following a short pursuit was found to have been abandoned after a collision near Puddledock Lanemwith a telegraph pole. The driver was reported to have made off by foot. Following a search of the area a 20-year-old man, of no fixed address, was arrested. Checks later showed the vehicle had been reported stolen during a burglary in Hartley.



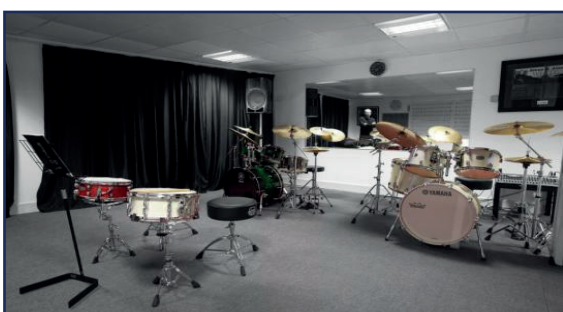
The Howard Venue

The Howard Venue in Egerton Avenue is not just for dance and fitness it is also very popular for music. All ages welcome to all classes/groups.



Wind Band Thursdays 5pm – 7pm £30 per term. www.hextablewindband.co.uk or Facebook.

Choir Tuesdays 7.30pm – 8.30pm £3 per week. Men and women all ages. All types of songs.



Drumming lessons either solo or group in a sound proof studio run by Danny Rose from 'The Real Thing' Tel: 07730 396831. Plus keyboard, guitar and singing lessons.

There is always something new at THV for all ages, male and female, from tots to over 90's, so check out the calendar on the website, have a taster session or pop in to have a browse through the leaflets to see what you may like to try.

www.thehowardvenue.co.uk or 01322 618618.

Firework Night Friday Nov 2nd

Hextable Park 7.30pm start

(Top of Emerson Ave)

Gates Open at 7pm

Free Event - Collection for Local Charities

Please walk if possible to ease parking for residents

The Parish Council would like to thank the ATC for their help on the night.



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info@fivewentspreschool.co.uk
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Hextable Village
PRE-SCHOOL

The Gallery, Hextable Heritage Gardens

Web: www.hextablevillagepreschool.org

Email: manager@hextablevillagepreschool.org

Tel: 01322 613 858

Open: Monday to Friday, 9am till 3pm for Children from 2 years old



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District Local Plan

The Government has said that this district has to build nearly 14,000 homes by 2035 - and there is no choice but to plan for what the government has told us to do.

Sevenoaks District Council's consultation on future housing sites (the Local Plan) is open until 10th September. There are a number of sites in and around Hextable - you can view and comment on all proposed housing sites in the local area: <https://www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/draftlocalplan>

Every comment on the website (or in writing to Sevenoaks) will count as these will all be documented.

There are no planning applications as the plan is just assessing sites for possible future development. The Parish Council does not support development on any site in the Green Belt, this includes Hextable Gardens, but supports new homes on sites inside the village and on brownfield land such as Oasis school site. The village has to provide some homes to protect our Green Belt from development.

The priority for the district council will be land in existing built up areas and land that has previously been developed before Green Belt land is considered. Although Green Belt land will undoubtedly be put forward directly by land owners such as the many hundreds of houses in the previous 'Garden Village' site with a possible access being considered at the entrance to Hextable at the bottom of Highlands Hill.

If the Local Plan does not include land to build enough homes in this district there is a danger the government won't approve the plan - leaving this district vulnerable to developers building anywhere they can win an appeal - which is what is happening in Maidstone and other places now. Or the Inspector just including land that they decide to at the Public Examination stage of the Local Plan next year when land owners have the right to go directly to the Planning Inspector to have their land included regardless of what Sevenoaks say.

With planned development comes infrastructure (new schools, medical facilities, sports/leisure or additional or new bus routes etc) that would service existing and new residents - with unplanned development comes nothing. So we need to agree and decide where we wish to see new homes built.

If the District Council attends the examination with a robust plan that meets local housing need, or has strong reasons why we can't meet the local housing need, the plan should be approved protecting our precious Greenbelt. If it doesn't the Inspector may include other sites that we don't know about yet or he can even refuse to approve the plan altogether which would leave this area very vulnerable to piecemeal development in our Green Belt.

Exceptional Circumstances

The government is committed to protecting the Greenbelt but land owners can develop land in 'exceptional circumstances' in order to meet the country's housing shortage. The government has not defined what it means by 'exceptional circumstances'. Sevenoaks District Council has defined exceptional circumstances as development where there is a proven need for new homes and social and community benefits to meet an existing local need.



Poppy Fields Hextable Village

KCC's Rights of Way Consultation

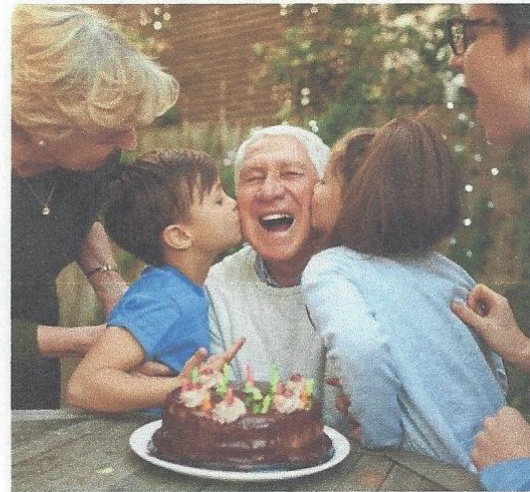
Hextable has a lot of walkers who may like to take part in Kent County Council's consultation on the draft Rights of Way Improvement Plan.

This closes on 12 September. www.kent.gov.uk/rightsofwayimprovementplan to take part.



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Independent

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Deputy Chairman

Cllr Dee Morris

Independent

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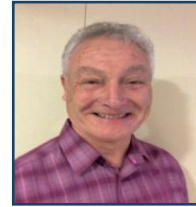


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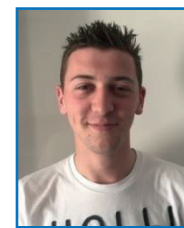


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Cllr Dee Morris cldr.morris@sevenoaks.gov.uk Tel: 07799885795

KCC Councillor: Cllr Michael Horwood Michael.Horwood@kent.gov.uk Tel: 07815483891

Member of Parliament: The Rt. Hon Michael Fallon MP fallonm@parliament.uk Tel: 0207 219 6482

Michael Fallon has a monthly surgery, please phone for an appointment.

HEXTABLE PARISH COUNCIL, COLLEGE ROAD, HEXTABLE BR7 8LT

TEL: 01322 668530

PARISH CLERK: MRS TRACY LANE. OFFICE HOURS: 9.30AM – 1.30PM WEEKDAYS

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WEBSITE: HEXTABLEPARISHCOUNCIL.COM