

Centre Piece for Key Magazine March 2018 edition

Just as I thought Spring was arriving I am plunged back into hugging the radiator! The garden is beginning to, very slowly, show signs of Spring with the appearance of crocus, primroses and snowdrops as well as noticeably longer days but it still feels like winter outside. The Parish Council met on a very wet and windy Valentine's Day in February but nonetheless had a very productive meeting.

The emphasis this month was on planning for the Summer. After consultation with local children a decision was taken on their selection for an extension of the West Wood play area and replacement of the roundabout in the Recreation Ground. The groups were unanimous in requesting monkey bars, climbing equipment and junior swings. The Council decided that a cone climber would be most appropriate for the climbing equipment as the small climbing wall in West Wood on the junior multi-play is not very popular whereas the cone climber in the Recreation Ground is very heavily used. Quotations will now be sought from suppliers and subject to funding be installed sometime this Summer. The Council, will as usual, be seeking some external financial support via grants and sponsorship so if you are aware of any opportunities please do contact me with details.

I hope you have the **Annual Parish Meeting, Wednesday 14 March 2018, commencing 7.30pm in the Jim England Hall** in your diary. Planning for this entertaining and informative meeting was concluded at the February Meeting. The Jim England Hall will be open at 7pm for refreshments and time to chat to exhibitors, collect bus/train timetables or purchase our publications of 'Tales from a Kent Village, Hildenborough as seen through the Parish Council Archives' (£10) or 'This is Hildenborough from A to Z' (£9.50). There are only a small number of the latter publication left. The evening will consist of the usual report from the Parish Council on achievements of the past year, input from Kent Police and the highlight of the evening will be **Mrs Rogers from Riverhill Himalayan Gardens** giving an illustrated talk on the history of Riverhill House and Gardens. Her family have lived there since 1842 so I am sure it will be a most entertaining and interesting presentation.

Another event to put in your diary will be the Scout's Party in the Park which the Council agreed could be held on Saturday 30 June between 3pm and 10.30pm. Last year it was very well attended and everyone seemed to have had a great time.

Of great concern to members was the report received of an accident along Stocks Green Road when a pedestrian was hit and injured by a passing car which failed to stop. There seem to be many reports of incidents or near misses of this nature that the Parish Council is to look into commissioning a feasibility study into the provision of a footway to Rings Hill. It would be helpful to know who walks to the station or to other destinations, such as the school, along this road, or who would walk if it was safe to do so. It would also be helpful to know details of any other incidents or near misses which could be used as evidence.

Continuing on highways issues, the Parish Council has taken a step forward towards having further signage reminding drivers of the speed limit along the B245. An application has been sent into KCC for approval of the siting of these signs.

Changes in bus services never seem to be out of the news recently and this month is no exception. Services are being revised as from 11 March (timetables not yet available) and this will affect the 402

which is to terminate at Sevenoaks bus station with Mini-bus service no.1 taking passengers on to Dunton Green via Pembroke Road. It is thought that currently the service running every 20mins will be replaced with a 30min. one. The 435 Go-Coach service will continue on to Sevenoaks Tubs Hill railway Station. The 218/19 from North Tonbridge will have a revised timetable but continuing on Monday to Saturday to North Farm retail park. Another service being completely revised is the 6/6A from Tunbridge Wells to Maidstone. However the 6X which links Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells hospitals will continue. The Council does endeavour to have current timetables available at the Farmers' Market on the second Tuesday of the month between 10.00 and 11.00 am. It is hoped the new timetables will be available at the Market on 13 March 2018 and at the Annual Parish Meeting.

PCSO Toni Matthew attended the Parish Council Meeting and reported the crime figures which showed that once again theft from vehicles and theft of vehicles was reported on seven occasions since November. So if you park in the commuter car parks or in the area please be vigilant by not leaving valuables on show (or in the car) and displaying the fact that there is nothing worth taking and making sure your car is secure when you leave it.

Please bear with us during the next three months as it will be necessary to close the office for two or three days at a time to undertake work necessary in preparation for the General Data Protection Review. This has to be completed by the time the latest regulations become law on 28 May 2018. I am sure that most of you will be aware of the various recent incidents of personal information being hacked or shared which has resulted in a national (and European) review of practices for the storage of this information. All companies and public authorities now have to ensure their data is as secure as possible. If there is an emergency, for instance you notice a dangerous fault on play equipment, please leave a message on the answerphone as this will be monitored and acted upon. Other messages will be dealt with at a later date.

Finally, Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council, is to organise the annual litter clean-up in March. If you are interested in being involved please contact us with your contact details (email/phone number) which can be shared with others organising the event.

As always if you need to contact us for any reason please email on clerk@hildenboroughpc.kentparishes.gov.uk or ring on 01732 832367 (leave a message if this is not answered as this answerphone is regularly monitored). Two members will be attending the Farmers' Market between 10.00 and 11.00 on Tuesday 13 March 2018 and will have bus/train timetables, other information and copies of the Council's two publications (Tales from a Kent Village, Hildenborough (£10) and This is Hildenborough from A to Z (£9.50) to purchase.

Pam Gow