

Centre Piece for October 2016 Keys Magazine

Great News! The Hildenborough Activity Zone will be constructed shortly consisting of a new children's playground and a fitness area for adults. The contractors for HAGS/SMP are due on site on 3 October, weather permitting. The site will be securely fenced off but please discourage your children from attempting to enter the construction site – even though it may look a very exciting place to explore, many dangers lurk. There will also be new gates to the play area which will close more efficiently than those currently in place. When the project is finished you will see a 'thank you' board to be erected adjacent to the new area listing all the national and local companies and organisations who have helped to make this possible. The Parish Council is also very grateful to all those individual residents who have made contributions, many anonymous – they have all been most valuable and greatly appreciated. It is most reassuring to know that so many people are so community minded and will help when the need is there.

Watch out for posters on our notice board and website advertising the opening event to which everyone will be welcome.

Below is an artists' impression of how the new playground will look. Included will be some seating not shown in the picture.



Do have a look at our new website which has recently been upgraded and redesigned. The information is more or less the same but we hope you will find it more accessible. We have included many new photographs of areas which will be very familiar to you.

Earlier this week the Volunteer Flood Wardens met together for their annual get together, the intention being to iron out any problems which have occurred during the year. The Parish Council has been discussing their Emergency Plan which incorporates the Flood Plan. A modified version of

this will be put up on the website in due course – contact phone numbers for individuals will not be included as these, in most cases, are confidential.

We do need more volunteer flood wardens as a few have now moved away or for other reasons are not able to continue with the role. The job is not onerous and could be invaluable for those who live in floodable areas – you do not have to live in the floodable area to become a warden. Training is given by the Environment Agency which in itself is valuable advice. Please do contact me or one of the Volunteer Wardens if you think you could help the community and us in taking on this role.

Everyone can help in advance of any threaten flood by reporting any blocked drains or debris accumulating in streams to your local Warden, visit the Kent County Council website to report online or just leave me a message.

The Council has been informed that the new financial arrangements for the collection of Council Tax from 2017/18 have reached a conclusion and proposals will be put before the Borough Council Meeting to be held early in November for ratification. This will have far reaching effects across the Borough and the Parish Council Finance Committee await the detail to see how it and as a consequence you will be affected.

Another matter of great importance to us all are the proposals for the Local Plan. This is out for consultation from 30 September and there are to be displays and offers to answer questions at several sites across the Borough. The Parish Council will, of course, be looking at this and if you would like to pass any comments on to them to consider prior to sending in their own comments please do so before their next meeting on 16 November 2016. We will, of course, be advertising on our notice boards and website details of any public displays or meetings on the subject.

The Council received a request for a Speedwatch team to be set up and this was discussed at the September meeting. It was agreed that if a team of volunteers could be mustered to man this, the Parish Council would look into the funding issues related to it. If you can get together a team of volunteers please let me know.

It was very reassuring this month to receive the monthly crime report as there were only two reported matters this month. This is the lowest figure for some considerable time but it shouldn't mean we should not continue to take care that our homes look lived in while we are out or stop ensuring our garages, sheds and other outbuildings are securely locked. Please take care.

Don't forget if you have comments, have a query or just a good idea for the community do get in touch. Two members will be at the Farmers' Market on Tuesday 11 October between 10 and 11 am so do speak to them. They have up to date train and bus timetables and a variety of other useful information as well as our two publications, This is Hildenborough from A-Z and Stories from the Notes from Parish Council Minutes 1938-52. My contact details are as usual: phone 01732 832367 and email: clerk@hildenboroughpc.kentparishes.gov.uk