

CENTRE PIECE FOR NOVEMBER KEYS

Another successful litter pick was undertaken on Saturday 2 October. It still amazes us just how much litter is dumped in hedgerows, verges, footways, and our lovely open spaces at the Recreation Ground in Riding Lane as well as West Wood and the Village Green. We do have some hardy and committed litter pickers in Hildenborough. Around 20 villagers braved the very autumnal weather to attend October's litter pick. Lots of rubbish dealt with, including a dumped suitcase and many parts of a bike. If you would like to join future litter picks, we meet the first Saturday of the month 10am to noon at West Wood and the Recreation Ground. Our next pick is Saturday 6 November. We have a Facebook group please search Hildenborough Litter Pickers.



*Just examples of
what was
collected!*



The Parish Council at this month's meeting on 13 October agreed to make £500 available to the group for more and replacement equipment. A small plea from me though, please take advantage of the hi-viz tabard and wear it, particularly if you are near to roads. Last month one volunteer was retrieving litter from the hedge in Riding Lane and really couldn't be seen by approaching vehicles as they were wearing clothing which was merging in with the background even though it was daylight.

There was plenty to discuss at the Parish Council meeting on Wednesday 6th October. There were discussions on consultations and participation of the Council in National or local matters, the Queen's Platinum Jubilee being one. Members thought it would be a good idea to join many places across the country and light the beacon, although it isn't in the Parish Council's power to do this as it belongs to the church. However, they could and did decide to plant a commemorative tree, making a contribution to the Queen's Green Canopy project, the details of which will be decided later.

Another item which will affect local residents is the Boundary Commission review of Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council's plan to reduce the number of borough councillors to 44. The proposal from Tonbridge & Malling was that Hildenborough ward would include part of Tonbridge. Members were not happy about including our village in with part of the urban area of Tonbridge but fortunately the Boundary Commission took the same view. The current proposal out for consultation is that Hildenborough, in order to make the number of residents in the ward compatible with the other wards, should have more houses in the Hilden area added to it, such as Stacey Road. The Parish Council will be responding before the deadline in December.

Negotiations are coming to a conclusion over the use of the Recreation Ground during the football season by Tonbridge Youth Football Club. It looks as if, in addition to the thriving club for our youngest footballers already meeting on a Saturday, older youngsters will be adding to activity on Saturday and also Sunday. There looks as if there is to be 9 a-side and 7 a-side pitches in the space

between the cricket/stoolball areas and the children's play area. These will, of course, be available during school time for the school to use as in the past.



Our grounds contractor has been very busy recently and has repainted the veranda in front of the Pavilion as well as various other parts on it following the construction of the new storage container and the two barriers either side of the car park. It all makes for a great improvement to the entrance area of the Recreation Ground.

The pavilion and inner barrier looking very spruce!

The Council has been busy revising and reviewing some of their policies which has included the very important Management of Open Spaces and Risk Assessment Policy which is the major part of the Parish Council's provision for the community for leisure purposes. It has been particularly important during this year with the Council's aim to make provision to keep users COVID-safe. Various steps were put in place to remind users to keep a safe distance, sanitizing hands/equipment, limiting the number of users on equipment and in some instances removal of swings which were too close together. It is pleasing to note that now all the swings have been rehung, although we do still urge all residents to take precautions such as sanitizing hands frequently since, at the time of writing, COVID rates are very high in Tonbridge & Malling area.



Swings in the Recreation Ground all rehung and usable

A bit more admin was covered with the revision of the Terms of Reference for the Council's committees with the provision to delegate minor repairs and other expenditure to the Open Spaces Committee in order that these can be undertaken quicker than waiting for approval at the following Parish Council Meeting.

The Council's Highways Improvement Plan was also reviewed. Unfortunately there had been little progress since the previous review, mainly a consequence of COVID regulations/restrictions. However, the Council is now in a position to pursue improvements to the pedestrian crossing by One Stop, some signage and road markings along the B245 as well as addressing parking on the footway restricting or blocking use by pedestrians.

More good news was received from KCC on the footpath closure crossing the main railway line at Foucham crossing on MT27. This temporary closure has now been extended for a further 2 years to 2023. Another footpath which has resulted in confusion is the diversion of MT42. Fortunately the Public Rights of Way Officer promptly looked into the matter and has now clarified the correct route.

Don't forget a member will be at the Farmers' Market on the second Tuesday of the Month (9th of November) for anyone to put forward ideas, raise queries or just comment on some aspect. You can, of course, contact me by email: clerkhildenboroughpc@gmail.com by phone 01732 832367 (please leave a message if I am not available and I will get back to you but do remember to leave your name and number). All our minutes and agenda and much more can be found on our website www.hildenborougpc.org.uk/