

CENTRE PIECE FOR NOVEMBER 2024 KEYS MAGAZINE

Last month saw a new member in attendance at the Parish Council meeting on 9th October, after local resident and management consultant, Mandy Pereira, was co-opted on to the council. Mandy has a special interest in local planning issues and was happy to accept an invitation to join the council's Planning Committee.

Highways

During last month's meeting, councillors agreed to carry out a Pre-consultation Engagement with the local community with regard to the installation of double yellow lines on London Road opposite the Harvest garage. Inconsiderate parking by vehicles across the pavement has been forcing pedestrians out on to the busy road and the Parish Council has a record of numerous complaints about the situation. The council also agreed to install a sign on Riding Lane to remind motorists to drive carefully as they approach the school, library and other amenities that attract the footfall of numerous pedestrians throughout the day.

Recreation Ground

Following a playground safety inspection earlier this year, the council have arranged for some areas of the playground surface in the Riding Lane Recreation Ground to be repaired. We apologise for any inconvenience this work may cause as areas of the playground will have to be cordoned off while repairs are carried out but it is important to maintain the playground in good condition for the safety of its many visitors. Corroded sections of the basketball frames in the Multi Use Games Area adjacent to the tennis courts are being replaced this autumn, which will mean access will be limited at the facility for a day or two while the work takes place.

Councillors have also been considering the next steps to take with regard to the installation of a footpath around the perimeter of the Recreation Ground, a major project that will be largely funded by S106 monies generated by the Berkeley Homes Oakhill development which is nearing completion.

West Wood

Our landscape contractor visited the pump cycle track last month to clear away overgrown vegetation and any debris that may cause obstruction to cyclists. He has also cut back vegetation that was becoming invasive at the far corner of the track, revealing damage to the fence beneath which the Parish Council's maintenance contractor, Andy, has been attending to.

Andy has also been busy at West Wood pond, installing safety signs and equipment ready for when the renovated pond and its abundance of wildlife will be ready for nature enthusiasts to visit next spring. The Parish Council is in the process of creating a smart new Information Board which will tell visitors all about the project to turn the pond into a haven for the endangered Great Crested Newt and other species of wildlife that may be spotted there.

We have checked that the supply of sandbags in the store at West Wood is well stocked-up in case they are needed during the coming winter months. Hildenborough's drainage

infrastructure does seem to have coped well with some recent prolonged and heavy downpours but it's always best to be prepared.

War Memorial

The Hildenborough Guides have been busy tidying up the plants around the War Memorial recently, and have added some colourful new plants ready for Remembrance Sunday. New posts around the border of the War Memorial are also due to be installed and the work will be carried out later this year.

Farmers' Market

A representative of Hildenborough Parish Council is normally in attendance at the Farmers' Market on the second Tuesday of every month to meet local residents and listen to any concerns that can be passed on to their fellow councillors. Please say hello if you should see them – they will be delighted to hear any feedback from local residents regarding the work being carried out by the council on your behalf.

Finally, it was with much sadness that the Members of the Parish Council learned of the recent death of Colmar Lewis. Colmar has been a much valued member of the Council for some 20 years and his knowledge and experience will be sorely missed by us all.

If you have any questions or concerns to send to the Parish Council, please e-mail me at clerk@hildenboroughparishcouncil.gov.uk or call me on 07828 329029.

Julia Church
Parish Clerk