

## **CENTRE PIECE FOR DECEMBER 2024 KEYS MAGAZINE**

At the November Finance Committee Meeting, councillors discussed the Parish Council's budget for next year and agreed to recommend that the members approve a small increase of 2% in the precept for the next financial year due to inflation and to cover the cost of projects including the installation of a footpath around the Recreation Ground. The council is also in the process of building up a reserve fund to build a new pavilion in the Rec which will be an enormous asset to the community. Other projects earmarked for next year include a sustainable landscaping project in the Recreation Ground; installation of a new fence around the playground in the Rec and the addition of one or two items of accessible playground equipment to the existing equipment in both the Village's playgrounds.

At the November Parish Council meeting, Kent County Councillor, Cllr. Harry Rayner, asked the Parish Council to help make local residents aware of the Winter Fuel Payment where residents born before 23<sup>rd</sup> September 1958 could get either £200 or £300 to help pay heating bills. For more information and to check eligibility criteria visit [www.gov.uk/winter-fuel-payment](http://www.gov.uk/winter-fuel-payment).

### **Highways**

An expert in traffic management attended the Planning Committee Meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> November to advise the Committee on how best to prepare for any future housing developments comprising 100 or more properties with regard to local highways infrastructure. He explained that independent traffic surveys have to be carried out as part of the pre-application process which are considered by Kent County Council, the highways authority. KCC's recommendations with regard to the impact of a development on local traffic flow are then taken into consideration by the planning authority, Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council. There is no requirement for the Parish Council to undertake its own surveys but the councillors will be following the progress of any development proposals and ensuring they meet all planning criteria.

At the November Parish Council meeting the councillors approved the purchase of a speed warning sign for installation on Riding Lane, to remind motorists emerging from the national speed limit that they are entering a built up area and need to slow down. It is hoped this will make it safer for motorists pulling out of the Recreation Ground car park and for all pedestrian traffic in this busy hub of the village. The councillors also approved the pre-consultation engagement survey with regard to the installation of double yellow lines opposite the Harvest Garage on London Road. The survey will be distributed to residents living close to where the proposed double yellow lines will be located and will also be promoted on the Hildenborough Parish Council Facebook page and website. Alternatively, please e-mail [clerk@hildenboroughparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@hildenboroughparishcouncil.gov.uk) if you wish to complete the survey.

Following a request to Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council to install a dog waste bin opposite the Esso Garage on the other side Tonbridge Road, I can report that the request was refused on the following grounds: there is already a dog bin located nearby that adequately serves the needs of local dog owners; the proposed location for a new bin is too close to residential homes, which may lead to concerns regarding odour and cleanliness; the installation and ongoing maintenance of an additional bin would incur costs that are not currently justified given the existing resources; based on the TMBC's assessments, the volume of dog waste generated in this area does not warrant the addition of another bin.

## **Open Spaces**

Councillors recently agreed to take advantage of a sale to purchase two new benches for the playground in the Recreation Ground and one new bench for the playground in West Wood. The benches are made from recycled plastic and are very durable.

The mowing season has come to an end and we are now in the midst of the leaf-clearing season, with our Maintenance Contractor, Andy, ensuring the footpaths in West Wood and the Recreation Ground are kept clear of leaves that could become quite treacherous and slippery if they are not removed. The repairs to the damaged playground surface in the Recreation Ground will be taking place during December and it is anticipated that the repairs to the basketball frames will have been completed by the end of November.

A new volunteer has recently joined the Hildenborough Flood Wardens and he lives in Riding Lane, one of the areas badly affected by flooding in October. Kent County Council very quickly investigated the drain in Riding Lane and discovered the flooding was caused by a blockage resulting from logs that had been washed down the drain. The logs have now been removed. If you are interested in joining Hildenborough's team of Flood Wardens and would like more information, please contact the phone number/e-mail address below.

Following the sad death of Cllr Lewis there is now a vacancy for a new parish councillor, so please get in touch if you are interested and would like more information about the role.

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

**Julia Church**  
**Parish Clerk**