

Centre Piece for July Keys Magazine

Great news, the Parish Council has been very fortunate to be awarded a conditional grant of £25,000 from Veolia Environmental Trust (subject to the signing of a Financial Agreement) towards the refurbishment of the Play Area and installation of Exercise Equipment for Adults – known as the Hildenborough Activity Zone. The Parish Council has also agreed to contribute £25,000 towards this project. The whole project will cost £60,000 and to meet the shortfall of £10,000 the Council has undertaken to obtain donations/sponsorship. Already some have come forward but there is some way to go yet – so if you know of anyone who is able to make a contribution please put us in touch, any size of donation would be gratefully received and would benefit the majority of local residents. Donors will be recognised, if they wish, on a ‘thank you’ board on the site and on our website. You can see more information on this project on our website www.hildenboroughpc.kentparishes.gov.uk

As I reported last month, Mike Dobson retired from the Council last month consequently they now need to co-opt a member. If you, or you know someone, who would be interested in bringing forward new ideas for the benefit of the community, working to develop its facilities, organise maintenance of its open spaces etc please contact me by email, phone or letter – see contact details at the end of this. There is commitment to attend monthly Parish Council meetings and to contribute to either the Planning or Open Spaces Committee and if you have relevant expertise to the Finance Committee.

By the time you read this article the decaying horse chestnut tree on the Village Green will have been felled. This will be replaced later in the year with a different species. If you have any ideas what you would like to see as a replacement please put your ideas forward either directly to me, at the Parish Council meeting on 20 July or at the Farmers’ Market on 12 July (10am to 11am).

I am sure many of you enjoyed the celebrations during 11/12 June weekend to celebrate the Queen’s 90th Birthday. The Parish Council expressed their delight of the excellent Flower Festival organised by and held in the Church. The beautiful displays were enhanced by children’s contributions from local schools and many organisations took part. Many people found the poppy display by the Royal British Legion very moving, were amazed to find a horse amongst the flowers as well as floating corgies to compliment the many photographs of the Queen during her lifetime. A big thank you to the organisers of the Flower Festival and all the other events organised throughout the weekend which only the rain tried to mar.

At their meeting held on 15 June the Parish Council was given details of the assessments made by Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council on land put forward for consideration for development in the revised local plan. There are a few sites in Hildenborough which have been assessed as suitable. Members will be attending a meeting to be held by the Borough Council to look at their findings. Public consultations will follow later this year.

Have you noticed the great improvements in the Village Hall – how smart the new entrance looks. It is very good to know that residents unable to access the Finzi and Committee rooms now have a stair lift to assist them. Plans for the future look very bright indeed.

Never far away at Parish Council meetings is the question of traffic control through the village. This month the 30mph limit was revisited. The Council and local residents expressed concern over the

blatant disregard for speed limits, particularly HGVs and motor bikes. There was discussion at the meeting on how best to address this issue. Two lines of approach are to be made, firstly, again with Kent Highways to request 30mph roundels to be painted on the road. Originally we were told this was not possible but eagle eyed members have spotted the roundels have been installed in other villages, so they agreed to take this up with Kent Highways. The other line of approach would be to ask residents living along main roads to attach a prominent '30mph sticker' on their wheelie bin. This has been effective in other parts of the county. It is a question of watch this space for developments.

PCSO Toni Matthew came, as she or PCSO Kim Hockey usually do, to the Parish Council meeting. She gave a report on crime in the village during the past month. This month it had risen to eleven. She was concerned again about burglaries from sheds and wanted to raise awareness to keep these areas securely locked. She advised alarms should be fitted to sheds etc. and said that if residents were unable to afford them the police might be able to help – so please contact her for details.

The Council has been in contact with KCC over the dilapidated state of the War Memorial for several months without success of confirmation of action. However, this month KCC have responded by informing the Council that if they undertake to organise a suitably approved contractor to undertake the work they will fund it. This they agreed to do. The problem seems to be that, at the moment, the County Council do not have a full time Conservation Officer.

KCC have also suggested that the Parish Council apply to Heritage England to get it listed. Heritage England has the aim of getting all memorials listed so hopefully the Council will be able to supply the required paperwork.

Don't forget if you have any ideas or queries you can contact me by email on clerk@hildenboroughpc.kentparishes.gov.uk by phone on 01732 832367 or by letter at the usual address. Two members will be attending, as usual, the Farmers' Market on the second Tuesday of the month. This month it will be 12 July and they will have information leaflets, rail and bus timetables available for you. They will also take orders for the 'free' kitchen caddies promoted by Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council.

Pam Gow