

## Centre Piece for May 2018 Keys Magazine

Shortly after a disappointing Easter, weatherwise, the Parish Council met on 11 April. It was a busy meeting, it being the end of the financial year. The set budget had been exceeded by £7.5K but this had been planned during the course of the year in order that the refurbishment of the Pavilion could almost be completed. There is internal redecoration yet to come, it is hoped during this year.

The replacement of the roundabout in the Recreation Ground and additional equipment for the West Wood play areas was another topic of financial concern. It had been agreed that a cone climber similar to that in the Activity Zone and two junior swings would be two of the items to be included at West Wood. The quotations received offered similar equipment for these items but there was a choice of roundabout and monkey bars. One company offering two alternatives for the roundabout and there is a choice of Cheddar Gorge and Swingalong for the monkey bars. Those responding to the original selection have been consulted on which they would prefer on this. It is planned to place orders for the pieces selected following the Parish Council May meeting when the final quotations will be considered and options selected.

The Parish Council had commissioned a feasibility study into the provision of a footway along Stocks Green Road. It looks as if this could be a possibility but will require substantial financial input. The Council during the April meeting agreed that they would need the backing of residents that this would be used and be of benefit of those wishing to access the station or local schools on foot. They, therefore, decided to leaflet all residents in Stocks Green Road to seek their views but would like residents in other areas who would use such a footway to contact them. It was thought that residents living in Leigh Road and in Brookmead and associated roads may well use this proposed facility. If this is you please contact the clerk on 01732 832367 or email [clerk@hildenboroughpc.kentparishes.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@hildenboroughpc.kentparishes.gov.uk) or send a note to the usual address to register your interest.

Potholes seemed to be high on the agenda following the snow and heavy rain causing many more to appear. It seems that Half Moon Lane has a number, those either side of the pedestrian crossing near Hilden Park Road have greatly worsened and numerous others have been reported on residential roads and the B245. These can be reported on Kent County Council website [www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/report-a-fault](http://www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/report-a-fault) or just put a search in for the KCC report a fault and it will come up or you could ring the Parish Council on the usual number with the location and approximate size of the hole.

Further concerns have been raised about the localised flooding of the carriageway following heavy rain in the area of Hilden Avenue which makes it impossible for pedestrians to use the footways and remain dry. Similarly, and in addition to this the bus shelter opposite the church is also impossible to use in such weather conditions. Both have been reported to Kent Highways for action.

Issues over speeding along roads continue to be of great concern. This month complaints have been raised regarding Leigh Road/Powder Mill Lane, Stocks Green Road, Nizels Lane and the B245. The Council continues to raise these issues with the relevant authorities and attempts to get steps taken to address the problems. Currently they are looking into a number of ways including the installation of roundels reminding drivers of the 30mph limit on the B245 and is awaiting a quotation of the cost as well looking into ways to keep pedestrian safe along Stocks Green Road as reported above.

Local organisations will be pleased to know that in the near future they will have a space to advertise their events. The Parish Council agreed to purchase a notice board to be erected outside the Village Hall on which laminated notices could be fixed.

Those who regularly use the local bus service will have been pleased to see that the threatened reduction of the 402 to two an hour has not happened and the service remains at three an hour. However, it is proving very difficult to obtain hard copies of the revised timetables. One of our members spent a considerable amount of time to try to obtain sufficient copies for residents to collect at the Farmers' Market on the second Tuesday of the month, travelling to Sevenoaks and Tonbridge to do so. The Council is trying to persuade Arriva to send sufficient copies to the Council for distribution to local residents on a regular basis when changes occur – to date without success. Rest assured, currently, sufficient copies are available.

Feedback from the Annual Parish Meeting was very positive. The speaker Mrs Sarah Rogers of Riverhill House, it was agreed, was excellent. A suggestion was made that in future questions should be sought from residents prior to the meeting which would give time to provide a full answer at the meeting. It was also suggested that one of the organisations providing a display at this year's meeting should be asked to speak at next year's meeting, that of Kent & Sussex Search and Rescue.

It was reported at the meeting that The Hildenborough Flood Group, with the help of the National Flood Forum, was now established. They had met recently with relevant agencies such as Kent County Council, Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council and Southern Water. It was, however, proving difficult to make contact with the Upper Medway Internal Drainage Board who is responsible for some of the drainage in the area. At the meeting it was established that Southern Water's Hawden Pumping Station was working at full capacity and that during periods of heavy rain it was necessary to pump excess water into the Hawden Stream and contrary to previous information from the Environment Agency there were no plans to upgrade the pump to cope in times of heavy need. It was also established that Southern Water was not consulted when planning applications for additional housing is considered by the Borough Council.

As usual do contact us if you have an idea, would like information or just have a query on 01732 832367 or by email at [clerk@hildenboroughpc.kentparishes.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@hildenboroughpc.kentparishes.gov.uk) or see members at the Farmers' Market on the second Tuesday of the month (8 May) where bus and train timetables will be available as will our publications of Tales of a Kent Village (£10) and This is Hildenborough from A to Z (£9.50)