

Centre Piece for July Keys Magazine

We have been so fortunate during the past month with the beautiful warm and sunny weather, although I think the plants in the garden would be grateful of some rain. It has certainly eased the lockdown situation in as much as we, who are lucky enough to have gardens, have been able to work or just sit and admire the fruits of our hard work in them or maybe just get out for our daily exercise to enjoy the Recreation Ground and West Wood.

The Parish Council welcomed two applicants to be co-opted to the Council following the two recently reported resignations at this month's meeting. They decided to co-opt both applicants so, at their July meeting, once the formalities are completed, they will welcome Tony Fullbrook and Wayne Allingham to the Council.

One of the items discussed at the Parish Council meeting, held virtually once again, on 10 June 2020, was a report on the huge accumulation of litter in the Recreation Ground and to a lesser extent in West Wood. The litter bins had been used but an awful lot of users found it necessary to leave their rubbish on the field. This made it very difficult for our contractor, who had to clear up the rubbish and also our mowing contractor who had to frequently stop his equipment to remove empty glass (some of which had been broken) and plastic bottles. The Council is pleased when residents use these facilities in their open spaces but do appeal to users to take their litter home if the bins happen to be full. The bins are usually adequate but times are very different at the moment with residents being mainly restricted to staying at home and as a consequence our beautiful grounds are being heavily used.

We have to say a big thank you to those residents who have been helping with the litter clearing on a regular basis – it really is a big help and makes the environment better for everyone, and also to those who have been reporting to us anti-social behaviour in our closed play areas etc. Twice recently the Council has needed to arrange for camps to be removed from West Wood since the people building these were not abiding by the lockdown regulations. Normally the woodland area would be available for young people to play in and make camps, provided they were taken down at the end of the day, but not under current regulation as at early June.

The Council, at Wednesday's meeting, was pleased to learn that it now has a new look, updated and accessible website, <https://www.hildenboroughpc.org.uk/> . Do take a look. They are agreed this is a much more user friendly website than the old one. They would like your feedback on this, for instance, does it tell you what you need to know, is it easy for you to find what you are looking for etc. There are links there to some local clubs and organisations. If yours is not there and you would like it to be included please email us with the details.

On financial matters the Council has now changed its bank so that it can undertake transactions online. The previous accounts were working very well but more and more

individuals and organisations were requesting payment by bank transfer and this could not be satisfactorily arranged through the previous accounts.

Have you noticed the redecoration which has been completed on the Pavilion? Our contractor has recently repainted the veranda, which was looking very unloved. All we need to achieve now is the repairs to the weatherboarding which was vandalised by a group of youths, who hopefully have now found something of greater value to society to do with their time. By the time you read this the cctv will again be upgraded to give us greater coverage and resolution of images.

Our annual tree survey has been received which lists work which is needed to keep the mapped footpaths in West Wood and the car park and Recreation Ground safe from falling branches etc. The bad news was that two areas of ash dieback have been identified which need some tree surgery, although at the present time most will not require felling.

The Parish Council has received news that residents are shortly to be given information on the proposals Berkeley Homes have for the Fidelity International site. It would be helpful if you would let the Parish Council have any views on this, preferably by email, but do phone if this is not a practicable proposition. The Council, will, of course, be putting forward its view on these proposals once they have had sight of the plans.

Hildenborough Flood Forum is becoming very frustrated with Southern Water's inability to make any meetings to discuss the outage of the sewer in Byrneside in February. They are seeking repairs, if required, and a regular maintenance schedule to ensure this does not happen again but the response to date has given no details. This, the Forum will continue to pursue, supported by our local County and Borough Councillors.

Have you met our local PCSO James Billson yet? He has been very active in the area assisting with the identification of those breaking the lockdown regulations as well as becoming familiar with the area. It is most reassuring to know that he is regularly walking around the village and getting to know residents. He is liaising regularly with the Parish Council.

I hope everyone is keeping safe and enjoying the sunshine. We look forward to being able to undertake more 'normal' activities, hopefully in the near future but this will only happen if everyone behaves responsibly.

If you need to contact me with your ideas, queries or comments please do phone 01732 832367 (do leave a message if I am unable to answer at the time as I do respond as soon as I can), or email me on clerkhildenboroughpc@gmail.com . DON'T FORGET TO LOOK AT OUR NEW WEBSITE <https://www.hildenboroughpc.org.uk/>

Keep safe,

Pam Gow