

Luddesdown Parish Council

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NEWSLETTER & CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT

Welcome

The Parish Council invite you to attend the Annual Assembly and Parish Council Meeting on the 25th of March at 7:30pm in Luddesdown Village Hall. This is an opportunity to meet with your Parish Councillors and the groups who are active within the community here.

The Parish Council holds meetings throughout the year. The meetings are open to the public, and residents are welcome to raise issues at these meetings. Please see our website:-

www.luddesdown-pc.gov.uk or our nice new notice boards for details. We represent your interests to the Borough and to other bodies whenever opportunity arises.

Precept

Our planned spend for the year was £7,050 against a parish precept (income) of £5,750; this means that we plan to draw down on our reserves to fulfil our budget. Against increasing costs we have kept the precept the same for the coming year (2019/2020), however the tax base (the number of rate payers) within the parish has dropped which will result in you seeing an increase in the amount collected through your rates.

Spring Cleaning our Parish

Following our successful spring clean last year, we ran an autumn clean event as well. Your Parish Council and members of the community spent time filling a skip full with the litter and rubbish left in our parish. A special thank you is due to all who take pride in our parish, I know some who could not make the day have done their part at other times.

We will be running a spring clean again this year, in concert with the Great British Spring Clean campaign. **Meet up with us at 9am at the Golden Lion in Luddesdown on the 30th of March** to get our parish clean ready for the spring. Would you also join Gravesham's No More campaign at www.gravesham.gov.uk/nomore?

Fly Tipping

Fly tipping continues to be a menace in the area. Council has been investigating what further steps we can take to try to eradicate this problem. It has been blighting all areas of the borough, and pressures on budgets are likely to make matters worse. However you can help by reporting all fly tipping and problems at www.gravesham.gov.uk/home/street-care-and-cleaning. May we remind residents that it is your duty to ensure anyone carrying your waste is a properly licensed waste carrier – as prosecution can result from using un-licensed carriers.

The Core Plan Review

During the year we have attended many meetings concerning the forthcoming revision of the Core Local Plan by the Gravesham Borough Council. GBC announced an increase of 2000 houses to the plan, requiring land that is currently green belt to be made available for building on. Along with other parishes we opposed this, and have made representations to GBC on the subject. After the elections in May, we are likely to see further developments on the core plan, with detail of where the Borough intends to release land for development.

Off Road Driving

Illegal off road driving has given rise to damage to the recreation ground, as well as an increase in the amount of damage to land adjacent to the 'Valley of Vision' by-ways. We are happy to say that the

Valley of Visions project has restarted as the 'Securing the Landscapes' project. This project supports PCSO Lidbury, who has been very effective in reducing local rural crime. Kent Police have also recently announced the formation of the Rural Team of officers dedicated to solving rural crime, who can be reached on 07528 989095. We look forward to seeing the impact they will have.

Planning

The Parish Council reviews all planning applications within the parish boundaries to ensure your views are represented at an early stage. You can also participate, go to our website: www.luddesdown-pc.gov.uk and look at the Planning Tracker to see all current applications.

Infrastructure projects

The recent further consultation on the Lower Thames Crossing, which will be coming ashore at Chalk and connecting to the A2 at Shorne, demonstrated the dramatic effect the project will have on the area, particularly those travelling on or crossing the A2 regularly. We have continued to express our concerns to Highways England on your behalf.

While the Paramount Corporation pulled out of the 'London Paramount' project, now known simply as the London Resort, the company has not folded but has continued to blight the businesses on the Swanscombe Peninsula and is stalling Ebbsfleet Development Corporation's plans to build homes. There seems to be no progress on the project and no realistic prospect of it creating the thousands of jobs promised. If this project had not been designated as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project in such haste it's likely the Lower Thames Crossing would not now be coming here.

Promoting your interests

Your Parish Councillors also attend many meetings and events in the area, including the Meeting of the Parish Chairmen, Kent Association of Local Councillors, The Gravesham Joint Transportation Board, The Gravesham Rights of Way Committee and one off events run by Highways England, CPRE and other organisations who influence this area. The Parish Council continues to support the maintenance of Luddesdown Churchyard and war memorial, as well as Luddesdown Rights of Way Group. We actively seek to promote the interests of Luddesdown residents wherever possible and to keep abreast of issues likely to affect the area. We communicate with your borough councillor and I should like to commend the work of your County Councillor Brian Sweetland, and the local MP – Adam Holloway who make themselves available and approachable and have shown their dedication to ensuring local issues are given the priority they deserve.

Elections

May I remind you that Borough and Parish Elections are due to take place on the 2nd of May 2019? If any residents wish to stand for Parish Council; there is a briefing meeting at 6:15pm on Wednesday 13th March at the Civic Centre Gravesend. Nomination Papers must be delivered by hand to the Returning Officer, Gravesham Borough Council, in the Civic Centre, between the 18th of March and the 3rd of April. Contact the Electoral Returns Officer at Gravesham Borough Council for details.

Noel Clark – Chair Luddesdown Parish Council

March 2019

Your Councillors

Sally Stanier	– Brookers Farm	– tel: 01474 814476
Matt Newnes	– Luddesdown	– tel: 07920 418759
Anne Moorhouse	– Leywood School House – Vice Chair	– tel: 01474 813242
Chris Mileson	– Winnats Farm	– tel: 01474 816517
Noel Clark	– Leywood Farm - Chair	– tel: 01474 813770
Clerk to the Council:		
Roxana Brammer	– 53 Capelands, New Ash Green, Longfield, Kent, DA3 8LQ	– 01474 872729

We can be contacted by email at clerk@luddesdown-pc.gov.uk or through our website: www.luddesdown-pc.gov.uk