

Luddesdown Parish Council

53 Capelands New Ash Green Longfield Kent DA3 8LQ
tel: 01474 872729 mobile: 07956 677731
e-mail: roxanamebrammer@gmail.com
www.luddesdownnpc.kentparishes.gov.uk

Luddesdown Parish Council Newsletter 2016

Luddesdown Parish Council would like to invite you to the Annual Assembly which will be held in Luddesdown Village Hall at 7.30 pm on Monday, 21st March. We look forward to seeing you there. We would like to welcome all new parishioners who have joined our community recently and hope you will be able to come to the meeting. It is a good opportunity to meet your parish councillors and to learn more about what goes on in Luddesdown from local organisations who report at the meeting on their activities over the past year.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

Throughout the year your Parish Council holds regular public meetings to which all parishioners are very welcome to attend. At each meeting parishioners do have the opportunity to raise any issues that they would like discussed although it has been rare for any matters to be raised in this way. Still, we would like to remind everyone that this facility is available. You will find the meetings advertised on your local Parish Notice Board and also on the Parish Council's website at <http://www.luddesdownnpc.kentparishes.gov.uk>.

In May last year two of our long-standing councillors, Mandie Jones and Paul Gillard stood down from the Parish Council. The council is most grateful to them for all the time and hard work they are given over the years for the benefit of Luddesdown and its residents. We wish them all the very best for the future.

We are pleased to welcome two new members to the council, Kate Rogers and Noel Clark who have been co-opted to replace Mandie and Paul. They have both lived in the Parish for many years and we are delighted to have them on board.

The Chairs of the six parish councils in Gravesham are continuing to meet periodically with the leader of Gravesham Borough Council to discuss matters that are of concern to the parishes. We are able to add things to the agenda for each meeting so if there is a topic you would like raised at any time please let your local parish councillor know.

PARISH COUNCIL EVENTS

Beating of the Bounds - once again we provided refreshments at Luddesdown Village Hall for the walkers who undertook the Mayor of Gravesham's annual Beating of the Bounds event that took place in October last year. Many thanks to everyone who provided their help on the day.

Clean for the Queen – you may be aware that there is a national Clean for the Queen campaign going on at the moment which is encouraging litter picks and community clean ups in the run up to the Queen's 90th birthday this April. Gravesham Borough Council and the parish councils in Gravesham are participating in the event. The verges and hedgerows in Luddesdown currently contain a lot of litter and other rubbish and now is a good time to collect and dispose of it before vegetation grows up again in the spring. Gravesham Borough Council is supplying us with black bags and litter picking equipment and we

have hired the use of a skip to dispose of the litter and rubbish that is picked up. The skip will be situated in Brookers Farm Yard from Friday, 18th March to Tuesday, 29th March. We would like to encourage as many parishioners as possible to take this opportunity to improve and protect your local environment and spend a bit of time helping to clear up the litter and other rubbish that is lying along our roadsides and paths at the moment. Cllr Sally Stanier (Brookers Farm – tel: 01474 814476) is looking after the stock of bags and litter picking tools supplied by GBC so please get in touch with her to obtain the supplies you need.

FINANCIAL AFFAIRS

We continue to do our best to keep the Parish Council's expenditure as low as we can. I am pleased to say that we have been able to keep the precept for the next financial year the same as it is for this year.

LOCAL ISSUES

Unfortunately, fly tipping continues to be a serious problem in the Parish. We encourage you to report any fly tipping you find to Gravesham Borough Council either by telephone (01474 337533) or by email (waste.management@gravesham.gov.uk) or on its website at

<http://www.gravesham.gov.uk/services/environment-and-planning/recycling-rubbish-and-waste/flytipping>.

Gravesham will respond quickly to collect the rubbish and do appreciate any information that may help them prosecute the offenders. Gravesham and Kent County Council are committed to prosecuting fly tippers whenever they can but catching offenders is difficult. Gravesham would like to make people aware of things they can do to avoid waste they produce from being fly tipped. Householders are legally responsible for the waste produced on their property. People who offer to remove rubbish cheaply are probably not licensed to do so and are most likely not going to dispose of the waste legally. Householders can be prosecuted and fined if their waste ends up fly-tipped and they cannot show that they took reasonable steps to prevent this. So the advice is, when using a waste carrier (other than GBC), make sure they are authorised to dispose of waste: ask for the waste carrier number, ask the waste carrier what is going to happen to the waste and get a proper invoice and receipt for the waste and retain this as proof.

Gravesham offers a service to collect items that are too bulky to put out for general household rubbish collection. Details can be found on its website at

<http://www.gravesham.gov.uk/services/environment-and-planning/recycling-rubbish-and-waste/bulky-waste-collection>.

Kent County Council has continued to carry out repairs to various roads in the Parish over the past year, including some resurfacing. However, as ever, potholes remain a problem on some roads. We hope you will make use of the link on the KCC website to report problems with roads to tell KCC about any pothole you find in order to initiate getting it fixed. The link is at the following address

<http://www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/report-a-problem>.

Parishioners who are not part of Gravesham Borough Council's wheelie bin recycling scheme may like to know that they can request further clear recycling sacks on GBC's website at

<http://www.gravesham.gov.uk/services/environment-and-planning/recycling-rubbish-and-waste/recycling-collections>.

In last year's Newsletter I reported on the Parish Council's concern regarding Gravesham Borough Council's intention to carry out a review of the boundaries of Green Belt land in the borough as a review of the Green Belt boundaries could see some land taken out of Green Belt protection making it easier to obtain planning permission for it to be built on. Your Parish Council does not think this should be allowed, as it is not fair to the inhabitants of the villages in the borough and will spoil our valuable countryside and the character of our villages. The change of administration at GBC following the local elections last year has resulted in the undertaking of a review being a much lower priority for the council so at the moment it is not known when the review might take place. We will continue to monitor the situation and campaign for the protection of the Green Belt.

Lower Thames Crossing - as you may already know, Highways England is recommending to the government Option C as the preferred route for the Lower Thames Crossing. The government has yet to make a decision on a route and Highways England is currently undertaking a public consultation. We hope you will participate in the consultation. The deadline for responses is 24th March 2016. Responses can be made by post or via the online survey at <https://highwaysengland.citizenspace.com/cip/lower-thames-crossing-consultation>.

Gravesham Borough Council and the six rural parishes in Gravesham are all strongly opposed to Option C as it will devastate the local environment and community and spread noise, pollution and poor air quality to thousands of people not currently affected. It will cut through ancient woodland, the Green Belt and Areas of Special Scientific interest. In addition Option C will not resolve the problems at the Dartford crossing but will however bring a lot of extra traffic to our area which will adversely affect the quality of life for people living here. Little regard has been given to the impact of the extra traffic that will be generated, especially HGVs, using the A226, A227 and A228 to access the proposed crossing. The Transport Minister has advised Adam Holloway MP that the Option A proposal for a crossing at Dartford is still on the table so it is important that we take this opportunity to make our views known. The consultation responses will be analysed by Ipsos MORI and it is intended that a report will be presented to the government in June this year.

Finally, on behalf of all members of Luddesdown Parish Council I would like to offer you our best wishes for the next year and we hope that you are able to join us at the Annual Assembly.

Chris Mileson

Chair, Luddesdown Parish Council

Your Parish Councillors:

Sally Stanier – Brookers Farm – tel: 01474 814476

Kate Rogers – Oakenden Farm – tel: 01474 812007

Noel Clark – Leywood Farm – tel: 01474 813770

Anne Moorhouse – Leywood School House – Vice Chair – tel: 01474 813242

Chris Mileson – Winnats Farm – Chair – tel: 01474 816517

Clerk to the Council: Roxana Brammer – 53 Capelands, New Ash Green, Longfield, Kent, DA3 8LQ – 01474 872729