

# **Luddesdown Parish Council Newsletter 2012**

We would like to invite you to attend the Annual Assembly at the Village Hall on Monday March 12<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm. Everyone is welcome, and it is a good opportunity to hear reports of local organisations' activities over the last year and put names to faces. For new arrivals, it gives a good flavour of village life and a chance to get involved. The Luddesdown Society is responsible for most social events in the village and also supports local charities from the profits, so their report is always most interesting.

## **PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS**

These take place four times a year, with the first 15 minutes available for discussion of any pressing issues raised by a parishioner. In addition, Parish Chairmen meet regularly to raise topics with Gravesham Council and Kent County Council, so do please let your local councillor know of any specific item you wish raised on your behalf. Meetings are advertised on the Parish noticeboards.

## **PARISH COUNCIL EVENTS**

The annual event of Beating the Bounds of Gravesham took place in the Autumn and once again we provided much needed refreshments to the walkers. Do ask for details if you would like to be involved in future years.

A skip has been booked for 5th April over the Easter weekend and many thanks to Gerry Minister for allowing us to place it at the entrance to the farm barns. This is for anyone to spare an hour or two taking a plastic bag when they are walking along our lanes and picking up any rubbish they come across on the verges. It really makes a difference, so thank you in advance!

The Queen celebrates her Diamond Jubilee in June and Cobham and Luddesdown Councils have produced a full programme of joint events covering the whole week. Local organisations are taking part and a complete programme is in the Parish Magazine, which will be delivered to every household in Luddesdown before Easter.

## **FINANCIAL AFFAIRS**

As ever we have worked very hard to keep the precept down this year, but we have had to have a small increase in order to maintain the services we provide. Unfortunately with a budget as small as ours, any cost increase has a disproportionate effect.

## **ROADS**

Fly-tipping is still an issue, but Gravesham will respond quickly to calls reporting dumped items and also appreciates any information which may lead to prosecution.

We fully support the Kent Highways and Police initiative in targeting unauthorised vehicles that do so much damage to our bridleways and footpaths. A local footpath has been closed for repair due to damage, and a number of vehicles have been seized.

We have not escaped the spate of metal thefts, and several drain covers were taken from Henley Street. These have been replaced with heavy duty plastic ones.

We would like to thank Gerry and Kent Highways for their hard work during the recent ice and snow.

## **PLANNING**

No real planning issues came before us this year for the village.

Would you like to save money on House Insurance? We are still looking for a Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator for Luddesdown and the scheme is taken very seriously by Insurance Companies!!

In conclusion, on behalf of the Parish Councillors may we offer you our best wishes for the next year and hope to see you all at the Annual Assembly.

Mandie Jones  
Chairman, Luddesdown Parish Council