



HORSMONDEN PARISH COUNCIL - ARTICLE FOR PARISH NEWS FOR JULY 2023 EDITION

REFERENDUM ON THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN FOR HORSMONDEN

Thank you to everyone who voted at the Neighbourhood Plan Referendum on Thursday 8th June 2023. The total number of ballot papers issued was 565 and out of this number 534 voted in favour of the Neighbourhood Plan. This means that the Horsmonden Neighbourhood Development Plan (HNDP) now carries full weight in the determination of planning applications within the Horsmonden Parish. It is due to be formally “made” by the Borough Council at the next Full Council on the 5 July.

HORSMONDEN SUMMER FESTIVAL

The Parish Council would like to thank HoVEC for yet another highly successful Summer Festival event. The weather was scorching but the volunteers worked tirelessly throughout the weekend to ensure everything was running smoothly and everyone was having a good time. Thank you HoVEC!

THE BASSETTS FARM FORUM

The Parish Council were very pleased to welcome the Bassett's Farm Forum Group to their Full Council meeting on the 5th June. A member of the forum spoke in the public session introducing the group and asking the Parish Council for their support with future activities.

The Parish Council agreed to support the Bassett's Farm Forum proposals in principal, in an unbiased and appropriate way. Further to this, the Parish Council also agreed to facilitate a meeting between the Bassett's Farm Forum Group, Horsmonden Parish Council and TWBC Planning Conservation Officers to discuss the future of the Bassett's farm planning site. Further updates regarding this will be available in due course.

PLANNING

The Parish council hold Planning committee meetings each month specifically for providing comments and feedback to TWBC on planning applications for which the Parish Council are consultees. These meetings are open for the public to attend without prior notification and the Council always welcomes parishioners to such meetings.

Our next Planning committee meeting is on **Tuesday 18th July** at Horsmonden Village Hall.

Alternatively, you are able to read all of the minutes from parish council meetings and planning meetings on line at the parish council's website

https://www.horsmonden-pc.gov.uk/Meetings_30891.aspx

REPORTING A DECEASED ANIMAL

Sadly, there has been a few enquires over the last few weeks regarding the reporting of deceased animals on the road such as foxes and badgers.

Tunbridge Wells Borough Council can remove smaller size animals, up to the size of a badger. The link for reporting is as follows:

<https://tunbridgewells.gov.uk/environment/dogs-and-animals/tell-us-about-a-dead-animal>

Animals larger than a badger need to be reported to Kent County Council using the following link:

<https://www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/report-a-problem> or by calling 03000 418181.

HORSMONDEN PUBLIC TOILETS

At our Annual Parish Meeting in May, the Parish Council showed a short presentation highlighting the vandalism that has been experienced at the public toilets over the last year and the annual costs incurred to keep the toilets open and in good order.

Unfortunately, although much of this vandalism has been reported to Kent Police, they have so far been unable to find anyone responsible for these crimes. The Parish Council has now taken further steps to protect the toilets from vandalism following advice from Tunbridge Wells Crime Prevention Unit, which we hope will result in lower maintenance costs for the Parish going forward.

After a short period of closure, the disabled toilet has now been re-opened but we would be grateful if residents could help us by keeping an eye on the activities in and around the public toilets. If you do see anything suspicious please do not hesitate to phone 101 and report to Kent Police.

STREET LIGHTS

The Parish Council owns a lot of the street lighting within the village. Please contact us if you notice a street light that is not working and we will report it to our maintenance engineers for investigation.

SPEEDWATCH – CAN YOU HELP?

Speedwatch is a community-based scheme where volunteers record the speed of passing vehicles in the area where they live. Around 90% of vehicles observed once by Speedwatch volunteers are not seen speeding again in the next 12 months.

We already have an active Speedwatch group in Horsmonden, who do a great job, but they are always in need of more volunteers.

If you would like to join the group and help reduce speeding vehicles in the area, please let us know by contacting the Parish Office on 01892 724989 or via email assistantclerk@horsmonden-pc.gov.uk

The Clerk is also available to help either by email and phone:

Lucy Noakes (Clerk)

Clerk to Horsmonden Parish Council

Telephone: 01892 724989 (to leave a message)

Mobile: 07484 904765

E-mail: clerk@horsmonden-pc.gov.uk

SOME USEFUL CONTACT NUMBERS:

NHS: 111

Kent Highways Service: 03000 418181

Tunbridge Wells Borough Council: 01892 526121

Environment Agency 24-hour Flood line:

08459 881188

Emergencies only: 999

Non-emergency Police Line: 101

UK Power Networks – Power cut: 0800 31 63 105 on a landline or 0333 32 32 105 (if calling from a mobile)