



HORSMONDEN PARISH COUNCIL- ARTICLE FOR PARISH NEWS FOR JULY 2026 EDITION

THE HOVEC SUMMER FESTIVAL 2026

Despite some uncooperative weather, this year's Summer Festival was a huge success. Residents braved the on / off rain and came out in full force to enjoy 4 days of entertainment, proving once again what a brilliant village we are.

These events would not be possible without the dedicated team of HoVEC volunteers who work tirelessly to bring the community together and make sure everyone has a great time.

Thank you HoVEC for everything you do.

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 following 12 months.

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to Martin Drinkwater who has coordinated the group with great commitment but is now stepping down from the role after many years of dedicated service.

The group is now looking for a new coordinator to take over this important position, as well as additional volunteers to support ongoing sessions.

If you would be interested in becoming the new coordinator or joining the volunteer team to help reduce speeding in the area, please contact the Parish Office on 01892 724989 or email deputyclerk@horsmonden-pc.gov.uk.

HORSMONDEN PUBLIC TOILETS – OPENING TIMES

The Parish Council would like to remind residents and visitors that the public toilets are now operating on summer opening hours and are open daily from **7:00am to 7:00pm**. The automatic locking system is set to engage at **7:00pm** each evening. We are aware of an issue where the entrance doors do not always close fully, which can allow access after the locking time and cause confusion for users.

Please be assured that **it is not possible to become locked inside the facilities**. Clear signage is displayed explaining how to exit safely should the automatic locks engage.

We are currently investigating adjustments to the doors to resolve the issue and thank everyone for their patience and understanding.

BADGERS ON THE VILLAGE GREEN

– PLEASE TAKE CARE

Residents may have noticed an increase in badger activity on the village green, with areas of ground being disturbed and holes appearing as the animals forage and dig. The Parish Council are doing their best to fill and repair holes as they are identified; however, badgers often return and re-open or create new areas of disturbance, making this an ongoing challenge.

We would therefore ask everyone using the green to please take extra care and be mindful of their footing, particularly in uneven areas. This is especially important for children, dog walkers and anyone with reduced mobility.

Thank you for your patience and understanding while we continue to monitor and maintain the area as best we can.

A POLITE REMINDER REGARDING CONSIDERATE PARKING

It has come to attention that in several residential areas within the village, vehicles are increasingly being parked in a way that obstructs pavements, in some cases blocking them entirely.

We kindly remind residents to consider the impact of their parking on others in the community. Pavements are essential pathways for everyone, particularly for those using pushchairs, wheelchairs, mobility scooters, or those with visual impairments. When these routes are blocked, it can force pedestrians into the road, creating unnecessary safety risks.

We also ask residents to avoid parking across dropped kerbs, as these are vital access points for pedestrians, wheelchair users, mobility scooters, and parents with prams, as well as for residents accessing driveways.

We ask all residents to park thoughtfully and ensure that pavements and access points remain clear and accessible wherever possible.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation in helping keep our village safe and accessible for all.

HORSMONDEN COMMUNITY RESILIENCE PLAN

Horsmonden Parish Council are starting the process of updating their Emergency Plan and are inviting local residents to join the Village Response Team - a group of volunteers ready to support the community during emergencies.

In situations such as severe weather, flooding, power cuts, or other major incidents, team members help with:

- Local communication and information sharing
- Practical assistance to residents
- Supporting vulnerable members of the community

If you would like to be part of this important initiative and help your neighbours in times of need, the Parish Council would love to hear from you. Please contact the Parish Office on 01892 724989 or via email deputyclerk@horsmonden-pc.gov.uk.

REPORTING A PROBLEM ON A ROAD, PAVEMENT OR A FOOTPATH

If you notice any issues such as potholes, drainage problems or overgrown vegetation you can report directly to Kent County Council here:

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

If you notice any problems on a public right of way such as broken stiles, fallen trees or dangerous path surfaces you can report directly to Kent County Council here:

<https://www.kent.gov.uk/environment-waste-and-planning/public-rights-of-way/report-a-problem-on-a-right-of-way>

STAY INFORMED ABOUT LOCAL NEWS AND EVENTS FROM HORSMONDEN PARISH COUNCIL

To receive our updates, simply register your email address and confirm your agreement with our Privacy Notice by scanning the QR code below:



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)