

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING (and the new Local Plan).

Thank you to everyone who attended the Annual parish Meeting on Monday 15th May. Those who were there will know that the meeting was v well attended.

Kelvin Hinton was our first guest speaker and explained more about the new **Local Plan** currently being designed by TWBC. The new Local Plan will deal with all kinds of planning including shops and businesses as well as homes, and will look at where best to try and allocate the growth which the borough is expected to house up to 2022. It sketches out a number of scenarios and options for housing the growth and the current consultation on the plan asks for everyone's opinion on these options.

If you would like to read more and comment on the Local Plan you have until 12th June to comment- please follow the link:

<http://consult.tunbridgewells.gov.uk>

Kelvin went on to speak about Neighbourhood Planning as requested by the parish council, as parishioners had shown quite an interest in this topic recently.

It was clear from Kelvin's talk on this that the development of a NH plan requires some time and dedication from a large number of volunteers in the village. Whilst it would not enable the parish to prevent growth, it can help to ensure that growth occurs in preferred areas, and can possibly provide assistance with infrastructure costs through a Community Infrastructure Levy, once in place. Any Neighbourhood plan designed by a village or parish would have to agree and run alongside the plans and decisions of TWBCs new Local Plan and must also agree with Planning legislation and the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). The design of a NH Plan can be a lengthy and costly process for a village, and must therefore be given careful consideration to make sure that the potential benefits outweigh the costs.

As requested by those attending the parish meeting the Parish Council has agreed to organise a public meeting for further information on developing a NH Plan to gauge how much interest there is amongst the village as a whole, and enable volunteers to step forward to run such a plan, if the village should decide to go ahead. Please look out on the notice boards and our website for further details about this.

Mark Musgrave, the Ranger from Sprivers, then gave the parish an enlightening talk and power point presentation on the National Trust's work at Sprivers to enhance and protect the environment and wildlife there. Much of the work carried out is done by a working party of volunteers who work with National Trust rangers to clear areas of over grown woodland, manage the trees and wetland areas of the park and enhance the pathways and facilities for visitors.

Sarah Hamilton, our new KCC Councillor also attended and introduced herself to the parish. Sarah gave the parish some good advice and feedback on Neighbourhood planning as Paddock Wood, where she also stands as a councillor, is currently preparing a NH Plan.

LOVE WHERE WE LIVE AWARDS 2017.

The Love Where We Live Awards 2017 are now open for nominations and there are **seven categories open for nomination this year**, plus the Love Where We Live Award which will be chosen from the category winners and announced at the awards ceremony in October. Over the last three years TWBC have received more than 600 nominations and they hope to continue this success this year, so please do think about those in your community who you may like to nominate.

Updated information on all the awards and the [online entry form](#) are available on the TWBC website; the closing date for nominations is Friday 28 July at 5pm.

FORTH COMING MEETING DATES

Parish Council Meeting – Monday 12th June

Planning Meeting - Tuesday 20th June

Planning Meeting - Tuesday 15th August

Parish Council Meeting – Monday 4th September

Planning Meeting - Tuesday 19th September

Please note that the Council do not usually hold a full Council meeting in August, however any change to meetings will be publicised on our notice boards and website as below as is the full meeting schedule for 2017 .

DONT FORGET TO LOOK AT WEBSITE AT www.horsmonden-pc.gov.uk FOR ANYTHING YOU WISH TO KNOW ABOUT THE COUNCIL OR ITS ACTIVITIES. There is also a lot of other useful

information on the site, such as dust cart timetable, local road works etc. You can sign up for email alerts which will let you know when a news item has gone on site!

Please feel free to contact the clerk, as below.

Lucy Noakes (clerk) on (01892) 724989

Clerk to Horsmonden Parish Council

Telephone: 01892 724989

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

USEFUL CONTACT NUMBERS:

Kent Highways services 03000 418181

Tunbridge wells Borough Council 01892 526121

Environment Agency 24 hour Flood line:08459881188

PCSO Jenkins - 079769584279

Non emergency Police line – 101

Emergencies only - 999

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

