

**HORSMONDEN PARISH COUNCIL - ARTICLE FOR PARISH NEWS
AUGUST 2018 EDITION**

TRAFFIC SOLUTIONS

The final elements of the improvements at the cross roads have now been put in place with just a few tweaks left to be made by KHS.

The Parish Council have been assured by KHS that they will continue to monitor the situation at the crossroads, but we all remain hopeful that the changes will have a positive impact.

The Parish Councils plans to input village gateways and move the 30mph speed limit out slightly in the Brenchley road have now been to the designer and we are currently awaiting quotations from KHS's contractors to carry out the works.

WATER MAIN REPLACEMENT IN A262

SPELMONDNEN ROAD

HORSMONDEN/GOUDHURST.

The following message was received from SE Water regarding replacement of the water main at Spelmonden:

You may be aware that your area has suffered from a number of water pipe bursts which have resulted in people not receiving any water or suffering low pressure. This is unacceptable to us and to help rectify the situation we will be replacing the old unreliable water main.

Work on the scheme to install a new water main, approximately 470 metres in length, will take place along A262 Spelmonden Road between the Kent Dairy Company and the River Teise bridge crossing.

We are to use an underground directional drilling technique to install this pipe. This involves excavating a series of pits where the new pipe will run and drilling the new pipe underground. This will minimise the amount of excavation works required as compared to traditional trenching techniques.

As a safety precaution for pedestrians, motorists and our contractor temporary traffic lights will be used to enable motorists to use the road while work takes place.

Access to homes and businesses will be maintained at all times but may be affected periodically during the scheme whilst we lay the new water main across accesses to driveways. Our contractors will liaise with you if access is to be restricted at any time.

We will be undertaking trial holes within the road, between; Monday 9 July and Wednesday 18 July. This means digging a series of pits to find out what material the ground is made of and what other utilities are in the ground.

Construction is planned to start on Monday 30 July and the project is expected to take approximately 11 weeks however our contractor's staff will work hard to complete the work as quickly and safely as possible.

Work will take place during the week within extended working hours and on weekends to complete the work as soon as possible.

There may be a short interruption to your water supply during this scheme as we connect our new pipe to the existing network, but we will tell you at least 48 hours beforehand if this is going to happen.

Our contractor is Clancy Docwra and if you have any concerns during the work, staff on site will be happy to answer any questions or concerns you may have. If you would like to speak to South East Water direct please call our Customer Technical Centre on **0333 000 1100**.

You can find out more about this work by visiting our dedicated web page:

<https://corporate.southeastwater.co.uk/a262>

You can also visit **southeastwater.co.uk/savewater** for details on free water saving advice and devices. Many customers like you have found these help them save water and money.

On behalf of South East Water, thank you in advance for your patience and co-operation during these improvement works.

HOUSES IN MULTIPLE OCCUPATION.

We have been asked to publicise to landlords that there will be changes to the rules for licensing of Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO) with effect from 1st October 2018. Currently landlords have to apply for a licence for all properties which have three or more stories and are occupied by 5 or more people forming 2 or more households.

When the new law comes into place, all HMOs with 5 or more occupiers forming 2 or more households (regardless of number of storeys) will need to have a licence.

If you would like more information please contact the Private Sector Housing Team : housingrenewal@tunbridgewells.gov.uk or look on the council's website

www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk/business/licences-and-permits/houses-in-multiple-occupation.

GARDEN BONFIRES

Generally, there are no restrictions on having garden bonfires by law, however advice from Environmental protection is as follows:

What's wrong with garden bonfires?

- Air Pollution Burning garden waste produces smoke – especially if that waste is green or damp. This will emit harmful pollutants including particles and dioxins. Burning plastic, rubber or painted materials creates noxious fumes that give off a range of poisonous compounds.
- Health Effects Air pollution can have damaging health effects, and people with existing health

problems are especially vulnerable, e.g. asthmatics, bronchitis sufferers, people with heart conditions, children and the elderly.

- Annoyance Smoke, smuts and smell from bonfires have long been a source of a significant number of complaints to local authorities every year. Smoke prevents neighbours from enjoying their gardens, opening windows or hanging washing out, and reduces visibility in the neighbourhood and on roads. Allotments near homes can cause problems if plot holders persistently burn green waste, and leave fires smouldering
- Safety Fire can spread to fences or buildings and scorch trees and plants. Exploding bottles and cans are a hazard when rubbish is burned. Piles of garden waste are often used as a refuge by animals, so look out for hibernating wildlife and sleeping pets.

What's the Alternative?

- Composting
- Recycling

When and where can I have a bonfire?

It is a common misconception that there are specific byelaws prohibiting garden bonfires or specifying times they can be lit – there aren't. However, this is not a licence for indiscriminate burning! Occasionally a bonfire is the best practicable way to dispose of woody or diseased waste that cannot be composted. And bonfires are used to mark traditional celebrations – especially 5th November. Bonfires and the Law Under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 (as amended) it is an offence for people to dispose of their domestic waste in a way likely to cause pollution of the environment or harm to human health. In practice you should not burn waste that is likely to create excessive smoke or noxious fumes. If only dry garden waste is burnt, your bonfire should not cause a problem. Most bonfire problems are addressed under nuisance legislation. Under the Environmental Protection Act 1990, a statutory nuisance includes “smoke, fumes or gases emitted from premises so as to be prejudicial to health or a nuisance.” In practice a fire would have to be a recurrent persistent problem, interfering substantially with neighbours' well-being, comfort or enjoyment of their property. If a bonfire of industrial or commercial waste is emitting black smoke it is dealt with under the Clean Air Act 1993 – this includes the burning of such material in your garden! Under section 34 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 it is illegal to dispose of waste that is not from your property – for example from your workplace or from a neighbour. For example, small tradesmen must not burn waste from site at home.

How do I complain about a bonfire?

If bothered by smoke, approach your neighbour and explain the problem. You might feel awkward but they

may not be aware of the distress they are causing and it will hopefully make them more considerate in the future. If this fails, environmental health at your local council should be notified. They must investigate your complaint and must issue a notice under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 if they consider a nuisance is being caused. The Act also allows you to take private action in the magistrates court. Finally, under section 161A of the Highways Act 1980, anyone lighting a fire and allowing smoke to drift across a road faces a fine if it endangers traffic or causes injury. Contact the police if this is the case.

Bonfire Guidelines:

- Only burn dry material
- Never burn household rubbish, rubber tyres or anything containing plastic, foam or paint
- Avoid lighting a fire in unsuitable weather conditions – smoke hangs in the air on damp, still days. If it is too windy, smoke blows into neighbours' gardens and windows and across roads
- Avoid burning when air pollution levels in your area are high or very high. You can check air quality on 0800 556677 or at <http://uk-air.defra.gov.uk>.
- Keep your fire away from trees, fences and buildings
- Never use oil, petrol or methylated spirits to light a fire – you could damage yourself as well as the environment
- Never leave a fire unattended or leave it to smoulder – put

And always let your neighbours know beforehand if possible to avoid disturbance with smoke!

FORTH COMING MEETING DATES

AUGUST – No full Council meeting planned
Tuesday 14th August – Planning Committee Meeting.
Monday 3rd September – Parish Council Meeting
Tuesday 18th September – Planning Committee Meeting.

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

mobile: 07484904765

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

Office open to the public: Mon & Wed 9am-3pm , Fri 9am -12pm .

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)