



**HORSMONDEN PARISH COUNCIL - ARTICLE FOR PARISH NEWS
FOR DECEMBER 2023 / JANUARY 2024 EDITION**

LAND EAST OF HORSMONDEN (BASSETTS FARM)

On the 17th October, Persimmon Homes attended the Parish Councils Planning Committee meeting and presented their revised plans for the Bassetts Farm site. A summarised version of this presentation can be viewed here:

<https://horsmonden.consultationonline.co.uk/proposals/>

Over 100 members of the public were in attendance along with the TWBC Head of Planning (Carlos Hone) and the TWBC Case Officer (Jennifer Begeman). On the 18th October, Persimmon held a public consultation in the Village Hall which was an opportunity for members of the public to view the new plans and have their say.

Persimmon have advised that they will be submitting their new planning application before the end of 2023 however, it will then need to be checked and validated by TWBC, which could take a further couple of weeks. As soon as the application is live we will publicise on our website <https://www.horsmonden-pc.gov.uk/> and there will then be an opportunity for members of the public to formally comment on the plans.

The Parish Council would like to express thanks to the Bassetts Farm Forum who continue to offer valuable assistance throughout this process.

SECTION 19 FLOOD INVESTIGATION REPORT

Kent County Council have now issued a Section 19 Flood Investigation Report following the flood event in Horsmonden in July 2021.

You can view the full report here:

<https://www.kent.gov.uk/environment-waste-and-planning/flooding-and-drainage/section-19-flood-investigations>

KENT POLICE - YOUR LOCAL BEAT OFFICER

PC Connor Geelan has now taken over as our new local Beat Officer and is currently covering Capel, Paddock Wood, Brenchley, Matfield, Horsmonden, Goudhurst and Lamberhurst, working out of Tunbridge Wells Police Station. PC Geelan is keen to connect with the community and help with any issues we face here in Horsmonden.

Please remember if you are wishing to report a crime, you can do this by calling 101 or via the Kent Police website, where you can make use of the LiveChat function (in a non-emergency). In an emergency always

call 999. If there is an offence then it will be recorded accordingly and investigated.

KENTS PLAN BEE

This year Horsmonden Parish Council made the decision to put their 'Planting for Nature' scheme into action. Following advice from KCC, the site at Fromandez Drive was deemed the most suitable for wild flower planting.

In May three small areas were temporarily fenced and planted with wild flower seeds including Yellow Rattle. As it was "No Mow May" the grass was left to grow and go to seed. It was then cut once the seeds had fallen and removed at the beginning of September.

Maintenance, and most importantly watering, was carried out by wonderful volunteers, who organised themselves through a rota on their "Bee Friendly in Horsmonden" WhatsApp Group.

Meanwhile, the PC also secured a generous grant from KCC with which to purchase native spring flowering bulbs. These were planted by volunteers (you know who you are, so big thanks to you) at the end of September while the ground was still warm. We also had enough bulbs to plant another small area of grassland in the village.

We are looking forward to seeing the fruits of all the hard labour in the spring.

THE MAYOR OF TUNBRIDGE WELLS CHRISTMAS TOY APPEAL 2023

The Mayor's Toy Appeal helps to bring joy to children and teenagers in the Borough of Tunbridge Wells, who are in need or whose families find Christmas an especially difficult time of year.

The toy appeal will run between **Wednesday 8th November to Wednesday 13th November.**



CHRISTMAS LIGHTS 2023

By the time you read this, the Village Green will be lit up with our Christmas lights once again. We hope that you enjoy them!

2024 PARISH COUNCIL MEETING DATES

Keep a look out on the Parish Council noticeboard or the website for the new Council meeting dates for 2024. These will be agreed and published shortly.

**WISHING YOU ALL A VERY MERRY
CHRISTMAS & A HAPPY NEW YEAR**

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)