



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

PARISH COUNCILLOR - VACANCY

Following the retirement of Cllr Stevens in January, the Council are now able to co-opt another councillor to join their important work for the parish.

If you are interested in this vacancy, please see our noticeboards and website for further details about the role of a parish councillor and how to apply for the position. Please note that the closing date for applications is 31st March 2023.

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT AT BASSETTS FARM

The Parish Council were very pleased to welcome nearly 100 parishioners to their meeting on the 6th February 2023, where the proposed development of 163 houses at Bassett's Farm was discussed. The decision to recommend refusal of this application was unanimous and the Parish Council's comments were added to the TWBC planning portal to reflect this. On the 7th February, the Chair of Horsmonden Parish Council, Cllr Jane March was interviewed, along with several members of the public, by KMTV regarding the Parish Council's reasons for rejecting this application. To view the comments that have been submitted you can visit the TWBC planning portal at: <https://twbcpa.midkent.gov.uk/online-applications/search> using the application number TW/23/00044/HYBRID.

SUPPORTING THE KENT PLAN BEE PROJECT

The Parish Council are pleased to announce their support and participation in Kent's Plan Bee project by allowing the grass area at Fromandez Drive to grow during the spring and summer months, hence providing opportunities for feeding and nesting pollinators. The Council's maintenance contractor will continue to regularly trim around the edges of the green area to allow sight lines to be maintained and around the young memorial trees so that they do not become overgrown. At the end of the season the long grass will be cut and removed to allow the meadow to grow again the following year. The Parish Council plans to monitor the area's progress and potentially over seed with wild flowers over the next few years to try and create a wild flower meadow which can encourage pollinating insects. If you want to know more about Kent's Plan Bee project and how you might get involved at home, follow the link :

<https://www.kent.gov.uk/environment-waste-and->

[planning/nature-and-biodiversity/pollinators/how-you-can-help-pollinators](#)

HORSMONDEN NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

The Referendum version of the Neighbourhood Plan (subject to TWBC Cabinet approval on 23 March 2023) is now on the NH Plan website and may be viewed on the Neighbourhood Plan website:

<http://horsmondennp.co.uk/>

The Neighbourhood Plan will go forward to Referendum on the **8 June 2023**, and if approved (that is, more than 50% of the votes cast being in favour of the Plan) it will become part of the statutory development plan for the Parish of Horsmonden. If successfully adopted the Plan will provide the Parish with the ability to have a greater say in how future development takes place within our village - **so please put the date in your diaries!**

PROPOSED CHANGES AT KIPINGS' CROSS / A21 ROUNDAABOUT AND JUNCTION

The Parish Council recently wrote to the Secretary of State for Transport and the Chief Executive of National Highways voicing their strong objection to proposals which they have recently been made aware of, which aim to alter the junction where the B2160 from Matfield meets the A21 (Tunbridge Wells to Hastings) at Kipping's Cross roundabout.

The plans to alter the junction have been put forward as a way to alleviate a potential increase in traffic envisaged when various developments are built in the Borough. However, it is the Parish Council's opinion that instead of alleviating the problem, such a plan will create further tailbacks at the junction as well as a potential increase in traffic on local rural roads which are not suitable for this amount of traffic.

The Parish Council will continue to liaise with the Borough and County Council's, Greg Clark MP, and other local parishes and bodies about this matter.

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.

REPORTING A PROBLEM ON A ROAD, PAVEMENT OR A FOOTPATH

Unfortunately, recent weather conditions have led to some problems on the roads and pavements around the village. 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>

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)