



# *Meopham Mercury*

The Meopham Parish Council Newsletter    November 2020

## **GRAVESHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – LOCAL PLAN CONSULTATION**

### **Meopham Parish Council's response to Gravesham Borough Council's Local Plan Core Strategy\***

Gravesham Borough Council is in the process of reviewing the strategic document which guides development in the Borough between 2011 and 2028.

That document shows residents and businesses both what development is required and where it might take place.

The review is taking place to meet Government requirements.

As part of the review Gravesham Borough Council has published a "Site Allocations and Development Management Policies Document". The document consists of two parts:

- Part 1 Local Plan Core Strategy Partial Review and Site Allocations – looking at the scale of new development needed and land for future development between now and 2036
- Part 2 Draft Development Management Policies – detailed policies for dealing with issues that arise from planning applications

Gravesham Borough Council is now seeking views on these documents and the options included therein for determining where future development could take place to meet identified needs. It is also seeking views on the new sites that it is proposed to allocate for housing and employment identified in annexes to the document. The new sites will be

considered alongside other sites identified in the current Local Plan.

A significant number of these sites are within the parish of Meopham.

Your Parish Council will be exercising its right to send the Borough Council a detailed response on these proposals. It has set up a small working party of parish councillors to produce a first draft of its response which will then be considered at a full meeting of the Parish Council in December (held virtually) which will be open to the public to attend. The draft response will be available to parishioners before the meeting.

Additionally, individual residents also have the right to comment on the Borough Council's proposals and your Parish Council would encourage individuals to read and respond directly to the Borough Council. It would be pleased to receive copies of any responses submitted although these should be submitted to the Parish Clerk and not copied to Councillors. The Clerk will summarise any copy responses for the Councillors so that parishioners' views are taken into account when the Parish Council finalises its response.

The deadline by which both the Parish Council and individuals must submit comments is now 5pm on Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020

The Parish Council wishes to stress that although the Borough's document identifies potential sites in Meopham which might be developed it does not amount to an application for planning permission to develop them so there are no immediate plans for building on these sites. Any responses to the proposals will

carry much more weight if based on reasoned planning objections - a consideration that will guide the Parish Council in its consideration of the Borough's document.

(\* Regulation 18 Emerging Local Plan Partial Review, Site Allocations and Development Management Policies Consultation -

<https://localplan.gravesham.gov.uk>)

### SUPPORTING MEOPHAM, superneighbours

Meopham's volunteer service was re-launched for the month-long lockdown period during November. The lockdown is due to end on the 2<sup>nd</sup> December but the service will remain up and running for help with shopping, collecting prescriptions, collecting urgent supplies, helping you contact other services or a regular friendly phone call. You can contact the superneighbours team via our email: [superneighbour@mail.meopham.org](mailto:superneighbour@mail.meopham.org) or telephone or text on 07908 155669.

### DEFIBRILLATOR INFORMATION FOR MEOPHAM RESIDENTS

#### FOUR STEPS TO TAKE IF SOMEONE IS HAVING A CARDIAC ARREST

Cardiac arrests can happen to anyone, at any time. The following steps give someone the best chance of survival. If you come across someone in cardiac arrest:

1. **Call 999** – If you call the emergency services and provide your location, the operator should be able to tell you where your nearest defibrillator is and give you the code to access it if one is required.
2. **Start CPR**
3. **Ask someone to bring a defibrillator to you if there is one nearby**
4. **Turn on the defibrillator and follow its instructions**



#### Defibrillator location in Meopham

- Culverstone Community Centre (inside the building)
- Harvel Village Hall (outside access, available 24/7)
- Judson's Pavilion (inside the building)
- Meopham Leisure Centre (inside at the reception area)
- Meopham Medical Centre (inside the building)
- Meopham Station (BT Kiosk) – (24/7 access)
- Meopham Tennis Club (available when courts are in use)
- Meopham Village Hall (outside 24/7 access)
- St John's Church (outside 24/7 access)

#### ONGOING PARKING ISSUES

This continues to be an ongoing and serious problem in the Parish. We would urge all motorists to THINK BEFORE YOU PARK and be considerate to other motorists and pedestrians especially at Camer Parade and outside our schools. Parking Enforcement Officers from Gravesham Borough Council (GBC) are continuing to patrol in Meopham on a regular basis. GBC issued, from 1 July to

30 September, 78 tickets in Meopham with 48 of those for offences in Wrotham Road.

We currently cannot go ahead with Speedwatch due to Covid, but we are still looking for volunteers to help once we are able to proceed.

### JUDSON'S RECREATION GROUND

We are currently reviewing the play area surfacing as it is nearing the end of its life and we are also looking at replacing the wooden adventure trail equipment which had to be removed last year for safety reasons. The teen shelter has recently been repainted over the summer period and is looking very smart.

Gravesham Borough Council have installed one new litter bin and we are hoping they will install a couple more once they get a new delivery of bins. Please ensure you use the litter bins provided when in the recreation ground or take your litter home with you to help keep the recreation ground tidy.

### JENNIFER GILES, GRAVESHAM COMMUNITY AWARD WINNER

Meopham Parish Council were very pleased to be able to nominate Meopham resident, Jennifer Giles, for the Gravesham Community Award this year. Usually the awards are presented on the evening of the Gravesham Borough Council's Annual Meeting in April but due to Covid-19, the awards had to be postponed. Jennifer was finally presented with her award last month from the Mayor of Gravesham for her volunteer work at St John's Church, where she heads up the pastoral care team and volunteers for Gravesend Street Pastors. She actively supports people in need providing home and hospital visits, helping those with dementia and carers. After many years, she continues to selflessly care for others in times of need. The Parish Council felt that Jennifer was an extremely worthy nomination for this award.

### REMEMBRANCE DAY

Remembrance was very different this year due to Covid, with a short wreath laying ceremony at the War Memorial with invited representatives from the community on 11.11.20.



### NEW NOTICEBOARD

We have installed a new noticeboard at Neville Parade where we display meeting schedules and information as to what is going on in the area. If you wish to display a notice, please contact the clerk for a noticeboard number to display your poster. Please ensure you display notices in the correct public section on all the noticeboards.

### LOWER THAMES CROSSING - UPDATE

Meopham Parish Council has been notified on the following by Highways England: - "Following early feedback from the Planning Inspectorate we have withdrawn our application while we consider feedback on some elements of our documents.

It is not unusual for the Planning Inspectorate to ask for additional information from an applicant, and we will be working with them to understand what they require. We believe our application is robust and meets the requirements of planning legislation, however we've decided to take the time to fully understand the Planning Inspectorate's expectations.

We will take time to collate the information required for the specific points raised and will be resubmitting the application early in the new year."

## NEW PARISH COUNCILLOR VACANCY

Meopham Parish Council is looking to co-opt a new Councillor for the Camer and Meopham Green ward. Parish Councillors play an important role in shaping their community. Any parishioner who might be interested is invited to provide to the Parish Clerk a short statement detailing why they wish to join Meopham Parish Council, including any skills and/or experience that they can bring to the council plus brief details about yourself along with any community involvement experience that you may have had.

Closing date for applications is noon on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2021. Interviews will take place on the morning of the 15<sup>th</sup> January 2021, virtually via zoom.

## WELCOME TO OUR NEW COUNCILLORS

We would like to welcome Cllr Graham Green representing the Nurstead and Hook Green Ward and Cllr Tony Bourke representing the Camer and Meopham Green Ward to the Council. Both joined Meopham Parish Council in October.

## HAPPY CHRISTMAS!

The Christmas tree will be going up on Meopham Green in December to provide some festive cheer to the village.

Meopham Parish Councillors and Staff would like to wish all residents of Meopham a safe and very Happy Christmas.



Please note that the Parish Office will be closed between Christmas and New Year.

## YOUR PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS

### ***Hook Green & Nurstead Ward***

Sue Gofton, Graham Green,  
Jo McTavish and John Ogden (Vice  
Chairman)

### ***Camer & Meopham Green Ward***

Tony Bourke,  
Sheila Buchanan (Chairman),  
Barbara Wade, (Vacancy)

### ***Culverstone & Harvel Ward***

Max Bramer, Dawn Bramer,  
Pat Luxford and Andy Rose

### ***Parish Office Staff***

Sarah Egglesden (Clerk)  
Nicki Jerram and Jo Barker (Clerical  
Assistants)

## WAYS TO CONTACT US

Due to the coronavirus we are only able to produce an online version of the Meopham Mercury. Please tell your friends and neighbours about this being available on the parish council website and social media pages, along with lots of other useful local information

The Parish office remains closed to members of the public and staff are working from home. We can be contacted via the following methods: -

- E-mail at [clerk@meopham.org](mailto:clerk@meopham.org)
- Leave a message on our answerphone – 01474 813779
- [www.meopham.org](http://www.meopham.org)
- Facebook 'Meopham Parish Council'
- Twitter @meophamPC

## 2020/21 Virtual Meeting Dates

08/12/2020 Full Council  
15/12/2020 Planning Applications  
19/01/2021 Planning Applications  
26/01/2021 Environment and Amenities  
09/02/2021 Administration & Resources  
23/02/2021 Planning Applications