



Meopham Mercury

The Meopham Parish Council Newsletter No.18 January 2020

ARE YOU CONCERNED ABOUT THE SPEED OF TRAFFIC IN MEOPHAM?

Meopham Speedwatch are looking for volunteers to support them in reducing speed and improving the safety on our roads with the support of the police.



Speedwatch is a community-based

scheme where volunteers record 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 within Kent. If you would like to join the group and help please go to www.communityspeedwatch.org to register. For more information, visit the Kent Police website

www.kent.police.uk/speedwatch

Could you also let the Parish Office know you have registered by emailing clerk@meopham.org

VE DAY CELEBRATIONS - MEOPHAM

Meopham Cricket Club with Meopham Parish Council and other village organisations are commemorating the 75th anniversary to mark the end of WW2 with a community VE day 1940's themed party on Meopham Green on Friday 8th May from 12 noon until late with vintage stalls, games, food, music, children's races and entertainment. On Saturday

9th May there will be a tea dance and entertainment at Meopham Village Hall. On Sunday 10th May, between 12 noon and 3pm, there is a Dig for Victory day at Meopham Allotments.

On Thursday 7 May, Meopham & District Footpath group are organizing a VE anniversary day and picnic. Two walks will start at the War Memorial on the Green at 10am. One is a 6 mile walk led by John Deacon and the other is a 4 mile walk led by Bill Reed. An invitation is extended to all residents to join the walks which will be followed by a picnic afterwards on Meopham Green.

If anyone would like to volunteer to help with the VE day themed party then please email the parish office – clerk@meopham.org.

MEOPHAM WINDMILL - UPDATE

KCC have been carrying out emergency repairs to Meopham Windmill including treating it for woodworm and ensuring the mill is water tight. The list of repairs to the windmill is quite extensive. As well as KCC funds for the project, an application is currently being prepared by KCC for external funding for submission in March 2020, although a final decision on the grant will not be made for at least 12-18 months.

It has been agreed to temporarily open the Windmill to the public on the 8th, 9th and 10th May for VE Day Bank Holiday and National Mills Weekend from 1.30pm to 4.30pm each day.

CCG DECIDES THE LOCATION OF FUTURE URGENT CARE SERVICES

NHS Dartford Gravesham and Swanley Clinical Commissioning Group's (CCG) Governing Body has given the go ahead to create two linked Urgent Treatment Centres (UTCs), one at Gravesham Community Hospital and one co-located with A&E at Darent Valley Hospital, as part of a networked urgent care services model.

The CCG received over 16,500 responses to its public consultation carried out between August and November 2019. Key concerns raised by local people, regardless of the site option they preferred, were traffic and congestion to Darent Valley Hospital, public transport, parking and how far they might have to travel to get the urgent care they need.

Both UTCs will treat minor illnesses and minor injuries with the Urgent Treatment Centre at Darent Valley Hospital providing additional critical care by virtue of its co-location with the A&E department.

The walk-in services at the Whitehorse surgery will be relocated to Gravesham Community Hospital but the GP and other current services at Northfleet will remain on site and unchanged.

It is expected that the two linked Urgent Treatment Centres will be in place by summer 2020 as part of the first phase towards fully networked sites providing "joined up" urgent care services for the people of Dartford, Gravesham and Swanley.

The decision making business case which sets out the case for the networked urgent care services model and the analysis of the feedback received from the public consultation are available on the CCG's website at <https://www.dartfordgraveshamswanleyccg.nhs.uk/get-involved/urgent-care-post-consultation/>

LOVE WHERE YOU LIVE? COME AND JOIN THE COMMUNITY LITTER PICK IN MEOPHAM



Due to the success of the litter picks last year, these will now be held every other month. The first one of the year was held on Saturday 18th

January 2020. Remaining dates for the year are:-

14th March, 16th May, 11th July, 19th September and 14th November 2020. Meet outside the Windmill at 10am and collect your high visibility jacket, rubbish bags/holders and pickers. Tea and coffee will be available afterwards, from about 11.20am, at The Cricketers, courtesy of the pub.

PSCO REPORT

PCSO Rob Meader will be holding surgery on Sat 8th Feb 10am -11am Meopham Green.

Residents please be aware of SCAM (FRAUD). A person will telephone a resident and claim they are Police Officers working for a FRAUD team. They will say money has been taken out of the resident's bank account and they need to either move money into another account (They will supply account number etc) or they are required to sign a blank cheque that will be collected by police officers.

Police will NEVER request your personal bank details. If you receive one of these calls please hang up and report on 101 or email details to local PCSO Rob MEADER. Rob.Meader@kent.police.uk

PCSO Rob Meader has been working with Gravesham Council on ways to deal with fly tipping in the area. New signage will be put up in repeat locations to deter further issues. He will continue to report any fly tipping incident to the local authority.

Three speed checks have taken place on Wrotham Road between Culverstone and Meopham train station. This has resulted in a small number of owners being given words of advice.

Speed checks will continue in the area when officers are available.

LOWER THAMES CROSSING

Highways England have informed the Parish Council that they have launched a regular community video newsletter and new Facebook page.

You can view the first video on their new Facebook page here.

<https://www.facebook.com/lowerthames>

This will provide an opportunity to keep you updated with their plans and activities ahead of the submission of their Development Consent Order next summer.

POTHLES? WHO TO CONTACT

It is that time of year again when potholes suddenly appear on the road!!! If you do notice any in Meopham then please report to KCC Highways with as much detail as possible including a photo if possible, and the approximate size and location of the pothole. Report at: -

<http://www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/report-a-problem> or tel: 03000 418181

Please keep a record of any fault reporting number that any of the above give you for future reference.

PARISH NOTICE BOARDS

Parish noticeboards provide information to the public about local events. If you wish to advertise an event please contact the Parish Office on 01474 813779 for a number for your poster and ensure your poster is A5 size so there is room for everyone! The noticeboards are **not** to be

used for commercial advertising.

The Parish Council own noticeboards at Meopham Green and the Windmill site, Harvel Village Hall, Culverstone opposite the school, Longfield Road, Camer Parade, Neville Parade and Judson's Pavilion.

MEOPHAM CRICKET CLUB

Meopham Cricket Club are looking for players for u9/u11/u13/u15 teams – boys and girls (men's team also) Winter training has already started. Youth membership at Meopham Cricket Club includes: 3 months winter training held at Gravesend Grammar School, 4 months summer training held at Meopham Cricket Green, new team shirt and equipment provided, opportunity to play matches, family membership of Meopham Cricket Club which includes use of all the great facilities and social events, planned youth team trip to see Kent County Cricket Club Match. All the above for just £6 per month (this is based on 12 payments via Direct Debit/Standing Order).

To find out more and to register visit www.meophamcc.com for more team information or contact wrb99@btopenworld.com. Affiliated to Kent Community Cricket. All coaches are DBS checked.

CLLR SHEILA BUCHANAN, PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

I have lived in Meopham since 1960 (although my father's family have been here since the 1700s – and my great-grandfather, Josiah Martin, was on the 1896 Parish Council!). I taught in secondary schools in the Gravesham area for 31 years: sought a change in direction in 1992 joining the Citizens Advice Bureau where I worked both in the bureau and trained volunteers all over the South-East until 2016. I was a magistrate for 16 years; governor of Meopham School for over 20 years. I am currently

the contracts secretary for Meopham Village Hall and secretary of two choirs and a member of a third. I was co-opted by Meopham Parish Council in 2011 and

have been Chairman since 2015. Meopham is definitely "my home".

BUDGET

The Parish Council agreed to set the parish precept at £106,826.00 for 2020-21. This will cost local tax payers £34.94 per year for the average band D property which is an increase of £3.50 per year compared with 2019-20. Meopham is still below the national band D average which in 2019-20 was £67.18 per annum.



The Parish Council is mindful of the financial resources required for its current community facilities such as the Judson's recreation ground and play area and the recently acquired public toilets. The Council is committed to ensuring that current community facilities such as the Judson's Pavilion are refurbished and maintained for future generations in the parish. Budget increases have allowed for more staff hours as many jobs within the council had been absorbed by the office without reviewing the administration costs for these in the past. We are also now committed to building up a sinking fund for the public toilets for any future maintenance costs plus a further fund for any future parish elections, costs which were previously paid for by Gravesham Borough Council and are now the financial responsibility of the parish council. Meopham Parish Council is committed to helping local community groups each year through its small parish grant scheme. It is also looking to set up and fund the youth club again in 2020 once Judson's Pavilion is open.

MEOPHAM PARISH COUNCILLORS

Hook Green & Nurstead Ward

Sue Gofton, Michael Mulheran
Jo McTavish and John Ogden
(Vice Chairman)

Camer & Meopham Green Ward

Sheila Buchanan (Chairman),
Barbara Wade, Steve Innes and
Gordon Madgwick

Culverstone & Harvel Ward

Max Bramer, Dawn Bramer,
Pat Luxford and Andy Rose

Parish Office Staff

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

HOW TO CONTACT THE PARISH COUNCIL

- At the windmill 9am-12 noon Monday to Thursday (closed Friday)
- Telephone - 01474 813779
- E-mail at clerk@meopham.org
- www.meopham.org
- Facebook 'Meopham Parish Council'
- Twitter @meophamPC

Parish Council meetings are due to take place at 7.30pm in the Windmill unless otherwise stated:

18/02/20	Planning Application Committee
25/02/20	Administration and Resources Committee
17/03/20	Planning and Projects Committee
24/03/20	Planning Applications Committee
07/04/20	Full Council*
21/04/20	Planning Applications Committee
28/04/20	Annual Parish Meeting**
12/05/20	Annual Council Meeting*
19/05/20	Planning Applications Committee

*Cricket Pavilion

**St John's Centre