

# Meopham Mercury

The Meopham Parish Council Newsletter No.15

Autumn 2018

## Judson's Pavilion

Meopham Parish Council and the Meopham Colts Football Club are delighted to announce that they have been awarded a substantial grant from the Premier League and the FA Facilities Fund (administered by the Football Foundation) which will mean that we can now move forward with the complete refurbishment and extension to the Pavilion on Judson's Recreation Ground on Wrotham Road, Meopham. The balance is covered by the contributions from the Parish Council, the Meopham Colts, Gravesham Borough Council and Kent County Council.

The work will be supervised by our newly appointed professional Project Manager.

The new building will contain completely refurbished changing rooms, a meeting room, appropriate toilet facilities for spectators and a small kitchen/serving area, as well as storage for the Colts equipment and that of the Youth Club which will also use the new Pavilion for their activities. The new building will also provide a suitable permanent garage facility for the Community Minibus.

The meeting room which will accommodate some 40 people for management training for the Colts, will be available for hire for recreational purposes by other Village organisations

We look forward to presenting the Village with most attractive new premises to replace the existing structure in the near future.

## Lower Thames Crossing Consultation – 10 October to 20 December 2018

The Lower Thames Crossing is a new road and tunnel connecting Kent and

Essex. Highways England are looking to make people aware of the plans and will be setting up a 'Lower Thames Crossing Mobile Information Centre' in Bartellas car park in Meopham on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2018 between 10am and 2pm. If you have any questions or would like to find out more information about the Lower Thames Crossing then please go along. To have your say, go to <https://highwaysengland.citizenspace.com/ltc/consultation/> for more information and to access the response form. The consultation is open until 20 December 2018.

## Community Defibrillators

Currently there is one publicly available defibrillator in Meopham at Meopham Village Hall in a cabinet outside the hall. Others are located at Meopham Leisure Centre, Culverstone Community Association and Meopham Tennis Club. Meopham Parish Council is currently investigating siting a further defibrillator at the north end of the village. Harvel Village Hall are also looking to site one at the village hall, with funds for this having been raised by Harvel House Farm and Farm Shop, the local running group, the Harvel Hash House Harriers and Harvel Village Hall.

The following information has been provided by the British Heart Foundation:-

- If you come across someone who is not breathing or breathing erratically, the most important thing is to call 999 and start CPR to keep the blood flowing around the body. After a cardiac arrest, every minute without CPR and defibrillation reduces someone's chance of survival by 10 per cent.
- If you're on your own, don't interrupt the CPR to go and get a

defibrillator. If it's possible, send someone else to find one. When you call 999, the operator can tell you if there's a public access defibrillator nearby.

- Once the defibrillator is open and in position, all you have to do is follow the spoken instructions. Many defibrillators will also have diagrams or a screen to help you. The defibrillator detects the heart's rhythm, it won't deliver a shock unless one is needed.
- Often you'll need to press the shock button although some fully automatic defibrillators will deliver the shock themselves. You should resume CPR as soon as instructed by the defibrillator.

### **Anti-social Behaviour**

With the recent incidents of damage to Meopham Green and Culverstone Recreation Ground, the Parish Council would encourage residents to report any anti-social behaviour in the parish to the Police. Please report this to the Police on their non-urgent 101 telephone number or you can now report non urgent crime or an incident on their new online service at:-

<https://www.kent.police.uk/services/report-a-crime/>. Reporting a crime or an incident may assist in getting extra police patrols in the parish.

### **Traffic Survey – Meopham**

A traffic survey was carried out on the A227 in the village from Sunday the 8<sup>th</sup> to Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2018. Sensors were placed at three locations where the speed limit is 30mph: Camer Parade, South Street and Culverstone. Data was collected on the number and type of vehicles travelling in both directions, together with speed information. The data is broken down into hourly counts, as well as giving day v night time and weekend v weekday information.

As well as being of current interest the information will enable comparisons with data collected at future times to assess

the impact of major road changes such as the proposed Lower Thames Crossing.

To pick out a few highlights:-

- On a typical weekday around 8,500 vehicles travelled Northbound at Camer Parade with a peak of more than 1,100 between 1700 and 1800.
- In general somewhat fewer vehicles travel South than North with the peak period for Southbound traffic being between 0700 and 0900.
- An apparently small number of heavy vehicles use the road, around 30 a day in each direction, but this is the result of how these vehicles are classified.
- A more significant figure is the average 500 a day in each direction of medium weight vehicles which includes buses and a large range of lorries.
- Motorcycles account for around 50 a day in each direction with peak usage being on Sunday.
- Fewer than 20 cyclists a day are recorded in general although North bound at Camer records a daily average of over 30. The majority of cycling is at the weekend.
- The sheer volume of vehicles appears to keep excessive speeding -over 50 mph - quite low with the peak time being 0500-0700. However, the average speed for vehicles travelling North at Culverstone was around 34 mph and 15% of all vehicles were travelling in excess of 38mph at that point. At South Street the comparable figures were slightly lower but at Camer more than 85% overall of vehicles travelling North were travelling below 31mph. South bound traffic at all locations was on average faster than Northbound.

A copy of the survey data is available for viewing by arrangement in the Parish Office.

### **Picnic on the Green**

Meopham Parish Council held its third successful community event on Meopham Green in August. This year the weather was not as favourable as in previous years but the event was still well attended and to date our efforts have been well received. We have been fortunate to have gained a grant from Cllr Bryan Sweetland through his members grant at KCC for the event and would like to thank him for his continued support. If any individual or organisation would be interested in sponsoring this event in future years please contact us. This year a raffle was held which raised £210 which will go towards the cost of another community defibrillator. The parish are keen to continue this positive community event as it's an ideal opportunity for all parishioners to attend a traditional family picnic meeting old friends and maybe make new ones too. Food, drink, children's entertainment and a live band all helped make the day a huge success.

### **Pitfield Green Toilets**

May Harris have been appointed as the Parish Council's new contractor to service Pitfield Green Toilets.

### **War Memorial Remembrance Service**

It will be 100 years since the end of the First World War. There will be the annual service of Remembrance on Meopham Green at the War Memorial at 3pm on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2018.

### **Parking Campaign**

The Parish Council launched its Parking Campaign nearly twelve months ago. We had a break from campaigning during the summer months but have decided to relaunch the campaign as large numbers of people are continuing to park illegally and irresponsibly in many parts of Meopham. The two worst places in the Parish for irresponsible parking are Camer Parade and Culverstone School. The Parking Enforcement Manager at Gravesham Borough Council recently told us that the parking problems at Culverstone School are amongst the

worst in the whole Borough. Parking Enforcement Officers from GBC are visiting the Parish on a frequent basis and are issuing a significant number of Parking Enforcement Notices so beware if you park illegally even for a few minutes you are likely to receive a parking ticket

We are concerned that thoughtless parking will result in a serious accident, with maybe a child sustaining life changing injury please do not park on single or double yellow lines, they are there for a reason. If you cannot find a space to park at Camer Parade please use the School Close car park behind the shops. If you are taking children to Culverstone School please consider parking at Culverstone Community Centre, cars can be parked at St Johns if your children attend Meopham Academy.

The Council are working with Gravesham Borough Council, Kent County Council, local shop keepers, our schools and our Community Wardens to try and find solutions to the serious parking issues which exist in our village. Please help us to resolve this ongoing problem which we know concerns many of you. **PLEASE THINK BEFORE YOU PARK**

### **Harvel Pond**

The fence at Harvel pond has been replaced which has also included the replacement and relocation of the existing gate and the addition of a further gate for easy access to the pond for future maintenance. The work has been funded by a grant from Tesco's Bags of Help, Cllr Bryan Sweetland's KCC Members Grant and the Parish Council.

### **Meopham Youth Club**

Meopham Youth Club meet on alternate Fridays at Meopham Leisure Centre. Dates set so far are for:- 23<sup>rd</sup> Nov and 7<sup>th</sup> Dec 2018. (please note that the 9<sup>th</sup> Nov has been cancelled as the Youth Workers from The Grand are unavailable).

### **Friends of Meopham Parish Church**

The Friends of Meopham Parish Church are holding their Christmas Fayre on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> November from 10.30am until 2.30pm at The St John's Centre, Wrotham Road, Meopham DA13 0AA (adjacent to St John the Baptist Parish Church). There will be lots of stalls selling quality arts and crafts, homemade cakes, cards, games and Christmas present ideas. Come and meet Santa too. Entry: Adults £1 on the door (to include tea or coffee) Children no charge (free fruit squash available).

### **How to contact Meopham Parish Council**

You can contact us in the following ways:

- Call into the Windmill - we are usually open 9am-12 noon Monday to Friday
- Telephone - 01474 813779
- E-mail at [clerk@meopham.org](mailto:clerk@meopham.org)
- [www.meopham.org](http://www.meopham.org)
- Twitter - @meophamPC
- Facebook-"Meopham Parish Council"

### **Your parish council members are:**

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

Sue Gofton  
Rosalie Knott  
Jo McTavish  
John Ogden (Vice Chairman)

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

Sheila Buchanan (Chairman)  
Peter Hasler  
Douglas Powell  
Barbara Wade

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

Max Bramer  
Dawn Bramer  
Pat Luxford  
Peter Howard

### **Parish Council meeting dates**

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

**13/11/18** Environment & Amenities

**20/11/18** Planning Applications Committee  
**04/12/18** Administration & Resources Committee  
**18/12/18** Planning Applications Committee  
**08/01/18** Full Council Meeting (Cricket Pavilion)  
**22/01/18** Planning Applications Committee  
**29/01/18** Environment & Amenities  
**19/02/18** Planning Applications Committee  
**26/02/18** Administration & Resources

### **Other Diary Dates**

11/11/18 10:30am – Remembrance Service at St John's - an extended morning service including a walk to the Meopham War Memorial at 12:30  
11/11/18 Remembrance Service at the War Memorial – 3pm  
17/11/18 Friends of Meopham Parish Church Xmas Fayre - 10.30am to 2.30pm  
19/12/18 Carol Service on Meopham Green – 8pm

### **Other useful contacts:**

#### ***Police:***

EMERGENCY Dial 999  
Non-emergency Dial 101  
E-mail:  
[gravesham.neighbourhood@kent.pnn.police.uk](mailto:gravesham.neighbourhood@kent.pnn.police.uk)

#### ***Community Warden:***

Mandy Cason 07977 981931

#### ***Other numbers:***

Crimestoppers anonymous 0800 555111  
Victim Support 0300 303 0156  
Antisocial behaviour 01474 337000  
Community Safety Unit 01474 337528  
Kent County Council (general) 03000 41 41 41  
Kent Highway Services 03000 41 81 81  
Gravesham Borough Council 01474 564422  
Flytipping (24 Hours) 0800 80 70 60  
Graffiti Hotline 01474 337000  
Floodline 0345 988 1188