

## Your Littlebourne Councillors contacts:

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### LPC April meeting

Due to the current situation this meeting will not go ahead on 1<sup>st</sup> April, future meetings will be considered nearer the time.

### Sloyden & Durrant Charities

The Charity exists to help residents in need or hardship and last year it did just that by making payments totaling £590 leaving a balance of £881.89.

The account book as always is available to anyone wishing to see it at any reasonable time by written application to the Parish Council Clerk.

Cllr M Giles.

### LPC Community Fund

#### Purpose:

To facilitate the distribution of the rent received from the Parish Council funded extension to the 4 Villages Store, by providing finance for community events and projects in the Parish of Littlebourne through the village organizations and / or others and where funding from any other source is not available or is incomplete.

During this financial year we have approved a request for £50 from the Littlebourne Art Group, received an application from the school to fund a coach outing and are anticipating a

similar application from the Afternoon Club later in the year.

We have also agreed in principle to fund a neighbourhood watch scheme to protect vulnerable residents, we are waiting for the detailed application which we will consider when received.

Since the fund was set up in March 2013, we have been able to fund projects and events by grants totaling **£15,612.81**. The current financial balance is **£9,925.92**.

We are not receiving as many applications for funding we did initially, therefore may I urge Village organisations and others to consider organizing events or projects they feel would benefit the community and take advantage of this fund.

Applications to the chairman Cllr Mick Giles Tel 728228 or email [cllr.giles@littlebournepc.org](mailto:cllr.giles@littlebournepc.org), the committee will give all applications careful consideration.

Full details including written estimates and quotations are required as is the production of final invoices and detailed expenditure on completion of the event or project.

Cllr M Giles



### Millennium Award 2020

This year's winner will be announced when we are able to hold our Annual Parish Meeting later in the year.



# LPC NEWS April 2020

Littlebourne Parish Council Newsletter

Issue 37, April 2020

## Welcome

Welcome to this extra edition of Littlebourne Parish Council's newsletter. As we had to postpone our Annual Parish Meeting, this is an opportunity to share the reports you would have heard. Please also remember to visit our website for updated news:

[www.littlebourne-parish-council.co.uk](http://www.littlebourne-parish-council.co.uk)



[www.facebook.com/littlebourne](https://www.facebook.com/littlebourne)



[@littlebournepc](https://twitter.com/littlebournepc)

## Contact Us

Littlebourne Parish Council Newsletter  
Clerk@littlebournepc.org  
01227 721500

[www.littlebourne-parish-council.co.uk](http://www.littlebourne-parish-council.co.uk)

## Helping Neighbours update

By now you should have received our flyer. We are overwhelmed with the response of volunteers in the village and very grateful for all those that have offered their time to help other residents. We now have a bank of people willing to help so please do not be shy, even if you just want a phone call occasionally so you don't feel so isolated, please let us know.

This scheme is meant to be just a way to put you in touch with local people and we must mention that we are not vetting volunteers or people in need and that you will need to demonstrate the level of caution you would normally. We do hope that no-one in Littlebourne feels isolated and it seems, from the response we have, that we have a kind and caring community that is willing to pull together in these extraordinary times. Thank you.

## Chairman's Report

Each of us will have reasons for living in Littlebourne; from the proximity to Canterbury, the open spaces and particularly to the facilities and clubs that exist for us. Most of these are run by hard-working professionals or volunteers. I want to thank all these people who go the extra mile on behalf of our village – you help make Littlebourne.

With the ongoing building developments, over the next few years we will be joined by almost a hundred more homes, representing perhaps a 15% increase in the village population all of whom will be looking to what Littlebourne can offer. Whilst many in the current village will have strong views about those new houses and the various disruptions that are occurring, it will be important to ensure that our new residents are made to feel welcome in village society. The parish council has negotiated a S106 agreement with the List developers that will involve transfer of land at the top of

## HELPING NEIGHBOURS



The Emergency Planning Team of the Parish Council are organising a volunteer scheme in the village to assist the elderly and vulnerable through these extraordinary circumstances.

### Can You Help?

Can you spare time to shop for a neighbour or telephone them regularly to check on them? No matter how you can help – please call and we can put you in touch with a neighbour you can help

### Do You Need Help?

Are you an elderly or vulnerable person in the village? We hope to have volunteers to help you, but we need to know who you are. Please call and let us know what assistance you may need – whether that is shopping, collecting medicines or even an occasional telephone call for example, and hopefully we might be able to help.

### Who to call

Leave a message on the Council Offices answer-machine with your name, address and contact number and whether you want to volunteer (and details of the time you can spare) or whether you need assistance.

### Parish Council Office - 01227 721500

or call Cllr Mick Giles, Co-ordinator of LPC Emergency Plan on 01227 728228

Cllr Ken Shaw on 01227 721560, Cllr Cate Reid on 01227 721831

the List to the village and also a significant sum of money which can, in time, be used both for the upkeep of this new land and partly to upgrade facilities in the village. Your parish council is currently investigating upgrading the Hall car park surface and a new public convenience on the Hall site.

The parish finances are, fortunately, in a reasonably healthy state and this year we were able to reduce the precept tax that the parish council administers by 2.5%. However, there are financial challenges around the corner. The amount we are paid by Canterbury City Council for upkeep of open spaces in the village (neatly called Concurrent Function Funding) has been around 25% of our parish income but is set to significantly reduce as the Canterbury district budgets are stretched. There will inevitably be a knock-on effect to our village finances for which parish council will need to budget.

As well as the visible and direct work of the Parish Council in running village functions, much is unseen and is by trying to influence and educate relevant statutory bodies with our local knowledge and our needs. From sewage systems, land drainage, road safety, public transport, village and district planning, communication, river management and flood risks to emergency planning etc. your councillors and your village clerk have been actively engaged during the last year. There remains a vacant position on the Council and any resident interested in contributing to our village can discuss this with the Parish Clerk or myself.

As we all grapple with the consequences of the Coronavirus epidemic, our village society has much to offer to those who are vulnerable or may feel isolated and anxious. Please take a little time to consider what you might offer to neighbours in need during this period. A regular friendly chat over the fence may be all that is needed.

Peter Farrow  
Chairman, Littlebourne Parish Council

## Traffic Action & Highways Report

Some 16 years ago at an Annual Parish Meeting it was determined that the campaign for a Village By-Pass (first asked for by the PC in the 1960s) be discontinued and the more realistic achievable Traffic Calming Measures should be pursued instead. Despite the tremendous efforts made by previous traffic committees little has been achieved in this period. We have the kerb extensions, on the hill to slow traffic coming from Canterbury, some of which have been repositioned at the junction of the new development without any discussion with the Parish Council. After repeated incidents of property damage a 7.5 ton weight

restriction at the top end of Nargate Street was implemented, not much progress after 16yrs of hard work.

The 50 MPH speed limit on the A257 was achieved through the A257 Group and I will talk about that later. All our Village roads continue to be blighted by the ever-increasing weight, volume and speed of traffic using them.

Last year we formed a new traffic committee and updated our Village Traffic Plan and then at the request of KCC Highways converted it into a Highway Improvement Plan (HIP) and then sought a meeting with KCC to discuss the plan.

It was at this point that KCC did its usual change around of staff and so having built up a relationship with one Highway Officer we had to start off with yet another. Having requested this meeting with the new officer we waited many weeks before it took place at which time our HIP was discussed. We were informed that there is only £20,000 available for traffic improvement projects within all the Parishes in the Canterbury district, that won't go very far.

As we went through our HIP there were those items KCC could support and those it could not and those it could support would require a significant or total contribution by the PC or others.

KCC Highways comments on our HIP (not in priority order)

1. [We are limited on what we can do on the A257](#) as it's an 'A' Road.
2. [We can't have 30 MPH repeater signs on the Hill/High Street](#) However we could put up "Remember you are still in a 30 sign" if it's off the Highway on private property.
3. [KCC are unwilling to support buffer zones](#) on the approaches to Littlebourne from Wingham and Canterbury.
4. [It would be possible to move the 30 MPH limit out 100 MTS towards Canterbury](#) Provided we contribute towards the cost, our County Councillor Michael Northey kindly agreed in principal to contribute toward this from his members fund subject to confirmation of the verbally given cost for this project, we emailed KCC Highways on 7<sup>th</sup> January 2020 to get confirmation of this cost but despite a further request on the 10th February 2020 we have not yet received any response.
5. [A puffin pedestrian crossing at the Evenhill](#) This would be possible but expensive, £40,000 as it would involve a new bus stop and a length of foot path.
6. [A signalled Junction at The Hill into the New Development.](#)

We don't have one into Jubilee Road or Nargate Street which have more vehicle movements so would not be Justified.

7. [20 MPH speed limit on the High Street and the Hill](#) Traffic speed surveys on the Hill do not fall within the criteria for the 20mph trial, so this section of road is not suitable for a reduced speed limit. A 20mph limit may be possible along the High Street subject to a traffic survey to ascertain the existing speeds.

8. [20 MPH on all village side roads](#) Speeds need to be down already otherwise calming measures will be needed, and with traffic surveys and traffic orders the cost is estimated to be about £4000 with no given estimate for the required signage.

9. [Village Gateways on Court Hill and Nargate Street](#) Possible at a cost of about £5000.

10. [7.5 Ton weight restriction on Jubilee Road, Court Hill, Church Road and the lower end of Nargate Street](#) Cost to the Parish £5300 but only possible if there was a more suitable alternative route!!!

11. [Move Gateway and Speed Limit Further Back around the Bend and Add Additional Speed Bump in Bekebourne Lane](#) Possible but would be expensive for little gain, additional street lighting and tree removal would be required or could just move the 30mph sign further out, not possible to have Dragons Teeth markings on the road but could possibly have a roundel marking.

12. [Reduce the Speed Limit to 40 MPH between Littlebourne and Wickhambreaux](#) KCC could look at this stretch of road and would probably be able to fund a traffic count.

13. We have recently been informed that KCC have up come up with a policy of and I quote "KCC will give initial advice but if a scheme is identified and considered to be appropriate KCC has to charge for any significant officer time for design and delivery of your scheme."

But since we already pay the officers salary though our Council Tax I think, the Parish Council thinks and so do the A257 group that this is totally unacceptable. In view of the current financial constraints and some of these prevailing attitudes it is somewhat difficult at times to be positive.

I believe that at some point in time we will need support from you all in one form or another to highlight these traffic issues and its effects, we all want to see improvements to the environment and quality of life in our village, [meetings and emails can only achieve so much.](#)

14. The A257 group is comprised of representatives from all the villages and other groups directly and indirectly affected

by the A257 along with our Dover and Canterbury Councillors, County Councillors and MPs.

We have produced The A257 Plan which highlights all of the problems along the whole length of the road and we are currently awaiting a response from KCC when their latest route and speed assessment is completed.

On a much more positive note as I said earlier the group were successful in getting the speed limit on the A257 reduced to 50 MPH but there is still much more work to be done.

Cllr Mick Giles



## Littlebourne Allotments

As the representative of the LPC can I thank the LHS for another year of running the allotment site on our behalf. The site is looking better year upon year, as commented on by an independent judge. A large number of plots are well looked after and cultivated and we have a small number of various sized plots available for rent (please contact the chairman if interested). Plans are in action to clear overgrown plots and two have been completed over the winter period. The new allotment access from the List is now complete, courtesy of the LPC, and thanks again to the List field developers for the new trackway. This will enable easier access of vehicles to the site.

Cllr Brian Hurlow

There will be no advertisements in this additional edition of LPC News.