

# Have Your Say

## Poll of Littlebourne Villager's Wishes on New Development Proposals



In the October Newsletter your Littlebourne Parish Council (LPC) passed on some information it had become aware of regarding a proposal to develop a large piece of farmland stretching from Bekesbourne Lane to up alongside The Hill.

Gladman, the development proposers, have suggested this could have up to 250 houses – some 3 times the number of the ongoing List building estate ('The Laurels'). This would be a very significant change to our village and, together with ongoing building, would probably **increase our village population by over 50%**. This could add considerable strain on roads, drainage and general facilities as well as a dramatic impact on the look and feel of the village.

When this comes up for formal public consultation, likely in the early spring of 2021, it will be key for the parish council to know where our village stands on this. Unfortunately, with COVID 19 restrictions, we cannot now hold the usual public meeting where details of such a development could be demonstrated by a developer and rationale for and against discussed. This is the reason your Littlebourne Parish Council is asking for your decision now in the poll below so it can prepare its actions according to your wishes.

### The decision on how we should react is not straightforward:

- Parish councils have no formal statutory rights to reject planning applications. This power is held by Canterbury City Council (CCC) but we (LPC) can try to influence the outcome of their deliberations.
- With major national housing shortages, even CCC are under a lot of pressure from central government to achieve a much higher house building completion rate in the District than they have managed over the last few years and their powers to reject proposals are constrained by legal frameworks.
- Past experience is that parish views on such matters are usually ignored. Other parishes in Canterbury and our own Littlebourne Parish Council have learnt this from past campaigns, some involving the use of significant amounts of village money on legal challenges. A few developments in Canterbury District have been delayed whilst challenges to them are ongoing but might return at a later date. If Littlebourne Parish were to mount a campaign against this development we cannot know whether it would be successful or not and any money spent would not be returned.

See below for what you can do next. We welcome your response. Thank you.

Littlebourne Parish Council

### ACT NOW

So, please can you discuss this within your household and select one of the two following potential options to guide how you wish your Littlebourne Parish Council to proceed. Mark the choice of your wishes and please drop this form into the Parish Council Clerk's letterbox (on the wall to the right of the village hall entrance) as soon as possible. Closing date will be 31 December 2020

- We strongly object to the developer's proposal and, if necessary, would support the use of village money for expert advice.
- We do not object to this development proposal and/or do not wish to see village money spent on defending against it.

If you prefer, please visit <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/2PSHXV3> or find the link on our Facebook page or website [www.littlebournepc.org](http://www.littlebournepc.org) to complete electronically

# LPC NEWS DECEMBER 2020

## Littlebourne Parish Council Newsletter

Issue 40, December 2020



### Welcome

Welcome to the Littlebourne Parish Council's quarterly newsletter. The aim is to let you know what is going on in the village and make you aware of various initiatives that might be of interest. Please remember to visit our website: [www.littlebourne-parish-council.co.uk](http://www.littlebourne-parish-council.co.uk)

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

### Village Diary



Up and coming events in Littlebourne to look out for:

**Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> January**

LPC Meeting via Zoom



Marking Remembrance Day – Our Lest We Forget Flag flying on the new Community Fund funded flag pole on the recreation ground.

### Contact Us

#### Littlebourne Parish Council Newsletter

Clerk@littlebournepc.org

01227 721500

Visit our website for all our Councillor details and contacts numbers

### Have your Say

Please take a moment to complete the survey on the back page or collect one from the parish office and then return it to the postbox on the parish office wall. Alternatively, complete online via surveymonkey.



Cate Reid

### The Millennium Award 2020 Winner

At the November LPC meeting, LPC were delighted to present this year's award to Cate Reid. For, her work as Chair of The Village Hall Committee, for running the Hall Booking Service and going the extra mile to help people wanting to book the hall. Also for her work as Secretary to the 4VPO Committee.

Unfortunately, a suitable formal occasion had not occurred this year for the presentation, so this was done via Zoom at our normal meeting.

LPC are now seeking nominations for our 2021 winner.

Do you know someone in Littlebourne who deserves recognition?

An unsung hero?

Someone making a difference?

Someone who goes the extra mile?

Why not nominate them for the Millennium Award?

Please write to the Parish Clerk at the address or email - explaining why you believe this person should win. All nominations to be submitted by **31 January 2021**. The result will be announced at the Annual Electors' Parish Meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> March.

Email the Clerk [clerk@littlebournepc.org](mailto:clerk@littlebournepc.org) or pop your letter in the Parish Council post box on the side of the War Memorial Hall.

### **Littlebourne CEP School**

Although this has been a strange and unpredictable year since March, the school has remained strong as a community of parents, staff and children. Through the co-operation of all parents and some juggling of the timetable, we were able to re-open in June and July for all year groups, so that the majority of children attended school again and re-established their regular learning behaviours as well as their friendships and opportunities to be physically with their peers.

On-line learning was available to all families, with children of key workers still attending school every day throughout the lockdown period thanks to the dedication of staff who also continued to attend school in person. Our year 6 pupils had the opportunity to join lessons virtually via Zoom for their last terms with us. They had a successful transfer to secondary school after filming their leaving assembly, so it could be shared with their families and friends who would normally have filled the school hall to wish them well on their last day at primary school.

Since September, we have re-opened fully and have been pleased with the positive attitudes displayed by the children and their willingness to resume their learning. All year groups in the school are now at capacity and we have a short waiting list of applicants. We took the opportunity during lockdown to decorate all the classroom and communal areas, as well as have a general tidy-up and de-clutter; something it is usually hard to find time to do in a busy school. We were hoping to have replacement windows and external doors fitted to the school over the summer, which would improve the outside look of the building, but this project had to be postponed – although we have the necessary funding for it to happen once things get back to ‘normal’.

We have been making additional use of our school grounds, and Forest School area, to ensure the children have plenty of fresh air (as advised) and feel blessed to have such a lovely environment around the school building with plenty of room for groups to stay safe distances apart. We have also been

very grateful to an amazingly dedicated volunteer who has spent many hours repairing the wooden shelters, sheds and benches in the school grounds as well as taking on the task of pruning trees and shrubs to provide further play areas for the children as well as to improve the overall standard of our grounds. With his support, we are developing a further wildlife and gardening area for use by the classes.

Although we are not able to meet together as a whole school at the moment for assemblies or at lunch-time, we were able to celebrate Harvest Festival by linking the classrooms together virtually through Zoom. We marked Remembrance Day in a similar way with two classes visiting the churchyard to lay a wreath of poppies made by the children on the War Memorial. We have tried to maintain our link with the residents of Littlebourne House by sending cards and letters from the children every few months.

A new headteacher, Mrs Samantha Killick, has been appointed to lead the school from January 2021 as I am retiring. It has been a real privilege to be a part of the Littlebourne Village community over the past 5 ½ years and am genuinely thankful for the support and encouragement the school has received from the Parish Council, the church congregation, the Four Villages Fund, Littlebourne Ladybirds and many local residents particularly the families linked to the school.

A final note: applications for a place in Reception have to be submitted by January. As we are currently not able to show visitors around the school, we have created a short film about the school for prospective parents to view. It is available from the school website ([www.littlebourne-kent.co.uk](http://www.littlebourne-kent.co.uk)) and includes the comments and opinions of the children themselves as well as short clips from the classrooms.

Wishing everyone an early ‘Happy Christmas’ and a much more positive 2021,

Stella Byrne

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