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Your Littlebourne Councillors:

Cllr Peter Farrow (Chairman)
Cllr.Farrow@littlebournepc.org
 01227 722370

Cllr Mick Giles (Vice Chairman)
Cllr.Giles@littlebournepc.org
 01227 728228

Cllr Cate Reid
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Cllr Ken Shaw
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Cllr Melanie Moore
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Cllr Lee Castle
Cllr.Castle@littlebournepc.org
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Cllr Jessica Phillips
Cllr.Phillips@littlebournepc.org

Vacancy for new Cllr

Gail Hubbard (Parish Clerk)
clerk@littlebournepc.org
 01227 721500 (LPC office)



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LPC NEWS SPRING 2021

Littlebourne Parish Council Newsletter

Issue 41, April 2021

Welcome

Welcome to the Littlebourne Parish Council's quarterly newsletter, coming to you a month later again. Please remember to visit our website:
www.littlebourne-parish-council.co.uk

 www.facebook.com/littlebourne

Village Diary

Up and coming events in Littlebourne to look out for:

Wednesday 7th April
 Next LPC Meeting 7pm – via Zoom

Wednesday 5th May
 LPC Meeting Statutory Annual Meeting 7pm – via Zoom

APM 2021
 Postponed for now until Gov guidance on remote and face to face meetings is updated.



Photos taken in Cherry Orchard Feb 21

From the Littlebourne Parish Council Chair: Councillor Peter Farrow

Hopefully by this summer we will all be emerging from Covid-19 restrictions and many previously limited village social activities will be able to restart. The Parish Council is grateful for all the wonderful support that volunteers have given and continue to give to vulnerable villagers during this pandemic and to the many workers living here who have put themselves at personal risk carrying out essential roles needed by us all.

Contact Us

Littlebourne Parish Council Newsletter
 Clerk@littlebournepc.org
 01227 721500

www.littlebourne-parish-council.co.uk

With some exceptions, people have generally adhered to safeguarding rules to protect all of us. But, for a while during December and January, the collated Covid-19 incidence figures for Littlebourne, Hoath and Hersden did show very high levels of infection. For the last month our rates have, thankfully, been lower than the national average. Nevertheless, a cautious approach is still needed – the risk of one person in Littlebourne passing this disease to another villager remains real.

There is a small residue of ancient financial bequests to the village from past residents (Sloyden and Durrant Charity) to help support residents in particular hardship. Confidential enquiries about this can be made to either Cllrs Giles or Shaw. For organisation support, our Littlebourne Community Fund has money (arising from the 4VPO shop rental) to support projects of village benefit that cannot readily be funded by other means (apply to Cllr Giles).

Because of the National Lockdown rules, Littlebourne Parish Council has had to postpone the 2021 Annual Parish Meeting but will look to hold it later in the year depending on government restrictions and likely attendance at the time. In the meanwhile, here is an update on key village matters.

I wrote to you last year about two large and significant housing developments that had been proposed in Littlebourne. One behind the new surgery and one potentially very large development from Bekebourne Lane and up along The Hill. The recent poll of the village that was undertaken by Littlebourne Parish Council indicated that the great majority of villagers who responded were strongly opposed to any such new, large scale residential estates.

Many of you have also written citing objections to development broadly along the following lines:-

1. adverse effects on traffic flows on the A257, Jubilee Road and Bekesbourne Lane.
2. loss of grade 1* agricultural land,
3. inadequate school facilities for expansion.
4. increased risk of foul and surface water sewer overloading.
5. loss of landscape views.
6. a deleterious change of general village feel from too fast a population expansion on top of existing housing increase such as the Laurels.
7. permanent blocking of any future southern village bypass.

To date, we are aware that Gladman (a company which seeks out agricultural land and attempts to gain planning permission for such estates) has submitted proposals for the larger area to Canterbury City Council under its 'Call for Sites' but the city council has, for now, decided to keep secret to itself any such proposals or whether it intends to include them within its new long-term 'Local Plan'. However, the draft Plan is expected to be revealed in late April / May. Littlebourne is strongly opposed to any of these developments, but it should be mentioned that if such new housing were to proceed then the new 'Community Infrastructure Levy' on developers would pay a significant sum of money to the village for support of its key amenities. Once we know whether Canterbury intends to consider our village as a potential area for development it will come for parish review and a public consultation. Parish councils have no statutory powers to block plans but if you wish to support the village view in opposing these developments and have specific ideas which could help then please contact our Parish Clerk.

We have now been promised the long-awaited move of the village gateway on the western A257 approach to the village with the costs largely being met by Kent County Council (via our current KCC Cllr Michael Northey's ward member fund). We hope work will start on this within the next few months. The intent here is to help reduce excess speed of vehicles entering the village from the Canterbury direction which has been a cause of several major road accidents in recent years. Despite a number of campaigns going on locally and more broadly, Kent County Council have so far resisted the request to turn all residential roads in to 20mph zones. More specifically, KCC have refused a proposal to put a weight limit on Jubilee Road which had been desired by some residents.

The project to install an externally accessible public toilet at the village hall continues with planning permission having been granted. As more people and

businesses are set to work from home, a new effort has been initiated by resident Neal Twyman with support from the parish council to try and improve access to stable and superfast internet broadband in the village by 'Full Fibre to the Premises' (more details in this LPC News).

There have been several notable organisation and personnel changes in the village. Littlebourne Parish Council welcomes the new headmistress for our primary school – Mrs Sam Killick - who has replaced the very successful Stella Byrne. In our voluntary sector, the Littlebourne Horticultural Society that manages the allotments has elected an entire new committee chaired by Helen Howard. The Littlebourne War Memorial Hall committee chair has now passed to Sue Bull. Our thanks to past committee chair Laura Furr who has made a great contribution to the village Hall running and maintenance.

Despite evidence to the contrary from amusing U-Tube video of all-out parish council war in Hanworth, Cheshire that hit the main news a little while back, your own volunteer Littlebourne Parish Council continues to work together amicably with the support of our Parish Clerk during this pandemic. Our monthly main council meetings are held by Zoom videoconferencing and if you wish to attend please contact our Clerk who will be pleased to forward you a web link. There remains one vacancy for a villager to become a parish councillor and make a difference to your own village whilst getting to know many wonderful and talented people who live here.

Councillor Peter Farrow



MILLENNIUM AWARD 2021 The Nominees are.....

DIANE HOARE- for helping many in the village by taking them to medical appointments and picking up shopping for others (prior to and during lockdown). She is experienced working with the elderly and does this with great patience and understanding.

EVELYN CLAYSON – who goes above and beyond her role in keeping Littlebourne clean and tidy. She often goes out of her way to help any elderly person and lends a sympathetic and understanding ear to many residents. She has worked tirelessly through the pandemic to ensure the cleanliness of the village.

NIKKI MAXTED- she started the Littlebourne Residents Facebook page, a useful tool in the village, this she manages with care and diplomacy. She was the first to volunteer to distribute leaflets for Helping Neighbours scheme and organised a team to cover the whole village. She is well known in the village for her help and support.

CAROL CHILDS - she manages Ladybirds Pre-School and has gone the extra mile throughout this pandemic to provide a safe and secure environment at the preschool for children and staff alike. Carol has been manager for many years and so many children from the 4 villages have benefitted from her service to the community.

MARGARET MUIRHEAD – she has been a constant support over the months after being matched up through the Helping Neighbours scheme to an elderly couple. Margaret has been in contact every week, done necessary shopping and rung for chats. Margaret would be a wonderful worthy winner.

Littlebourne FTTP (Fibre To The Premise) Community Project

My name is Neal Twyman, I have taken community lead with the blessing of the Littlebourne parish council to organise a upgrade of internet service to FTTP within the parish.

We as a community can impact our internet service, which can 'Save money' on your internet service vs speed, provide a 'Stable connection' and 'Increase your property value'.

It is no surprise to much of the village that our internet service is poor, with low download/upload speeds and up to a dozen blackouts daily, sometimes losing service altogether for an entire day in some areas.

However, there is a solution which needs your support to succeed..... A government voucher scheme exists which helps fund projects such as ours. With more residences involved, greater the funds that can raised through vouchers & in turn greatly increase the opportunity of achieving a completely free upgrade to the community internet.

The Government scheme changes its voucher value at the beginning of April 2021, currently no information is available on how much the new vouchers will be worth per residence. It is also worth mentioning that Kent County Council 'Top up' the current voucher scheme by a significant amount, as yet KCC do not know what the 'Top Up' will be following the changes.

An example of Current voucher scheme values (expires 31/3/21)

Domestic residence = £1500 + 'KCC Top Up' = £5500

Business Residence (any type of business, including Self Employed) = £3500 + 'KCC Top Up' = £7000

If 250 of the 670 houses in the village committed to a current voucher @ £5500 we could generate £1,375,000 in our fund.

Reasons to consider getting involved;

-100mbps download for £29.99 / month (BT Full Fibre 100). For everyone this would be a faster speed for roughly the same as what you pay per month currently, for myself it would be £5/ month more, however substantially increase my speed by 80mbps. The are other higher packages Full Fibre 300 & Full Fibre 900.

-Increased Property Value. The internet service to your property has an effect on the property value, upgrading to FTTP can add as much as 3% to your property value, conducted by a reputable estate agent Strutt and Parker.)

-A Reliable Connection. Over the past 12 months the whole country has had to lean on their internet service more than usual with families needing to work from home, school children learning from home, video calls to loved ones you are unable to see in person. This can become difficult and frustrating with the instability of our current network in Littlebourne.

The criteria for accepting the voucher is the commitment to take a Full Fibre Service for a 12 month contract, that doubles your current internet speed once the service is live and available. (I have used BT as my example above but there are other providers to choose from).

As you can imagine this is a very large undertaking to get the entire village upgraded to a FTTP service. There are several steps, forms, back & forth with Openreach and myself. I am in communication with a KCC media representative who is helping with information I need to achieve & I'm hopeful that we can achieve this much needed upgrade. Again being transparent it will not be quick process, it can take Openreach 10 - 12 months to complete the upgrades (once the final quote is agreed). For anyone concerned that road networks will be disrupted, as far as I understand the upgraded cable is distributed over the current pole network around the village.

I would like to ask if anyone has the time to help with certain aspects of this project. Any help would be much appreciated and speed up the process enormously please contact me LittlebourneFTTP@gmail.com Again if anyone has any questions please get in touch. Thank you very much for your time.

Neal Twyman Littlebourne FTTP Project Community Leader

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