

LPC News

Littlebourne Parish Council Newsletter
<http://www.littlebournepc.kentparishes.gov.uk/>
Issue 6, September 2012

Welcome to the Littlebourne Parish Council's quarterly newsletter. The aim is to let you know what your council is doing on your behalf to make the village a great place to live, work and relax.

Rydon Homes development proposals on land at the List

Further to residents' feedback to Cllrs at the Rydon Homes public exhibition in May, the parish council's press release of early June 2012 states:

"Massive rejection of development proposals by Littlebourne villagers

A survey of villagers taken at the Rydon Homes exhibition of their development proposals for land behind The Hill and The List in Littlebourne has shown that a massive 75% reject the whole plan and wish the site to remain in agricultural use. Nearly 200 responses were received and of these just 13% were in favour of any development. The remaining 12% gave no clear indication of their preference, but showed concern for the outcome. The survey was organised and carried out by the Littlebourne Parish Council and simply asked for the Resident's concerns, views and opinions rather than asking a series of structured questions that could have been misunderstood or restricted what the respondent might wish to say. The purpose was to enable the Parish Council to formulate an informed response to the Canterbury City Council when it comes to decide on the future of the land.

The survey papers were checked and counted by five Councillors and every paper has been read and categorised by that group to ensure absolute accuracy. The results are being further analysed to determine the reasons for rejection or acceptance so that a clear picture can be built up to present to the City Council.

Littlebourne Parish Council asked the Villagers to indicate how they would wish it to respond to the Rydon proposals and it feels that a path has been very clearly shown."

Some 40 plus residents attended the parish council meeting on 19 June 2012. There, Cllr Spratt also confirmed that the parish council would not support any change of use from agricultural application for this field. She also explained that Canterbury City Council is the planning authority, the parish council is only a consultee, and ultimately the city council

will make the decision on whether to grant permission or not, even if the parish council and a number of residents object. She explained the parish council would form a sub-committee and gather information to submit to the city council. She also explained there has already been information gathered that would not be discussed openly at the meeting. She also urged residents to ask the parish council any future questions and not listen to hearsay.

With the clear mandate, Littlebourne parish council will oppose the Rydon Homes Ltd proposal to have the land behind The Hill and The List included in the new District Local Plan and also any planning applications subsequently made relating to it. Cllr Gallagher had composed a draft letter, which Councillors have considered and resolved to send to Adrian Verrall, Planning Policy Manager, at Canterbury City Council. This letter sets out the position and reasons for the objections. It was resolved to send a similar letter to Kent County Council's Highways and Transportation Development Planner.

Adrian Verrall has kindly agreed to attend the parish council meeting on 20 September 2012 at 7pm in The Lounge, to give information about the emerging Local Plan and answer questions. Residents are welcome to attend this meeting and hear his presentation.

The Traffic Sub-Committee of Littlebourne Parish Council are looking for Volunteers to participate in Speedwatch through our Village. This would entail teams of 3 to use our Speed Monitor at various points in the Village to record speeds and car details. This information is then passed on to the Police for their records and possible action. If you could potentially help out early morning, late morning, afternoon or early evening, please contact Cate Reid on 721831 or by email to cateatnickthevoice@btinternet.com. Thank you for any assistance you can give to make our Village safer from speeding traffic.

Trees in Conservation Areas

Trees in Conservation Areas are often a very important feature and contribute to the overall character of the area. Special controls exist on **all** trees in conservation areas to help Canterbury city council protect the special

character of the area created by the trees. If trees have a specific Tree Preservation Order (TPO) on them, then normal Tree Preservation Order controls apply.

If I want to prune or cut down trees in a Conservation Area what do I have to do? Give the city council's arboricultural officer 6 weeks' notice, in writing, of your intention to do any work to trees. You must not carry out any work during the 6-week period, which starts from the date of your notification to the council, unless you get written permission to do so.

What happens when I give notice? Your proposal is entered in the 'Register of Proposed Work to Trees in a Conservation Areas'. The city council contacts local amenity groups and parish council to inform them of proposals. You will receive an acknowledgement of your notification. The city council may also carry out a site visit.

The council has six weeks from your Notice to consider your proposal, and decide whether to serve a TPO to control the proposed work. If you have not heard by the end of the 6 week period, or receive earlier confirmation that they do not object to the proposed work, you may carry out the work you have described, providing you do so within two years.

Are there any exemptions? Yes:

- Trees with a trunk diameter of less than 75mm measured 1.5 metres above ground level,
- Trees that are dead, and
- Trees which are immediately dangerous.

However contact the city council before you do the work as the responsibility is on you to prove that exemptions apply. This can be very difficult after the event and you are advised to take professional arboricultural advice before carrying out any work. It also helps to take photographs of the trees and defects which created the need for urgent work. There is also a duty under the Town and Country Planning Act (1990) to plant a replacement tree.

What if I do not follow the procedures? Work which is not exempt, carried out without notification or within the six week period without the written consent is illegal. Prosecutions and fines of up to £20,000 for each tree may be imposed by the Magistrates Court. If proceedings are instituted in the Crown Court fines are unlimited. There is a duty to replace any tree removed without permission.

Write to: **Countryside, Planning & Regeneration, Canterbury City Council, Military Road, Canterbury CT1 1YW.** Phone **01227 862486, 01227 862187** or emergency out of hours number **01227 781769** E-mail countryside@canterbury.gov.uk or for trees in privately owned land Trees@canterbury.gov.uk

Canterbury City Council clarification on HeatSeekers

Residents may recently have received a letter about the energy efficiency of their home. The leaflet has the logos of Canterbury City Council and a scheme called HeatSeekers at the top of it. The city council wants to make it clear that the HeatSeekers scheme, run by a company called the Mark Group, is not endorsed by the council. The leaflet should not have the council logo on it and the text on the leaflet should not say that the council has approved the HeatSeekers scheme. The council has urgently been in contact with the Mark Group to insist they no longer associate the council with this scheme. The company has withdrawn the leaflet and issued an amended one with no mention of the council.

Fish and Chip van

Just a reminder – We welcome David and Maureen Ridgway who are bringing their Fish & Chips Van to Littlebourne every Tuesday from the 3rd July from 4.30 to 6 pm.

Do give them a try – Cllr Gate Reid said, “We tried them at their pitch in Barham, and loved the quality of the food ! And the Van is well-equipped and spotless”.



A generous donation to the village

A kind donation by the Bailey family has enabled the installation of a seat for Court Hill, in memory of L.A. BAILEY 1920-2011 and E.BAILEY 1929-2011 (daughter of A.Fox)

We would like to give a very warm Welcome to our new PCSO Elaine Cannadine who may be contacted on her mobile **07989992457** or by email to elaine.cannadine@kent.pnn.police.uk

And we also welcome our new KCC Community Warden, Jon Lodge. Anyone can contact him on **079689583916.** As Community Warden, Jon wants to be involved in community engagement and

work with people from a range of backgrounds. He is looking forward to meeting people and making a difference in the community. Jon considers himself a good listener and very approachable. He hopes to bring the community together and see any problems resolved appropriately. **His role:**

- To help people live safely and independently in their communities.
- To work directly with excluded/vulnerable sections of the community on a range of projects, to promote a greater understanding of the cause and effect of anti-social behaviour.
- Provide a visual uniformed presence.
- To support and help the community.
- Wardens DO NOT have any enforcement powers, however if they cannot solve the problem they will know someone who can.
- They deal with a wide range of issues, from abandoned vehicles to walking buses; from reading to primary school classes to home security for the elderly.

REPORTING PROBLEMS ON PUBLIC RIGHTS

OF WAY - The Countryside Access Service has introduced a web based reporting tool to report Public Rights of Way (PROW) problems. It is quick and easy to use, and you can request e-mail updates, so that KCC PROW officers may keep you informed at various stages as your issue is dealt with. Access the fault reporting tool at

http://kent.gov.uk/leisure_and_culture/countryside_and_coast/report_a_problem.aspx

For anyone without web access please use the dedicated report line (0845 3450210).

For a PROW interactive map, visit http://www.kent.gov.uk/leisure_and_culture/countryside_and_coast/introduction_to_the_map.aspx

TWINNING WITH WIMILLE

On 14 July a coach took 4 parish councillors and 23 residents for a return visit to Wimille. Residents paid £30 each to cover costs. The event went very well. Cllr Gallagher will add photos to the parish council website. The day's itinerary included a Napoleonic re-enactment including the firing of a canon, majorettes, an amusing little play and the unveiling of the twinning sign on their village sign. Cllrs plan to do similar signage at Littlebourne, for the top and bottom of The Hill, on the 30 mph sign at Court Hill, on the gateway coming in to the village on Bekesbourne Lane and on the Wickhambreaux Road coming in to the village. Details to be finalised – the Clerk will apply to Kent Highways Services in the first instance for permission to erect the signage.

Cllrs took a bag of mainly donated craft work (including corn dollies, notesets, handbags, and Littlebourne honey from the allotments). The French presented the Chairman with a plate, a book and 8 engraved glass tumblers.

Wimille Christmas Fair – Sunday 2 December

Please could any villagers contact Cllr Viv Spratt if interested in going on a coach trip to the Fair - cost to be in the region of £30.00 each – and leaving 7.30am and returning around 8.00pm. Also, if any villagers would like to have a stall, Cllr Spratt will try and arrange with the Wimille Committee free stall accommodation at the Fair. Contact Cllr Spratt on Vivienne.spratt@btinternet.com Tel. 722088

HOUSING – FOOTPATH LIGHTING ALONG ELLEN COURT

The parish council is delighted that they have commissioned and paid for footpath lighting at the back of the pathway along Ellen Court. This has been installed, although the works suffered a cable theft and the contractor's insurance had to cover this. The system is now on the council's insurance since handover. It is all working and operates the same timings as the youth shelter lighting.

Advertisement feature:

'Lady Decorators'

**Internal & External Work
Painting & Decorating
Small Restoration Projects**

Professional and Qualified with over 20 years experience - Nichola Rogers
Tel :- 01227 831058 Mob:- 07816344951

Hazelnut Tree Care



www.hazelnuttreecare.co.uk

Matt Gerrard

01227 700538 07879601642

Advertising in this publication

This newsletter goes to over 700 households quarterly. The advertiser would be expected to supply their own artwork or text electronically in Microsoft Word format and to sign up in advance for up to 4 editions, with the option to renew on an annual basis. At the present time there is only one advert size and pricing structure: **A 1/8 page advert in a text box this size costs £20 for 4 editions or single edition one off for £15.**

Social housing in the village

Whilst vacant property rarely becomes available in the village, the parish council is updating its records of people interested and eligible for property in Littlebourne. The housing developments are **List Meadows and Court Meadows**. There are extra requirements to be met to be eligible to bid for a property here. These requirements are a set of strict criteria and local connection and are set out in agreements between Littlebourne Parish Council and either Southern Housing Group or Sanctuary Housing Group. In order for an applicant to qualify they must meet *one* or more of the criteria. For more details contact the Clerk. ***If you wish to join the parish council waiting list for housing in Littlebourne and have not yet contacted the Clerk, please do so, for an application. This also applies to anyone already in List Meadows or Court Meadows who would like to be considered for a transfer within or between the estates.***

Diary dates

Thursday 20 September 2012 – Guest Speaker Adrian Verrall, Canterbury City Council Strategy Manager to speak at the parish council meeting, to be held in The Lounge at 7pm.



Friday 14th September - The Tubs and Baskets Presentation in The Lounge at 7.00pm. Invitations to winners and runners up will be sent shortly.

Sunday 2 December 2012 – Trip to Wimille Christmas Fair (see text above for the detail)

Keep up to date with Parish business

Visit the website; Minutes are published every month there and on the Council's noticeboard, or the Littlebourne column in the Kentish Gazette each week. An Agenda on the council's noticeboard

details the council's meetings and discussions items. A recess allows any member of the public to speak. All meetings are open to the public and all are welcomed.

Contact the Clerk or the Chairman, or any members of the council at any reasonable time, during office hours except for emergencies.

This newsletter is compiled by the Parish Clerk, Amanda Sparkes. If there is something you would like covered in the next edition please contact her on 01227 700939 or amanda.sparkes@sky.com.

Contact her if you need it in **Large Print**.

Your nine Cllrs are as follows:

Chairman, Cllr Viv Spratt

Alexandra House, 17 Jubilee Road 01227 722088
Vivienne.spratt@btinternet.com

Responsibilities: Chairman, Allotments, Children & Youth, Seniors, Community & well-being, Finance, Media and website, Planning, Recreation Club, Ground and gardens, Twinning, 4VPO Assoc.

Vice-Chairman, Cllr Mick Giles, 40 High Street, 01227 728228 Mickandwendy1@btinternet.com

Responsibilities: Vice-Chair, Littlebourne Charities, Emergency Plan, Neighbourhood Watch, Flooding, Highways, Recreation Club, Ground and Gardens.

Cllr Geoffrey Barrett, Elmstead House, 3 Cherry Orchard 01227 720779, g-barrett@btconnect.com

Responsibilities: Finance, Planning, Twinning

Cllr Pamela Evans, Willowbank, 30A Nargate Street 01227 722132 pamelaevans4@btinternet.com

Responsibilities: The Barn & heritage, foot-paths, Environment, Littlebourne nature reserves,

Cllr Mike Gallagher, 50 The Hill CT3 1TA 01227 722476 mike.gallagher79@yahoo.co.uk

Responsibilities: Finance, Highways, KALC rep, website, Twinning, War memorial hall trust

Cllr Betty Jeffries, 29 Rose Acre Road, 01227 721436 Elizabethjeffries2@hotmail.com

Responsibilities: The Barn & heritage, Planning, Environment, footpaths, nature reserves,

Cllr Ken Shaw, 36 Nargate Street 01227 721560,

Ken.shaw@virgin.net **Responsibilities:** Littlebourne Charities, Environment, footpaths, Flooding, Highways, Street Monitor, Police

Cllr Geof Welch, Riverbank, 32 Nargate Street, 01227 728507, Ducks.riverbank@tiscali.co.uk

Responsibilities: Seniors, Community & well-being, Emergency Plan, Neighbourhood Watch, Flooding, KALC rep, Street Monitor, Police.

Cllr Cate Reid, 70 The Hill, Littlebourne 01227 721831 hallbookings@littlebournevillage.com

Responsibilities: Emergency Plan, Highways, Twinning, Hall bookings, War memorial hall trust

