

LPC News

Littlebourne Parish Council Newsletter
<http://www.littlebournepc.kentparishes.gov.uk/>
Issue 4, March 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.

Millennium Award 2012

Congratulations to the following who have been nominated by parish Cllrs and/or residents to receive the Millennium Award for 2012. The winner will be announced at the Annual Parish Meeting in the War Memorial Hall at 7pm on 8 March 2012. They would all be worthy recipients, and in no particular order are:

1. Mrs Evelyn Clayson – as she goes the extra mile in her job, is always willing to do extra jobs, and makes a splendid job of keeping Littlebourne clean and tidy and a better place to live.

2. Mrs Daphne Kelk – as she does so much for others in the village, acting as a lifeline for many housebound people; she collects and delivers daily newspapers and prescriptions; drives residents to doctors' and other appointments and clubs; and does fund raising for several charities.

3. Mick Lonergan – as he provided an excellent, free, St George's family day event last year; leads Pilates classes in the hall; is developing Turner's Orchard in an exciting way, and most of all has transformed the Youth Shelter with a lot of manual labour and freely given time. Modest in all he undertakes, with no sense of self-importance, for him 'the good of the village' really does come first.

4. Cllr Viv Spratt – as she has done so much in fund raising and improving the village facilities, above and beyond her work as Chairman of LPC.

5. John Pollard for his many years hard work for the allotments, the allotment stall supplying the villagers with fresh vegetables and the village Flower and Produce Show

6. Dave and Jean Smith for community work, particularly their help and support to older people in the village, that not many parishioners are aware of, and the Afternoon Club, Flower Arranging for village organisations and Church.

7. Christopher Armstrong - Chris has been Assistant Cub Scout Leader in Littlebourne for the past 15 years, in addition to running Explorer Scouts, he is also a bell ringer and is on the Parish Emergency Plan Committee. Chris will always go the extra mile to help anyone if he can.

Advertising in this publication

A resident contacted the parish council as the Church and Village have no advertising space available, with a view to advertising in this publication instead. The parish council is considering making advertising space available and if anyone is interested in this please contact the Clerk. This newsletter is sent to over 700 households on a quarterly basis. 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 their parish council meeting of 15 December 2011 the parish council resolved that at the present time there should only be one advert size and pricing structure as follows:

A 1/8 page advert in a text box this size would cost £20 for 4 editions

(or single edition one off for £15)

DIGITAL SWITCHOVER

The digital Television switchover is starting in Kent from May 30th 2012. Analogue TV signals will be turned off and Freeview services boosted. After switchover, virtually all homes will be able to receive digital TV free via an aerial, including those served by local relay transmitters. The exact date of when you switch depends which transmitter your TV gets its signal from. To find out when you switch and what your digital options are, visit www.digitaluk.co.uk or call Digital UK on 08456 50 50 50.

PCSO Gavin Dodwell

As from 18 March PCSO Gavin Dodwell will be moving to the Shepway area. His replacement will be PCSO Elaine Cannadine, she is currently working in Sittingbourne but lives in the Canterbury area. Gavin said, "I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support over the past 18 months."

We wish Gavin well in his new role.

Ken Campbell, KCC Community Warden

We also said a fond farewell to Ken Campbell, who retired at the end of January. The parish council acknowledged his commitment and contribution to the community by giving him £90 of garden centre vouchers.

Allan MacDonald will be the new local warden covering Littlebourne. Contact him on **07969583916** allan.macdonald@kent.gov.uk

Care Navigator Service

Are you an older adult?

Do you require assistance with a problem?

Do you have any needs that may necessitate help?

Would you like some support to help you explore your options?

Receive assistance - Discuss your problems or needs through a one-to-one meeting with the Care navigator. The Care Navigator will investigate and may provide a list of potential options to enable you to select your preferred way forward.

The service will help you to:

- Improve your decision making ability.
- Increase your awareness of community services
- Improve your sense of well being.
- Increase your confidence in dealing with everyday problems /needs.
- Help you create a support plan.
- Take charge of and manage your situation

A support Plan describes what you want to change or improve about your life. It must clearly set out the support you want to have in place, how much it costs, and how it is managed. It will also explain why the decisions you make about your support will enable you to lead as independent and fulfilling a life as you can.

Contact Details Care Navigator: Kristina Amos, The Centre Castle Row, Canterbury CT1 2QY. Telephone: 01227 787313. Email: kristina.care.navigator@hotmail.co.uk

Hours of Operation: Monday – Friday, 9 am - 4 pm.

Neighbourhood watch alerts by email and street co-ordinators

Cllr Geof Welch is collating an email list to send out details of Neighbourhood watch (NHW) incidents sent to us from the Police. The forwarded email will be edited so only information regarding general matters (scams, door step selling, trading standards alerts, etc) and information relevant to the village is sent.

David Smith is the Littlebourne NHW Coordinator. He is still looking for Link persons for every road in Littlebourne, to forward information on as there are many people in Littlebourne who do not have computers.

If you would like be part of this valuable service contact Cllr Welch, David Smith or the parish clerk.

Social housing in the village

Whilst vacant property rarely becomes available in the village, the parish council is updating its records of people both interested and eligible for property in Littlebourne. The existing housing developments are **List Meadows and Court Meadows**. For these, there are extra requirements that need to be met for a person to be eligible to bid for a property. These requirements 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 for an allocation on either of these developments they must meet *one* of the following criteria:

1. Currently resident in the parish of Littlebourne (including Lackenden or Lee Priory) and been so for at least 10 years
2. Previously been resident in the parish for a minimum of 10 years but moved away from the parish to secure affordable/appropriate accommodation.
3. Is the mother or father, son or daughter, the brother or sister of a family which meets the criteria above in the first two points and whose application is evidenced by proof that continuing care to or for members of the family is necessary.
4. Applicants who have resided away from the parish of Littlebourne (including Lackenden and Lee Priory) for a period exceeding 20 years shall not be considered eligible unless the application meets the criteria set out in point 3 above.

If there are insufficient applicants fulfilling requirements above then nominations for housing can be considered from existing residents within the Littlebourne Parish. Preference will be given to those who have lived in

Littlebourne the longest. If no one meets the Littlebourne connection criteria then applications can be considered from those residing in Ickham, Wickhambreaux, Bekesbourne and Patricxbourne but applying the same local connection criteria.

If you wish to join, or remain on the parish council waiting list for housing in Littlebourne, where special criteria applies, and you meet the above criteria, and have not yet contacted the Clerk, please do so, for an application.

Housing Needs Survey

A survey was posted to every household in Littlebourne in October 2011. Surveys were returned in pre paid envelopes to Action with Communities in Rural Kent to ensure independence. 661 surveys were distributed with 268 surveys being returned, representing a 41% response rate. The aim of the first section was to gain residents' views for new housing development in the Littlebourne area.

Littlebourne Parish Council want to ensure they can represent the community's views in responding to any proposals for new housing development.

Analysis of Section 1 found that:

- 182 (67%) respondents have lived in Littlebourne parish for over 10 years.
- 203 (78%) respondents are owner occupiers.
- When asked what issues respondents would consider when looking for a new home, the most popular answer was affordability/price.
- 258 (36%) respondents indicated they would be seeking to move home in the next 3 – 10 years.
- The most frequently given reasons for seeking to move were due to present home being too large and retirement.
- 99 (48%) respondents wanted 2 bedrooms.
- 125 (49%) respondents would support more housing development in Littlebourne, 96 (39%) would not support development and 34 (13%) do not know.
- From respondents who would support more development, 87 (51%) said they would support infill development, 80 (47%) would support new sites.

145 (60%) respondents felt current infrastructure would not support more housing. Respondents overwhelmingly wanted a new GP surgery, then school and road improvement.

Most popular housing types favoured were homes for the elderly (94) and local needs housing (77).

The second section of the survey explored shortfalls in affordable housing provision for households with local connections to Littlebourne. The majority of people in housing need wanted to rent from a housing association or shared ownership.

The largest group of people in housing need (61%) were in the age group 25 – 44.

Overall, a need for up to 26 affordable homes, for the local households was identified.

Rydon Homes

Rydon Homes met with the Chairman and Clerk on 30 January 2012. Rydon Homes have an option for development on land at the rear of The Hill / Jubilee Road, subject to planning permission being granted. Canterbury City Council is taking this site forward as one of their strategic sites.

The villagers' top priority is the provision of a new larger surgery and pharmacy. Cardys have just started ground works on the Court Hill site to keep planning permission live by establishing a material start, but there is no guaranteed funding for future rental in place. Rydon Homes agreed to talk to the doctors as a priority. Also as any development would generate more traffic there could be developer funding for road improvements, subject to Kent Highways (KHS) approval. Rydon Homes agreed to speak to KHS to find out what could be done.

Rydon Homes will now work up 2 or 3 alternative schemes., with a mix of tenure and size and type to include some bungalows, with an emphasis on the young and the elderly. Local needs housing will be split between 3-4 bedroom homes for families, and smaller accommodation. Under general policy split the development would be approximately 1/3 affordable and 2/3 market homes. Therefore, to achieve the need for 26 affordable homes (detailed in the housing needs survey) the development would need around 80 homes to be built. An agreement for the same local connection requirements as per the parish's existing schemes could be sought.

Rydon Homes will offer villagers an exhibition – one evening and a Saturday morning session – with the Clerk and/or parish council representation at a 'meet and greet' table to record registration details of who attends and to offer them a comments sheet. Please note, the presence of the parish council at the exhibition is to offer Cllrs' local knowledge only – it is not a joint exhibition, nor does it assume any support for the development.

Diary dates

Littlebourne Annual Parish meeting Thursday 8 March 2012

at the War Memorial Hall.

Guest speaker, Helen Bennington, from Canterbury City Council, will give a short presentation on the city council's changes to the doorstep waste and recycling collections.

Followed by short reports from the Parish Cllrs and your local organisations - come and find out what's happening in your village.

Light refreshments from 7pm for a 7.30 pm start.

June 4th 2012 – Littlebourne is to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee of HM Queen Elizabeth II

with a programme of events on Littlebourne Recreation Ground from 11am-4pm (times to be confirmed). We will also be celebrating our twinning with Wimille, France at the event. The Mayor of Wimille will be attending to sign the Charter. There will be many events taking place on the Recreation Ground. The Recreation Club will be holding an open day for all and providing a BBQ. We are looking for input from local residents who may wish to promote their club or organisation; showcase their crafts; set up stalls to sell their own produce, or any types of refreshments and so on. Plus we're looking for enthusiastic people to provide music, dance or any form of entertainment. As always we welcome your suggestions. If you are interested in helping mark this very special occasion please contact: Cllr. Viv Spratt Tel. 722088

vivienne.spratt@btinternet.com

Keep up to date with Parish business

Visit the website; Minutes are published every month, or the Littlebourne column in the Kentish Gazette each week. An Agenda posted in the council's notice board details the council's meetings and areas for discussions and general business. A recess allows any member of the public to speak. All meetings are open to the public and anyone is always welcomed. Contact the Clerk or the Chairman, or any members of the council at any reasonable time, normally 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 copied 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-Chairman, Littlebourne Charities, Emergency Plan and Neighbourhood Watch, Flooding, Highways, Recreation Club, Ground and Gardens, 4VPO Assoc.

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, footpaths, 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.

Currently one vacancy