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Your Littlebourne Councillors:

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LPC NEWS NOVEMBER 2022

Littlebourne Parish Council Newsletter

Issue 46, November 2022

Welcome

Welcome to the Littlebourne Parish Council's quarterly newsletter. Please also 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 2nd November

Next LPC Meeting 7pm in the LWMH meeting room

Wednesday evenings

Rural Youth Van in the hall carpark 5.30-7.30pm
Free youth activities for 11-18 year olds

Thursday 17th November

Bingo in the WMH Lounge at 2pm

Saturday 3rd December

Christmas Wine & Wisdom in LWMH 7pm

Thursday 15th December

Bingo in the WMH lounge 2pm

Chairmans Report

A year has now passed since the Gladman proposal to develop the land south of The Hill was rejected by Canterbury City Council following our village campaign and because of issues with Stodmarsh Nature Reserve nutrient overload. What has happened since? Various proposals have been made by developers to overcome the issue of wastewater management in the Canterbury district.

Contact Us

Littlebourne Parish Council Newsletter
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As a result, large developments may be able to go ahead with their own wastewater treatment works and smaller developments may be able to 'buy' credits to offset the waste issues through new reed beds and wetland approaches if our local Southern Water works are additionally upgraded - although, supposedly, this might take up to ten years to achieve. Dover Council, who like Canterbury feel a great need to support new housing, have undertaken a study which suggests that the part of their district which drains to the Little Stour valley area (e.g. around Wingham) may not significantly impact Stodmarsh. Following this, it would appear that Canterbury City Council is also looking at the possibility that development in the Little Stour area of the Canterbury District might also not have such issues and thus become favourite for their stated desire to build some of an extra 17000 houses. The scientific and technical arguments are both complex and contentious but are key to whether new developments will eventually be approved in our area. LPC is very fortunate that we have several experts in the village who are on top of the details.

Many of the village will, by now, have had an early view of the new 2045 Draft Canterbury District Local Plan. Despite the previous rejection of proposals for the south side of The Hill, Littlebourne has been scheduled to have a total of 350 more houses: 300 in an even larger Gladman-type plan together with a 50 house development behind the new GP surgery. Officially, we have until January to pass comments on the plan and I would urge all those with a keen interest in the future of our Littlebourne area to spend some time to

read the relevant sections and give their comments to the City Council. Once approved, this plan will set the pathway for housing development for many years.

Littlebourne's history is long and many of our roads entirely pre-date the era of motor vehicles and the need to park them at night. Even the more recent post-war developments did not predict the average numbers of cars per property let alone their increasing size. Some houses have their own off-road parking but not all are so fortunate. Obviously, we can't go back in time to design out the current shortage of road parking spaces near every property and like many villages and towns the only real option is to make the best, sensible use of what is available. I am aware of many complaints around vehicles parked in an unhelpful way. Most of the failures to park carefully cannot easily be legally resolved and will depend on community mindedness and respect for one's neighbours. Please be as considerate as possible over your parking.

Your Littlebourne Parish Council has surveyed the bench seating throughout the village as many are severely rusted or otherwise degraded beyond repair. We will be beginning a program of replacement or repair of some of these during the coming months. Where possible we will use reconstituted materials which can also last longer than wood or metal.

Our intention is to maintain the children's play equipment on the recreation ground as it is very well used and appreciated. The adult exercise pieces are evidently less well used, have run into problems with the original manufacturers going out of business making them difficult to repair, and are now getting toward the end of their life. We will have to decide what to do with these items as they fail and we would be interested in hearing from anyone who believes that these are sufficiently valuable items for the parish council to spend the surprisingly large amount of village taxation needed to keep them serviceable.

Councillor Peter Farrow, Chairman, Littlebourne Parish Council.



Annual Report 2021- 2022

This has been another busy year for the LHS committee members, but the site looks wonderful thanks to all your hard work, despite the long very hot, dry summer. We would particularly like to thank those people who joined working parties to carry out occasional tasks around the site such as strimming, tidying vacant plots and hedge or grass cutting.

There have been many changes in the membership, with increased demand from new residents to the village not quite outstripping supply. We've been particularly pleased with the success of our experiment in creating smaller plots for new members. When applicants have limited experience of growing, it is sometimes difficult for them to gauge just how much time and attention they will have to devote to the task. Anyone who successfully takes on a very small plot can move to a larger plot if they still have time and energy for more.

The addition of the new green metal shed in the centre of the site provided a convenient place to store the new maintenance equipment provided for everyone to borrow. The amount of use the equipment receives suggests that this was a welcome innovation. Thanks go to the working party members who put the shed together.

The former storage compound has been gradually cleared over a period of two years. With the cutting down of nettles and brambles, dismantling of the old sheds and disposal of accumulated rubbish, we hope to turn at least part of the area into new plots in the Spring.

This year we decided to invest in a tree for the Queen's Jubilee Green Canopy project. We chose a crab apple as it won't get too big and offers all year-round benefits for wildlife and people.

In conclusion my thanks go to my colleagues on the committee, particularly Helen Abbott who has been our Treasurer for the last two years and generously contributed her time. Many LHS members helped to

keep the site looking good and made this another successful year for everyone.

Helen Howard (chair)

Littlebourne Public Toilet

Works are underway on the new public toilet situated adjacent to the LPC Office. This has been jointly funded by LPC and Quinn Estates with a grant from Canterbury City Council. The floor has been brought down to the same level as the carpark to allow step free access for all. The walls and roof are now complete, and once it is fitted out we hope it will be ready for use very soon.

Speedwatch in Littlebourne Latest update

We put out a call for Volunteers to join Speed Watch and we have had six people come forward this time, a really good result.

This now means we can do more sessions of Speed Watch. We may pop up at different parts of the Village, that have been assessed by Kent Police as safe. Speeding in the village definitely not a good idea!

When we note details of vehicles speeding, the information we collect goes straight to the Police. They will take the decision as to whether you get a warning letter from them; Or a visit from them (Oh dear!) particularly if you've been clocked previously

We have at last got permission from Kent Police to use a more modern way of recording people's speed, a Speed Radar Gun. A marvellous bit of kit which we are delighted to use now, as it is very lightweight, quick to setup and easy to use, unlike the old-style unit which was heavy to lug to sites and took time to setup.

Please remember that we are volunteers, giving assistance to the Police but also trying to stop accidents occurring in and around our lovely village. In other words, don't complain if you hear from the Police.

Councillor Cate Reid.



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