

COMMUNITY NEWS: ROUNDABOUT

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PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Chatham

Lordswood Library, Kestrel Road, Lordswood. Application under Regulation 3 of the Town and Country General Planning Regulations 1992 for installation of new double-glazed windows and cladding panels.

Land adjoining 355 Maidstone Road. Application for approval of reserved matters (design, siting and external appearance) pursuant to outline permission MC2005/0880 for construction of one detached dwelling with associated parking. 58 Harptree Drive. Construction of a two-storey extension to side (demolition of existing single-storey side extension).

58 Chestnut Avenue. Construction of two-storey rear extension, single-storey to front and side and conservatory to rear/side (demolition of existing single-storey elements to both sides and rear conservatory).

38 Dunkirk Drive. Construction of a first floor side extension.

Gillingham

1 Mill Road, 2c Fox Street and Adjacent Land. Construction of three part-three/four-storey blocks to provide 24 one-bedroomed flats, four two-bedroomed flats and 14 car parking spaces (demolition of existing commercial garages and accommodation over).

Former Akzo Chemicals Ltd 117-119 Pier Road. Construction of a building for use as a residential marketing suite and/or site project office by Berkeley Homes with associated landscaping and car parking for a limited period of five years. Land adjacent 143 Marlborough Road.

Construction of a two-bedroomed detached dwelling house with associated parking. Featherby Junior School, Chilham Road. Application under Regulation 3 of the Town and Country General Planning Regulations 1992 for construction of a glazed infill extension to facilitate a reception area.

101 Pump Lane. Construction of single-storey extension to side, two-storey extension to rear and detached garage in rear garden.

152 Woodlands Road. Retrospective application for the construction of hardstanding and vehicular crossover to front.

16 Granville Road. Retrospective application for the extension of existing detached garage to the rear.

37 Hunters Way. Construction of a two-storey side extension together with a single-storey rear extension (demolition of existing garage).

Hoo

Church Farm. Installation of an 8.5-metre-high mock telegraph pole mast incorporating one antenna and radio equipment housing and ancillary development.

Rainham

34 Farnham Close. Construction of a first-floor side extension together with the insertion of a dormer window to front and rear to facilitate living accommodation in the roof space.

Motney Fields, Riverside Country Park. Construction of one permanent pond and nine ephemeral (seasonal) ponds.

Cats Protection, Bredhurst Adoption Centre, Matts Hill. Construction of extension to booth by building, erection of fencing and gate to car park.

Rochester

22 Ruggles Close, High Halstow. Conversion of a garage into a habitable room.

176-178 Avery Way, Allhallows. Retrospective application for retention of balustrade and decking above single-storey rear projection, to form balcony.

26 Farndale Avenue. Construction of a garage to rear incorporating storage area and WC and construction of a hot tub.

Alpha Jetty, Off Salt Lane, Cliffe. Replacement downwater mooring and new breasting dolphin. 47 Holly Road, Wainscott. Construction of a two-storey side extension.

112 High Street, Halling. Conversion of existing office building into two two-bedroomed flats and conversion of existing annex into a two-bedroomed dwelling.

11 Leigh Road, Wainscott. Construction of detached garage to front with conversion of existing garage to living accommodation. Lingley House, Elm Avenue, Chattenden. Installation of a 15m-high wind-powered generator to rear of property.

1 Old Cottages, Backfields. Construction of two-storey side extension (demolition of conservatory to side).

Strood

Willow Court Broom Hill Road, Strood. Construction of an extension to the existing detached garage.

Hanson Tower Ltd Hanson House Knight Road, Strood. Part change of use of ground floor from tannery into additional offices incorporating alterations to ground floor front and rear elevations.

ALLHALLOWS

Correspondent: Leander Browning, 14 Jutland Close, Allhallows, Rochester, ME3 9NL. 01634 818770 Mobile: 07810036144 LeanderBrowning@hotmail.com

If you have an item concerning Allhallows, please contact the correspondent above.

AYLESFORD

Correspondent: David Stokes, 17 Mackenders Lane, Eccles, Aylesford, ME20 7HX. 01622 716806 Mobile: 07739 370320 drstokes@btinternet.com

Bulky refuse: Teapot Lane: 11am-noon, November 11, December 9; Blue Bell Hill, Maidstone Road: 9.30am-10.30am, November 11, December 9; Eccles, Bull Lane PO: 8am-9am, October 21, November 4; RBLV Admiral Moore Drive, 8am-9am, October 21, November 18 and December 16; Walderslade, Robin Hood Lane Lower, 9.30am-10.30am, November 4, December 2.

Flush fund: We are now approaching the £30,000 mark - great news - but still another £50,000 to raise for the kitchen and toilet facilities at the church. The vicar's toilet tour has made it round the old village of Aylesford, Greenacres, and most of the RBL village (accompanied by aforementioned toilet). Thank you to all who have given (about £2,700 has been raised through the toilet tour alone). If you would like to contribute, send cheques payable to Aylesford PCC to Brenda Sladen, Church Office, Brassey Centre, Station Road, Aylesford ME20 7QR.

Autumn exhibition: Cobdown Art Club autumn exhibition and sale of members' work - Saturday and Sunday, October 28 and 29, 11am to 5pm, at the Brassey Centre, Station Road, (by the railway crossing). Admission 50p - refreshments available.

Yoga and pilates: Classes at RBL Community Centre, Hall Road. Monday morning, Monday evening, Tuesday evening and Thursday morning. Complete beginners very welcome. Special rates for seniors. Rose-Marie Sorokin is a qualified British Wheel of Yoga teacher and Pilates teacher. Details on 01622 715576, e-mail: innerlightyoga@btopenworld.com or see www.innerlightyoga.co.uk

BLUE BELL HILL

Correspondent: Lin Brooks, Blue Bell Hill. 01634 861119 Fax: 01634 681534 bbhnews@kirbygate.wanado.co.uk

Parish vacancy: There is a vacancy in the Blue Bell Hill Ward for a parish councillor. Derek Goodes has stepped down and I would like to thank him on behalf of residents for the work he has done in the past. Derek is going to continue his work on the village hall committee. The vacancy has gone out for co-option which means that in the absence of a Blue Bell Hill resident applying the post can be filled by someone from another area. If you are interested contact the parish council clerk, Andrew Flindell on 01622 717084.

Podkin Meadow: Grab your gardening gloves, wellies and shears and join members of the preservation group in a scrub clearance at Podkin Meadow on Thursday, October 26 from 10am to 3.30pm. Meet at the entrance in Mill Lane.

SPONSORED RIDE: £1,000 raised for bridleway and paths



■ Jayne Pellatt and her horse, Topic took part in the sponsored horse-ride from Bredhurst to Boxley, Detling, and back again

Copyright: Vanessa Jones

MORE than £1,000 was raised for a local community group thanks to some keen horse riders.

A sponsored ride was organised by the Bredhurst Woodland Action Group (BWAG), which aims to prevent the misuse of local land and woods.

People came from all over Kent to join the 12-mile trek, which treated participants to unrestricted access to many areas of private land which are usually closed to the public.

The event took riders from Bredhurst to Boxley,

Detling and back again. BWAG members helped to marshal the course and provided refreshments for the weary riders on their return.

Seventy-seven new members joined BWAG and more than £1,000 was raised in sponsorship, which will go towards a circular bridleway and path restoration in Bredhurst.

BWAG has a number of other nature activities and fund-raising events planned.

■ For more information, call Vanessa Jones on 07813 785940 or visit www.bwag.org.uk

(No parking available, please use the Blue Bell Hill picnic site car park). There will be a gazebo for shelter in case of inclement weather. Take a packed lunch. Together with Medway Valley Countryside Partnership volunteers will be shaping the meadow boundary scrub areas to provide a better habitat for wildlife.

Ghost walk: The BBH Preservation Group invites you to a three mile walk (in the dark) on ancient pathways through the 5,000 year old graves of our ancestors. A chance to discover more about the standing stones and the groups that still use them and details of ghost sightings in this unique area. Who knows you may even see a ghost yourself! Meet at the Lower Bell at 7pm for a 7.30pm start on Friday, October 27. Make sure you take a torch and have stout footwear and warm clothing. Everyone welcome, donations to the group welcome.

PARISH COUNCIL: The last full meeting of the council was on October 10. Following are matters of particular interest to Blue Bell Hill residents.

Vacancy at Blue Bell Hill: TMBC has advised no election has been requested and the council is free to co-opt. This will now be advertised on notice boards and website. Applications (including one already received) to be considered on November 8.

The next full council meeting to be held at St Albans Church on November 21 will commence at 7.45pm, not 7.30pm.

Law and order: CW (Aylesford) Battledore stated she was back at work on light

duties three days a week and is catching up with all her contacts. Members were pleased to see her.

Blue Bell Hill: PC Healy gave the following crime report: There has been a police operation on vehicles using Blue Bell Hill (A229) and PCs Healy and Dalton had been receiving training on the mobile speed gun. At the present time they can only issue verbal warnings to speeding drivers but hope in the near future to have their training endorsed and then be able to issue fines as appropriate.

There were three reported crimes, including one incidence of criminal damage and one burglary other than home. Cllr Rillie asked PC Healy to check an attempted burglary in Robin Hood Lane which did not appear to be in the figures. Walderslade: 12 reported crimes including two thefts from motor vehicles, two attempted taking of motor vehicles, criminal damage, burglary from a home, burglary other than a home. The chairman thanked PC Healy and CW Battledore for their attendance.

Other law and order business: A report had been circulated to all members by Cllr Brooks on her attendance at the TMBC Crime Prevention Panel on September 18.

She referred particularly to the Respect Awards for young people who have helped in the community and asked that consideration be given to nominating the youths from Eccles who attended the parish council meeting which led to the skate park in the

Bull Lane recreation ground. The clerk agreed to research the minutes to identify those involved before this is considered further.

Third office telephone line: It was confirmed that after removal of the line 710553, two telephone lines will still be in use. 717084 will remain the publicised main public number and 792176 will be for fax, internet and second external telephone line.

Gravedigging: Cllr Miss Kissick raised her concerns at the proposals to pass responsibility for gravedigging and filling in to funeral directors. When this system was in place some 20 years ago there had been problems with administration and the standard of digging ie. earth piled up on adjacent graves. The clerk gave assurances that the effective administration systems now in place for burials would not be affected by the new arrangements for gravedigging. Regarding standards there would be a high level of monitoring by himself and the parish council's maintenance men. Turf would be removed in-house to clearly identify the position and size of graves and boards placed to identify where soil is to be piled. It was generally felt by most members and the clerk that the advantages of the removal of the Health and Safety implications for parish council staff digging graves more than outweigh the additional monitoring requirements that will be necessary.

Diary of meetings: The 2007 diary was distributed to all members and attached to Appendix C to these minutes. At-

tention was drawn to the later starting time for the meeting at Blue Bell Hill, the change of date for the Annual Meeting in order not to clash with the TMBC Annual Meeting and the welcome inclusion of a meeting venue at Tunbury Hall, Walderslade.

Smithsgore Highways Agency disposal Robin Hood Lane: Members were made aware that this area of land is being advertised for sale. In October 2005 members decided the council was not in a position to consider purchasing the land and it was agreed that this view was unchanged at the present time.

Cllr Rowe made the following points:

West Kent NHS Public consultation, public meeting dates October 24 Maplesden Noakes School, Buckland Road, Maidstone and October 30 Invicta Grammar School, Huntsman Lane, Maidstone, both commencing at 6pm.

KCC is encouraging local businesses and students to consider gap year work placements in Kent. Details available on gapyear@kent.gov.uk.

Salisbury Road/A229. Following recent accidents works are to be undertaken to improve 'two way' and 'junction warning' signs.

Aylesford Village Gateway - The funding for the Section 106 Agreement with Wards to provide this Gateway and crossings is in place and will be considered by the next Joint Transportation Board for finalisation.

At the request of the chairman, Cllr Rowe undertook to pursue Kent PROW Office with progress on designating the footpath from Old Tunbury Avenue.

Plastic recycling: Facilities are available at Sainsbury, Aylesford and Tesco, Larkfield.

BORSTAL

Correspondent: Ms Karen Sussex, 2 Secreton Road, Rochester, ME1 3NR. 01634 326024 Mobile: 07870884053

If you have an item concerning Borstal, please contact the correspondent above.

BOXLEY

Correspondent: Alison Dickerson, 75 Chatham Road, Sandling, ME14 3BB. 01622 762334 Fax: 01622 682714

If you have an item concerning Boxley, please contact the correspondent above.

BREDHURST

Correspondent: Ms Pam Merryweather, 29 Lime Court, Wigmere, ME8 0LP. 01634 366370 pam@merryweather6238.fsnet.co.uk

Woodland Action Group: The five-year Woodland Management Plan has been completed by Kent Wildlife Trust and work needed to maintain the woods has been identified. There are 139 pockets of land privately owned in Bredhurst Hurst and landowners have been approached to obtain permission for the Group (BWAG) to carry out coppicing and scrub clearance. Many have granted permission and some have indicated they wish to sell their land. The implications for the parish council of land ownership to be investigated. A bid of £10,000 to KCC for additional one-off funding has been submitted to cover coppicing, scrub clearance, aids for nature activities and