



A very Happy New Year to everyone! Pluckley entered the new decade under a carpet of snow and never looked prettier.

We have a busy year ahead of us, with some ambitious aims expressed in the Parish Plan. We are confident though that, with a bit of effort all round, we can achieve them.

Martin Newman (Chairman)

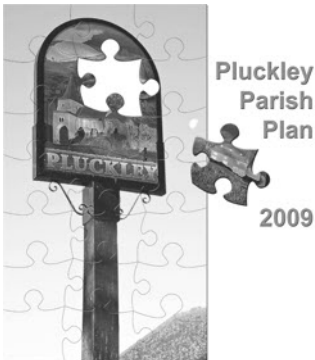
CAROLS AROUND THE CHRISTMAS TREE

This year again we had a superb Christmas tree in the village square and, to celebrate its lighting, several villagers joined with the school choir on Friday 4 December and sang carols. Our thanks to Father Christmas, who agreed to switch on the lights, and to Kevin at the Black Horse who again kindly supplied the electricity throughout the holiday period. Mince pies and mulled wine were laid on by Parish Councillors and it helped to get the Christmas season off to a jolly start.



PARISH PLAN

All homes in the village should have received their copy of the Parish Plan. It reflects the input made through the questionnaire and workshop in 2008 and sets out those aims people said they most want to improve life in our village.



The Plan will act as the remit for the Parish Council but it will take the efforts of us all to be successful. On some issues, the Plan sets out what is to be achieved but not how. This will be determined by further discussion and agreement within the village. You can contribute to this by attending Open Days or joining Working Groups.

By the time you read this, the first Open Morning should have been held on Saturday 23 January in the Village Hall. This was to answer any questions about the Plan and to explain the role of the Working Groups set up to deliver the aims of the Plan. Further Open Days will be held by the Working Groups on issues such as traffic calming, the Village Hall, improved recreational facilities etc. These Open Days will be advertised on the notice boards around the village, on www.pluckley.net and in the local press.

So, if you want to have a say in how the village progresses, turn up and offer your views.

BUDGET 2010/2011

We have been mindful that this is a far from easy financial time for many of us and have, therefore, sought to cut back on Parish Council expenditure in the coming year. In spite of the ambitious aims expressed in the Parish Plan we believe we can, with careful housekeeping, trim our outgoings. We have therefore asked Ashford Borough Council (ABC) for a smaller sum for the coming year, equivalent to a saving of just under 3% of the Parish Council element of the Council Tax.

HOG FAIR SATURDAY 26 JUNE 2010

We do plan to hold a Hog Fair on the Recreation Ground again this summer on Saturday 26 June and the first preparations are already being made.

“we need more help for this year”

Many people expressed disappointment that we did not hold one last year but, the fact is, no-one came forward to organise it. It does require a degree of work by several volunteers and we need more help for this year. There are lots of ways in which you can help so, if you are able to give some time and energy to help create a fun day for the village, please come forward.

The person to contact is Jeff Moody.

CORE STRATEGY — TENTERDEN AND RURAL SITES

Since the last newsletter, the timetable for the Planning framework covering Pluckley has shifted due to amendments in the Plan. None of these amendments has affected Pluckley. The revised timetable is now likely to be as follows:

- Further public consultation closed 8 January 2010
- ABC is now re-considering and approving the document to be sent to the Secretary of State
- Examination by the appointed Inspector, who may invite further consultation
- Final adoption late summer 2010

MANAGED HOUSING FOR THE ELDERLY

As we mentioned in the last issue of Communicate, we have joined a cluster of local villages to see whether a managed housing scheme for elderly residents is viable in our area. The sort of scheme we have in mind would be a mix of say thirty leasehold and rental properties with a resident manager. The aim is to allow people to continue living in their community when the demands of running their existing home may have become too much.

To find out just how much interest there might be in such accommodation, a survey is enclosed with this newsletter. We have delivered it to all homes, for ease of distribution, but are only inviting residents aged 50 or more to complete it. If you have any queries on the questionnaire, or the scheme, then please contact Chris Housman who is leading this initiative for us and will be glad to help.

LOCAL NEEDS HOUSING

The Parish Council will shortly be meeting with ABC to review possible sites around the village for Local Needs homes. We remain committed to finding a site, or multiple sites, for 6-10 homes. Equally, we are anxious to ensure that these homes do indeed go to local people. So, as well as reviewing possible sites, we shall be examining with ABC the way existing Local Needs homes are advertised and allocated.

**“We remain committed to finding a site,
or multiple sites, for 6-10 homes”**

When we have had our meeting with ABC, we shall publicise more widely the procedure for applying for a Local Needs home and explain how allocations are made. For any site we identify, plans will be drawn up and presented to the village before any decision is taken.

OUR WEBSITE

The new-look website is now up and running. Just check www.pluckley.net to stay informed about events in the village and the work of the Parish Council. As you have probably noticed, the website contains pictures of the village. If you have taken some shots that show Pluckley off and would be happy for them to appear on the website, please e-mail them to Jeff Moody.

KEEP FILLING THOSE SKIPS

All those empty bottles and waste wrapping paper from Christmas should now be going into the skips to raise money for good causes. Remember, the paper and cardboard skip opposite the Thorne Estate raises money for Riding for the Disabled, while the skips at the Village Hall raise money for the village, or in the case of the shoe skip, the Samaritans.

DID YOU KNOW...

...that in the new train timetable from 13 December there are now more trains stopping at Pluckley? So, if you are returning from London after a long day's work, shopping or theatre, there is a Pluckley train now every half hour until 23.40 (from Charing Cross).

The currently reduced parking capacity at the station is to enable the old concrete footbridge over the tracks to be replaced. It is envisaged that the new footbridge will be in place, and the site cleared, by mid-April.

YOUR PARISH COUNCIL

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CLERK		
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The Parish Council meets in Pluckley Village Hall at 8pm on the third Monday of each month and there is a Council Surgery, 9.30–10.30am, also in the Village Hall on the last Saturday of each month (unless otherwise announced).