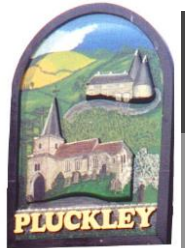


PLUCKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

COMMUNICATE AUTUMN 2015



FROM THE CHAIRMAN *(Chris Housman)*

Welcome to your Parish Council's Autumn newsletter, which we publish to keep you up-to-date with our activities on the village's behalf.

Over the summer work has been proceeding with the preparation of the Pluckley Neighbourhood Plan, and I know that many of you have been able to participate in the 'workshops' and/or completed our questionnaire. Your input is vital to the process, and we are most grateful for it. Martin Newman is leading the project and his report on progress is below.

I would like to record my thanks to my colleague Mike Whatman who has been coordinating work to tidy up and improve the Recreation Ground. I hope many of you have noticed the improvements in terms of weed-reduction and grounds maintenance. The Tennis Court has also received some much needed attention, and is now a real asset to the village.

All Kent Parish Councils were recently asked if they had any recommendations regarding the size of the Council, or any suggestions regarding parish boundaries. Given the difficulty that we experience in attracting new Councillors, and the small size of the Parish population, we suggested that the number of Councillors be reduced from nine to seven (indeed we have just seven at present). Ashford Borough Council has supported this and this is likely to be formalised in a few months' time. In addition, we have asked for a very small boundary change at the south eastern corner of the parish where a small section of land by Sparrow Hatch Lane and the railway, currently in Bethersden, could logically move to Pluckley. Once again, ABC has supported us in this.

I can at last report that the village sign is about to be re-installed after a long absence for repair and refurbishment. Many thanks to Dave Clements who restored the woodwork on the sign, and to Emily Hocking who has repainted it beautifully. We now await its re-installation by KCC Highways in the near future.

As ever, if you have any issues or concerns about our village, please don't hesitate to speak to me, or to one of my fellow Councillors.



NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN **(Martin Newman)**

We have now concluded the consultation with residents about the future of the parish to 2030. The feedback from the questionnaires and workshops has given us a good picture of how residents wish the parish to develop.

It is obvious that most of you really value the environment that we are fortunate to have in Pluckley and wish to see it preserved. At that same time, it is recognised that the village must evolve and largely consistent views have been given about possible future development, so that we now believe that we have a clear picture of the level and nature of housing, and the type of location, that people want for Pluckley.

We have also met all of the landowners who came forward with proposals for housing development on the sites that they own in the parish. We are currently seeking to match their aspirations with what the village has said it wants. Between them, the sites that have come forward will allow for the scale and type of development that residents are calling for. However, some of the sites put forward do not meet the brief you have given us and will therefore not be selected for development in the Neighbourhood Plan.

A public meeting to present the recommended sites for residential development (and give our reasons for their selection) will be held on Wednesday 21 October at 8pm in the Village Hall. You are urged to attend.

The next stage will be for us to prepare a draft report and discuss this with Ashford Borough Council prior to publishing it for a six-week consultation period. After that, it has to be vetted by HM Inspectorate of Planning (in Bristol) to ensure that it is correct and robust as a planning document. The final approval stage will be a public referendum within the parish. Once it has passed that, it can be formally adopted and will acquire the same status as Ashford's Local Plan. It will then form the basis on which future planning applications in the parish are assessed.

VILLAGE HALL **(Martin Newman / Judy Pool)**

The revised planning application for the extension, with new toilets and disabled access facilities, has now received both planning and building control approval. Quotes are now awaited from local builders. The Parish Council has some money set aside, and the Village Hall Committee have been organising fund-raising events (eg the Quiz Night and the recent Quilt and Craft Show) but we recognise that we will only be able to go-ahead with the help of some grant funding, which we are now in the process of seeking.

In readiness for construction, you may have noticed that a large tree on the boundary of the property has been removed. Thanks to Geoff Gwillim for doing this for us.

Bookings for the Hall remain steady, but we could always do with more! It really is a lovely venue for children's parties and social events, and is very reasonably priced. If you are interested in hiring the hall, please contact Judy Pool 01233 840280 for details and availability.



QEII RECREATION GROUND
(Mike Whatman)

We have carried out a number of improvements to the recreation ground. A programme of hedge and border cutting has been put in place which should maintain the tidiness throughout the year.

The tennis court nearest the road and its surrounding fencing has been refurbished with the aid of a grant of £1,000 from Ashford Borough Council, for which we are most grateful. Hopefully, this will encourage more residents to play tennis, so if you are interested in joining the revived Pluckley Tennis Club, please contact Peter Osborne on 01223 840226.

The car park on the recreation ground has also had some improvement work done. The entrance had become rutted with use and this has been restored. We have also moved the pedestrian gate to the field to the far end of the car park, which residents had long requested, and some people were actually climbing over the fencing to get through.

TRAFFIC
(Tim O'Connor / Sue Beattie)

It is clear from the consultation with residents for the Neighbourhood Plan that traffic remains a serious concern. We are determined to seek the same protection as all the surrounding villages by having the 40mph limit reduced to 30mph. We shall therefore be taking this up again with KCC and Ashford Borough Council.

We are also, in the course of the Neighbourhood Plan, exploring ways to improve the parking situation at the station.

BROADBAND / MOBILE PHONES
(Sue Beattie)

Work is currently being carried out on three of the four BT Openreach connection boxes (known as 'cabinets') in the parish in order to deliver the high-speed broadband service known as 'fibre to the cabinet (FTTC)'. This means that most of the parish should get the benefit of this later this year.

The Neighbourhood Plan discussions have also highlighted residents' dissatisfaction with the mobile phone reception in much of the parish, so the Parish Council will be taking this up with the service providers.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH
(Martin Chambers)

Unfortunately, crime in Pluckley for the four main types reported by Neighbourhood Watch has been gradually increasing through 2015 as shown below:

Type/Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul
Bicycle Theft	0	0	0	0	1	0	2
Burglary	0	0	1	1	1	0	2
Other Theft	0	0	1	2	0	2	2
Vehicle Crime	0	0	0	0	2	0	1
TOTAL	0	0	2	3	4	2	7



The need for vigilance and awareness is therefore as great as it ever was, so I appeal to all residents to keep your eyes open and to report anything suspicious to the Police. Remember:

- Thieves often carry out a survey of a likely target property during the day, and then return at night so remember the phrase 'DAYTIME LOOK – NIGHTTIME STRIKE'!
- Remember that many crimes are opportunistic so please do all you can in terms of visible locks, security lights, cameras etc to try to make your place unattractive to thieves.
- If you see or hear anything suspicious in or around your neighbour's house, please let them know, please don't ignore it or assume it is a normal event. We can beat these crimes if we assume the worst.
- **CALL THE POLICE ON 101 IF YOU SEE SOMETHING SUSPICIOUS, OR CALL 999 IF A CRIME IS IN PROGRESS**

I send out an email bulletin between once or twice a fortnight detailing crime reports. If you don't already get these you can subscribe at: <http://nhw.pluckley-village.co.uk/>. In addition, for immediate crime reports there is a Facebook Group at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/PluckleyNHW/>, or follow **@PluckleyNHW** on Twitter.

YOUR PARISH COUNCIL

If you have any comments or issues about anything in this newsletter, or need to raise any concern with village life, please don't hesitate to contact one of your Councillors:

Chris Housman (Chair)	<i>chris.housman@pluckley.net</i>	01233 840139
Martin Newman (Vice Chair)	<i>martin.newman@pluckley.net</i>	01233 840231
Tim O'Connor	<i>tim.oconnor@pluckley.net</i>	01233 840843
Paul Smith	<i>paul.smith@pluckley.net</i>	01233 840037
Carol Washer	<i>carol.washer@pluckley.net</i>	01233 840078
Mike Whatman	<i>mike.whatman@pluckley.net</i>	01233 840044
Sue Beattie	<i>sue.beattie@pluckley.net</i>	01233 840029
Clerk: Graham Smith	<i>clerk@pluckley.net</i>	01622 890596

The Council meets in Pluckley Village Hall at 7.30pm, normally on the third Monday of each month, except August. All residents are welcome to attend.

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