

## **PLUCKLEY PARISH COUNCIL**

# **COMMUNICATE SUMMER 2016**



### **FROM THE CHAIRMAN**

Welcome to your Parish Council's Summer newsletter, published to keep you up-to-date with the Parish Council's activities on the village's behalf, and delivered to every home in the village.

I was delighted to see so many of you at the Annual Parish Meeting in May. Apart from telling you what your Parish Council had been up to, this was a great opportunity for our many village organisations and clubs to publicise their activities. Of special note was the formation of the new 'Pluckley Womens' Collective' which I understand has really taken off. It was great to see so many residents in an informal setting, and I hope you all found it as useful as I did.

Aside from all of the 'business as usual' activities of your Parish Council, three key pieces of work will be our focus over the coming months:

- a) The Neighbourhood Plan
- b) The Village Hall extension
- c) Reduction in Speed Limits

These are all addressed later in this newsletter. The Parish Council is also keeping a watchful eye on the planned housing development on the old Brickworks site. Outline Planning Permission has been granted, but detailed plans are still to be submitted to Ashford Borough Council. We will continue to be actively involved to ensure that the development adheres to our agreements with ABC and with the site agent.

As ever, if you do want to find out more about anything in this edition, please don't hesitate to contact me or one of my colleagues – all our contact details are at the end of the newsletter.

### **NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

The Neighbourhood Plan will shortly be formally submitted to Ashford Borough Council. Comments have been received from consultees and these have been absorbed as appropriate into the plan.



The plan actually consists of three documents: the Neighbourhood Development Plan itself; the Consultation Statement setting out how the community has been involved in the preparation of the plan; and the Basic Conditions Statement which confirms that the plan synchronises with local, national and EU planning policies.

Ashford will release the plan for a further six-week period of public consultation. They will then reconsider it in the light of any responses and decide whether the plan is ready to go forward for examination by a HM Inspector of Planning.

Once the examiner has reviewed the documentation, and any comments been addressed, the plan will come back to the parish for a public referendum. Only after a majority vote can the plan finally be adopted as policy.

This process is likely to take a few more months. In the meantime, the emerging plan does acquire some status in planning terms and will now have to be taken into account for any planning applications that come forward. This month too, we have received the draft of Ashford Borough Council's new Local Plan. This will replace the Tenterden and Rural Sites Plan that governs applications currently. As promised by ABC, the Local Plan makes no development allocations for Pluckley but accepts what our Neighbourhood Plan proposes. This demonstrates the value of a Neighbourhood Plan – it is you the community who are determining how our parish evolves.

The emerging Neighbourhood Plan can be viewed on the website at [www.pluckley.net](http://www.pluckley.net). ABC's draft Local Plan can be viewed at [www.ashford.gov.uk](http://www.ashford.gov.uk).

## **TRAFFIC & HIGHWAYS**

The long-running saga of the drainage problem on Forge Hill continues. KCC Highways have installed some drains and these have proved effective. Unfortunately, spring water still flows across the road and further drains are required lower down the hill. Highways have assured us that these will be installed and, at the time of writing, the work is at last underway.

Progress is being made on the reduction of the 40mph speed limit area to 30mph. The Parish Council has now employed a Traffic Consultant to advise on what calming measures are appropriate to render the new limit effective, and his recommendations are expected shortly. The cost of effecting the change and installing the new measures will then be largely down to the Parish.

KCC Highways have announced a much-reduced budget to undertake road repairs in 2016-7. However, Central Government has made extra funding available specifically to address pot-holes and roadway damage. The Parish Council is reporting all such damage once we are aware of it. Please help us by reporting any problems to KCC Highways on-line at [www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/report-a-problem](http://www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/report-a-problem), or by phoning on 03000 418181.



## **PLUCKLEY PRE-SCHOOL**

Given its importance at the heart of the community, the Parish Council was dismayed to learn that the Pre-School will close in July. The Primary School acknowledges the importance of maintaining a 'feeder' for its Reception class, and we are now working together to find a solution. To this end, questionnaires have been distributed and made available on the parish website for parents to indicate their requirements. There has already been a good response and, when these results are analysed, we shall liaise with the school to deliver an appropriate pre-school service for Pluckley.

## **VILLAGE HALL**

We are now in a better financial position to proceed with the village hall extension. We have a higher proportion of the funds needed which will assist with obtaining the remainder in grant form. We are now about to invite formal tenders to carry out the work.

A very successful Quiz Night raised over £600 towards the ongoing operation of the Hall, and the 2016 Quilt & Craft show will be on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> & Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> September, from 10.30am to 5pm each day.

Sena wished to mark his 10 years at the Village Shop in a tangible way, and has kindly funded a new portable projector screen for use at the Hall.

## **SAFETY & SECURITY**

The defibrillator is now installed in a yellow box on the side wall of the village store – thanks to Sena. It is fully automated, and designed to be used by the public without any training. We hope that it won't need to be used, but it's reassuring to know that it's there.

Martin Chambers continues to do a sterling job as the village's Neighbourhood Watch coordinator sending out email bulletins regularly detailing recent crimes and incidents in the area. Please subscribe at <http://nhw.pluckley-village.co.uk/here>. More immediate crime reports are posted on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/PluckleyNHW/> and on Twitter at @PluckleyNHW. Martin can be contacted at NHW@pluckley.net, or on 07900 433403.

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

The new Pluckley Website is now in full operation ([www.pluckley.net](http://www.pluckley.net)), and we hope that you are finding it useful and much easier to navigate than the old site. If you do have any comments on it, please contact Carol Washer.



While most of the parish now enjoys faster broadband, mobile phone reception remains patchy. We have surveyed the parish and identified several postcode areas with weak reception. However, the main service providers all say that service should be acceptable, so we need to let them have specific information on the problem areas for each network. We are therefore asking any residents that are experiencing problems with mobile reception (including data) to complete a short on-line survey so that we have irrefutable evidence that the service is less than adequate in some places. To complete the survey please go to our website at [www.pluckley.net](http://www.pluckley.net), and click on ‘mobile phone reception survey’.

***YOUR PARISH COUNCIL***

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**The Council meets in Pluckley Village Hall at 7.30pm, on the second Tuesday of each month except for August. All residents are welcome to attend.**

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