



## ***CHAIRMAN'S REPORT***

I have a mixed report to give this time. On the plus side, as anticipated, the reduction in the 40mph speed limit zone to 30mph, and the extension to the Village Hall are both in hand. These have been significant projects in terms of both effort and cost and it is good to see them at last coming to fruition.

A further positive project is the Parish Council's intended acquisition of the field and a strip of woodland adjoining the Brickworks development (see under Neighbourhood Plan below).

Less happily, two good councillors – Sue Beattie and Gavin Russell - have resigned from the Parish Council. Sue is leaving the village, while Gavin is finding his other commitments, such as running the Tennis Club, are not allowing him enough time. Both have been excellent, get-things-done councillors and will take some replacing.

Sue's departure means that her 'other half', Martin Chambers, is also leaving the village. Martin, who was Resident of the Year last year, has done a terrific job in running Neighbourhood Watch and developing Nextdoor, our social communication app. He is busy trying to arrange an orderly handover before he leaves and, as ever, this will rely upon volunteers coming forward. I am sure many of you will wish Sue and Martin the very best for the future.

A further, unsightly development is the proliferation of fly-posting. While posters for social events within the village may be acceptable (assuming they are removed afterwards) those for elsewhere and commercial purposes, without the courtesy of asking first, are unwelcome.

Speaking of volunteers, it would be inappropriate to close without mentioning the Pluckley Bash, which was held in July. Organised entirely by volunteers, this was a very happy coming together of the community and funds were raised for several of the organizations in the Parish. Congratulations to all concerned!

*Martin Newman*

## **NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

The three sites supported for development in our Neighbourhood Plan are all progressing. The applications at the Brickworks site and the Lambden Road site have both now been formally approved by Ashford Borough Council. The Pinnock Yard site is awaiting a decision. All three sites have had ecology safeguards imposed.

The Brickworks site has been cleared and the species from the site have been successfully relocated to the field off Chambers Green Road. Your Parish Council is currently negotiating for the purchase of this field and a strip of the adjoining woodland, with the intention of establishing a nature reserve for the community. The developer has proved very co-operative in this and we are in discussion with ecology advisers as to the best way to manage this resource and make it available to the public.

The Lambden Road and Pinnock Yard sites have had Tree Preservation Orders put in place, and the Pinnock Yard site is proposing making part of the site available for allotments for residents, as requested by the Parish Council.

The Neighbourhood Plan nominated sites in the Parish as Green Spaces. Ashford Borough Council is currently preparing an Open Space policy for the Borough and we have written to them updating their records so that Pluckley's open spaces are recognized in their plan.

## **TRAFFIC AND ROADS**

Kent County Council, in consultation with Pluckley Parish Council, are intending to extend the 30mph speed limit on the following roads within Pluckley:

Forge Hill, Lambden Road, Smarden Road, Smarden Bell Road, Station Road, Thorne Estate.

These works will involve replacing 40mph speed limit signs and repeaters, installing new posts where required, and revised lining works. These proposals also include a high friction surface and in order to carry out these works safely, it will be necessary to close the following roads from **9 October to 13 October**.

Egerton Road  
Charing Road  
Swan Lane  
The Street  
Station Road  
Smarden Road  
Smarden Bell Road

Local diversions will be in place and access to residents maintained as far as is practicable. Prior to the 9th October new signs and posts will be erected but with minimal disruption.

The new limits will complete the adoption of the recommendations the Parish Council made to Kent CC in our Speed Review as long ago as 2012.

Both County Councillor Charlie Simkins, and Borough Councillor Clair Bell have helped with funding (£2,000 and £1,000 respectively) this project. The remaining cost of £24,000 is being met by your Parish Council. This was a condition of our securing the reduction.

## ***QEII RECREATION GROUND***

The Recreation Ground hosted the recent Pluckley Bash, which proved a great success. Congratulations to the organizers and all those who contributed. Thanks too to Paul and Rachel Dracott who have donated a marquee to the village for future occasions.

The programme of grass and hedge cutting continues in what has been a challenging summer. Some minor repair works have been made within the pavilion to deal with a leak and hot water taps. The petanque piste has been renovated and resurfaced and is now in good condition for play. Any resident is welcome to use it. Thanks To Sue Clapham for generously contributing to the cost of its renovation. Thanks also to Rod Tompsett who has repaired damaged benches.

In response to a request from parishioners, the Parish Council intends to install additional seating on the Recreation Ground. It is currently reviewing options and costs. If anyone would be interested in sponsoring a seat, perhaps as a memorial, then please contact Debbie Breach or Mike Whatman.

## ***FINANCE***

The cost of the speed limit change mentioned above, and the grant to the Village Hall Trustees will reduce our funds significantly but this was anticipated and there remains enough to carry out our normal responsibilities, and with a small contingency.

## ***COMMUNICATIONS***

The installation of high speed broadband for the homes beyond the station is progressing. Engineers have surveyed the area and a date for the work is awaited.

## **VILLAGE HALL**

By the time you read this, the Village Hall will be undergoing the next phase of its improvement programme. This is the addition to the southern end of the building of a new entrance foyer with toilets, including a disabled facility.

The total cost of the work is expected to be about £95,000. The money is coming from Kent County Council (£41,800), Ashford Borough Council (£8,000) and the Parish Council (£45,000).

The Trustees advise that the hall will remain open throughout the work.

Thanks are due to Redrow Homes who very kindly provided the services of a Structural Engineer at no cost to the village.

## **CAROLS**

The now traditional Carols Around The Tree will take place this year on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December at 5pm, in the centre of the village. All residents are invited to attend.

## **YOUR PARISH COUNCIL**

Debbie Breach	01233 840765
Martin Newman(Chmn)	01233 840231
Nick McNally	01233 841860
Tim O'Connor (Vice Chair)	07967 205092
Mark Taylor	01233 840447
Mike Whatman	01233 840044
Clerk: Caroline Levett <a href="mailto:pluckleyparishclerk@gmail.com">pluckleyparishclerk@gmail.com</a>	01233 770739

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

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