

PLUCKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

COMMUNICATE AUTUMN 2016



FROM THE CHAIRMAN

I'm pleased to say that this edition of Communicate contains a lot of positive news: our Neighbourhood Plan is approaching its final stages, the Village Hall extension has moved a stage closer, and our plans to achieve a speed-limit reduction are also moving forward.

I'm particularly pleased that we now have a new, revitalised, Tennis Club to take advantage of our recently refurbished Court. I'm also delighted to report that the Village Hall has just held another very successful Quilt and Craft Show that has raised over £1,100 for its funds.

I'm sorry to report the resignation of Carol Washer as a Parish Councillor. I encourage anyone with an interest in making a positive contribution to the life of our village to consider becoming a Parish Councillor.

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 2016-31 has been formally submitted to Ashford Borough Council and they have released the plan for a six week public consultation. This will run until 24 October.

The Pluckley Neighbourhood Plan has been developed in consultation with you, the local community, and provides a vision for the future of the Parish. It sets out this vision along with site-specific and topic policies, which will be used to help determine planning applications within the Parish. There is also a section outlining a management plan of community projects for the parish.

A copy of the Plan is viewable at www.pluckley.net or at Gary Boodle's butchers shop in the village, at the Civic Centre in Ashford or in Charing Library.



If you wish to make comments on the Plan, supportive or otherwise, you may do so in one of the following ways:

- Through the planning portal at www.ashford.gov.uk/consultations
- By completing a Representation Form, which is available at the above addresses where the PNP is displayed, and e-mailing or posting it with your comments to Ashford Borough Council, Civic Centre, Tannery Lane, Ashford, TN23 1PL.

Once the consultation is closed, the Plan will be considered in the light of comments received and Ashford will then 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 have been addressed, the plan comes back to the parish for a final public referendum. Only after a majority vote in favour can the plan finally be adopted.

TRAFFIC & HIGHWAYS

The work on Forge Hill to tackle the drainage problem has been completed by KCC Highways. The dry conditions enjoyed since the work have made it difficult to assess the impact but it is hoped that this will at long last resolve the problem of water running across the road.

The Traffic Consultant employed by the Parish Council to review the speed limit areas has recommended that the 40mph zone be reduced to 30mph, and has defined in detail the signage and calming measures that he considers appropriate. His report is now with KCC Highways. The Parish Council, who will be meeting the cost of the measures, now awaits discussion with KCC Highways to progress this.

The bus shelter on Egerton Road is in poor state and the Parish Council is obtaining quotations to carry out the necessary repairs.

The KCC Highways Steward has been asked to visit to check the cleanliness and visibility of road signs in the parish and, where necessary, arrange cutting of vegetation where visibility or safety is an issue.

Our County Councillor, Charlie Simkins, has offered Pluckley a Member's Grant for road repairs as part of KCC's 'Find and Fix' road maintenance programme. As a result of this, Lambden Road - arguably, the worst road surface in the parish - will be receiving repairs which should be completed by the end of October.

QEII RECREATION GROUND

We are delighted that the re-born Pluckley Tennis Club has recently held its inaugural AGM and is planning an active future. The Club is seeking affiliation with the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA), and a series of 'Club Days' is being held on Saturdays between 9am and noon. If you are interested in playing, please go along, or for more information contact Gavin Russell on 01233 820426.



PLANNING

We continue to assess a steady stream of new planning applications. The Parish Council's aim is to support an application, unless we feel that it is to the detriment of the parish and its environment.

The Parish Council's role is advisory and it is Ashford Borough Council that determines the outcome, and their decision is usually in accord with the Parish Council's recommendations. However, there have been a couple of recent applications that have been allowed when the Parish Council has recommended that they be refused because the applications did not sit comfortably within their surroundings. The Parish Council is therefore writing to ABC's Planners asking that they explain their thinking and seeking to encourage greater co-operation.

VILLAGE HALL

Formal tenders have now been received to carry out the extension work at the Village Hall to provide a new entrance and toilet facilities. These tenders are now being evaluated against a number of factors, and it is planned to select a preferred builder as soon as possible. This tendering process has enabled us to assess how much money will be needed to complete the extension. With money already put by, along with some grants already obtained, the Parish Council now has the greater part of the funds required. We will now be seeking further grants to address the shortfall.

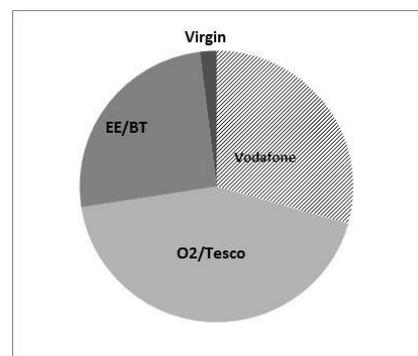
Although bookings are very healthy, extra funds are needed to support the day-to-day operation of the Hall. We are delighted to report that the recent Quilt & Craft Show raised over £1,100 for the funds, with thanks to all involved.

COMMUNICATIONS

Many thanks to those of you who completed the online survey on mobile phone reception. The results showed that reception is very poor or even non-existent across large parts of the parish.

All the operators are affected as can be seen in the chart showing the survey responses. We shall continue to engage with the operators to seek improvements.

Along with the Pluckley Village website (www.pluckley.net) - a regularly updated source of information - the Parish Council is delighted that the Pluckley Community Chronicle is now up and running. Ten editions per year are planned, for an annual subscription of £10. You can subscribe by leaving your name, address, contact details and payment in an envelope at Pluckley Butchers.



PLUCKLEY PRE-SCHOOL

The Parish Council remains very concerned about the closure of Pluckley Village Pre-School and is exploring with the school the possibility of setting up a new pre-school.

PARISH COUNCILLOR VACANCY

We are sorry to lose Carol Washer as a Parish Councillor due to her work and domestic pressures. We thank her for her valued contribution. This means that we currently have a vacancy and invite any resident who is prepared to put in some time on behalf of our community to consider becoming a Councillor. If you'd like to find out more just speak to any Councillor, or contact the Parish Clerk, whose details are below.

YOUR PARISH COUNCIL

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Clerk: Caroline Levett	<i>parishclerk@pluckley.net</i>	01233 770739

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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