

# Kings Hill Parish Council **Annual Report 2014/2015**

## Chairman's Report



My second year as Chairman of your Parish Council was as challenging as I anticipated in my last report; however it was also a year of significant progress. We received revised Phase 3 plans last spring which triggered our well attended second public consultation in Kings Hill School. The consultation was used to prepare the Parish Council response. The revised plans were approved in October.

Having managed the Sports Park under license for 6 months I was pleased to sign the lease last April and we were finally able to start work on the Sports Bar and Allotments. The Sports Bar opened in August and work on the Allotments started in November after receiving planning permission. The Sports Park is going from strength to strength and the Sports Bar is already very popular: unfortunately the weather has delayed the Allotments.

Plans for the coming year include additions and improvements to the facilities and services we offer the community. Finances are tight so no major projects are planned but we will begin preparing for the new community facilities we anticipate under the S106 obligations on the developers. We will continue the strategic review of our operations, which have grown significantly in the last two years, to ensure the Parish Council provides residents with best value.

During the year Cllrs Sharp, Morfill and Griggs retired, and I would like to thank them for their efforts. Cllrs Board, Cockell Lambotte and O'Moore were co-opted to bring us back to full strength. This has been a busy year for both staff and Councillors and I would like to thank everyone for their support and particularly to acknowledge the generosity of Councillors who voluntarily give of their time to help make Kings Hill such a special place.

### Dave Waller

Chairman of Kings Hill Parish Council

## Committee Reports Civic Year

### 2014/2015 Community Centre

#### Committee



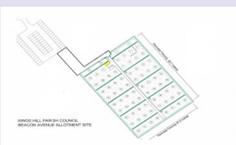
The Community Centre continues to provide a wide range of classes and events for the residents of Kings Hill.

There was a lower than expected turnout for the Summer Fete last year and KHPC have decided not to hold a fete in 2015.

The Christmas Pantomime Jack and the Beanstalk was well supported. Thanks to everyone who came along. There will be a Pantomime at the Community Centre in December 2015 (date to be confirmed).

Nikki Clark was appointed interim Community Centre Manager last October and is busy booking new hirers and events to the Centre. Nikki has also set up a Kings Hill Community Centre Facebook page.

### Amenities Committee



During the year the Amenities Committee has continued to work on:

#### Kings Hill Sports Park

#### Allotments

After signing the lease in September 2014, the committee then progressed the design and development of the Allotment site and awarded the contract for the construction. Unfortunately inclement weather this winter has delayed the preparation work of the Allotment site. This work will be completed as soon as is practicable when the appropriate ground conditions exist.

#### The Village Sign

Work has continued on the final design and proposed location of the sign, involving negotiations with TMBC, KCC and LPT. Funding has been sought and the fabrication and erection of the village sign will take place later in the year.

#### Open Spaces

The Parish Council is responsible for the condition and upkeep of various open spaces. These "Open Spaces" include the landscaping at Kings Hill Sports Park, Anson Avenue playground area, Garden Way and Lapins Lane.

#### Further Projects

We have also worked on the registration of Community Assets under the Community Right to Bid, started a series of leaflets for walks around Kings Hill and organised Community Services such as Remembrance Day and responded to planning applications associated with trees within the parish boundary.

### Kings Hill Sports Park



It has been a fantastic year of development and improvements in all areas of the Sports Park. Here is a list of achievements:

- New manager appointed, Janine Brown.
- New catering supervisor appointed, Nathan Hills.
- The café and bar have been a great success and welcomed by all.
- The 3G pitch is being used to its maximum in peak times and is in excellent condition.
- Our aim to widen the number of sports provided is slowly being achieved; in addition to the KHFC (a major user), walking football, keep fit, running, cycling groups and rugby all take place each week, with archery planned imminently.

- We have been discussing the likely improvements arising from Phase 3 planning obligations. This could bring us tennis, hockey, netball, basketball and extra cricket provision.

Thank you residents for all your support this year; please continue and let us know your views.

### Planning & Transportation Committee

The Planning & Transportation Committee aims to represent the views of the community when consulted on planning applications and to improve transportation issues on Kings Hill.

The Committee have been consulted on 47 planning applications this year and we would like to encourage residents to exercise their rights to comment on planning applications.

The committee have also worked on the following issues throughout the year:

- To reduce obstructive parking.
- To raise awareness of the 30 mph speed limit on Kings Hill and to reduce anti-social driving behaviours.
- Consultation concerning proposed works at Kent Street and other highway matters.
- Working on behalf of residents with issues such as pedestrian access to Little Waitrose, construction traffic parking, road signs and lines, street lighting, bus timetables and bus overcrowding.

## What is a Parish Council?

A Parish Council is the tier of local government closest to the people. It is not linked to the church in any way. The Council can respond to the needs of the community - delivering the services or representation it most needs. To do this well we need to hear from the community about local issues, so please keep in touch.

## What does a Parish Council do?

The responsibilities of a Parish Council can include the provision and management of allotments, looking after open spaces and maintaining bus shelters and community buildings. A Parish Council can provide them itself, or by helping others (such as a charity) financially to do so.

Councils are also the focal point for various local consultations. The Parish Councillors know the village and can represent its views to other authorities.

## Who runs the Council?

Parish Council elections were held in May 2011 to elect twelve councillors to run the council for four years. They work for the community on an unpaid voluntary basis. A Parish Clerk is appointed to advise the Council and manage the administration of the Council.

## What does Kings Hill Parish Council (KHPC) do?

KHPC is responsible for the following:

- The Kings Hill Community Centre
- The Kings Hill Sports Park
- The Kings Hill Sports Bar
- Maintenance of the playground and green in Anson Avenue and other open spaces in Phase 1
- Installation and replenishment of salt bins in residential areas
- The provision and maintenance of a bus shelter
- Community Notice Boards
- Set up and design of new allotments at the Kings Hill Sports Park
- Consulted on all planning applications in the parish
- Acting as a liaison between the community and other local organisations and Councils
- A quarterly newsletter sent out to all residents of Kings Hill Parish
- Nominates representatives to serve on local voluntary, public and community organisations

## Representatives on local voluntary, public and community organisations

Kent Association of Local Councils - TMBC Area Committee	Sarah Barker
TMBC Parish Partnership Panel	Dave Waller Sarah Barker
Blaise Farm Liaison Committee	Sarah Barker
TMBC Standards Board	Dave Waller
Malling Action Partnership	Dave Waller
Joint Parish Councils Transport Consultative Group	Sarah Barker
Kings Hill Youth Club Trustees	Sarah Barker
Manor Park Liaison Group	Sarah Barker
Cultural Pod Steering Committee	Sarah Barker Sue Woodcock
Liberty Quarterly Meetings	Ray Cassidy Graham Hall Tony Petty Dave Waller

## Grants

The following grants were awarded to local community groups in 2014/2015:

Kings Hill Cricket Club £600

Kings Hill Pre-School £500

## Budget 2014/15

The Council's accounts are prepared in accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations' 2003 (amended 2006). They are subject to external and internal audit (by an independent auditor). Council income is derived from the Council precept, which is collected via council tax, hire charges for use of council facilities and grant funding to support community activities.

The Council is striving to increase income from facility hire charges to ensure best value to the residents of Kings Hill. With the opening of the Sports Bar in 2014 as well as the Sports Park and Community Centre, the Council anticipate that on-going running costs of the facilities will be mainly met from operations and hire income.

<b>Income</b>	<b>2014/15 Budget £</b>
Precept	190,127
Facility Income	292,780
Other	19,015
Spending from reserves	17,177
Grants Receivable	7,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>526,099</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>	
Overhead staff & office costs	90,192
Rent and office costs	13,529
Facility costs	319,442
Grants Payable	6,000
Open spaces	29,900
Loan Repayments	42,696
Capital & Project costs	7,600
Contingency Reserve	10,000
Other	6,740
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>526,099</b>