

Kings Hill Parish Council

ANNUAL REPORT 2011–2012

PLEASE COME AND HAVE YOUR SAY!

Date for
your
diary

The **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING** will be held on Thursday 24th May at the Kings Hill Community Centre. There will be an open meeting from 2pm to 4pm and then again from 7pm to 8.30pm.

Residents are invited to come along to the meeting to speak to their elected representatives about issues of concern and to tell Parish Councillors what facilities they would like to have in the village of Kings Hill.

There will be displays of future council projects together with information about other projects that may affect residents. Complimentary refreshments will be available throughout the event.

Full details will be on the Parish Council Notice Boards and the Parish Council website.

www.kingshillparish.gov.uk

Chairman's Report

Another busy year has gone by for the Parish Council in which councillors and staff have been working hard to improve services in the village. This year, committees have produced short reports highlighting what they have been doing.

In the May 2011 local elections the number of Parish Councillor positions increased to twelve. As twelve residents stood for election they were all elected unopposed and we welcomed three new councillors. Sadly, one councillor resigned during the last year and a new councillor has been co-opted to fill the vacancy. I would like to thank councillors who play an active part in the work of the council.

The Parish Council continued to provide a proportion of funding to support two PCSOs in Kings Hill. The PCSOs are Wendy Stanley and Lia Bishop. We have regular meetings with senior officers to ensure that we continue to get the service we fund.



I should like to express my thanks to our clerk, Helen Munro, and other members of staff for their contribution to the work of the Parish Council.



I look forward to another busy year as a Parish Councillor in Kings Hill.

Sarah Barker *Chair, Kings Hill Parish Council*

Committee Reports

During the past year the council and its committees have been very busy and have had the privilege to support and work closely with many of Kings Hill's residents.

PLANNING & TRANSPORTATION

1. Planning Applications

The Parish Council receives all planning applications for Kings Hill for comment. The final decision on all planning applications is made by the Planning Department at Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council. The committee will continue to monitor the amount of car parking allocated in new developments and ensure that planning applications maintain the character of Kings Hill.

Residents are welcome to attend the Planning and Transportation meeting if they wish to comment on any planning application.



2. Winter Plan

Installed 12 salt bins in the village.
Arranged with Kent

Highway Services for the supply and delivery of three salt bags. These were placed at Discovery and Kings Hill Schools and at the Band Stand in Pippin Way.

Established link with local farmer to ensure secondary routes are ploughed of snow quickly and effectively.

3. Speeding

We are working with Kent Police on a project to combat the problem which is being funded by a KCC grant.

4. Road Design Changes

The committee was able to facilitate discussion between residents and Kent Highway Services to get an alteration to the design of speed bumps in Discovery Drive. These alterations should be completed in the next few months.

5. New Bus Shelter



A new bus shelter has been installed at the bus stop in Discovery Drive near Forest Way. A grant was provided by KCC to help fund the installation.

6. Parking on Unadopted Roads

Helped several groups of residents obtain more satisfactory parking restrictions to those that had been imposed.

COMMUNITY CENTRE

Hilary Wren, Centre Manager, has continued to maintain, improve and develop the work of the Community Centre.

The regular publicity leaflet, now in full colour and expanded into ten pages has been most informative and has increased residents' interest.

The 2nd Summer Fete held on 23rd July 2011 was a great success.

The Christmas Pantomime was so successful that a second performance was arranged at very short notice. much to the pleasure of many children.

A Christmas Craft Fair took place and is likely to be repeated as a Christmas Shopping Fair in 2012.

Refurbishments in the centre included:
New stage for performers
New hall floors.

AMENITIES

1. Village Notice Boards

Two new notice boards have been installed. These are in Pippin Way and Tiffen Way. Notices are renewed weekly.



2. Skate Park

An open afternoon was held on Saturday 8th October and was well attended by residents and young people.

The Skate Park Working Group will present a recommendation to KHPC Full Council in June 2012.

3. Open Spaces and Play Area

The Parish Council maintains areas in Anson Avenue, Lapins Lane and Garden Way.

The equipment at the Anson Avenue play area has been repainted.

4. Allotments for Kings Hill Residents

The Parish Council is in discussions with Liberty Property Trust about the gifting of land at Heath Farm for allotments. It is hoped that this can be completed by September 2012.

The committee have been working on a design plan for the allotments which we hope to have ready so it can be on display at the Annual Parish Meeting.

5. New Trees

Members Highway Fund from County Councillor Richard Long has provided new trees in Worcester Avenue.



The Parish Council

The Council consists of 12 elected members who serve for a term of 4 years. The last local elections were held in May 2011.

Council meetings

The general public are always welcome at any Council meetings to make comments or bring awareness to a particular issue. There is an opportunity for residents to speak at every meeting. Meetings are held in the Community Centre and start at 7:30pm on the following days each month:

2nd Monday – Finance and HR Committee

2nd Wednesday – Planning and Transportation Committee

3rd Wednesday – Full Council

4th Monday – Amenities Committee

4th Wednesday – Community Centre Committee

Other meetings may also be arranged during the year and the agenda is placed on village notice boards 3 working days before the meeting.

Your councillors are:

Cllr Sarah Barker	Cllr Dave Murray
Cllr Ray Cassidy	Cllr Matt Peake
Cllr Graham Hall	Cllr Tony Petty
Cllr Chris Joselin	Cllr Lindsay Sharp
Cllr David Morfill	Cllr David Waller
Cllr Gary Morris	Cllr Sue Woodcock

Councillor	%*	Councillor	%*
Cllr Sarah Barker	91	Cllr Dave Murray	64
Cllr Ray Cassidy	91	Cllr Matt Peake	91
Cllr Graham Hall	100	Cllr Tony Petty	45
Cllr Chris Joselin	82	Cllr Lindsay Sharp	64
Cllr David Morfill**	100	Cllr David Waller	73
Cllr Gary Morris	82	Cllr Sue Woodcock	100

*Percentage attendance at Full Council **Since his co-option

Parish Services – what do we do?

The Parish Council is responsible for the following:

- The Kings Hill Community Centre.
- Maintenance of the playground and green in Anson Avenue and open spaces in Lapins Lane and Garden Way.
- Planning consultee.
- Acting as a liaison between the community and other local organizations such as Liberty Property Trust, Kent Highways Services and Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council.
- A quarterly newsletter sent out to all residents of Kings Hill Parish.
- Nominates representatives to serve on 11 local voluntary, public and community organisations.

These are:

Kings Hill Youth Club	Lindsay Sharp (Chair of Trustees) Sarah Barker (Trustee)
Kent Association of Local Councils TMBC Area Committee	Sarah Barker
Kent Association of Local Councils Executive Committee	Sarah Barker
Parish Partnership Panel	Sarah Barker, David Morfill, Tony Petty
Blaise Farm Liaison Committee	Sarah Barker, Sue Woodcock
TMBC Standards Board	Dave Waller
Manor Park Liaison Group	Graham Hall, Sue Woodcock
TMBC Crime Prevention Panel	Matt Peake, Dave Waller
Malling Action Partnership	Sarah Barker, Dave Waller
TMBC Joint Transportation Board	Chris Joselin
Joint Parish Councils Transport Consultative Group	Sarah Barker, Chris Joselin, Sue Woodcock

What Does Your County Councillor do?

County Councillor, Mr Richard Long is the member for Malling Rural East with responsibility for six parishes including Kings Hill. He supports and works closely with the Parish Council attending parish meetings and helping with many important issues.

The Kent County Council Member Highway Fund was £25,000 this year for each Kent County Member, Members can choose how to use the grant to best help their local community.

Mr Long has approved five applications for Kings Hill from his allocated Member Highway Fund. Below are those MHF applications which are either in progress or have been completed for Kings Hill:

- Discovery Drive – Installation of flashing warning lights in the vicinity of Kings Hill School to identify school peak hours for road users on Discovery Drive.
- Discovery Drive – Request for improvements to the traffic calming for the bus route.
- Braeburn Way – Replacement tree in the verge.
- To provide a contribution towards an operation by Kent Police to target speeding.
- Replacement trees in Worcester Avenue.

He has also worked on our behalf on the expansion of primary school places, finding solutions to the Broadband issues and the central retail area here on Kings Hill.

Residents Views: we need your input and support in order to react to the needs of the community. It is YOUR Centre and the committee's responsibility is to take your responses into account.

Budget for 2011/12 and 2012/13

The Council's accounts are prepared in accordance with the Account and Audit Regulations 2003 (Amended 2006). They are subjected to external and internal audit (by an independent auditor). Every year local government electors are given an opportunity to examine the Council's accounts and financial records. Copies of the full accounts are available on request.

2011-12 Budget (£)

Income:

151,381	Precept	154,150
126,100	Facility Income	175,419
12,635	Other	12,975
69,724	Spending from reserves	188,823
65,000	Grants received	92,500
<u>424,840</u>		<u>623,867</u>

Expenditure:

111,970	Staff Costs	163,238
15,250	Rent & Office costs	15,647
76,088	Facility Building costs	98,080
38,850	Grants payable	43,000
14,386	Open Spaces	16,126
42,696	Loan repayments	42,696
95,000	Capital projects	221,200
30,600	Other	23,880
<u>424,840</u>		<u>623,867</u>

2012-13 Budget (£)

Grants from KHPC 2011/12

The following grants have been awarded to local community groups in 2011/12:

Kings Hill and Larkfield Community First Responders	£714
Heart of Kent Hospice	£714
TMBC summer play scheme	£214
Citizens Advice Bureau	£200
Tiddlers and Toddlers	£144
Kings Hill Youth Club	£17,600

The 2011 S106 Youth Fund was awarded to the following local community groups for their youth projects.

Mereworth & Kings Hill Scouts	£1,500
Kings Hill Childminders	£131
Kings Hill Cricket Club	£565
Skate Park Working Group	£500
Kings Hill Youth Club	£1,000
William Warriors Kings Hill Explorer Scouts	£1,203

Local community youth groups have been invited to apply for the 2012 S106 Youth Fund and a list of successful bids will be announced shortly.

There are a number of capital projects planned for the next year including:

- The set up and management of new allotments at Heath Farm
- Sports and leisure facilities
- The village sign
- CCTV and a new fire alarm system in the Community Centre
- More salt bins
- Skate park
- Safety Railings and extended storage facilities in the Community Centre (delayed in 2011–2012 due to unforeseen circumstances).

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

We would very much appreciate your feedback on the information provided within this report and our *The View from the Hill* quarterly newsletter. We will do our best to act on it and take up issues with the relevant authorities. We would also be delighted to hear from you on any other topics raised, or other matters of concern.

**Do remember also
that all Parish Council
meetings are open to
the public**