

The View From The Hill

Your newsletter from
Kings Hill Parish Council
Jan/Feb 2020

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Liberty Planning Appeals



Liberty Property Trust applied for residential development in the commercial areas of Kings Hill and an area

at the end of Amber Lane. Planning was initially turned down by Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council in the summer of last year.

In December this was brought before the Planning Inspectorate, where many experts were called and compelling arguments given. At the time of going to press the result of the appeal was not available, but it has been confirmed that both Liberty Property Trust and Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council would be contacted on **31st January 2020**.

As soon as the results are available they will be placed on the parish council website;

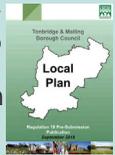
www.kingshillparish.gov.uk under Planning Applications.

Thanks goes to the three Kings Hill residents who volunteered their time and spoke so passionately on the issues of ancient woodland, loss of amenity, lack of infrastructure, and the emergency access route.

Kings Hill Parish Councillors Sarah Barker and Margaret Coleman also spoke on behalf of Kings Hill on the subjects of commercial/residential mix and loss of employment land.

Local Plan

The parish council has put forward their response to the Local Plan Post Submission consultation on the subjects of environmental quality, green belt and infrastructure.



These responses can be found on the parish council website www.kingshillparish.gov.uk under Planning Applications, then Local Plan.

New Noticeboard

Lords Walk Residents Association approached the parish council and requested a community noticeboard and improved bin for the Anson Avenue Play Area.

After applying for grant funding, the parish council are happy to announce that funding was obtained from The National Lottery Awards for All for the noticeboard. The new bin was purchased through a donation from the Lords Walk Residents Association and Kings Hill Parish Council.



Parish Council Committee Updates

Amenities



The Community Centre remains very busy and is efficiently run by Morgan Fuller. The new extension is gaining pace and will hopefully be underway soon. It should be a very attractive space for hire for many different events.

The Sports Park additional facilities will also, hopefully, be underway soon. The various events held at the Sports Bar, i.e. childrens birthday parties, Christmas lunches, to name but two, have been very successful.

The Santa Run at Christmas was also very successful, all competitors had a thoroughly enjoyable day. Big thanks to the Sports Park team and the Parish Council Officers for arranging this excellent event.

The Allotment holders have a brand new shed, which was purchased and built with monies raised in some part by Councillor Balfour. We hope the allotment holders find the shed of great use for the various ideas the Allotment Interest Group have planned. We still have some plots vacant should residents wish to take them up. The allotments have had a successful year of growth!

Planning, Transport And Environment



In spite of the Christmas break the Planning, Transport & Environment Committee has still been very busy.

In November we had the opportunity to respond to Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council's parking review and we are now waiting for the plan to be finalised.

In December the Planning Inspectorate gave us the opportunity to update our response to Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council's Local

Plan. We eagerly await this plan's approval as without it we are vulnerable to speculative development by opportunistic developers. Talking of which, we had a fantastic attendance by residents at the Public Enquiry into Liberty Property Trust's application to build what they euphemistically call Phase 5, including the universally hated Amber Lane development. We wait with bated breath for the Inspector's response.

Meanwhile we had some good news. Plans for the new Community Centre hall and Sports Park enhancements are well advanced and we hope to see ground broken in the coming months.

Future plans for the committee include a consultation to decide what Youth Facility we should build and we have proposed that we carry out an environmental audit of our facilities in order to develop the Council's "Green" Policy.

Parish Council News

Kings Hill School Council Attend Parish Council Meeting



Kings Hill school council were invited to take part in a mock parish council meeting on **Thursday 12th December 2019** at Kings Hill Community Centre, where twelve school council members met up with members of Kings Hill Parish Council. The meeting was led by chairman, Cllr Sarah Barker.

The meeting was progressed as a parish council meeting and all attendees had their own name plaques and an agenda to work from, with minutes being taken.

The school council took part in discussions and had many good ideas, including the issues of littering, anti-social behaviour at Halloween and car idling outside of Kings Hill School. The school council even passed actions relating to these issues, which means they will be working alongside the parish council on a number of projects in the future.

It was expressed by the members of the parish council what a delight the children were and how impressed they were with the intelligent way they conversed and discussed the points they were passionate about.

The meeting was such a success, that another is being scheduled to take place in Spring 2020. The parish council are looking forward to working with the children of Kings Hill School to continue to make Kings Hill a great place to live!

Protect Your Home By Protecting Your Garden

Kent Police have informed us that there has been a recent spate of burglaries in the Tonbridge and Malling area.

Protecting your garden can stop burglars from getting into your home.



1. Keep hedges and walls at the front of your house low (under one metre) so burglars have nowhere to hide.
2. Keep side gates locked at all times. Open gates mean burglars can easily access your home without being seen by passers-by or neighbours.
3. Keep hedges, walls and fences around your back garden high (over 1.8 metres). Add lightweight trellis to gates and fences and plant some prickly plants to make it harder for burglars to climb over.
4. Gravel driveways and paths make it harder for burglars to go undetected.
5. Install an outside security light so that intruders can't approach without being seen.
6. Install a burglar alarm system.
7. Always keep your shed locked and secured. Often sheds contain valuables such as power tools and bicycles.
8. Never leave tools lying around as they can be used as a way of breaking into your home.

Crime On Kings Hill

Just ring 101

Easy to remember, easy to call



It is very important that any criminal activity or anti-social behaviour is logged with the police by calling **101**.

We have been advised by Kent Police that calling the PSCO directly is not correct procedure and if the call is not logged then there is no accurate picture of crime statistics in the village.

A public meeting to discuss the increase in anti-social behaviour, especially at Halloween, is being organised and will take place in **April 2020**, so keep an eye out on our social media pages (Facebook and Instagram) and on our website at: www.kingshillparish.gov.uk.

Watch Your Speed!



The parish council would like to remind residents that the speed limit within Kings Hill is 30mph without exception.

VE Day Celebrations

The parish council are planning an event to celebrate the 75th anniversary of VE Day, which will be taking place over the May Bank Holiday, **8th - 10th May 2020**, and are looking for volunteers to help organise the event. If you would like to get involved then call **01732 870382** or email:



clerk@kingshillparish.gov.uk

Know Your Councillors



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Contacting The Parish Council

If you wish to contact the Parish Council please email the Clerk at clerk@kingshillparish.gov.uk or call **01732 870382**



Councillor Vacancies



Kings Hill Parish Council currently has councillor vacancies and are looking to co-opt three new parish councillors.

If you have some spare time, have your community at heart and would like to volunteer and take on this challenging, yet interesting role, then contact the parish clerk, Julie Miller, on **01732 870382** or email clerk@kingshillparish.gov.uk to apply or discuss the role further.

Full Council meetings and committee meetings take place on Wednesdays at 7.30pm in Kings Hill Community Centre, 70 Gibson Drive, ME19 4LG.