



March 2017

Community Newsletter

Ferryfield

The Council will, in the near future, have to replace the piece of equipment of the play area at the rear nearest to the MUGA. If there are any suggestions for a replacement or for improvements or new facilities that could be provided they would be gratefully received by the Council and would be given careful consideration.

Forstal Road Recreation Ground

The Forstal Road recreational ground is the home of the Aylesford Football Club but is also a very important recreational facility for all of the community in Aylesford. If there are any other suggestions for improvements or new facilities that could be provided they would be gratefully received by the Council and would be given careful consideration.

Aylesford Village

The Parish Council has continued to pursue the scheme for the improvement to the village square despite the difficulties it has had with pushing forward with the design of this scheme. The Council believes that this improvement scheme in the village square will introduce a much fresher feel to the square making it once again a place where people would like to meet.

Eccles

The Council, with local residents, are awaiting details of the type of improvement schemes which, following the survey and traffic study, could be undertaken by KCC at the Bull Lane/Pilgrims Way/Rochester Road junction to improve the safety at this dangerous junction both in the short term and beyond. For the first time last Christmas the Council put up four Christmas Lights on the street lamps in Bull Lane near to the location of the Christmas tree.

Blue Bell Hill

The Council has just started a 3 year project to look at making Podkin Meadow a wild flower meadow making it a far more accessible and pleasant place for local residents to visit and spend time. If there any other ideas for improvements to the village please let the Council know.

Tunbury and Walderslade

The Council has been pleased with the success of the new play equipment in the Tunbury recreation ground aimed more for children above the toddler age group up to and including younger teenagers.

Medway Towpath

The Council has also been pleased to have supported, including giving a grant of £20000, the Kent County Council scheme to reopen the Medway towpath within the Parish boundaries and once again having a direct link to Maidstone. Work has now commenced and is hoped to be completed and the path reopened by the end of March/beginning of April.

A20 Traffic Problems

Over the past 2 years the Council has worked with its neighbours, Ditton and East Malling and Larkfield Parish Councils and with Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council and Kent County Council to see what could be done to help alleviate the traffic congestion problems on the A20. As a result of these discussions the parishes had been able to get Kent County Council to undertake a traffic survey on the A20 to help identify the problems and their hotspots with a view to identifying the measures required to ease these problems. It highlighted that the worst 2 junctions were the two in this Parish namely the Quarry Wood Industrial estate/A20/Hall Road and the A20/Hermitage Lane with the last only getting worse with the new commercial development at this junction. The Council has been working on the current problem relating to the new commercial development with the local County Councillor and the KCC to see what can be done to rectify these problems. A scheme to help alleviate these problems is being prepared by the KCC and work on this scheme should start in the near future.

Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council Local Plan

Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council have been consulting everybody about the issues facing the Borough in respect for future development including the pressure on it from central government to provide new homes within its boundaries and also some of the options that could be adopted to deliver what is required by the Government through the Local Plan process. The Parish Council has responded to the draft plan put forward by TMBC in a constructive manner and the Council's response is set out on the Council's website.. It is important to remember that this was an opportunity to comment on the issues and options facing TMBC and that there will be further opportunities to comment with the next being in August next year on their preferred way forward.

Parish Council Vacancies

The Council currently has 3 vacancies in the Aylesford South ward and if you are interested in representing your local community by joining the Council please contact the Clerk on info@aylesfordparishcouncil.org.uk.

Community Newsletter

The Council would appreciate contributions to this newsletter from the community informing the whole community of events and community groups in the area. These newsletters will be published quarterly in March, June, September and December with contributions received the month before each publication month. Contributions should be sent to Mel@aylesfordparishcouncil.org.uk.