

REPORT TO WOULDHAM PARISH COUNCIL 6th JULY 2021

**By the Tonbridge and Malling Borough Councillors for
Burham and Wouldham Ward
Councillors Dave Davis and Roger Dalton**

TMBC BOUNDARY COMMISSION REVIEW

BACKGROUND.

1. The Boundary Commission of England and Wales periodically review councils to see that there is a reasonable balance between the number of councillors and electors and to consider the amount of work a council must do and the representation required to do that.
2. In the last review in 2012 Burham Eccles and Wouldham Ward was one of the key reasons for the review because Peters Village was going to increase the ward size by about 60%. Therefore, the Commission decided that that ward boundaries should be changed, and Eccles move to another ward. This took effect from the 2015 election and the ward of Burham and Wouldham including Peters Village was formed.
3. The decision on the ward changes was made in 2012 but the build out of Peters Village was delayed and so Burham and Wouldham was overrepresented for the number of electors it had.
4. That said, we, as your ward councillors, have had one of the busiest actual workloads for any councillors in TMBC because of the range of problems brought forward by the construction of Peters Village.
5. This over representation of Burham and Wouldham Ward was one of the **main** reasons for a new review that started earlier this year and will take effect at the next elections in 2023.

PRESENT REVIEW BASICS.

6. The present review is in two parts:
 - a. A review of the number of councillors.
 - b. A review of the warding arrangements.

PRESENT REVIEW NUMBER OF COUNCILLORS

7. There has been a desire by central government and many electors to reduce the number of local government councillors in the belief that smaller councils with fewer councillors are more efficient. As a result, the Boundary Commission has decided to reduce TMBC from 54 councillors to about 43 councillors. The effect of this is that each councillor has many more electors to look after.
8. The number of electors is not a good measure of the workload of a councillor if there are major changes going on in a ward such as the construction of Peters Village.

PRESENT REVIEW WARDING ARRANGEMENTS

9. In all the warding 5 proposals being considered by TMBC, in all except one, it is proposed that the Burham and Wouldham Ward should take Eccles back and remain a two-member ward. The fifth proposal is for the existing Burham and Wouldham ward to join with Eccles, Kits Coty and Bluebell Hill to form a 3-member ward. TMBC have now recognised that taking Eccles back is by far and away the least worst option and hopefully that will be confirmed at the full Council meeting on 13th July.

10. In the period between the elections of 2023 and 2027 it is planned for Peters Village to be fully completed and approval given, and work started on the Bushey Wood development around Eccles. The workload of all this will fall on the councillors elected in 2023.

PRESENT PARISH COUNCIL ACTION

11. Your council has an option to comment on these proposals which must be submitted by 19th July 2021. Details can be found at.

12. <https://consultation.lgbcc.org.uk/have-your-say/27207>

TMBC WEBSITE UPDATE

13. The TMBC website has not been good in recent years. It is difficult to navigate round and there is much information that needs updating or is totally out of date.

14. On Tuesday 29 June 2021 a new website will go live with many major improvements

15. The biggest improvement is in the background management where an officer team will work on ensuring that the website is kept up to date with a continual editing process to ensure the information is up to date.

16. The other major improvement is that one should be able to access the area of interest within to or 3 clicks of a mouse eg: **TMBC Home -> Waste Services -> Missed Bin Report**

17. Once a page is located a key point is that there will be telephone numbers freely available to be able to contact a TMBC officer to discuss issues.

18. Residents who have an existing individual account with TMBC will need to register again in the new account.

Burham & Wouldham

Contacts

csu.tonbridge.and.malling@kent.police.uk Contact your local team

<https://www.kent.police.uk/> Report online, check statistics, information on your area.

<https://www.crashmap.co.uk/> Road Safety Information

June 2021

Information provided by: ****PCSO Samir PATANGWA 61788**** Community Safety Unit

Crime Series or Crimes of Note

2nd of June

- Criminal Damage – High Street, Wouldham
Informant reporting about their son's electric scooter being damaged by another party.

11th of June

- Drink or Drug Driving – Hall Road, Wouldham
Reports of driver and passenger of the vehicle were seen drinking a can of beer in their hands.

17th of June

- Traffic Offence – High Street, Wouldham
Vehicle seized as the driver was driving on their provisional license with their kids in the car.

21st of June

- Concern for Welfare - High Street, Wouldham
Informant reporting of smell of cannabis coming from the property which is next to Jellybeans
Preschool.

Anti-social behaviour and other incidents of note:



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Police**

For more information about policing in your area,
visit www.kent.police.uk

To report a non-urgent crime online, visit
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5th of June

- Nuisance Vehicle – Wouldham Court, Wouldham
Report of 2 youths on a moped and a quad riding on the footpath from farmers field then on to tarmac footpath in front of the houses. Nearly loosing control and hitting the fence by the church and communal grass.

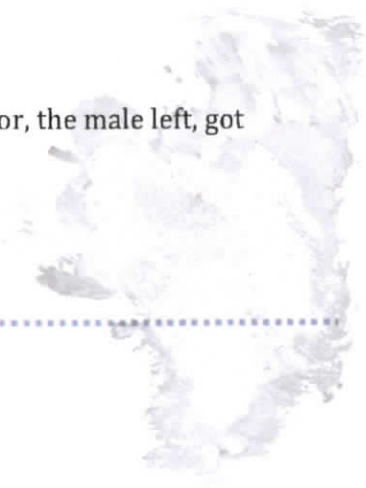
9th of June

- Abandoned Vehicle – Worrall Drive, Wouldham
Informant reporting of a possible abandoned vehicle which has been left for a week in a private space.

Informant reporting of loud and screeching noise of vehicles being heard.

14th of June

- Suspicious event – Nelson Road, Wouldham
Male banged on the informant's door, when the informant got to the door, the male left, got into his vehicle and drove away.



Items of good work:

Continuing to show presence around Worrall Drive during school pick up hours on every possible opportunity.



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Crime Prevention Information:

- As spring approaches to summer, the number of shed break-ins can increase. Items such as lawnmowers, bicycles, golf clubs, fishing tackle and power tools can all be kept insecurely in sheds and these can all be easy pickings for thieves to target.
- The tips below can help to prevent you from becoming a victim of this crime.
- Install a shed alarm, with a notice displayed to warn thieves that it is not worth the effort of breaking in. The alarms are easy to install and can be purchased at most DIY stores.
- Make sure the door is always securely locked.
- Ensure all valuable property is marked with your postcode. Post coding property makes your belongings very unattractive to a thief by making items easily identifiable and difficult to sell.
- Lock up pedal cycles. Use bike locks and chain them inside to other large items or to the shed.
- Keep a record of the make, model and ID numbers of bicycles and all other equipment and take photographs of unusual items.
- Check your household insurance policy to ensure that the value of things stored inside is covered by your contents' policy.
- Please make all reports of ASB via 101, the online reporting form or 999 in an emergency.
- The Community Support Unit can gain a better picture where reports have an official reference number so we can collate data effectively.



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Community Warden –
Wouldham Parish Council Report –
July '21

There is not alot different to report from last month to this month.

It has been a mixed month for me, I have continued to support our residents both face to face and remotely.

- Supporting our residents remotely & carrying out other tasking's, as per instructions from my management
- I have carried out referrals & have put support in place where face to face visits are needed
- At present my colleagues are supporting me with my workload
- There has been an increase in the demand for food parcels across my areas, people are struggling financially & emotionally - if anyone needs some assistance; please do not hesitate to reach out – this is of course in the strictest of confidence
- We have had the first outdoor & Covid friendly “Pop up Café”; this was extremely well attended & everyone seemed so pleased for the café Government Covid restrictions permitting to be back with us & for themselves to do something as close to normality at this time. There was a lot of chatting, tea drank, cake eaten & most importantly advice given & information sought for our residents. Our next Pop up Cafe is this Wednesday 7th July, 1030-1230, in the rec near the car park
- I have been made aware of a little case found, it is a little black velvet pouch & looks like it would hold a ladies' lipstick – please contact me if you know of the rightful owner
- I was informed of a gate at the top of the rec which pulls to & appears as if it is closed securely but has no locking mechanism to keep the gate closed, I reported this into Wouldham P.C; who are kindly looking into options to make residents aware of this

I have taken some annual leave, undertaking a series of online trainings & being supported by my team.

These help & support lines are as per previous reports; however, the advice & support lines are still the same: -

I have kept the advice lines from April's "Mid Kent Mind, Stress Awareness Week", here is the information: -

In April we had "Stress Awareness Week" and Mid Kent Mind kindly sent us some information that can be passed onto our communities to bolster wellbeing and open up conversations around stress and mental health.

Stress Awareness Month provided an important opportunity for us to raise awareness within our local communities about the support which is out there and available to our residents.

It is undoubtable that the pandemic has led to more people than ever before struggling to cope with stress – with so many variables and uncertainties contributing to the mood of the nation presently. We had an article included into the "Burham, Wouldham & Peters Village, Community Magazine", thank you to our then editor Mrs Mary Davis.

Stress Awareness Month 2021

Tips For Coping

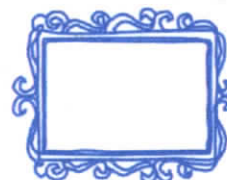


Exercise can release positive endorphins - making a huge difference to our wellbeing.

Whether you walk, run, cycle, swim or do something else entirely - get moving, and feel the benefits!



Stay connected with people. Don't be afraid to pick up the phone and have a chat - it can have a huge impact on how you feel, and on how the person you talk to is feeling, too!



Focus on yourself and the things you enjoy. Mental Health is different for all of us, so it is important to think about the things you enjoy which might be able to help you to better cope.

Helplines: -

Mental Health Matters - 24/7 Helpline

Call 0800 107 0160

Release the Pressure – 24/7 Helpline

Call 0800 107 0160

SHOUT – A 24/7 Text Support Service

Text “Shout” to 85258

Samaritans – 24/7 Helpline

Call 116 123 for free

Carers UK – Help & Support for Carers

Call 0808 808 7777

Also as before I must bring your attention to “Scams”, scams and potential scams have been on the rise since the start of the pandemic.

My advice has not changed and this is what I would advocate at all times. **“Scams”** are on the rise both online and offline.

Please educate yourselves and those around you.

Here is a copy of a notification my colleagues and I were sent from the “MET Police” to advise our residents: -

“Dear residents,

Kent Police have had an increase of calls lately from residents whereby they have received calls on the landline phone from someone claiming to be a Metropolitan Police officer. This officer will claim that someone has been arrested with a cloned card in your name and that they need your help, this officer will tell you their force/collar number and they will tell you to ring 191 (101 is the correct number to call) to confirm with the Metropolitan Police control room. If the person has rung on the landline then they will have an open line for around ten minutes even after you have put the phone down so please make sure you have a dialling tone before you make any further calls or use a mobile phone if you have one?

The scammers will then proceed to tell you that they need you to withdraw large amounts of cash from your bank, but you must not tell anyone or the bank due to someone in the bank giving out fraudulent

notes. This is not the case and any Police Force will NOT call members of the Public asking for them to help the Police with an ongoing investigation.

If you receive any unsolicited calls claiming the above, please end the call and report it to Kent Police. The non-emergency number for any Police Force in the UK is 101.

Please think before giving out any private details, bank account/card numbers that it could be a scammer. Remember that Bank's and Police will never ask for money or passwords and ALWAYS check if the caller is genuine.

Kind Regards"

We have also had doorstep criminals' door knocking within the Borough telling residents that they need work done on their roofs. Do NOT accept these people on your doorstep giving you quotes for work or even that the work is genuine as it often isn't. If in doubt call a friend round to check, or a reputable local trader and if the caller will not go away then ring Kent Police on 999.

There is a fake Census text scam being circulated where scammers are pretending to be from the UK Government Census 2021, people are being told that there are gaps in the information that they submitted.

Notifications like these can be signed up for on KCC Consumer Alerts, please see the below information for details.

For those that do not have the internet my best advice would be: -

- DO Not Answer your door to any unknown persons.
- Do Not Answer telephone calls from unknown number's, if you do accidentally answer the phone to unknown people – Do NOT engage in conversation about your utility bills, Amazon, Amazon Prime, HMRC, your Bank acc etc. etc. etc. – The official companies will not ring you to discuss your account; if they need to contact you, they will do this by official means – by writing to you.
- If you need to check the authenticity of someone that has rung, purporting to be from an official company – put the phone down – use another phone so you are not using the same phone line & ring the utility/company direct to check out the

authenticity of the caller & if indeed there is any change to the service provided or whatever you were being told.

- Do Not Click on any links within emails again purporting to be from service providers – again contact the service provider direct.
- The list for Coronavirus scams is endless with people purporting to be from official Health services door knocking & trying to gain access to people's homes, getting resident's to hand over money to do food shopping for them & never to be seen again. Also along with fake phone calls, text messages & emails.
- More recently people have been purporting to be from a Health Care provider & turning up on people's doorsteps to give unannounced "Covid-19 vaccinations" – Do NOT let any unauthorised personnel into your home, unknown to yourselves – in in doubt ring your Dr's to check this is genuine or ring Kent Police if necessary.

Always take 5 minutes to re-assess the situation, phone a friend, family member or neighbour before making any decisions or proceeding with anything suspicious or out of the blue.

It is your phone & front door – just say **"No"** or even better do not answer to anyone unknown to you.

Use caller identity on your phones & use your phone provider call blocker for nuisance calls or text messages both for home phones & personal mobile phones.

For advice or to report issues, please call: -

Action Fraud Helpline: 0300 123 2040

KCC Trading Standards through Citizens Advice Consumer Helpline: 0808 223 1133

[Citizens Advice consumer helpline](#)

Kent Police on 101 for Non-urgent & 999 for emergencies only

For anyone wishing to report anything anonymously – please report to: -

CrimeStoppers 0800 555 111

For those of you online, you can get all the **"KCC Trading Standards alerts on 'scams, doorstep criminals & doorstep sellers' through KCC Consumer Alerts"**. Sign up for all the up-to-date scam alerts information via this link: -

<https://www.kent.gov.uk/leisure-and-community/community-safety/consumer-alerts>