

As the last council meeting was in June, I am updating on activities during June, July and August.

VILLAGE HALL

1. Mama Mia Film night – again this was not well attended, even though there was interest on FB. We need to consider whether it may be better to have the regular evenings on a Friday or Saturday
2. Leaf It Out have completed the frontage re-vamp of the Hall. Building Control have visited the site and approved the ramp detail. A further visit has approved the work completed
3. PAT Testing has been completed for electrical items – all passed.
4. Gas Safety Checks have been completed – all OK
5. Freezer has been moved from the container to the Hall and lock purchased (although this was in fact the fridge! So the freezer still needs to come down.
6. Jelly Tots have ceased sessions
7. Village Hall team have met to develop a forward plan. Need to arrange the 'Grand Reveal' for September.
8. Fund raising afternoon tea in aid of breast cancer was well attended and raised £175 for the charity. Well done Anne Marr for organising it!

OPEN SPACES

1. After checking for wildlife, clearing of saplings restricting the valley view was started by volunteers.



This foliage was used to create 'dead' hedges in an attempt to stop vehicles going onto the Common. Initially the gap to be filled was around 8ft, we ended up filling nearer 20ft of various gaps in the boundary. Unfortunately, in under a week, someone had tried to remove the main hedge in an attempt to gain access and all the bricks etc collected from the undergrowth had been thrown back. Whilst having to leave an amount to surround the area where people set fires, the remaining bricks etc have been used to reinforce the dead hedge with additional foliage and stakes.

2. We have been in contact with Kent Wildlife Trust and are working towards the Common becoming a registered Local Wildlife Site. This should help with future management of the land.
3. We received a complaint regarding the bramble growth at the back of Oldfield, which would not be cleared by our contractor due to the fly tipping. We have reported this, together with other 'dumps' / structures to KCC as it their land. As a good-will gesture, our contractor cleared as much as he could around the area, but the items still need to be removed.
4. We received a complaint regarding the condition of communal bins in Peters Village. We have liaised with Sage Homes to clear the area and are in the process of working out how to stop this happening in the future.
5. Confirmation has been received that the marshland along Hall Road will be used for farming and wildlife projects.
6. The ASB Team have queried the 'camp' opposite the Tramway footpath. This is growing and we need to decide whether to remove it as this was where the fire was.
7. Footpath MR5 (Ferry Lane) has been reported to KCC as it is very overgrown and unpassable. Clerk



has also spoken TMBC to investigate the possibility of clearing some of the brambles to enable access to the footpath from the green at Trafalgar riverfront. This could then link any community access to Wouldham Marshes if this ever becomes an opportunity.

RECREATION GROUND

1. There have been a few BBQs in the Rec which caused damage to the grass and was incredibly irresponsible considering the conditions. There was also another deliberate fire at the top of the Rec which resulted in fire engines needing to attend.
2. ROSPA inspection was carried out in July. There were no 'reds', but we can tackle some of the 'yellows'. All the gym equipment needs either repairs, painting or adjusting. Due to the age of this equipment, it is impossible to get spares. So it may be worth considering replacing the 3 items? We also need to fill in the dips where the old 5-a-side goals were and make good where they were taken out. Some of the compost we purchased for the allotments was going to be used for this, but has not happened.
3. Clerk has met with a contractor, based in Dartford, who is going to quote to repaint/repair play equipment. As this is the only local company who does this kind of work, it may be worth investigating whether he becomes an approved contractor for future works.
4. There seemed to be a van which regularly knocked the height barrier off, (even though the height is obviously signed and has been checked to be within tolerance) Our thanks go to Mervyn Hemphill for welding a (very) heavy-duty latch to the overhead barrier in the car park to stop this happening.
5. First opinion has been received from the Barrister regarding the installation of gates, requesting further information and a site meeting before he can compose letters to residents.
6. We have had a number of football clubs use the Rec without permission. Wouldham Athletic have now provided their risk assessment and PL insurance. Whilst Cuxton have confirmed that they will no longer use the facility.



ROADS FOOTPATHS AND LIGHTING

1. Overgrown verge to Winchester House – reported to KCC (now cleared)
2. Overgrown hedge obscuring signs along Hall Road reported to KCC by MOP (due September)
3. School Lane hedges have been cut back to around 400mm from the verge marker.
4. Knowle Road footpath has been reported to Clarion, together with a complaint regarding the amount of rubbish in the garden. The property has now been vacated and the voids team are clearing the area. Need to check the bushes have been cut before they leave site. (now reported to KCC)
5. Chair has cut back (as far as possible) the bush obscuring the pinch point going up Knowle Road. This has been reported to KCC again to say that the priority sign cannot be seen.
6. An accident has been reported at the junction of Knowle Road and Hall Road, caused by a vehicle travelling too fast down Knowle Road and hitting another car waiting to travel along Hall Road. This is something we have regularly raised as a risk and KCC. Putting up new signage doesn't appear to have made any difference.
7. We have received an email from a resident in Peters Village with concerns over the speeds along New Court Road and Village Road (particularly the noise of fast vehicles going over the speed humps). He wants the speed reduced to 20mph in line with the rest of the Parish. I have checked the crash maps and there are none recorded, so it is unlikely this will happen anytime soon. However, we do still have measures on the Highways Improvement Plan and can look at putting a 'Horse' sign up as you enter the village. Speedwatch have also run a session at the location, with no speeding recorded
8. Hall Road lights were turned off again during the summer holidays. Reported to the Chair of the PTA as the school is closed for the summer holidays, who is contacting the Caretaker to investigate.
9. Further complaints regarding children on electric motorbikes and scooters have been received. Clerk spoke to some on the Rec, but the ASB team and Police do not seem to be able to see them.