

VIEW FROM THE HILL

Official Newsletter of the Kings Hill Parish Council



Message from The Chairman

ANTHONY PETTY

Welcome to the February 2023 Newsletter. Within the Annual Report, you will find lots of information about what we do, why we do it, what we cannot do, how we pay for it, how you can help us, how you can join us, and what we plan to do in 2023. Please read the Annual Report on pages 9, 10, 11 and 12.

Annual Report 2023

The Annual Report 2023 can be found in this issue of the newsletter, on pages 9, 10, 11 and 12.

Up Coming Events

- Coronation Celebration – for more information, please see page 7
- Cozy Club/ Community Club – page 7

  Follow us on Facebook and Instagram @kingshillparishcouncil to keep up with the latest news and updates

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St Gabriel's Church

Planning Permission has recently been granted for the new church. Standing prominently at the centre of the Kings Hill, this modern designed and eco-friendly building will be an asset to its surroundings. A short walk from schools and the village centre means it's easily accessible on foot, cycle / scooter and public transport. Once built it will become a community hub at the heart of Kings Hill.



Broadwater Farm Update

Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council has agreed a new timetable with Berkeley Homes over its plans for Broadwater Farm which include 900 homes, a medical centre and primary and secondary schools at Broadwater Farm, Ashton Way, West Malling.

It is expected that the housebuilder will soon be submitting amendments to its original plan which will then go out for consultation. In June 2023 there will be site visits with Tonbridge and Malling Borough Councils planning committee who is then due to make its determination in July 2023. The application will then be referred to the Government's Levelling Up, Housing and Communities Department and it is expected that the Planning Decision notice will be issued in August 2023.

Considerate Parking

Kings Hill Parish Council has seen an increase in the number of complaints received regarding the problem of inconsiderate parking.

We ask that you are considerate when parking and refrain from parking on the pavement – pedestrians, pushchairs, mobility scooters and wheelchair users need to get by on the pavement and should not be forced onto the road.

Please think about where you are parking, there are several vehicles who park close to junctions which makes it dangerous for other motorists and pedestrians, others block private driveways or make it extremely difficult for residents to enter / exit their driveways.



Kings Hill Community Centre

At the Community Centre, we have a variety of regular sessions that are held here Monday - Saturday which cater for all ages and interests.



Scan the code to go directly to our 'Regular Classes/ Sessions' Section of the website.



All halls can be booked for any event such as birthdays, wedding receptions, christenings, baby showers and commercial meetings. Please visit www.kingshillcommunitycentre.org.uk for more information about our halls.

Party Events

The Townsend and Mary Ellis Hall are the perfect venue for any evening event.

We offer table cloths and chair covers for an additional price to enhance any day/evening event.

Party Rates:

£50.00 per hour after 6:00pm.

For more information please visit www.kingshillcommunitycentre.org.uk.



Community Centre Contact Details:



01732 220919



bookings@kingshillparish.gov.uk



Community Club

We have loved welcoming visitors to our Cozy Club over the last month. It has been a pleasure to see returning faces which have kindly given us feedback on what the community would like to get from our Club. Going forward we would like to offer a book and puzzle swap trolley.

We are renaming our Cozy Club to Community Club as we would like to continue running this throughout the year, with revised hours of 1pm – 3pm every Monday in our Jim Fry Hall.



Know Your Councillors



Chairman - Anthony Petty

I have been a councillor close on 14 years and I'm passionate and committed to all things Kings Hill, to making it the very best for all that live and work here. I joined the council to make a positive difference and to preserve the environment for future generations. Kings Hill has been great to me, so this is my way of giving back.



Vice Chair - Shakira Falzon-Thomas

Committee Membership:
Planning, Transport, Environment, and climate change.
Climate Change Working Group



Councillor - Margaret Colman

I joined Kings Hill Parish Council 5 years ago due to the my concern of the Large Building Programme, and for me, its about attempting to give something back to the community. I have enjoyed helping residents with their queries / issues and pointing them in the right direction. During my time with the Parish Council I have been on numerous sub committees i.e. Climate Change / Planning / Local Plan / Reg 18.



Councillor - Felix Mclymont

Full Council only.
Communications and Events Working Group.



Councillor - Sarah Barker

Committee Membership:
Planning, Transport, Environment, and Climate Change.
Communications and Events Working Group.



Councillor - Mike Hartman

Full Council only.



Councillor - Angela Vincent

I have lived on Kings Hill since 2008 and have brought up children in the village as well as being an active community volunteer involved in youth, church, school, local residents group and more, before joining the parish council in 2021. I am passionate about residents being more involved in shaping the future of Kings Hill and I like that the parish council is playing an increasing role in facilitating this. I've so far been involved in the local plan working group and event and communications team.



Councillor - David Waller

Full Council only.



Councillor - Dave Hurring

I used to be an ambassador for a national charity before deciding to get involved more locally with my volunteering time, hence joining KHPC. I'm a big supporter of grass roots sports and enjoy working with the various groups on Kings Hill. For me we have seen enough development here now and am pleased that all members of KHPC are working together to oppose further loss of our green spaces. Of course, there's a lot of local issues: parking, and youth facilities are among the things that rightly need a lot of attention. I hope KHPC can work together to play their part in addressing these.



Councillor - Siobhan Kirk

Committee Membership:
Planning, Transport, Environment, and Climate Change.
Communications and Events Working Group.



Councillor - David Rush

I joined the council in 2021 because I appreciate the great community we live in and wanted to do what I could to try to preserve and enhance it. Have enjoyed seeing the community come together on serious subjects such as the Regulation 18 Local Plan but also at social events such as the Jubilee Fair. In my time as a councillor I have represented the council at the TMBC Area 2 Planning Committee, sat on the Planning Sub -committee, chaired the Regulation 18 Local Plan working group and public meeting, and led the response to the Broadwater Farm Application.



Councillor - Neil Sherlaw

I first joined Council 4 years ago and after a short break was co-opted back on in October 2022. As well as giving back to the Community through the Council, I participate in a number of other Community activities, as a member of the golf club, the local gym and as a Committee of a local cycling club. All of these allow me to interface with different members of the King's Hill Community. I also enjoy helping residents in any way I can, through the full Council and the Committees I am on.



Kings Hill Allotments

Kings Hill Allotments is home-from-home for a community of gardeners that like to “live life on the veg” (and fruit & flowers too) Just over an acre with 75 plots, in a secluded spot between woods and playing fields, surrounded by a wildlife hedge. We turned over a new leaf after COVID, welcoming over a dozen new tenants, making over the communal plot and holding our first Social and Fun(d) raiser day. The hub of our community is the Big Shed, where tenants can swap and share plants, pots, produce, seeds, tools and gardening books. A small band of volunteers keep busy looking after the communal areas, supporting tenants and



organising social events. All in a season’s work: plant sales, installing water butts and solar powered lighting, rotavating the communal plot, cutting the grass paths and clearing plots for new tenants.

Operating under the name “Big Shed Enterprises”, the volunteers include allotment holders, family, friends and young people working towards their Duke of Edinburgh (D of E) awards. We are always looking for new volunteers, and youngsters doing their D of E would be especially welcome. So if you are looking for an active and outdoors volunteering opportunity for your teenager, please get in touch. We have big plans for 2023 to get our new communal plot up and running with a picnic area, decorative kitchen-garden-style fruit and veg beds and growing exotic varieties in our giant sun-bubble, which was gifted by the Parish Council.

And finally, the allotments are growing, with 28 new plots opening up. We are looking forward to welcoming a new group of gardeners to our community, and celebrating with a spring BBQ and Plant Fair. Time to get growing.



Ramblers

Join Tonbridge and Malling Ramblers on their next walks:

5th March 2023	Sevenoaks Weald and Bore Place 5.5mi
8th March 2023	Figure of 8 around Shipborne 7.5mi
15th March 2023	A Capel Circular 5mi
19th March 2023	A shorter walk along the Medway to Haysden 4.3mi

 www.ramblers.org.uk

Report a Crime

If you need to report any crimes or anti social behaviour, please scan the QR code below to be directed to Kent Police online.





Dates for the Diary



Coronation Tea

We are delighted to announce an opportunity to celebrate the coronation of King Charles III on Sunday, the 7th May. We welcome you to join us at the Kings Hill Community Centre for a 'Coronation Tea'.

There will be lots of activities and entertainment for the children, finishing with a Best Crown parade – made here on the day.

Adults can enjoy musical entertainment from the wonderful Carradine's Cockney sing-a-long, while enjoying tea, scones and cake.

Kings Hill Sports Park

The Sports Park will be holding a 'February Fun Day' on Thursday 16th February 2023 between 10:00am-2:30pm.

Recent Pictures of the Sports Park Café refurbishment:



Cycling Club

Kings Hill Wheelers Cycling Club was established 2017. We are in our 7th year and offer a range of different rides to match most abilities.

The Club offers prospective members a chance to ride with the club for three rides prior to joining the Club.

We support Heart of Kent Hospice, Air Ambulance, Action Medical Research and the Royal British Legion by making annual donations from funds received from our 8 Sponsors.

During 2022 we also made donations to the Food Bank run by St Gabriel's Church from funds collected at our annual dinner, a donation to the British Red Cross in memory of our late Queen (her favourite charity for the whole of her reign).

If you are interested in joining a very local cycling club please look at our website – www.KHWCC.org for the full details of our club and also check out the rides we offer.

We look forward to hearing from you.





Annual Report 2023



Message from The Chairman

I am particularly proud of the way in which the council and Kings Hill responded to TMBC's Local Plan Regulation 18 Consultation. There have been so many cases recently where the community has come together. The council organised an end of summer Jubilee Event which was an amazing day, our weekly Warm Space Cosy Club is a great success. We were one of the last communities to come together to celebrate the Jubilee of the late Queen Elizabeth II, we are currently considering an event to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III. We have been recognised by our peers as working to a high standard and during 2023, we will be upgrading our Foundation Status to Quality Council Status; you can be assured that we have high aspirations and want you to be proud of your Parish Council knowing that our aim is to be the best we can possibly be. We have also as a council signed the Civility and Respect Pledge and working towards.

Kings Hill is a wonderful community and if we work together, we can make our part of Kent a nicer place to live, work and raise a family. Our aim is to provide residents with the service they expect from us. We must be extremely careful over the management of our affairs and continuously monitor our expenditure and examine very closely how and where we spend the money.

We actively encourage community engagement and members of the public are welcome at any of our council or committee meetings, similarly a warm welcome awaits you in the Parish Office at the Kings Hill Community Centre if you would like to visit and discuss any issue with us.

We continue to lobby both our Borough and County Councils for much needed improvements where needed. As you can imagine this has become increasingly harder as they are also having their budgets cut.

We are extremely lucky in our staff, Karen Bell, Hannah Usher, Dion Bayley and Nikki Cooper for the excellent way in which the Parish Office and Community Centre are managed, their job covers a variety of categories, including juggling the ever-decreasing funding we receive and the long list of jobs that need doing with that money. We also thank Casey Everitt our caretaker and our cleaners Lorraine Preston and Louise Dunn, we have a great team in place.

I conclude by mentioning that I and my fellow Parish Councillors are all voluntary and we do not get paid to represent our community. We all became Parish Councillors to give back and improve the community of Kings Hill that we care passionately about.



Agenda for Annual Parish Meeting 23 March 2023

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING WILL BE HELD ON THURSDAY 23 MARCH 2023 COMMENCING AT 7.00 P.M.

Every year, in every Parish, the Local Parish Council is required, by law to hold a 'Parish Meeting'. Whilst the Parish Council arranges this meeting and provides reports on Parish matters, it is not a meeting of the Parish Council. It is, specifically, a meeting for Parish residents and community groups to bring up any issue, raise any questions or put forward ideas and proposals in relation to the Parish of Kings Hill.

If you would like to submit a report from your organisation to be circulated at the meeting, please e-mail by Monday 20 March 2023 to clerk@kingshillparish.gov.uk.

1. Apologies for absence
2. Welcome and introduction by the Chairman of Kings Hill Parish Council, Councillor Tony Petty
3. Presentation of the Kings Hill Parish Council Annual Report 2022/2023
4. Kings Hill Parish Council Financial Report 2022/23
5. Borough and County Council Reports 2022/23
6. Matters raised by Parish Residents – Open Forum
7. To receive reports from Community Organisations
8. Vote of thanks to all participants
9. Closure of meeting

Tony Petty
Chairman, Kings Hill Parish Council



Introduction

Kings Hill Parish Council is an elected corporate body with tax raising powers which represents people in the Kings Hill Parish. The Council consists of 12 Councillors, who do more than just attend meetings where projects are discussed and progressed, and policies, procedures and practices reviewed. They take part in many parish activities; deal with resident issues and represent the Council on many outside bodies. We continuously work towards improving community wellbeing and providing better services.

Mission Statement

To secure and maintain best possible services and environment for the Kings Hill Community.

Our Commitment to You!.. We will!

- Work in an accountable and transparent manner to improve the quality of life for all who live and work in Kings Hill.
- Aim to protect and enhance the social and environmental well-being of Kings Hill.
- Provide several services to the community. We will seek to ensure that these meet the needs of the community and represent value for money.
- Welcome the involvement of residents and will consult on issues of importance.

Sustainability Policy

Our vision is for Kings Hill to be a vibrant and prosperous hub, offering an attractive place to live, work and play for people of all ages. The Parish Council:

- Is committed to preserving and protecting the environment by adopting an environmental and sustainability policy.
- Is committed to protecting the environment and recognising the importance and value of the environment and its contribution towards the quality of life.
- In carrying out our own activities will strive to make a positive contribution to protecting the local and wider environment.
- In conjunction with businesses, community groups and the public, aim to help meet the needs of today's society without compromising future generations' ability to meet their own needs.



Parish Council Services

Through a range of discretionary powers, we provide and maintain many important and visible services such as:

- Community Centre
- Sports Park and leisure facilities
- Some bus shelters
- Consultee on planning applications in the parish
- Acting as a liaison between the community and other local organisations and Councils
- Producing a quarterly newsletter and an annual report
- Nominating representatives to serve on voluntary, public and community organisations
- CCTV at the Community Centre
- Some play areas
- Some grit bins
- Allotments



Our Civic Responsibility

Our Civic Responsibility: We represent Kings Hill at various events. We also have an important civic role, such as attending the Remembrance Day Service and Annual Civic Service.

Footpaths

Parish Councils can be responsible for footpaths within their boundaries, however in Kings Hill they fall under the remit of Kent County Council or Kings Hill Estate Management. If you notice a problem and unsure who to contact, let us know and we will advise.

Salt Bins

These are provided throughout Kings Hill, inspected annually, and replenished when required. However, only the green salt bins fall under our remit of control, if you notice a problem, please let us know.

Fly Tipping

Please inform TMBC by telephoning 01732 844522 or visit www.tmbc.gov.uk.



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2023/2024 Action Plan

- In addition to our key projects we will continue to:
- Maintain the open spaces for which the council is responsible.
 - Maintain and improve the Community Centre
 - Comment on planning applications which fall within, and / or have an impact on Kings Hill.
 - Consult with the community and represent residents' views on TMBC's Local Plan with particular focus during 2023 on the Regulation 19 Consultation.
 - Represent the views and promote the interests of Kings Hill residents
 - Listen, investigate, and respond to issues identified by residents, and, if appropriate, signpost to the correct person / organisation for resolution / further progression.
 - Deliver timely and transparent decisions through Council and committee meetings
 - Maintain good financial practices, ensuring transparency and value for money.
 - Provide funding for the ongoing running and maintenance costs of the Sports Park.

Key projects for 2023/2024 include:

- .Improving facilities at the Community Centre
- .Christmas Lighting
- .Community Event to celebrate the Coronation of Kings Charles III.
- .Promoting greater engagement of the council with community groups and organisations in the village in line with our Community Engagement policy
- .More work on community resilience
- .Attaining Quality Council Status
- .Environmental Enhancements
- .Commencing work on carbon reduction initiatives.

Grants & Donations

Grants & Donations: Each year we receive funding requests from charities, groups, and organisations. All are welcomed and considered in relation to the resources available. During 2022/2023 grants and donations were awarded to the Heart of Kent Hospice, Royal British Legion, Last Chance Animal Rescue and to Jubilee Street and Garden Parties.



Council and Committee Meetings

Our meetings are an opportunity for you to see the council in action. Meetings are formal events, not social occasions. They have a clear purpose – to make decisions. Meetings are advertised, and the press and public have a right to observe, record and report on how the council operates. Council meetings are meetings of the full council whilst Committee meetings bring together a smaller number of councillors to concentrate on a specific council function. Meeting papers may be viewed in the Parish Office; most are also available online at www.kingshillparish.gov.uk. Dates and times of council and committee meetings can be found in the calendar on the council's website.

Finance and Governance

Finance and Governance: We are responsible for ensuring our finances are managed efficiently and cost-effectively. Annually, we review our Internal Controls, Investment Strategy, Asset Register, Reserves, Risk Assessment and Financial Regulations and undertake reviews to ensure best practice and careful control of public money. Regular reports are received from the Internal Auditor who plays an important part in the internal control of our financial and governance activities.

Council Accounts

Our finances are in good shape and public money is carefully looked after. Our cash holdings at 31 March 2020 were £163,858, we are required to hold between 3 – 12 months of our budget as reserves. Our accounts for the year ended 31 March 2022 are on our website and our accounts for the year to 31 March 2023 will be published in May 2023. We are anticipating that our reserves at 31 March 2023 will be within the range £400K to £420K.



Tonbridge and Malling Local Plan

The Borough Council has consulted on its draft Local Plan and we are participating fully in the consultation process. We will be doing our utmost to ensure that any new development is not at the expense of the quality of life for current residents and that new housing is supported by infrastructure improvements. TMBC is currently considering the response to the Regulation 18 consultation before moving onto the Regulation 19 Consultation. Once adopted it will form part of Tonbridge and Malling Borough Councils Development Plan and replace the current suite of adopted local plans. The new Plan will then have a time horizon up to 2035.

23/24 Budget and Precept and how it affects you

We have set our budget at £706,887 which requires a precept of £552,847, an increase of 3% on our 2022/2023 precept which was £536,745. The precept will be collected by the Borough Council as part of the Council Tax. Our budget is honest, based on sound financial principals and allows us to provide projects, services, and activities which we hope the Kings Hill community appreciates. Our precept is divided by 4,493.17 which is the number of Band D equivalent properties on Kings Hill, this gives us the council tax payable for a Band D property, the amounts payable per council tax band are shown below (the 2022/2023 amounts are in brackets).

Band A	6/9	£82.03	(£82.19)
Band B	7/9	£95.70	(£95.88)
Band C	8/9	£109.37	(£109.59)
Band D	9/9	£123.04	(£123.29)
Band E	11/9	£150.38	(£150.68)
Band F	13/9	£177.73	(£178.08)
Band G	15/9	£205.07	(£205.48)
Band H	18/9	£246.08	(£246.58)



Planning, Transport, Environment and Climate Change Committee

The Committee has an important role in commenting to the planning authority on the implications of planning applications in Kings Hill. We find ourselves pushing for better design, adequate parking, and resisting development in the wrong place. Whilst the Committee considers issues affecting Kings Hill, it is the Planning Authority who makes the final decision, but they are obliged to consult with us on most types of planning application. Kings Hill is surrounded by Green Belt and regulated by National Planning Policy and Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council Local Plans. The National Planning Policy Framework may ease the path for developers, with a stated presumption in favour of further development. We particularly want to preserve the Green Belt. We are not opposed to development, we all need a place to live and work, but new homes and offices must be in the correct place, with the correct infrastructure and be built in keeping and retaining the character of the area. There should also be significant open separation between neighbouring parishes. The Committee monitors all planning applications, updates, appeals and Tree Preservation Orders in Kings Hill and comments where required by making recommendations, objections or supporting the application to the Planning Authority. Whilst we are part of the planning consultation process; our recommendations are not always reflected in Planning decisions.

The Committee is made up of Councillors with local knowledge who meet regularly to consider planning applications which have been received. Full details and drawings are made available at these meetings. Over the last 12 months we have commented on many applications particularly in relation to local infrastructure, parking, tree protection, environment, flooding, and effect on neighbouring properties. We also monitor and comment on planning issues in bordering Parishes and Boroughs which might impact upon Kings Hill environs. We encourage the development and use of Footpaths, cycle ways and all open areas available to the public. It is important that connectivity is creative to allow free and easy movement around the Parish. Our policy is not to support the loss of garage space at the cost of increasing on-road parking. We are concerned about any loss of trees, and we support re-planting where trees must be felled for sound reason. We are keen to strike the balance between protecting the Green Belt and supporting local businesses which provide jobs for residents.



Annual Report 2023

Climate Change - Time for a Better Environment

Climate Change – Time for a Better Environment

Tackling climate change is everyone’s responsibility. If we want to leave a planet that our children and grandchildren can enjoy, then we all need to play our part. Kings Hill Parish Council strives to maintain and improve the local environment, whilst there has not been a formal environmental plan before, it is our intention to rectify that. Our first step has been to declare a climate emergency, recognising the problem and our responsibility to do something about it. Next, we will do a carbon audit of Parish Council activities and use that to create a plan to achieve carbon neutral by 2030. Together as a community there is more we can do such as:

- Creating a task force to establish a green agenda
- Developing a tree maintenance programme
- Develop and promote green transport plans including safe routes to schools
- Provide access to Electric Vehicle charging points
- Ensure the Community Centre is as energy efficient as possible
- Use green energy sources and environmentally friendly products
- Limit the use of plastics, especially single use plastics within the council
- Reduce waste and recycle as much as possible
- Protect important open spaces and carbon sinks
- Consider creating a community orchard and / or wildflower meadow
- Maximise the use of open spaces to provide recreational opportunities.



Over to you

Do you have any ideas on how to make Kings Hill an even lovelier place! Or do you have any observations about how the environment in Kings Hill can be improved, please send an email to clerk@kingshillparish.gov.uk. We look forward to hearing from you. Hopefully, together, we can use these new projects to preserve all the good things in Kings Hill, improve where we can, and ensure we are sustainable for the future.

Councillor Full Council Meeting Attendance

January 2022 – January 2023

Tony Petty	100%	Attended 19 out of 19 meetings
Neil Sherlaw	100%	Attended 7 out of 7 meetings
Angela Vincent	95%	Attended 18 out of 19 meetings
Mike Hartman	86%	Attended 6 out of 7 meetings
Margaret Coleman	84%	Attended 16 out of 19 meetings
David Waller	74%	Attended 14 out of 19 meetings
Felix Mclymont	70%	Attended 7 out of 10 meetings
David Rush	68%	Attended 13 out of 19 meetings
Siobhan Kirk	63%	Attended 12 out of 19 meetings
Sarah Barker	63%	Attended 12 out of 19 meetings
Shakira Falzon-Thomas	42%	Attended 8 out of 19 meetings
David Hurring	36%	Attended 7 out of 19 meetings

Upcoming Meetings

Full Council:

- 6th April 2023
- 27th April 2023
- 18th May 2023

Planning, Transport, Environment and Climate Committee:

- 30th March 2023
- 20th April 2023
- 18th May 2023