

VIEW FROM THE HILL

Official Newsletter of the Kings Hill Parish Council



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Message From The Chairman



So far, the summer has been a real mixture of warm, sunny weather and crisp, cold breezy evenings. Typically, British! I want to add my sincere thanks to

everyone who contributes to the success of the many varied events that take place in Kings Hill, especially the small community get togethers.

The Sports Park which is run on a day-to-day basis on our behalf, has been so busy. A visit to the Sports Park is a real asset to the health and wellbeing of our community.

The Special Educational Needs Activity sessions held at the Community Centre over the summer months deserve a special mention. We were delighted to help Charlene Kelly, a local mum of a very special little boy, bring these activities to Kings Hill. They benefitted not only the wellbeing of Kings Hill families, but families also came from the Ashford, Isle of Sheppey and Sittingbourne areas to attend.

The Parish Council will be considering the Anson Avenue Play Park improvements at our September meeting and would like to thank you for letting us know your views. We hope to place an order for the new play equipment at the end of September.

Your Parish Council is working towards a greener agenda and more information on projects will be coming soon. We thank residents who joined the NO MOW MAY challenge and continue to encourage the growth of wildflower gardens.

The allotments are looking particularly grand. There is the potential between the two allotment sites to create a small wilding area which is just one of the projects that the Climate Change and Environment Committee will be considering.

Community Club, which we hold every Monday afternoon between 1.00 p.m. – 3.00 p.m. continues to go from strength to strength with our regular visitors, a warm welcome is always guaranteed, where you can join good company and conversation and even take time out to read a newspaper, do a jigsaw or crossword puzzle.

Kings Hill is an amazing community made up of unique shops and businesses which need our support. We have a plethora of organisations, groups and charities that offer entertainment, social engagement, skill-building, and support. We need to use what we have on our doorsteps or risk losing it.

All that we do at Kings Hill Parish Council would not be possible without the Councillors. I would particularly like to draw attention to and thank our office staff who are Karen Bell, Hannah Usher, Dion Bayley and Nicki Cooper. They are based at the Kings Hill Community Centre, and look forward to visits from residents. With or without an appointment, please feel free to drop in and tell them your news, views, and issues of concern, if they cannot help, I promise you they are very good at signposting you to someone who can.



They would also be delighted to show you what we offer at the Community Centre, just in case you would like to consider the Community Centre for your next event be it a party, sporting event, meeting, we can cater for most events at very competitive rates.



Dates for the diary

Kings Hill Parish Council

MacMillan Coffee Morning
-Monday 25th September 2023
-Community Club, 1:00pm-3:00pm
-Kings Hill Community Centre

Remembrance Sunday
-Sunday 12th November 2023

80th Anniversary of D-Day
-Thursday 6th June 2024
-Morning Proclamation
-Fish and Chips Afternoon

Kings Hill Sports Park

Story Time
-Weekly sessions
-£3.00 per child
-Book Now, 01622 719345



Wednesday Walking Netball
-9:30am-10:30am (term time)
-£3.00 per person

Kings Hill School

Fireworks Display
-Saturday 4th November 2023

St Gabriels Church

Harvest Festival Service Sunday
-1st October 2023 at 10am
-Discovery School

Messy Church Harvest Sunday
-15th October 2023 at 4pm
-Valley Invicta Primary

A Moment of Remembrance Sunday
-Saturday 11th November 2023
-Running Airman Statue

Kings Hill Community Centre

Here at the Community Centre we are proud to be the venue of choice for so many activities for the local community. The halls are always busy, as we can offer something for any age group, ranging from baby and toddler groups to dance classes, martial art classes and regular get-togethers for our retired residents.

Our three halls are as popular as ever for parties, charity events, blood donor sessions, baby clinics and conferences.

For enquiries regarding the hire of our halls, please call us on 01732 220919 between 9am and 12 noon Monday to Friday.



Community Club - MacMillan

On the 25th September 2023, we will be hosting a MacMillan coffee afternoon. We would like to invite everyone along to support this amazing cause. Donations of cupcakes/cakes will be welcome on the day.



Community Boot Fair - Watch This Space

We are hoping to run monthly boot fairs over the winter period at the Kings Hill Community Centre for residents to sell their belongings or come to have a browse at what is on offer



Follow us on our social media pages to keep up to date with what is going on at the Community Centre.

Parish Council Donations

The Parish Council recently donated up to £1500 towards the SEN Summer Days Events. These sessions have been a huge success and has made a huge impact for the residents on Kings Hill.

The Parish Council made a £65 top up donation to Discovery School for the commemorative crown.

The Parish Council also made a £500 donation to Home Start South West Kent.

"Dear Kings Hill Parish Councillors
On behalf of the Trustees of Home-Start South West Kent, I would like to thank you for the recent donation of £500 that you have made to our Charity. These funds will go towards our continuing support of local families experiencing difficult times and we are extremely grateful.
With best wishes
Sarah"



Rotary Club of Kings Hill

With a generous grant from Tesco, topped up by Rotary funds, KHRC hosted an afternoon tea party on 4th June, at the Holiday Inn, Wrotham Heath.

The fifty guests were mostly older people and their carers - the eldest was a sprightly 106-year-old.



As well as the tea, guests were treated to a musical interlude with a sing-along led by Rotarian Janet Total (a professional soprano), a competitive table quiz, plus a small individual gift – all along the coronation theme.

Their carers – the eldest was a sprightly 106-year-old. As well as the tea, guests were treated to a musical interlude with a sing-along led by Rotarian Janet Total (a professional soprano), a competitive table quiz, plus a small individual gift – all along the coronation theme.

Kings Hill Football Club

The Kings Hill Football Club were recently awarded the Grassroots Club of the Year at the @kent.fa.Grassroots Workforce Awards on their 20th Year Anniversary.

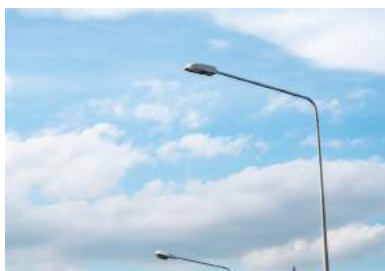
Another congratulations to Scott Mann for winning the Coach of the Year Disability Pathway for his amazing work with the Jets teams.



Sports Park Street Lighting

The Parish Council and TM active have recently invested in an LED upgrade to the street lights at the Sports Park.

We hope the upgrade will benefit in cost savings and lowering the carbon footprint which will be good for the environment.



Allotments

Resident Feedback: "I just wanted to say what a delight it is to see the new allotments near the Sports Park. Even better is to see how quickly they have been taken up and how much is growing there. Some very clever gardeners and veg growers, it appears. If only we could have more spaces like these. They are good for the soul and for the community."



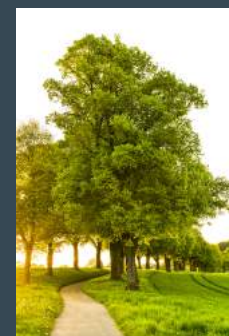
Watering Young Trees

Rising temperatures and dry spells are leading to an increasing loss of new street trees, but the nation can do its bit.

The Arboricultural Association is joining forces with the Woodland Trust and local authority tree officer associations to rally the UK public to water their new street trees using recycled rainwater or grey water, such as washing up water.



Coronation Tree



The Council has agreed to plant a commemoration tree to mark the Coronation of the Kings Charles III. The tree is likely to be planted in autumn.



SEN Summer Days

Statement from Charlene

Since collaborating with KHPC, "Sen Summer Days" is going better than I could've imagined. After meeting with Karen & Tony, it gave me the "green light" to put the plans into motion. Due to the generosity of KHPC, fundraising from friends, family, members of the public and small businesses, we managed to raise enough to organise 8 sessions.

They consist of 2 bouncy castles, 1 Dino assault course, a soft play area, inflatable bowling and a face painter. We purchased sand timers & created PECS boards for children who rely on visuals for communication and a large changing mat for those who need to use it. Fruit shoot drinks are available to the children free of charge.

We have around 20-25 children at each stay and play and the children are really enjoying themselves! The parents are happy with the safe and non judgemental space they are in, which is as equally as important. It honestly is worth every second of organising just seeing everyone happy.



Parent Feedback

"It's been SO amazing to have something on KH for our SEN children. I'm so so thankful for it. Everything you've said above is so true, it just shows there really isn't enough available in half terms/summer holidays."
-Parent, G Brunger

"Thank you SO much Charlene, you did such an amazing job, it was wonderful seeing so many happy children having a brilliant time! We loved it, such a wonderful thing you have organised!"
-Parent, H Beadle

"Fantastic time Thank you to you and helpers for all the hard work you all do . It is so much appreciated Braydon really enjoys it so much."
-Grandparent, H Osbourne



"As a local family of a child with special educational needs it can often be an emotionally and physically challenging time over the long summer holidays. We're incredibly grateful that Charlene who is a local mum in a similar situation has extremely kindly organised several safe, fun and inclusive sessions for SEN children. We thoroughly enjoyed a safe and non judgmental space where children could be them wonderful selves and parents could connect with other parents who truly understand how rewarding but also challenging it can be with a child who is neurodivergent. Thank you to all those who made these sessions happen including the numerous volunteers and those who kindly provided funding."
-Parent, Martine Mccahon.

I'd like to say thank you to KHPC for the incredible amount of support they have given me as well as their donation. I'd also like to thank every person who donated, every small business who donated prizes for the raffle, to Bellyflops Entertainment Hire for their inflatables for each session and the discount they gave, the excellent face painters, the volunteers at the sessions and to every parent who purchased entry tickets. We have 3 sessions to go and I hope they continue being a success. Thank you all so much. Charlene

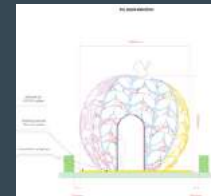


Public Work of Art

A Planning application has been granted by the TMBC (Local Planning Authority) for a Public Work of art in Linear Park.



The big apple is envisioned to provide a multi-purpose space offering the community an area for meditation, contemplation and reflection - a space for low key performances, talks and events encouraging people to go out into the fresh air and share new experiences.



Anson Avenue Feedback

The Kings Hill Anson Avenue Play Park questionnaires are in! The Council is pleased with the response to its latest questionnaire on which play park residents prefer.

The committees of the council will be using all documents to guide their strategy and decision making, to ensure that the needs of residents are addressed.

Thank you to everyone that responded. We hope to produce more questionnaires in the future to further develop our strategy and listen to your views.



Neighbourhood Policing Model

Statement from Nick Atkinson Beat Sergeant

I just wanted to take the time to introduce myself as the Beat Sergeant for Tonbridge and Malling Community Safety Unit. I have been working on the CSU for the last couple of years managing the PCSOs who have now moved onto other roles within the organisation. In their place, we now have the Beat Team which is made up of Police Officers who will be dealing with community engagement, problem solving and issue that are raised across Tonbridge and Malling.

Contacts

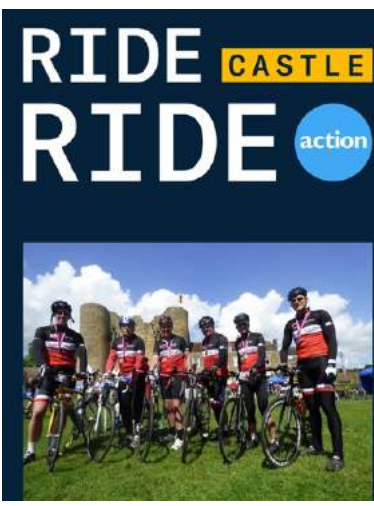
- Nick Atkinson - Beat Sergeant
 - Laura Farmer - Beat Police Officer
 - Terry Newman - Inspector
- Non emergencies to be reported to 101 and emergencies, please continue to report to 999.

Kings Hill Wheelers Cycling Club

The Wheelers started in 2017 by a couple of cyclists within Kings Hill who cycled together, had the idea of starting a cycling club for the community to enjoy, have the all important exercise and the opportunity of getting to know club members too. We have grown considerably since. On our website, www.KHWCC.org, you can find information on our rides and activities. Should you wish to join prior to joining, we give a prospective member 3 rides before making the decision.

We have a number of local companies who sponsor the Wheelers in their endeavours to support local charities. We support Heart of Kent Hospice (HOKH), RBLNI and Action Medical Research (AMR), Air Ambulance, Kent/Surrey/Sussex. Throughout the year we also donate to various charities such as British Red Cross, St Gabriel's foodbank and miscellaneous children's charities.

We take part in various of our charities sportives i.e. Ride London, Castle Ride, Chase the Sun. We go to a local velodrome for the members to test their skills! Our club has opportunities for all riders, of most abilities for cycling. We are a very social group of riders with some evening rides during the Spring/Summer and a programme of social events. We often have coffee stops on our rides, to give you energy for the return trip! If you are cyclist and would enjoy riding in a team, why not give us a try?



Local Council Award Scheme

Residents can be confident that the Kings Hill Parish Council is operating at a very high standard.

At the council meeting held on the 20th July 2023, council agreed that having met the criteria, an application would be made for Quality Status.



Kent Police - Annual Consultation

Kent Police have launched the annual consultation about the performance of



Kent Police and crime levels in local areas. Click the link below to complete the survey. The results will be revealed later in the year.

[Annual Policing Survey 2023](#)

Kings Hill Preschool



Following successful talks, we are delighted to confirm that an

agreement has been reached between Kings Hill Parish Council and Kings Hill Pre-School in respect of the renewal of a 6 year lease.



Strategic Plan

2023 – 2027 STRATEGIC PLAN

A strategic plan is one of the most important documents for any organisation, setting out its priorities and giving direction to all those involved in its work. This is our newest corporate strategy and sets out what we will work towards delivering for you to 2027.

Our plan is an overarching strategy and intentionally doesn't detail the solutions; it sets out our core aims and objectives – how we deliver on this will be set out as we progress through the next decade.



We understand the priorities of the community so we can ensure that delivering on those priorities forms the core of our work.

Our eight aims are what we will work towards in the long term and each aim is supported by a series of objectives setting out how we will make them a reality. Each year we will produce specific action plans detailing what we will be doing to meet our objectives and we will hold ourselves accountable to their delivery. Working together we'll continue to make Kings Hill a better place for all.



Our Strategic Plan

Our Strategic Plan sets out our strategic aims which can be summarised in headline terms as:

1. Environment
2. Finance
3. Transport
4. Facilities
5. Parish Council Mission
6. Vision Statement
7. Values
8. Role of the Parish Council

Fundamentally we will continue to ensure that Kings Hill Parish Council continues to be Strong, Active, Progressive, Caring, and Inclusive.





Committee Meeting Updates

At the June Full Council Meeting the decision was made to split Climate Change and Environment from Planning and Transport in order that a dedicated team can concentrate on Climate Change and Environment. The Chair of the Climate Change and Environment Committee is Councillor Margaret Colman and Vice Chair is Councillor Felix Mclymont together with Councillors Sarah Barker, Neil Sherlaw and Tony Petty.

We have attended several professional webinars sharing our ideas for Climate Change with other Parish Councils within the UK and are keen to engage with the residents of Kings Hill and take on board their thoughts on Climate Change.



KHPC Actions

KHPC has requested that Solar Panels be fitted to all new properties built on KH and to install the infrastructure for car chargers.

We would also like to encourage residents to walk around the various parts of Kings Hill visiting the ancient woodlands surrounding the area and maybe walk to areas within Kings Hill instead of using cars. This would help considerably with our carbon footprint. We are also aiming to install some water features around Kings Hill to help clear carbon from the atmosphere.

KHPC has already been hard at work in the Community Centre by encouraging our hirers to work towards becoming carbon neutral by not using single use plastics and replacing them with recyclable paper. No plastic straws, recyclable paper straws instead. We are also trying to discourage the use of non-recyclable balloon materials.

KHPC has an aim to install solar panels on the community centre roof in order to make use of the power of the sun but more importantly, save on the Centre's electricity bills. KHPC aims to set itself achievable targets each year in order to help combat Climate Change.



TMBC Actions

TMBC waste has made great strides trying to ensure the vast majority of all household waste is recycled and not put into landfill. We have the household food waste which is turned into energy and a by-product of this activity is liquid manure which is supplied to local farmers! It is important that all residents recycle their waste and put the correct material in the correct bins, as it is expensive to send waste requiring sorting into their various categories which are in turn sold on, i.e. glass/all plastics/paper/cardboard.

We have been in contact with the local developers to discuss the materials used on new properties together with the planting of plants/trees/shrubs that are in tune with biodiversity. It is important that we encourage the various insects which are urgently needed for biodiversity and Climate Change.

Meeting Dates

Full Council

- 21 SEP 2023, 19.30h
- 19 OCT 2023, 19.30h
- 16 NOV 2023, 19.30h
- 14 DEC 2023, 19.30h

Kings Hill Community Centre
Jim Fry Hall

Climate Change & Environment

- 05 OCT 2023, 19.00h
- 02 NOV 2023, 19.00h
- 07 DEC 2023, 19.00h

Kings Hill Community Centre
Gibson Suite

Planning & Transport

- 05 OCT 2023, 20.00h
- 02 NOV 2023, 20.00h
- 07 DEC 2023, 20.00h

Kings Hill Community Centre
Gibson Suite

All held at Kings Hill Community Centre and open to the public. Agendas are posted on the website and noticeboards with at least 3 clear days notice. The dates/rooms above are subject to change.



Know Your Councillors



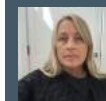
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Residents Corner

Kings Hill Gymnastics

Director and coach of Kings Hill Gymnastics, Debbie, has a wealth of experience having been an international gymnast and coached in Kent at club level, regionally and nationally for many years.

Regional Champion 2023

Freya Hall recently competed at Guildford Spectrum in the Floor & Vault Regional Championships, Bronze Level. Freya won first place and became Regional Champion.

Freya showed power and determination with her tumbling skills before she danced through her floor routine displaying grace and beauty. Freya shows great maturity and elegance. A real delight to watch.



Tony Hudgell

A massive congratulations to Tony Hudgell who climbed to the 238 metre summit of Orrest head in the Lake District.

Tony celebrated with mountaineer Chris Bonnington and Hari Budha Magar who lost both legs and recently scaled Everest



Contacting The Parish Council

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