



JUNE 2025

THE HILL



KINGS HILL PARISH COUNCIL MAGAZINE

LETTER FROM KHPC

Dear Residents,

Welcome to the summer edition of our newsletter!

We would like to start by thanking those who came to the Kings Hill Annual Parish Meeting, held on the 8th of April 2025.

At the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council, held on the 15th of May 2025, Anthony Petty was re-elected as Chairman of the Parish Council and Mike Hartman was re-elected as the Deputy Chairman.

It's been a busy few months for the Parish Council. As part of our ongoing commitment to tackling climate change, we've successfully installed solar panels on the roof of the Community Centre. A big thank you to Prologis for supporting the project and to TMBC for the generous grant that made this possible. We're already seeing reductions in our energy costs!

We also had the honour of commemorating the 80th Anniversary of VE Day. Thank you to everyone who joined us for the national events on 8th May and our fantastic community celebration on 10th May.

We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to our brilliant Parish Council officers for organising both events, and to our councillors for their support and participation.

We are pleased to report another successful year, with our accounts now submitted to the External Auditor. We're carrying forward a healthy balance of £695,876 into the 2025/2026 financial year. After earmarking reserves, our general reserves stand at £247,953—right within recommended levels. We are especially pleased to announce that we've now fully repaid our outstanding loans, freeing up more resources for community projects in future budgets.

Looking ahead, we're now busy planning our much-loved End of Summer Party on the 7th of September—one of the highlights of the Kings Hill calendar.

Wishing you all a wonderful summer!

Kind Regards

Councillors and Officers of Kings Hill
Parish Council

The View from The Hill is the Quarterly magazine from the Kings Hill Parish Council. If you have any comments about the articles in this edition of The View from the Hill or wish to give us any other comments you may have on any Parish Council matter, please write to: The Office/ Finance Manager, Kings Hill Parish Council, Kings Hill Community Centre, 70 Gibson Drive, Kings Hill ME19 4LG. Alternatively please contact us on 01732 870382 or email administration@kingshillparish.gov.uk.

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Sports Park
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Events & Communications



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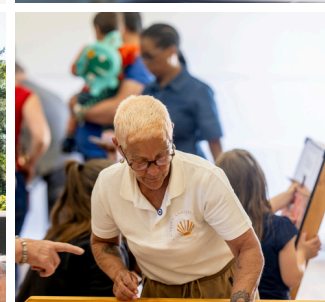
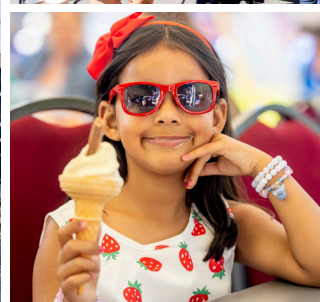
Planning & Transport,
Climate Change &
Environment, Sports Park
Working groups
Events & Communications
& Strategic Planning



Angela Vincent
Councillor

Working groups

Events & Communications,
Strategic Planning &
Town Council





PARISH NEWS

DATES FOR THE DIARY
Thursday 19 th June 2025 Full Council Meeting 19:00pm
Tuesday 24 th June 2025 Sports Park Committee Meeting 18:30pm
Saturday 28 th June 2025 Friends of Discovery School Summer Fair 12:00pm
Thursday 3 rd of July 2025 Planning & Transport Committee Meeting 18:00pm
Thursday 10 th of July 2025 Climate Change & Environment Committee Meeting 18:00pm
Saturday 12 th July 2025 Rotary Club Charity Pig Race Kings Hill School
Thursday 17 th of July 2025 Full Council Meeting 19:00pm
Tuesday 22 nd of July 2025 Sports Park Committee Meeting 18:30pm
Sunday 7 th of September 2025 End of Summer Party 11:00–16:00 Kings Hill Community Centre
Saturday 8 th November 2025 Kings Hill School Fireworks Night



SOLAR PANELS

The recent successful installation of solar panels at the community centre marks a significant step toward sustainable energy use and community empowerment.

The project involved collaboration between Kings Hill Parish Council, Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council and Prologis. We are particularly grateful to Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council for part funding the costs through the West Kent Rural Grant Scheme.

The solar panels, now fully operational, are expected to generate enough renewable energy to meet a substantial portion of the centre’s electricity needs, reducing reliance on fossil fuels and lowering carbon emissions. Solar power is a renewable and sustainable energy source, relying on the sun, a virtually inexhaustible resource. Additionally, solar panels are becoming increasingly affordable and require minimal maintenance.

The community centre’s shift to solar power underscores a promising move toward a greener, more sustainable future for the entire community.

KINGS HILL CRICKET CLUB

Kings Hill has started a women's soft ball cricket team for 2025 on a Thursday evening at the oval. No equipment or experience required!

Our annual Club Day takes place on the 13th of July; we are open to applications for exhibitors for the day, so if you're a local business looking to promote yourself to the community, please get in touch with the club.

Thank you to all residents and parents who come down to the ground; your support is invaluable and it's great to see the oval buzzing. Keep an eye on social media for upcoming matches. Please remember to respect our neighbours, especially regarding parking. Dogs should be on a lead at all times during cricket activity, and please use the bins provided.

Email women@kingshillcricketclub.com for more information!

RECENT GRANTS AWARDED

Kings Hill Parish Council sets aside a sum of money each year to donate to good causes in the parish as either a grant or a donation. The sum allocated by the Parish is part of the annual precept the Parish Council collects from the electorate and is available for distribution from 1st of April each year. Applications are invited from community groups and organisations.

More information on our grant awarding policy is on our website www.kingshillparish.gov.uk or via email to either finance@kingshillparish.gov.uk or clerk@kingshillparish.gov.uk. You can also give us a call on 01732 870382.

Kent & Sussex Air Ambulance	£500
Kings Hill Family Fun	£500
We Are Beams	£500
KINARA	£750
Valley Invicta Primary School	£350
Malling Sea Cadets	£750



KINGS HILL SPORTS PARK

As our community continues to grow, currently home to approximately 10,000 residents and a thriving business sector, we're delighted to share plans to enhance and expand the sporting facilities at Kings Hill Sports Park. This presents a fantastic opportunity to not only upgrade our current amenities but also to introduce new sports for everyone to enjoy.

We are in active discussions with Prologis about improving the existing football pitches and adding new facilities for Padel Tennis and Hockey. This expansion is estimated to cost around £2.5m and will be funded through a combination of grants, S106 developer contributions, and Parish Council support.

We'll keep you updated as the project develops and look forward to bringing more sports and activity options to our community.

Read on for an update from Kings Hill Football Club!

TMBC LOCAL GREEN SPACE

Since 2012, Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council (as part of plan-making) has been able to designate green areas and open spaces as Local Green Space (LGS) in order to afford them a higher level of protection provided they are of particular importance to local communities. This designation can only be made in Local Plans or Neighbourhood Development Plans (NDP) and, once designated, LGSs receive protection broadly consistent with national Green Belt policy, thereby only permitting development in exceptional circumstances.

LGS can be designated where such a site has been promoted by the local community, is consistent with planning for sustainable development in the area and compliments investment in sufficient homes, jobs and other essential services.

As part of the Local Plan Regulation 18 consultation in Autumn 2022, the following questions were asked in relation to Local Green Space:

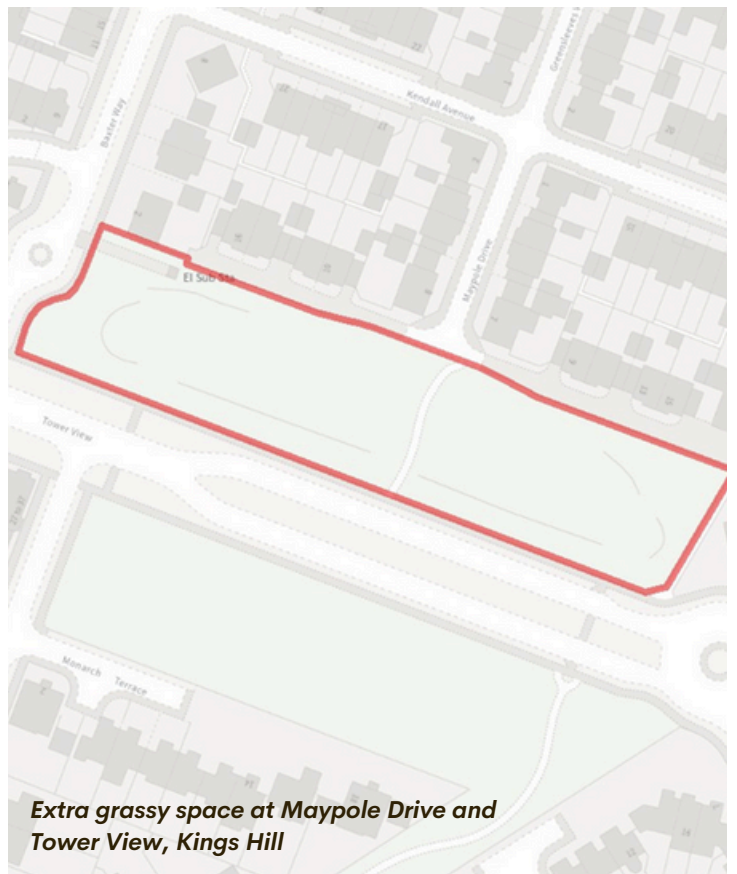
Q.33. Should Local Green Space be designated in the Local Plan? Yes/No

Q.34. If yes, do any potential sites meet all of the criteria set out in NPPF?

A number of sites were identified to the council through the Regulation 18 consultation for consideration as LGS. In addition to this, further sites have been submitted for consideration during 2024 and 2025.

A potential site within Kings Hill has been identified for further consideration. TMBC is now seeking input to identify if / why the land is demonstrably special to the local community and if / why it holds a particular local significance. TMBC will then consider this evidence and make any recommendations for designating any potential LGSs in the emerging Local Plan.

All assessment forms and supporting evidence should be submitted to Kings Hill Parish Council by 5pm on Monday 23rd June 2025.



PHONE MAST UPDATE

We wanted to let you know that a new phone mast is being installed within Kings Hill. This is part of ongoing efforts to improve connectivity in our area.

We've recently been in touch with Icon Tower for an update. At this stage, they've confirmed that the lease is still being drafted, so there are no new developments to share just yet.

That said, they've assured us that they will keep Kings Hill Parish Council informed as things progress—and we in turn will keep you updated.

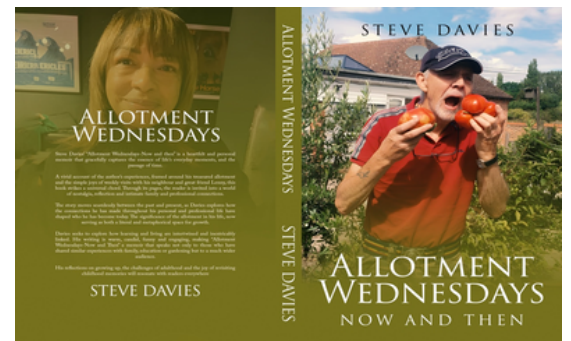


THE HILL | Kings Hill Parish Council

KINGS HILL ALLOTMENTS

Kings Hill Parish Council has been busy making some improvements at the allotments. We've added extra solar lighting around the site to boost security; we've also replaced the old 'Bubble' so there is a proper spot to grow your seeds and cuttings. On top of that, we've bought a new greenhouse for everyone to use—we're currently sorting out the base and getting the greenhouse set up.

Gallaghers kindly levelled out the famously bumpy 'Rocky Road' from the car park to the allotment gate—completely free of charge! We're so grateful for their support. They also helped fix the flooding issue near the entrance gate, which has made a big difference.



Steve Davies, one of our allotmenters, has published a new book, a memoir of his life in education and the life story of his good friend and gardening buddy Lenny. Steve and Lenny visit the allotment every Wednesday and the book tells of their developing relationship and explores the notion of learning.

As Steve has retired from a busy life leading schools he has realised via his chats and allotment visits with Lenny that learning is not about academia but rather about living life and making connections. The book is called "Allotment Wednesdays-Now and then" and is available from Amazon. All proceeds will go to the British Heart Foundation.

KINGS HILL FOOTBALL CLUB



**BY ANDREW BOXER
KHFC**

It's been a landmark season for Kings Hill Football Club, marked by historic firsts, championship wins, and continued growth across every corner of the club. As we prepare to celebrate with our community at two of our biggest events of the year, it's the perfect time to reflect on what's been a truly special campaign.

After a determined and hard-fought campaign, our Men's First Team have secured promotion back to the Kent County Premier Division. Having competed at this level before, the return is a rewarding milestone for the team and a credit to the hard work and consistency shown throughout the season.

Our Ladies' First Team became the first Kings Hill side to compete in the Women's FA Cup this season. This achievement highlights the team's rapid development and marks an exciting new era for the women's game at the club. With momentum on their side, we're excited for what comes next.

Our youth section has enjoyed outstanding success this year, with multiple teams capturing silverware across league and cup competitions. Two of our Under 18 teams were crowned champions in their respective Crowborough leagues. Our Under 14 KYL team topped their division with a string of impressive performances throughout the season. The Under 12 Girls FC side delivered a remarkable double, winning their league title and the Shield.

In the non-competitive section, the season closed on a high with 10 of our teams reaching the Maidstone Invicta Primary League Finals, and five of those being crowned champions. These achievements underline the depth of talent at Kings Hill and the dedication of our volunteer coaches and supportive parents.

Kings Hill FC now runs an incredible 68 teams, supporting over 900 players, from Wildcats and U5s to senior and walking football. It's a thriving, inclusive environment where players of all ages and abilities can enjoy the game and develop a lifelong love for football.



Left to right: TW Foresters vs. KH Women's Team; Jets team with replica trophies; Tonbridge Angels vs. KH Women's Team; KH Men's team with mascots; U14 KYL Champions.

We're welcoming new players, especially girls, for our Wildcats programme and boys/girls in our U5 mixed age group. To see the latest recruitment ads and join the Kings Hill journey, check out our Instagram page: @kingshillfc & @kingshillfc.ladies.girls.

As we look ahead, one of our key aspirations remains transforming Pitch 1 into a high-quality 3G playing surface. This project forms a major part of our long-term vision for the club, and we're hopeful that progress will begin during the 2025/26 season.

The development plan includes installing a spectator stand and sports lighting, creating a year-round home for our senior teams and easing growing pitch demand across the club. It's an investment in our future that will benefit generations of players and supporters alike.

Tournament Weekend was Saturday 24th & Sunday 25th May. With over 280 teams registered, this year's tournament was our biggest and best yet. There was action-packed matches, food stalls, and a buzzing atmosphere throughout the weekend. Presentation Day – Saturday 14th June: Kicking off at 11:00 am, with our main awards ceremony at 12:30 pm, this is a chance to celebrate every player, coach, and volunteer who helped make this season a success. Bring your family, your team colours, and your best singing voice — it's going to be a special day.

Kings Hill FC continues to grow stronger, prouder, and more ambitious with each passing season. From historic milestones to grassroots triumphs, we thank every player, parent, coach, and volunteer who contributes to our journey. Here's to even greater heights in the years ahead!



HAVE YOUR SAY:

TOWN COUNCIL STATUS

Kings Hill Parish Council is considering a change in status — from a Parish Council to a Town Council — and we want to hear from you! KHPC have created a working group to discuss the pros and cons of this decision.

As part of the decision-making process, we'll be inviting residents to a public meeting to have your say once we have all the facts. This will be your chance to meet councillors, share your thoughts, and ask questions. You can also get involved by sending your views via email, social media, or letter.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

Under Section 245 (6) of the Local Government Act, a Parish Council can vote to become a Town Council. If this happens, the only formal change is in the name.

There would be no structural or operational changes unless decided separately; for instance, there are no plans for the Chairman to become the Town Mayor.

WHY NOW?

Kings Hill has grown significantly and is now larger than many existing town and parish councils across Kent. With a population of over 8,000 (and still growing thanks to ongoing housing developments), Kings Hill is the 28th largest community in Kent. For comparison: West Malling, with a population of 2,590, is officially classed as a Market Town — while Kings Hill now has over 8,000 residents.

We know that many of you value the semi-rural character and strong community spirit that makes Kings Hill special. Rest assured — those qualities aren't going anywhere. Becoming a town would simply reflect the size and stature Kings Hill has achieved, while continuing to support a vibrant and connected community.



Administrative & Political Advantages:

- More local autonomy in areas such as infrastructure and public services
- Access to increased funding, including grants that villages may not qualify for
- Greater influence in regional planning and development discussions

Economic Development:

- Boosts business appeal — a "town" status can attract more investment and economic opportunities
- Infrastructure improvements may follow, helping enhance public amenities

Community & Services:

- Potential for improved public services, like libraries, safety, or waste management
- Better planning and zoning tools to guide future growth

Legal & Administrative Benefits:

- Simplified legal identity for projects, grants, and governance
- Potential to enact local bylaws and regulations tailored to community needs

Civic Pride & Property Value:

- Stronger community identity and civic pride
- In some cases, enhanced property appeal and value



We'd love to hear your views on this potential change. Look out for announcements about the public meeting and let us know your thoughts in the meantime. This is your community — your voice matters. Email clerk@kingshillparish.gov.uk to express your views!



Above: Enjoying the VE Day Celebrations

HELEN GRANT MP

Kings Hill continues to be an important element of my ongoing work as your MP, and it is a joy to be a part of this vibrant local scene.

Insufficient infrastructure improvements and the loss of green spaces continues to be the number one issue that is raised with me by local people. The next iteration of the Local Plan will no doubt include some more controversial sites, but hopefully it will offer a balanced approach across the Borough. I would urge residents to look out for the next stage and feedback their thoughts to allow the Councillors to take them into account.

I know that access to West Malling railway station is another challenge for Kings Hill residents. Increasing train services from nearby East Malling has been a partial solution I have been asking for. I am delighted to report that, from May 25th, Southeastern will be providing a new half-hourly service stopping at East Malling station, in both directions, in the evenings between 16:00-20:00.

I attended the VE Day 80th Anniversary celebrations on the 10th May with my son and grandson; the Kings Hill community turned out in strength on a wonderful sunny day; the Parish Council deserves much credit for actively promoting community engagement with events like these.

I look forward to seeing you around and about in the constituency and may I wish you all a happy and glorious summer!



DO YOU HAVE A SECURITY OR DOORBELL CAMERA?

Sign up to our CCTV Registry and help keep your community safe.

It's free, secure, and quick to register

Your camera footage could be used to support investigations, bringing criminals to justice, and making your area a **safer** place to live.

Please note:

- We do **not** have access to your cameras.
- We can only view the location of registered cameras.
- We always contact the camera owner to request footage.







**Kent
Police**

To register or learn more, go to
cctvregistrykentandessex.co.uk

COMMUNITY BIKE FIX

On Saturday the 17th of May, residents gathered at the Kings Hill Community Centre for a vibrant community bike fix event, enjoying free repairs and expert maintenance tips, before over 35 cyclists set off together on a fun-filled family ride around Kings Hill.





Scan the QR code to
access Kent's Plan Bee
Toolkit and more



Kent's Plan Bee has two objectives; the first is to embed the conservation of pollinators into the work of Kent County Council wherever possible. The second is to help the wider community to understand the importance of these insects and to do what they can to reverse their declines.

Kent is home to approximately 80% of British bee and moth species, 70% of butterflies, 60% of flies, and more than 65% of beetles.

The Community Pollinator Toolkit and Pollinators of Kent (scan the QR code above or visit www.kent.gov.uk/environment-waste-and-planning/nature-and-biodiversity/pollinators/kents-plan-bee-pollinator-action to access the documents) is primarily aimed at groups who may be managing small areas of land and wish to enhance them in some way for pollinators and other wildlife. Inside the Toolkit are a wide variety of suggested actions together with links to more detailed information and organisations who can help in various ways.

Pollinators of Kent is an introductory guide to those insects that pollinate our crops, ornamental plants and wildflowers.

It is our hope that, together with the actions taken by national, county, borough and district levels of government, local and national charities and businesses, we will be able to create a network of habitats for pollinators across the county, joining up isolated populations and helping them survive into the future.

BRAIN TRAIN

Are you living with dementia or having problems with your memory? Do you want to help maintain your existing cognition?

Brain Train sessions use cognitive stimulation therapy techniques, and evidence based programme that helps with the symptoms of dementia. Groups are fun, engaging and sociable, providing stimulation for thinking, concentration and memory. Sessions are based around existing cognition and set in friendly groups to help improve confidence, self esteem and motivation.

Attending the group also enables carers to have a break from their caring role.

Every Tuesday & Thursday at West Malling Village Hall.
Full day 9:30 to 14:30 (including lunch & refreshments) or
half day (including refreshments) 10:00 to 13:00.

braintraincog@gmail.com

07544 851 024

Please contact Alison, Helen or Louise.

GET READY FOR OUR NEXT EVENT!



WANT A STALL, HAVE A FOOD
VAN, OR ARE YOU A LOCAL
CHARITY? WE WANT YOU!

Email
events@kingshillparish.gov.uk