



Broomfield and Kingswood Parish Council

www.broomfieldandkingswoodpc.kentparishes.gov.uk



ANNUAL REPORT

Social Media

The Clerk maintains a private residents email distribution list and regularly forwards relevant emails such as road closure notifications, scam advice and relevant consultations to residents on that list. If you would like to receive information like this please email the clerk at parishclerk@bandkpc.org granting permission for the Clerk to add your email address to her list. The clerk also posts relevant information on the Kingswood and Broomfield Info and Community Facebook site.

What else has the Parish Council been doing?

- Organisation of a 'Picnic in the Park'
- Organisation of litter picks around the Parish
- Facilitation of the Pop-up Coffee Caravan
- On-going management of the Sports Field and the noticeboards in the Parish
- Approving or refusing planning applications in the Parish
- Taking an active part in getting the bus pilot up and running
- Action as a liaison between the community and other local organisations and Councils on anything related to the local community
- Production of the Parish News three times a year
- Liaison with the PCSO re issues within the Parish
- Helping to resolve residents' issues
- Progressing the possibility of a Community Building in the Parish

Budget 2019/20

The Councils accounts are prepared in accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2003 (amended 2006). They are subject to external and internal audit (by an independent auditor)

INCOME	2019/20 BUDGET £	EXPENDITURE	2019/20 BUDGET £
Precept	57545	Staff and Office Costs	37900
Parish Services Scheme Grant	2887	Donations	400
Other Income	17525	Publicity	1260
Reserves carried forward from 2018/19	64904	Parish Maintenance	3900
		Parish Activities	3247
		Sports Field	10978
		Subscriptions	1026
TOTAL	142861	TOTAL	58,711

Donations and Grants 2019/20

Broomfield and Kingswood Parish Council awarded the following charitable donations and grants in 2019/20:

Royal British Legion	£50
Twinning Group	£100
Heart of Kent Hospice	£250

Parish Council's Chairman's Annual Report

Well another year has gone by and what a year it has been. It started well with the Picnic in the Park in June 2019, which from the feedback we have had from those that attended, was a great success despite the weather not being kind to us. It was so popular in fact that we had lots of request to do it all again this year and plans were well underway before C19 came.

We had another litter pick in the Spring, which I am very happy to report was very well attended and it was lovely to see so many children there who were genuinely happy to participate, although I think the cake on offer may also have contributed to that. There are plans in place for another one in the Autumn. There were also plans in place for a VE Day Celebration. We had hoped to have a street party type of event at the village hall, but this had to be cancelled too.

With the advent of C19 the world stopped, and we all had to stay home to protect each other and ourselves.

The Parish Council sent out a questionnaire asking whether people would be able to help their neighbours and asking for those people who felt they might need a bit of support to let us know. Unsurprisingly there was an immediate and positive response with many people offering to help in anyway necessary. There were also several requests for help mainly with shopping or collecting of prescriptions. I am also sure that there was quite a lot of unacknowledged cooperation going on between neighbours because our village has a tradition of supporting each other.

I have been so proud of the way that the Parish has stepped up during this crisis; from the Thursday night cheer for the front line workers, the beautiful wall art in Whitefoot Drive, all those who took time to make masks and PPE for the NHS and all those who contributed food and supplies for the food banks that were struggling to help those in dire financial need. Not forgetting of course all those who put rainbows and teddy bears in their windows for the children's treasure hunts and put painted stones around the village for others to find and hide again.

I particularly wanted to say a huge thank you to Praba and all those who worked so cheerfully and tirelessly at the village shop. Their willingness to remain open and also provide a home delivery service ensured that some of our most vulnerable residents were able to keep food on the table and I know everyone will join me in saying how grateful we all are and how we know how lucky we are to still have a village shop and post office.

I was also impressed by the fact that during my daily exercise everyone I met was determined to be as cheerful as possible; there were lots of "good mornings" and "how are you" and everyone I met while keeping a safe distance of course, seemed to be making a big effort to keep "a stiff upper lip" and smile.

Unfortunately however, with the extra time people had to walk the dog we suddenly found that the perennial problem with dog mess has been exacerbated as those few who are antisocial enough not to clear up after their dog were out and about much more. I would also like to point out that putting the dog mess in a bag and hanging it from a tree or hiding it behind the planters is really no better than leaving it on the street, someone else still has to clear it up. The Parish Council has put up posters and will continue to do so as they get torn down and we will also be providing more bins in areas that we have found get the most mess so hopefully things will improve - fingers crossed.

Speaking of planters I would like to say a big thank you to Paul and Alison who have done a great job to ensure the planters look good despite the garden centres being closed, so plants were a little difficult to come by, and the occasional vandal who still thinks it is fun to destroy something beautiful.

We are incredible lucky in the area in which we live. The woods around us have been particularly beautiful this year and I know have been enjoyed by so many people, some for the first time. Most of the paths through the woods are not official public footpaths so it is incumbent upon us all to ensure we treat our woods with respect and leave as little impact as possible if we want to continue to enjoy them.

I know I am not alone in saying that without the space to walk and get out of doors and enjoy that sense of freedom that you get from being in nature I would have struggled much more with the feeling of stress that comes from not being able to actually do very much to control what is happening around me.

The Parish Council continues to meet every month via Zoom to make sure that the everyday tasks continue. These meetings, like the physical ones, are open to the public and we would welcome visitors. We also have a vacancy for a councillor so if you feel you can contribute then why not sign up, it is unpaid and can be very frustrating but ultimately is very satisfying.

I would like to thank Pam, the Parish Clerk, Jo our RFO and all my fellow councillors for all their efforts over the past year.

It has been a difficult few months for us all and things are going to be tough for a lot of people in the future but as we all know this too will pass and if we continue to support each other we will get through.

Take care and stay safe

Tina Clark, Chair, Broomfield and Kingswood Parish Council, June 2020

Annual Ward Members Report 2019

I hope you and your families are all well in these worrying times. It is good to see such wonderful community spirit.

Maidstone Community Hub have been busy making sure that urgent food and medical supplies are provided to the most vulnerable people in the Borough. Created within days of the virus lockdown the hub is made up of several teams working virtually and physically. The focus is meeting urgent food and medical needs for the shielded people in our community as well as tackling social isolation.

Local people have been doing fabulous work making scrubs, headbands, uniform bags for staff at Maidstone and Pembury Hospitals.

As you will be aware there will be no council elections this year. Marion Ring has agreed to continue as Mayor for a further year. The makeup of the council remains the same and Martin Cox continues as Leader of the Council.

The Council is conducting committee meetings and these are working well.

There will be a lot of financial implications for the Council in the months to come due to the loss of business rates and taxes. However, this week we see some glimmer of optimism with the High Street opening and lockdown starting to ease.

The local plan review is still being worked on, the call for sites produced more land than is required and officers are reviewing them and the majority will be eliminated. Once their suitability has been determined then a public consultation will take place.

I wish you all the best, take care and stay safe.

Gill Fort, MBC Ward Councillor, Leeds



June 2020

SHELLINA PRENDERGAST – MAIDSTONE RURAL EAST

Dear Resident,

The last few months have seen some unprecedented challenges as the impacts of Covid-19 have taken their toll on our communities. Kent County Council has been on the frontline of supporting the most vulnerable people in Kent but my heartfelt thanks must go to the incredible army of volunteers and parish councils who have given so much time and effort to keep an eye on and look after the people in their communities that need it most. Thank you for everything you have done.

The stringent lockdown measures are now finally starting to be lifted and we can all see a little more of our families and friends, businesses can start to get back on their feet and more and more people can begin to return to work. The return to “normality” will not be quick and there is still much work to be done. Kent County Council’s priority remains to keep communities safe and care for people’s wellbeing, livelihoods and wider health while continuing to protect against the spread of the disease. We will all have our part to play in this and as Cabinet Member for Communications, Engagement and People, I have worked hard to ensure that everyone in Kent has all the information that they need, at the right time and when they need it most. Much of this can be obtained on www.kent.gov.uk/coronavirus and you can now also join the mailing list to get more regular news and information <https://mailchi.mp/kent.gov.uk/subscribe>

Turning to local matters, I have continued to work towards achieving my pledges to you on the things that matter to you most – potholes, speeding, broadband and much more. Whilst I am not a member of the local planning authority, I have challenged cases of inappropriate development throughout Maidstone Rural East. Where development has been allowed, I have striven to ensure that this comes with the infrastructure that works for our communities – good local schools, medical facilities, rural transport being a few examples. I have had some success with all these issues but there is much more to be done and I will continue to support you all on these and other matters.

It has been an honour to represent you all at Kent County Council and I am looking forward to the time when we can all continue safely with our day to day business and meet again. In the meantime, please continue to contact me via email on Shellina.Prendergast@kent.gov.uk or by telephone on 07970 461160.

With best wishes

Shellina Prendergast
KCC Councillor, Maidstone Rural East