



# Broomfield and Kingswood Parish Council

<http://www.broomfieldandkingswood-pc.org.uk/>



## ANNUAL REPORT

### Social Media

The Clerk continues to maintain a private residents email distribution list and regularly forwards relevant emails such as road closure notifications, public consultations and useful local information to residents on that list. If you would like to receive these emails please email the clerk at [parishclerk@bandkpc.org](mailto:parishclerk@bandkpc.org) granting permission for the Clerk to add your email address to her list.

The clerk also posts relevant information on our Facebook page. Please search for 'Broomfield and Kingswood Parish Council' on Facebook and follow or like our page.

### What else has the Parish Council been doing?

- Purchase and placement of an extra salt bin in the parish.
- Purchase of replacement picnic benches at The Sports Field.
- Repair of old stone wall at Broomfield Green.
- Organisation of regular litter picks around the Parish.
- Organisation of a fortnightly shopping bus service to Maidstone.
- Applying for a grant to cover cost of and arranging repair of white fingerpost sign.
- Stenciling of 'pick it up' dog poo signs around the village.
- Management of repairs to the playground equipment.
- Updating and improvement of the Parish Council website.
- On-going management of the Sports Field and the noticeboards in the Parish.
- Approving or refusing planning applications in the Parish.
- 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.
- Purchase and placement of wreath at Broomfield Church on behalf of the Parish for Remembrance Sunday and purchase of lamp post poppies in aid of The RBL.
- Liaison with our local PCSO re issues within the Parish.
- Liaison with our MBC Community Warden re issues within the Parish.
- Helping to resolve residents' issues and concerns.
- Progressing of the Village Hall Project.
- Attendance at the Rural Kent Coffee and Information Project Pop Up Café.
- Organisation of a regular Parish Council Pop Up Café.
- Organisation of a Queens Jubilee Event for the community.
- Provided assistance and support for the Parish Speedwatch group.
- The implementation of a once a week bus service with the help of local Parishes and Nu-Venture.

## Budget 2022/23

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).

# Broomfield and Kingswood Parish Council Annual Finance Report 2022/2023

## Statement of Account

<b>Opening balance 31/03/2022</b>	<b>£61,689.88</b>		
<b>Income</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>£</b>
Precept	55,452	Administration Expenses	3,841
Parish Service Scheme	3,287	S137	6,176
Rent	338	Publicity	1,485
VAT Refund	5,671	Parish Costs	1,573
Advertising	1,395	Sports Field	6,567
Bank Interest	753	Staff Costs	24,010
Additional Income	5,956	Subscriptions	729
		Miscellaneous Expenses	8,010
		VAT Paid	4,049
<b>Closing balance 31/03/2023</b>		<b>£77,470.12</b>	

This is an overview of the income and expenditure for the year 2022/2023.

The Internal Audit will be taking place on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> of May 2023 and the audited accounts will be published shortly. The complete figures will then be audited by the government appointed external auditor Mazars and will be available upon request to the Clerk/Responsible Finance Officer.

Please remember to register on the electoral roll with each and every revision; MBC uses these numbers to decide how much to give the Parish Council each year through our annual Parish Service Scheme Grant, we need every penny to prevent further increases in our precept.

## Donations and Grants 2022/23

Broomfield and Kingswood Parish Council awarded the following charitable donations and grants in 2022/23:

Royal British Legion	£50
Air Ambulance	£500
Friends of Kingswood School	£500
Three Suttons Helpline	£250
Heart of Kent Hospice	£750
The Maidstone Mediation and Reparation Scheme	£200
Marie Curie	£200

## **Broomfield and Kingswood Parish Council's Chairman's Annual Report 2023**

Another year and quite a busy one too. We have had highs and lows, we have had some successes, some partial successes and a few disappointments.

The year, which for the Council runs from AGM to AGM so from May to May, started with the Queen's Jubilee celebrations which, from the feedback we received, was a success with everyone who came along having a great time.

Unfortunately, due to loss of funding, we lost the Rural Kent Coffee Bus that used to come once a month during the warmer months. The Parish Council has tried to fill the gap by holding coffee mornings at the Village Hall during the school holidays and these have proved popular and have a growing attendance, please come along to the next one, they are open to all, and you get free cake too. Which reminds me that I must thank all the fantastic cake bakers in the village who kindly donate the cake.

We have been busy at the Sports Field, we have replaced some of the picnic tables and benches that were past their best with new multi-coloured table and benches that I think are great, they really bring a smile to your face when you see them. The plan is to gradually replace all the benches as needed.

Maintenance at the Sports Field is an ongoing project and this year we have repaired potholes in the car park and of course replaced or repaired any items in the play area as there was a need.

We lost our bus service this year due to Kent County Council cuts which was a major blow for some of our residents who relied on the bus to get about. With the cooperation of several of the surrounding parishes, chiefly led by Boughton Malherbe, we managed to secure funding from the KCC for a shopping bus service one day a week that goes direct to Maidstone on a Wednesday morning returning at lunch time. We have had very good reports about the service run by Nu-Venture, and I know that several residents are using it regularly. I would urge as many people as possible to continue to do so because if we lose the bus service altogether then it will be very hard to get it back and because if we can prove there is a need then maybe we can grow the service.

We have of course had the perennial problems of litter, traffic speeding and dog poo.

The litter in our lanes, which seems to have got worse since Covid, we have tried to tackle with litter picks. We have had five this year and will continue to do so, again with the help of some fantastic volunteers who turn up to help clean up.

We are also very happy to help support the Speedwatch volunteers who are doing a great job to help make our parish safer for us all.

The dog poo issue leaves me speechless, really how hard is it to just pick up after your dog???

The closure of Ulcombe Hill for months caused problems in our lanes and seems to be an ongoing problem with road closures on an almost weekly basis. The closure of the road through Leeds is going to be a major disruption and while it is understood that the works are necessary, we, together with the other surrounding parishes, are doing all we can to get the companies and Local Authorities involved to consider all the options for keeping disruptions to a minimum.

September brought the death of Queen Elizabeth II, for quite a few of us it was a real sadness as she had been Queen for most, if not all, of our lives and signified stability of what can seem to be a very unstable world at times. It will take a while before we can sing God Save the King without having to concentrate.

We obtained a grant for repairs to the finger post for which we have to thank Shellina Prendergast our local Kent County Council member.

Then came November and we were very proud to be able to support the Poppy Project, led by Ceridwen Clarke. What a triumph, all those beautiful poppies created by our local crafters, adults and children, who crocheted, knitted, cut out and painted, thousands of poppies to create an avalanche of poppies to decorate the Village sign. What a sight it was too, and the final touch was the cards of memorium to lost loved ones and I know that I shed a tear when reading the poem written by one of our own youngsters.

The Parish Council, at the Remembrance Sunday service, are proud to provide and lay a wreath on behalf of the parish. As part of our ongoing support for the Royal British Legion poppy day appeal we are buying a few large poppies each year to display around the parish.

The winter seemed to go on for a very long time this year, but then I say that every year. We have provided another salt bin on Broomfield Road at the corner of Park Barn in an effort to help when it does snow. All the existing salt bins proved very useful when the snow finally came, and we have made sure that they have been refilled for next year.

Christmas gave us another excuse for a get together and I know we are planning to hold another one this year so make sure you come along, there will probably be more cake.

Then came the Coronation, which was yet another excuse for a party. I had a great time and from what others have been saying so did they, in fact we have had requests to do it again.

I must take this opportunity to thank everyone who contributes towards making Broomfield and Kingswood such a good place to live. Firstly, to Hayley Roberts, our Parish Clerk, who makes a hard job look so easy. To everyone who gives up their time willingly, the other Councillors who try and keep things running smoothly and to make sure our voice is heard by the powers that be. To all the volunteers whether they be cake bakers, poppy makers or litter pickers. To all those who run the various Clubs and youth organisations and last but by no means least to all those who quietly and unobtrusively help make their neighbours lives just that little bit better by those acts of kindness that so often go unnoticed.

It looks as though the coming year is going to be another tough one (that seems to be becoming the "new normal"). Our powers are not great, but what we can do, we will do and if we cannot help, we may be able to point you in the right direction to get the help you need. So, remember we are your Parish Council and here to support you.

Tina Clark  
Chair  
Broomfield and Kingswood Parish Council.

## **Annual Ward Members Report 2023 - Gill Fort, MBC Councillor for Leeds**

### **Annual Report for 2022/23**

#### **Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II**

It is with deep sadness the Queens death was announced on 8<sup>th</sup> September. Maidstone as the county town of Kent lead the proclamation of the new King on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> September in Jubilee Square. The proclamation was delivered by the High Sheriff of Kent, Russell Race. In attendance were many dignitaries, other Kent boroughs and large number of members of the public.

#### **Cost of Living Crisis**

Many residents are struggling with rising energy costs and inflation. We have seen rises in essential food which means some families cannot afford to put a meal on the table. MBC have set up a web page which has help and guidance. It can be found at

<https://maidstone.gov.uk/home/other-services/cost-of-living-advice>

Maidstone has helped 53 households from becoming homeless due to the Covid 19 pandemic by using a government grant to help clear mortgage, rent, council tax and utility bills arrears.

#### **1000 Affordable Homes**

It is MBC strategy to build 1000 affordable homes. MBC recognises the need for more affordable housing in the area and is determined that those in the local community who may not be able to afford to buy or rent privately have the opportunity to live in one of these new affordable homes.

#### **Local Plan Review**

MBC has received confirmation that the first stage of the Local Plan Review examination has been successful and will proceed to stage 2. The main impact for our area is that the Leeds Langley safeguarding area which will not now feature in the plan. Work will continue with KCC and other stakeholders so that any plan for a relief road will be in the next plan.

#### **Bins and Rubbish**

Mid Kent Partnership, which MBC is part, have awarded an eight-year contract to SUEZ. The new contract will begin in March 2024 and will introduce new technology and industry improvements. Existing employees of Biffa will transfer to the new contractor. If anyone has any concerns with the service being provided, they should report it.

#### **Ukraine**

Maidstone has housed a number of Ukrainian Refugees and more than 60 attended a gathering with the Mayor to commemorate Ukrainian Independent Day. The Town Hall was lit with the national colours of blue and yellow.

#### **Town Centre Strategy**

This strategy will aim to create a range of new retail, leisure and employment opportunities for people, businesses and communities in the town centre and across the borough. It will identify a variety of new education, health and other infrastructure projects all to reinforce Maidstone as the county town of Kent and the business capital of Kent.

#### **Mote Park**

A new café opened in Mote Park. This is the second phase of the council's investment into the redevelopment of Mote Park. Further plans include renovation the toilet block.

**Gill Fort, MBC Councillor for Leeds.**

# Kingswood Speedwatch Group

The Speedwatch group was formed early in 2022 to try and eradicate speeding within our village and surrounding area. Initially the group consisted of 7 volunteers and formal training was completed on 10<sup>th</sup> February last year.

Since formation the group has grown to 12 people and it is a mix of people all from our local community, volunteering their time to undertake sessions around local roads. This can be from an hour a month to a couple of hours a week, there is no expectation to do sessions it's just when people have available time.

Speedwatch is a county wide group and data is collated across the county and last year they identified 30,673 people speeding. It is fully supported by Kent Police and has support of county's Police and Crime Commissioner, Matthew Scott.

*Key information gathered over the last year...*

*Local residents in the ME17 3, ME17 2 and ME17 1 postcodes are the biggest offenders.*

*Lenham Road and Broomfield Road attract the highest speeds – highest speed recorded so far being 55mph in the village built up area of Broomfield Road!*

*Average speed is 37.4mph.*

*17,000 cars have been recorded  
710 of these were travelling at over 35mph*

*150 sessions with over 500 volunteer hours have been completed in 15 months.*

**We want to say a big thank you to all of our volunteers for their hard work and commitment.**

The group would really benefit from more volunteers to help with the sessions, which would enable us to do them more regularly throughout the week.

**If you are interested please email [kingswoodspeedwatch@outlook.co.uk](mailto:kingswoodspeedwatch@outlook.co.uk) or you can email or speak to the Parish Clerk, we would really welcome your support.**



**KINGSWOOD CHURCH**

North Kent Methodist Circuit

Maidstone Baptist Church

**NORTH DOWNS TEAM MINISTRY**

### **KINGSWOOD CHURCH Local Ecumenical Partnership (LEP)**

#### **Annual report for Kingswood Parish Council 2023**

Our supporting churches are: Baptist, Methodist and the Church of England

Kingwood Church meets each Sunday at Kingswood & Broomfield Village Hall our services commence at 11am. We welcome anybody who would like to attend, our style of worship is less formal but follows the traditions of our supporting church. During the service we run a children's group 'Climbers' they join the congregation at the start of the service then leave after the first hymn for their own activities which includes many types of craft and even cooking, together with their Bible studies, they return at the end of the service to show and tell what they have made and learnt. We run a Café Service on the first Sunday of each month, the service starts at 11 am. A free continental breakfast is served from 10.30 am.

Kingswood Church is not just for Sunday's we offer many groups and activities across the week together with pastoral support where needed.

On Tuesdays we run a lunch club, we each take our own lunch, tea, coffee and biscuits are provided and we gather round the table for a chat on any subject.

On Friday's Sonya runs a Lady's Group at her home, tea, coffee and cake together with a chat and prayers are offered.

Friday afternoon we run an after-school group called 'Crusaders' at Kingswood School the children learn about stories from the Bible and play quizzes and games etc.

Friday Evenings we run a church youth club called 'CANS' the children have a chance to unwind playing games and crafts, once a month they hold a family activity, Prize Bingo and Film-Nights are very popular.

This year we have continued to support many charities and a local Foodbank through the donations of our congregation.

Throughout the year we also run special services e.g., Easter, Harvest and Christingle. We support the Well Blessing each year at St Margaret's Church, Broomfield and our children provide floral decorations for the service.

All in all, we have had a solid year having recovered from the Covid Pandemic, we look forward to the warmer weather, and the continued life of our church.

Contacts: Peter Roberts 01622 843625, Mike King 01622 842274.

Mike King Chairman Kingswood Church.