



Broomfield and Kingswood Parish Council

www.broomfieldandkingswoodpc.kentparishes.gov.uk



ANNUAL REPORT

This year Broomfield and Kingswood Parish Council said a fond farewell to Pamela Bower who retired as Parish Clerk. Hayley Roberts has taken over as our new Parish Clerk.

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 set up and 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?

- Organisation of Parish litter picking completion.
- Co-Ordinated support during pandemic for vulnerable residents.
- Purchase and placement of extra litter bins.
- Organisation of Tom Hoy Award 2020.
- Organisation of litter picks around the Parish.
- Stenciling of 'pick it up' dog poo signs around the village.
- Management of repairs to the playground equipment.
- Creation of Parish Council website.
- On-going management of the Sports Field and the noticeboards in the Parish.
- Approving or refusing planning applications in the Parish.
- Erection of single track road sign along Broomfield Road.
- 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 a community building in the Parish.

Budget 2020/21

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 2020/2021

Statement of Account

Balance b/fwd	£84,151		
Income	£	Expenditure	£
Precept	56,006	Administration Expenses	5,413
Parish Service Scheme	3,110	Sports Field	8,182
Rent	310	Staff Costs	23,697
VAT Refund	2,610	VAT Paid	2,266
Advertising	258	Donations	4,700
Bank Interest	296	Publicity	1,090
Additional Income	5,962	Parish Costs	2,906
		Miscellaneous Expenses	1,147

This is an overview of the income and expenditure for the year 2020/2021.

The Internal Audit will be taking place 12th May 2021. Therefore, the audited accounts will be published after the internal audit has taken place and will be available at the Annual Parish Council Meeting. The complete figures will then be audited by the government appointed external auditor PKF Littlejohn and will be available upon request to the Clerk or 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 us each year through our annual Parish Service Scheme Grant, we need every penny to prevent further increases in our precept.

Donations and Grants 2019/20

Broomfield and Kingswood Parish Council awarded the following charitable donations and grants in 2020/21:

British Red Cross	£50
Air Ambulance	£250
Marie Curie	£50
Royal British Legion	£50
Kingswood Preschool Group	£3,300
Heart of Kent Hospice	£500
Samaritans	£500

Parish Council's Chairman's Annual Report

Chairman's Statement – May 2021

Well, what can I say, this has been a bit of a year; who would have believed that we would just be coming out of another lock down more than a year after we entered the first?

The fact that we have not been able to spend time with loved-ones and friends, particularly during those times of gladness and sorrow that are such a big part of our lives, has been hard for everyone. I know that there have been times when if I heard the phrase "this too will pass" one more time I would have screamed. But it is true, and it looks like we are finally seeing a way out, maybe not back to how life was before, but at least to one that we can recognise.

It has been a frustrating year for everyone, with so many events having to be cancelled and, who would have thought that just being able to have a cup of coffee with a friend would become so important.

The Parish Council have still been meeting monthly and have tried to keep things running as close to normal as possible.

We have of course had the perennial problems of litter and dog fouling.

This year we have provided more litter bins around the village and of course there was the junior Design a Litter Poster competition. You will have seen the winning entries posted around the village and some of the surrounding area. Thank you to all those who entered and particularly to our winners Anya and Brooke.

As you have probably noticed on your walks, the lanes around the village are being fouled by the litter being dropped by those passing through. In the Autumn, the Parish Council did organise a litter pick and there were lots of people who were keen to volunteer but unfortunately the torrential rain meant that too had to be postponed, although once restrictions are lifted, we will organise another. In the meantime, I would really like to thank all those people who pick up litter as a matter of course.

As for dog fouling, I know that Kingswood is a very dog friendly village, and most of our owners are responsible and clear up after their pets. However, there are still a few who think it is OK to leave dog poo lying in the middle of the pavement, on the grass of the sports field or even in the children's playground.

Two of your Councillors spent an afternoon walking the streets of Kingswood spraying "Pick it Up" warnings on the pavements. Unfortunately, regulations say that these cannot be permanent and must be able to fade, but we will be doing it again and again until hopefully the message gets through. There is a £1,000 fine for anyone caught allowing this to happen and a place on the KCC website for reporting incidents.

The snow and ice this winter was for some of us a major problem, making leaving home a treacherous business. The Parish Council, for insurance and financial reasons, cannot grit the roads or pavements but we will be providing more salt bins around the Parish that will hopefully help if the situation ever arises again.

Broomfield and Kingswood is a parish full of people who care about others and their environment and are more than willing to do that bit extra to help others. One of these was Tom Hoy who was a Parish Councillor for several years, including a spell as Chair. He was an enthusiastic and vocal member of the council who was the driving force on many a project. The Parish Council was therefore honored to organise a Community Award scheme in his memory.

The response was amazing and there were many nominees but the winners this year, by quite a long way, were of course the team at the Village Store who provide the kind of service and care

that makes us the envy of other villages. This year particularly they have provided a lifeline for many of our residents, including making home deliveries.

I would like to thank all my fellow Councillors for the way they enthusiastically give their time freely and willingly for the Parish.

Thanks also go to Paul and Alison Beaney who once again this year have kept our planters looking beautiful.

I would like to welcome Hayley Roberts, our new Parish Clerk, she is taking over from Pam Bower who has left us for the beauties of Derbyshire. Hayley is your first contact point for anything Parish Council related.

Also, welcome back Jo Gosden who re-joins us after maternity leave.

Our monthly meetings have all been held via Zoom over the last year and this works well most of the time (the naked dancing Santa who hacked one of the meetings was a little startling). They have, of course, still been open to the public and several residents have joined us to discuss issues important to them. That is how it works, if the Parish Council can help, they will, but they can only try to do so if they are aware of the issue. So come to the meetings, talk to us, get involved.

Take care and stay safe.

Tina Clark

Chair



Shellina Prendergast – Kent County Councillor for Maidstone Rural East

Annual Report May 2021

Dear Resident,

The last year has been an incredibly tough period for all our communities and businesses. As we take our first steps to get the country out of the restrictions, I want to thank all of you for having played your part, showing much resilience, patience and resolve in helping to get the virus under control and supporting each other through the difficult times.

Uniquely in the country, Kent has confronted not one but two – or three – huge challenges: Covid-19, the end of the Brexit transition and the arrival of large numbers of Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children last spring and summer. Kent County Council has been there with residents and businesses throughout this – supporting the vulnerable through the “Kent Together” scheme, securing millions of items of PPE, rolling out community testing and supporting families, businesses, and the many voluntary and community organisations on the road to recovery. Below are some examples of the work in key areas led by Kent County Council during this time:

Kent’s Children, Young People and Families

- HeadStart Kent, a programme that has enhanced the mental health and well-being of young people in the county since 2016, has been awarded extra funding to continue its vital work for an additional year - <https://kccmediahub.net/headstart-kent-awarded-additional-years-funding745>
- Supporting families under financial pressure in the crisis, supporting the voluntary sector in working to tackle financial distress, Free School Meals in the October half term and since, and the £10m Helping Hands scheme to support individuals, families and businesses.
- Kent County Council has protected tax payers from the cost of the arrival of large numbers of young asylum seeking children through a new and increased funding deal agreed with Government last summer. We continue to press the Government to establish a sustainable National Transfer Scheme which will ease the pressure on border authorities like Kent.
- Reconnect – a universal community-based programme of activities currently being developed to help children and young people reconnect with their pre-Covid-19 lives. <https://kccmediahub.net/ambitious-kcc-led-community-programme-will-help-children-and-young-people-reconnect-with-their-pre-covid-19-lives745>
- 91% of Kent schools are rated as good or outstanding. The challenge of a rising school population has been met by building out places for an additional 25,000 students over the last ten years.

Supporting Communities and the Voluntary Sector

- The Library Service introduced the popular Select and Collect and digital services while maintaining the important Home Library Service – a vital link for many vulnerable residents.
- Over 4000 miles of Public Rights of Way saw increased usage of up to 100% in places and the 9 Country Parks have never been busier.

- Community Wardens, already highly valued before the pandemic, played a vital frontline role supporting and protecting those who were vulnerable and in need of help.
- Support for the cultural and sports sectors facing the considerable challenges as a result of Covid-19.
- Investing in communities and the voluntary sector, most recently through the Crowdfunding Kent initiative where Kent County Council committed £500,000 to co-fund community projects that help recovery from the pandemic.
- Launched the Kent Together initiative working with communities and borough councils to provide 24/7 help and support to those who were vulnerable and isolated due to the pandemic and in need of essential supplies including food and medication.
- Delivered over 1000 carephone devices to vulnerable and isolated residents, enabling them to connect with friends, families and carers during lockdown.

Brexit Transition

- Along with local and national partners, Kent County Council made huge preparations for the end of the Brexit transition to ensure that roads and services remained open for residents and businesses.
- When the French Government shut the borders just before Christmas, KCC staff, Members and partners worked tirelessly to resolve the crisis. Transition plans were adapted, testing centres were set up and welfare measures were put in place for those stranded by the closure.

Backing Kent's Businesses

- Helping businesses during the pandemic has been the at the core of our work – investing in the Kent and Medway Covid Help Line, assisting more than 14,000 businesses and making millions of pounds available in affordable loans to help businesses survive and prosper as we come out of the current crisis.
- No Use Empty scheme, supported by £12m of support last year, provides interest free loans to small, local builders to bring empty properties back into use. The scheme has delivered almost 6500 homes on brownfield land, safeguarded hundreds of local jobs, created new homes and improved derelict areas of land.

Broadband for Businesses and Homes

- Kent County Council has worked with the government agency BDUK to deliver better broadband across the county and several communities within Maidstone Rural East have benefitted from this. This has included:
 - Delivered faster broadband connections to over 140,000 homes and businesses across Kent that would otherwise have been left with no or slow broadband.
 - Provided funding to over 2,000 rural homes and businesses (without superfast broadband connections) through the Kent Top-Up Voucher programme.
 - Enabled access to superfast broadband of at least 30mbps to over 95% of homes and businesses in Kent.

Roads and Rail

- Committed another £10m to this year's pothole blitz after a year in which Kent Highways filled in almost 50,000 potholes and patched the equivalent of 50 full size football pitches.
- Invested £11m in a road resurfacing programme and five-year maintenance plan.
- Kent County Council launched the Vision Zero Strategy for road safety which not only has an ambitious aim for reducing or eliminating road accident deaths by 2050 but represents a new way to engage with communities and address local road safety concerns.
- The Kent Rail Strategy 2021 positions KCC to influence future plans for Kent's rail services.

Protecting our Environment

- Commitment to reach Net Zero for our own services and buildings by 2030 together with projects and funding in place to deliver this target along with a plan for Kent as a whole to achieve this by 2050.
- Launched an innovative Plan Bee for pollinators, ambitious work on biodiversity and plans, already underway, to plant a tree for every resident in Kent.
- Less than 1% of waste collected in Kent goes to landfill; the rest is recycled or turned into energy.

The above is just a flavour of the work at Kent County Council. As we emerge from Covid and lockdown, we are working to build a better future for Kent: standing up against national targets for housebuilding in the county while securing the services and infrastructure we need so that they come with, not after, any development; supporting both young and older people after this toughest of years; and costed plans in place to protect our environment and achieve net zero.

This is a time to feel optimistic. My thanks again to all of you for the part you have played in helping and supporting our communities and for taking the steps and following guidance to reduce the spread of Covid 19. I am very proud to represent residents of Maidstone Rural East – together we make a great community!

All the best

Shellina Prendergast
KCC Councillor, Maidstone Rural East

Annual Ward Members Report 2021

Maidstone Borough Council – Ward Councillor – Gill Fort

This has been an extraordinary year. Who would have imagined what was to come in February last year when we first witnessed the lockdown of Wuhan.

Since then many of us have lost loved one, lost our job, have had to adopt a new working environment, suffered anxiety, mental and financial hardship. One thing that I have noticed is people's resilience and the sense of community. We have all stood on our doorsteps to clap our wonderful NSH and key workers. MBC have also done their bit. They set up the community hub, which reached out to those, shielding and most vulnerable. In our borough, there were around 2,600 registered vulnerable. Urgent food and medical supplies were provided throughout lockdown. The elections last year were postponed. They will take place this year on the 6th May. We have throughout the year held meeting virtually however they may come of an end next month.

The Local Plan Review is underway. Sites have been put forward by landowners and developers. These sites have been evaluated and preferred spatial strategy for future development between 2022 and 2037 has been out to public consultation. The main concerns centre of increased housing numbers with a lack of infrastructure. It should be noted that within the document, there is an area around Leeds and Langley which will be safeguarded to enable the delivery of a relief road at a later date if there is a justifiable argument to be made.

There has been an increase in litter and fly tipping over the last year. The rural lanes are particularly bad. MBC have just launched a Pilot Scheme to Combat Litter – this Pilot Scheme began in April and MBC are the first council in the country to pilot the scheme. MBC will focus on the worst areas, such as major junctions and roundabouts. If the pilot is a success, MBC may roll it out to other areas.

MBC have requested that the Boundary Commission carry out a review. The last review was 20 years ago. Since then Leeds Ward has the smallest amount of development in the borough. There will be changes to boundaries and there is talk of going to a three member ward. This will potentially come into effect in 2023/24.



Shukokai Karate Academy England

We are proud to confirm that the Academy's karate classes have continued throughout 2020 and into 2021. As soon as the first Lockdown in March 2020 was announced, classes immediately transferred onto the Zoom platform with up to twelve classes a week, all well attended. Students adapted very quickly to the new method of training and it gave them the opportunity to hone their basic techniques, combinations and kata. Once it was permitted to train in limited groups outside again, we were lucky enough to start classes up in Kingswood, Hollingbourne and Sutton Valence. This gave students the opportunity to continue with their training and work towards their next grading belts. We only had one occasion during the whole Summer where our classes were interrupted by bad weather and even then, students returned to continue as soon as the rain passed. Once we were able to return to indoor training, we did so at all of our dojos, including Kingswood Village Hall, where we had strict COVID safe protocols in place. Whilst this limited the numbers allowed in classes, it did not deter students from putting all their energy into their training and new students also joined the club. Sadly, once Lockdown 2 started, we had no option other than to go back onto Zoom but again student numbers were maintained and considerable progress was made by everyone. We returned briefly to some indoor training just before Christmas at one of our venues but since the beginning of the year we have again maintained a significant number of classes on Zoom. We have also had the opportunity to hold online seminars with nine time World Champion and Norwegian National Coach Wayne Otto, World Champion Jordan Thomas and Portuguese National Kata Coach Ema Fernandes.

We are also very proud to announce that Sensei Katie Simpson has been appointed by the English Karate Federation as an Assistant Regional Kata coach for the Southern Region. Sensei Chris is currently undertaking a virtual 1,083 mile walk from Land's End to John O'Groats to raise funds for Diabetes UK, MIND, Great Ormond Street Hospital and our own SKA Fundraising Group. He is currently 375 miles into the walk, details of which can be found at www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/chris-simpson-lejog.

We are hopeful that in late March we will be able to return to outdoor training and then in April indoor training for the under 18s and in May indoor training to include adults. We are extremely grateful to the Broomfield and Kingswood Parish Council and The Village Hall Committee for all their support during then last twelve months.

As well as Kingswood the Academy will be resuming classes at five other different venues, Downswood, Lenham, Sutton Valence, Marden and Maidstone YMCA, and once a member of the Academy students can train at any of the venues in an appropriate class – beginners are always welcome.

Full details and booking pages can be found at our website www.shukokaikarateacademy.com or via www.kentkarate.co.uk or be contacting us on 07801 639052 or email kentkarate@gmail.com.

Sensei Chris and Sensei Katie Simpson.
Joint Chief Instructors - Shukokai Karate Academy England.



Leeds & Kingswood Scout Group

Hope you are all well and not too bored.

With the pandemic we are not being able to have face to face contact, so the leaders have arranged meetings via Zoom. This has let the individual sections keep in touch with each other.

Not having the meetings at the hut has given us the opportunity to decorate the hut and freshen it up.

You may see in the magazine we are seeking for leaders and helpers for beavers, cubs and scouts. If you like working with children, this will give them your expertise in helping them. If you are interested please give me a ring at the telephone number at the bottom.

For our funds to keep the group running we run a 100 club, we have four prizes a month comprising of £20, 2 x £10 prizes and a £5.

This is £12 a year (£1 a month) If you are interested in joining please call me on the number below. In the mean time stay safe and well and look after yourselves

Alan Poulton Chairman 01622 843019

BEAVERS



We have had a strange year this year but we are now gearing to start back up once social distancing is over! Hooray!

Beavers are aged between 6-8 years, all of our Beavers who were with us just before the pandemic will be invited back before the Summer so we can prepare them for moving on to Cubs.

In September we will essentially be starting a whole new group. If your child is between 6-8 and would like to try Scouting at Leeds and Kingswood Beavers, please get in touch, we will put your name down on our waiting list.

We also need volunteers and leaders for the new group to stay running. There are so many fantastic opportunities in scouting; sleepovers, camps, activity days to name a few!

All our activities are run by volunteers, would you like to:

- Try something new?
- Make friends?
- Spend time with their children – or gain experience with young people?
- Do something good for your community and yourselves?
- Keep your bodies and brains active and happy? – whether that's by scaling mountains, sharing skills or serving tea!

These all end up making a huge difference to young people's lives – gifting them with skills for life, and learning a whole lot about themselves along the way.

No previous experience with young people? No problem. Whether you'd like to help out week-after-week or whenever-you-can, we provide training, learning opportunities and cups of tea – every step of the way.

If you would like more information on volunteering or to add your child to our waiting list, please contact:

Claire Jones, Leeds and Kingswood Beavers Leader- 07732056139, cdrylie@hotmail.com

KINGSWOOD WHIST GROUP

We normally meet every Tuesday afternoon from 2pm until 4pm. We are hoping to restart on 6th July.

The Group is ever expanding and we are now attracting players from neighboring villages. Over 20 players come along and enjoy 24 games of partner/progressive whist. At half-time we have tea, coffee, cakes and chat!

We welcome new players of any vintage so come along for a really enjoyable sociable afternoon- all for just £2.50!! The members take it in turns to provide the cakes and modest prizes. No card sharps allowed, just folk who want a fun afternoon!!

For further information please ring Mike on 844272 or just turn up.

You will be very welcome.



Dance4Kent have a lovely Dance School running from Kingswood Village Hall on Fridays during Term Time. The classes are Ballet & Jazz for children aged 2 1/2 years upwards & we also offer performing opportunities.

The past year has been so tough but a lot of students supported us via Zoom classes & we can't thank them enough! We are now back in the hall with our wonderful students having lots of fun & we hope these classes will continue to grow!

Kindest Regards

Stephanie Wood

Owner of Dance4Kent

07898207973

www.dance4kent.co.uk



KINGSWOOD CHURCH

North Kent Methodist Circuit

Maidstone Baptist Church

NORTH DOWNS TEAM MINISTRY

KINGSWOOD CHURCH

We started the year with our supporting churches running our normal service pattern. We had begun to see a few new faces at our monthly Cafe' Services and we joined in with Rev. Mark's Inspire service at Lead's Church every quarter. All was going well when Covid-19 totally changed our lives and, like everyone else, we entered "Lockdown". We followed the advice and cancelled all our services and church groups.

Throughout the pandemic we have followed all expert advice, including that from the Church of England, as we changed the way our church served our community during these difficult times. We've kept in touch with all our young people either at social distance gatherings across a garden fence as allowed or online. We provided activities for them at Christmas including a Nativity Trail around the village run by Rev. Mark. This Easter they took part in another trail around the village, this time for an Easter Egg and goody bag, run by Tracey Brunton who runs our children's groups.

Our services all moved online and our congregation were able to join in every Sunday with one of our supporting churches including Rev. Mark's Sundays at 10am on YouTube and Facebook.

At the end of the first lockdown we returned to a reduced service pattern of two services a month. On the second Sunday of the month we ran our own service and on the fourth Sunday we held a Communion led by Rev. Mark. We followed all UK Government guidance and numbers were restricted in agreement with the Village Hall Committee.

As the pandemic worsened, we decided to cancel all services again and our worship moved totally online again.

Throughout we have continued to provide pastoral care and support to our congregation including collecting medicines, having telephone chats and providing transport for vaccinations.

We hold all our church meetings on line and continue to support our groups and charities.

As lockdown has eased, we have returned to a bi-monthly service pattern. On the second Sunday of the month we run our own service led by Peter Roberts, who is now a fully Licensed Reader, and on the fourth Sunday we hold a Communion led by Rev. Mark. We again follow all UK Government guidance and numbers are restricted.

We look forward to church life returning to a form of "normal" later this year and for us all to be able to get together to worship and sing hymns again and we invite you to come and join us.

Mike King
Chairman Kingswood Church
26th April 2021