



# 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.uk](mailto:parishclerk@bandkpc.uk) 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?

- Organisation of regular litter picks around the Parish.
- Maintenance of the two Parish Council owned defibrillators at The Sports Field and NISA Shop on Charlesford Avenue. The Village Hall also has its own defibrillator which the Parish Council provided funds for inspections for.
- Stenciling of 'pick it up' dog poo signs around the village.
- Management of repairs to the playground equipment and CCTV.
- Updating and improvement of the Parish Council website.
- On-going management of the Sports Field and the noticeboards in the Parish.
- Commenting on planning applications in the Parish.
- Maintaining the village planters around the village.
- Acting 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 and the Silent Tommy on behalf of the Parish for Remembrance Sunday.
- Liaison with our local PC re issues within the Parish.
- Liaison with our MBC Community Warden re issues within the Parish.
- Helping to resolve residents' issues and concerns.
- Organisation of a regular Parish Council Pop Up Café.
- Organisation of the Reverse Santa. Items collected and delivered to the Salvation Army.
- Provided support and attended sessions for the Parish Speedwatch group.
- Assisted during the South East Water outage with information and the setting up of a water station at the Village Hall.
- Installed the new Merry Meet play equipment at the Sports Field.
- Provided a Childrens First Aid Course.
- Supported NuVenture with the once a day bus service to ensure it continues.
- Set up a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme – we are still looking for volunteers to get this up and running, please contact Hayley if this is something you are interested in.

## Budget 2025/26

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 2025/2026

## Statement of Account

Opening balance 31/03/2025                      **£ 106,894.05**

Income	£	Expenditure	£
Precept	60,923.00	Administration Expenses	3,849.30
Parish Service Scheme	3,428.90	S137	2,855.78
Rent	1,377.92	Publicity	2,235.00
VAT Refund	8,375.52	Parish Costs	1,962.46
Advertising	885.00	Sports Field	24,790.13
Bank Interest	2,119.43	Staff Costs	26,467.60
Additional Income	544.23	Subscriptions	886.77
		Miscellaneous Expenses	20,970.28
		VAT Paid	9,185.74

Closing balance 31/03/2026                      **£ 91,737.02**

This is an overview of the income and expenditure for the year 2025/2026.

The Internal Audit took place on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> of May 2026 and the unaudited 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 2025/2026

Broomfield and Kingswood Parish Council awarded the following charitable donations and grants in 2025/2026:

Heart of Kent Hospice	£1000
Marie Curie	£200
Royal British Legion	£100

The Parish Council Pop Up Café donations raised an additional £258.24 for the Air Ambulance. This charity was voted for by attendees of the Pop Up Café.

Leeds and Kingswood Scout Group received a grant of £249.60 for accessibility improvements to the Scout Hut.

The Parish Council Reverse Santa event collected and donated a huge truck full of food and sanitary item donations for the Salvation Army.

## **Broomfield and Kingswood Parish Council's Chairman's Annual Report 2026**

It's that time again, another year has passed and time for another Chairman's Statement. This year has been another mixed bag, a lot of good things but some not so good.

The Pop-Up Cafes are still going strong, and we are really pleased that so many people are joining us. We have had residents coming along for the first time, who have lived in the village for a number of years and are now finding friends through the café. We are as usual incredibly grateful to those kind people who, like Jayne Raffil and her delicious lemon drizzle cake, provide us with goodies time after time. The pop-ups are not only a good place to meet old and new friends, but we also have visits from the police to answer any questions. The craft group provide us with beautiful seasonal table decorations, and we also have the occasional raffle from Ellis who is working towards a visit to the World Scout Jamboree in Poland next year. If you haven't come along yet, give it a try, the cake alone is worth the time and it's all absolutely free.

PC Philips and PCSO Boyd are also holding the occasional surgery at the village shop so go along and talk to them if you have any questions or concerns. Keep an eye on our mailing list and Facebook page for dates.

We are still waging an ongoing fight against litter with our regular band of volunteers who attend the organised litter picks, and I know that there are parishioners who, like Geoff Betts who regularly patrols Broomfield Road, collect litter themselves. It is true to say that most, but not all, of the litter comes from people passing through the village. Why not come along, it's a good way to meet people and the cake at the end is always good.

I suppose now would be the time to mention dog poo, it's a continual problem and very frustrating because we know that it is only a very few people who think it is OK to allow their dog to foul the streets. But it is unforgivable to let your dog foul the Sports Field where you know children play.

Potholes and road closures are still a problem, and the Parish Council will continue to nag Highways to try to get some common sense included in the decision-making process about when to close roads and what diversions are used.

The Reverse Santa was an immense success yet again and once again Broomfield and Kingswood parishioners showed what a caring community, they are. I would like to thank everyone involved, Ceridwen and Terry Clarke for their organisational skills and providing the mulled wine, Praba Salva for providing the sausage rolls, Linda Blaney for the Booker shopping, the lovely Melissa Farmer, Michelle, Charlotte McDonald, and Jo for organising the refreshments, Dave Hayward for the fantastic photographs, the Scouts and Cubs for working hard collecting the donations and for the lovely singing. Thanks too go to Lea and Beth Sands for bringing along their lovely horses Maggie and Cody to lead the way and to Claire and Chris Jones for providing Santa with his vehicle. Last but not least we must thank Santa and his helpers for taking the time out of his busy schedule to make us a personal visit. He will be back again this year so be sure to put the 13th December in your diaries.

We had the water outage in January, and it was thanks to Hayley Roberts, who organised with South East Water to provide a water station at the Village Hall. Once again volunteers Tash Godden, Gareth Davies, Alan Hopkins, Claire Holland, Ceridwen and Terry Clarke, Linda Blainey, Lewis, Rose and Patrick stepped up to make sure that it ran smoothly and with just one or two exceptions parishioners handled the situation calmly and with a sense of fairness.

Some of the good things this year include new play equipment in the Sports Field, although the installation of this was delayed whilst we waited for the bees, who had decided to make their home under the old equipment, to move home. We also provided a larger litter bin as the one already there was not up to the job.

The children's First Aid Course in August was enjoyed by all who attended, and we are hoping to organise another for this Summer. These are made possible because they are funded by the Community Resilience Fund from Maidstone Borough Council.

We have also managed, with the help of Kent County Council and NuVenture, to secure, for the foreseeable future, the Wednesday shopping bus.

Things to look out for in the coming months.

A new Neighbourhood Watch Scheme is in its early stages, and we are looking for volunteers who would like to get involved.

We have a new website under development which will be easier to navigate and will provide links to lots of information.

There is going to be a Party in the Park on Saturday September the 12<sup>th</sup>, final decisions about the format are still under discussion but will be clarified soon.

The Sports Field car park is going to get a makeover, as soon as Maidstone Borough Council give us the go ahead.

The Village Safari is happening again this year, let's hope for better weather this year.

Kingswood Primary School are having a summer fete in July.

It only remains for me to apologise to anyone whose name I have missed and to let them know that they are much appreciated.

I would also like to thank my fellow Councillors for their support and efforts over the last year. I would particularly like to thank Chris Pink who has had to leave the council because of health issues, but we are hopeful he will be back with us in the future.

Special thanks go to Hayley Roberts, who works so hard for us and continually goes above and beyond and somehow makes it look easy.

But once again my biggest thanks go to the parishioners of Broomfield and Kingswood who with their friendliness, kindness and resilience make living here a real joy. The world is a worrying unpredictable place at the moment, but I truly believe that if we continue to be kind and support each other, we can make a difference. One act of kindness and respect, one smile at a time.

Tina Clark  
Chair  
Broomfield and Kingswood Parish Council



## Annual Report May 2026

It's hard to believe that a year has passed since last May, when Reform UK took control of Kent County Council and I was elected as your KCC councillor. As such, I 'd like to give you some insight on the things I've been doing and talk about the achievements of the administration.

Those first weeks were very intense. We undertook extensive inductions and training before moving onto committee work. Many of us were new to local government, so it was important to understand both the responsibilities and the constraints we work under. I now sit on several key committees covering the Kent Pension Fund to Local Government Reorganisation, but my main focus is making sure local voices are heard.

Working with parish councils is a vital part of that. In my division alone there are 17 parish councils, and I attend their meetings regularly. As KCC is the highways authority, highways issues understandably dominate many discussions — from potholes and drainage to speeding and signage. My role is to act as a bridge between parish councils / communities and KCC officers, helping ensure the Local Highways Improvement Plans are progressed wherever possible, while being honest about budgets and timescales.

With roads and safety in mind, not long after being appointed, I attended a Kent Police Speedwatch seminar to learn about the scheme and be able to support the volunteers who give up their time to help slow traffic in our communities. I believe their contribution is invaluable.

I've met many societies, clubs and headteachers and through the Member Community Grant scheme, I've been able to support local groups and schools. We are so lucky to have so many clubs and volunteers in Kent.

At a county level, the new administration inherited a very challenging financial position — with high levels of debt £734m, services under threat and significant savings were required. During our period in office, we reduced debt by £114million, reducing our debt interest by £3362 per day and delivered £115 million in savings, helping stabilise the council's finances while protecting essential services and in February we announced a reduced council tax levy of 3.99% - a rate lower than 86% of County, Metropolitan and Unitary Councils in England. We have also managed to save, libraries, country parks, crossing staff, lolly pop ladies to you and I and community wardens which were all under threat when we came into office.

Roads or should I say their deterioration have been a major priority. Just by way of an example, for the year ending Jan 2025 approx 2500 potholes were reported, to Jan 2026 this number had increased to 11,600. During the last year, a £67 million investment has gone into highways maintenance, one of the largest programmes of its kind. Around 50,000 potholes have been filled, along with extensive patching and resurfacing. There is a lot more to do and it must be appreciated that Kent has over 5,500 miles of roads and they've seen decades of under investment. While we cannot fix everything at once, safety-critical works are prioritised. On May 1st, a new highways contract and budget went live. This will allow a more extensive programme of permanent repairs to move forward.

We've also worked to reduce unnecessary bureaucracy, support local businesses - £55m more of contracts awarded and provided enhanced support for 500 Kent supplier companies, and ensure decisions are driven by value for money. We're leading a Kent-focused response to Local Government Reorganisation — one that aims to protect local identity and ensure community engagement rather than remote decision-making.

I believe huge progress has been made in a very short time, but there is more to do. We will continue to protect your valued services, emphasise quality, spend money wisely and put Kent residents first.

I remain committed to working closely with parish councils, community groups listening to your concerns, and making sure your voices continue to shape decisions at County Hall.

Thank you

*Sarah*