

Kings Hill Parish Council

# Annual Report 2018-19

**COME AND HAVE YOUR SAY!**

*Date  
for your  
diary*

The **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING** will be held on **Wednesday 3rd April, 7pm** at the **Kings Hill Community Centre**.

Residents are invited to come along and speak to their elected representatives about issues of concern. This is your opportunity to ask what **YOUR** councillors have been doing for you.

[www.kingshillparish.gov.uk](http://www.kingshillparish.gov.uk)

## Overview 2018/19

This year the parish council has spent a considerable amount of time responding to the Local Plan. With proposals for approximately 900 dwellings at Broadwater Farm, the impact on our infrastructure will be significant. The Local Plan is now with the inspectors and the parish council will be invited to comment when the plans are reviewed.

Around the parish, Lords Walk Residents Association won an Environmental Champions Award for their continued efforts maintaining the areas around Anson Avenue.

The new play area at the Sports Park is a great success with younger residents thoroughly enjoying the zip wire!

Coming up, Anchor homes will begin building the new retirement apartments off Hazen Road and the council will be monitoring its progress. The long-awaited plans for the church are expected to be received soon and the building of this will trigger the move of the tennis courts to the Sports Park. The parish council are also in discussions with the developer over extending the existing facilities at the Sports Park to include tennis, netball and rugby. The Community Centre extension is imminent, and the developer is consulting with us on the new facilities.

With elections just around the corner, we urge residents to get involved and stand for their local community.



## Chair Of Committee Reports

### Community Centre Cllr Caroline Bridger



We have been looking into the feasibility of starting our own community cinema. We're working out costings, what equipment we'll need, the full logistics and also visiting local existing ones to research ideas.

We looked at simplifying the pricing structure for the Community Centre. We hope it has made it easier and more accessible to all.

We have been working with Liberty Property Trust to finalise the details for the community centre extensions. This has been an ongoing project we've been working on in the background, but we are now very close to the final plans. This is aimed for next year.

We renamed all the halls to aviation themes but have retained the Jim Fry hall's name in memory of a well-respected local resident.

Once again, we would like to thank the staff for all their hard work.

### Events

Cllr Caroline Bridger



One of the first projects of the newly formed Events Committee was to arrange a community Ice Rink. We wanted to give something to our residents that they've not had before. The kids loved it and feedback has been extremely positive and well received.

The Remembrance Day Service takes months of planning by the office team. As it was the 100 year anniversary, we wanted to make it special and worked very closely (as we do every year) with the local churches and local youth groups. A huge amount of hard work and effort goes into the arranging and the weather was luckily on our side. The petals that were dropped into the boxes by the Running Air Man were a beautiful touch to remember those that gave their lives in such tragic circumstances.

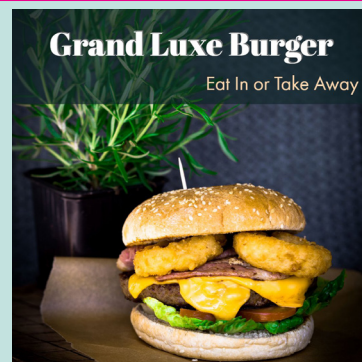


We are planning lots of events for this year, the next one on our list is the Easter Egg Hunt which should see lots of activities for the children to do.

If you are interested in volunteering at any of our future events please contact the clerk.

### Sports Park Cllr Steven Beal

This year has been an interesting time for the Sports Park. The council took the operation of the café back 'in-house' and has been working on building a new team and developing menus. Starting from scratch in the café has been a challenge but we are finally starting to see a return for the council's investment, with improvements being made wherever budgets allow.



Sports hire income has been difficult as the committee worked through the loss of a major private hirer, however, thanks to the dedication and hard work of the facility team, semi-professional clubs have been marketed and are now actively using the facilities, which is great for the Sports Park's reputation as a high-quality sports facility as well as replacing the loss of revenue.



The summer was tough, with record breaking temperatures. Our pitches were severely parched, but, with the excellent skills of our Senior Groundsman, the pitches have made a speedy recovery and we continue to receive compliments on the quality of grass that we provide.

Our artificial pitch continues to be booked out with a variety of teams taking advantage of its excellent surface, including our resident rugby training team.

Following the break-in in 2017, this year the Sports Park committee has upgraded the security systems. New CCTV cameras have now been installed, so the assets are well protected.

The committee have met regularly with Kings Hill Football Club to install a new fence and dugouts around pitch one. This required a substantial amount of legal work with the landlord and the football club and we are almost at the end of signing off this project.

I'd like to thank the Parish Clerk, Sports Park Manager and all the staff for their continued hard work and commitment which is taking our community facility from strength to strength.

# Chair Of Committee Reports

## Planning Highways & Environment Cllr Alexander Board

It has been a very busy year for the committee. We have considered and submitted our comments on the Local Plan prepared by TMBC, which will shape the future of Kings Hill and surrounding areas for years to come. This is now with the planning inspectorate for review.

There have been a number of full matters planning applications for various parcels of land within phase 3. We have continued to challenge the main areas of concern, being the increased densities over and above the outline consent, which could result in more than the maximum stated 635 homes. We also continue to lobby on proposed schemes which provide for parking at or just above the minimum requirement, knowing the issues this causes later during occupation, as demonstrated by numerous areas within phase 2.

We have challenged the travel plan submitted for phase 3 in respect of the anticipated increased traffic we believe this will create, as well as seeking to set a higher target of reducing car use. This will have an impact of the phase 5 areas, on which we recently held a public meeting and will be submitting your concerns to the TMBC planners.



We remain concerned over the increased incidence of congestion at the Tower View main exit onto the A228, as well as the increasing traffic queues at this major exit during the morning for residents trying to

cross the Kings Hill Avenue/Tower View roundabout. We are lobbying to improve these major routes for the many residents who need to leave Kings Hill on a daily basis for employment and other daily journeys, to improve their journey times.

We shared our views with TMBC on the proposed amendments to the recycling and refuse collection and have invited them to make a public presentation at our March Full Council meeting. We continue to pursue the connection of footpaths at Kent Street, have seen the long awaited first stage of the parking review commence, and encouraged the formation of an allotment interest group. The Speedwatch campaign remains of importance and we are actively seeking additional volunteers.

We also successfully lobbied Kent County Council and Arriva buses to amend the bus timetable in accordance with West Malling train times, so that more buses from Kings Hill now connect with the trains from West Malling Station. This is fantastic news for the residents of Kings Hill, whose journey's by train from West Malling should now run significantly smoother.

## Finance & HR Cllr Robert Ayling



The financial year 2018-19 has been challenging for Kings Hill Parish Council and the Finance and HR committee in particular. It started with a budget shortfall on projected income due to the unexpected and unforeseeable loss of £84,000

of income at the Sports Park, and further aggravated by the higher than anticipated costs of maintaining the grass pitches due to the extended spell of dry weather in the summer.

With great credit to the Parish Council staff, the loss has been mitigated by attracting new business to replace some of the lost income and making savings in other areas. Nevertheless both of these events necessitated a substantial drawing upon the Parish Councils 'general reserve'. Valuable lessons have been learned with regard to relying on single income streams, and revised accounting documents allow for a more efficient monitoring of the progress against budget predictions throughout the financial year.

The Finance & HR Committee met in December 2018 to discuss the Kings Hill Parish Council budget for 2019/20. The deliberations included a comparison of council tax information of the parish and town councils within the TMBC area. This resulted in a recommendation to increase the 'band D' equivalent precept charge by 10%. Despite the increase Kings Hill remains one of the lowest precept charges within the TMBC area.

On the Human Resources part of the Committees responsibilities, much has been achieved under the leadership and direction of the Clerk. A new staff structure has been implemented to reflect a more efficient approach to managing the day to day business of the Parish Council and its assets. An improved staff handbook and revised staff contracts are now in place. Overall the Parish Council staff have responded positively to the changes and their hard work and dedication in reaching performance targets is rightly recognised.

Looking to the future, the Parish Council's finances are in good shape. The depleted reserves will be addressed in the 2019 - 20 financial year. Also the budget allocated to 'Community Funding' has been substantially increased to allow the Parish Council to make funding grants to support community projects that contribute to making Kings Hill a vibrant and caring place to live for its residents.



# The Parish Council

The Council consists of 12 elected members who serve for a term of 4 years. The last local elections were held in May 2015.

## Council Meetings

The general public are always welcome at any council meetings to make comments or bring awareness to a particular issue. There is an opportunity for residents to speak at every meeting. Meetings are held in the Community Centre and start at 7:30pm. Other meetings may also be arranged during the year and the agendas are placed on the village noticeboard, outside the Community Centre, 3 working days before the meeting.

### Parish Services - what do we do?

The parish council is responsible for the following:

- Kings Hill Community Centre
- Kings Hill Sports Park
- Kings Hill allotments
- Maintenance of the playground and green in Anson Avenue and open spaces in Lapins Lane and Garden Way
- Sports Park play area
- Planning consultee
- Acting as a liaison between the community and other local organisations such as Liberty Property Trust, Kent Highways Services and Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council
- Quarterly newsletter sent out to all residents of Kings Hill Parish
- Nominates representatives to serve on 7 local voluntary public and community organisations

### Your councillors are:

Clr David Hurring  
Clr Ray Cassidy  
Clr Robert Ayling  
Clr Sarah Barker  
Clr Steven Beal  
Clr Alexander Board  
Clr Caroline Bridger  
Clr Christopher Brown  
Clr Margaret Colman  
Clr Anthony Petty  
Clr Dave Waller

**ELECTIONS**  
**2 MAY 2019**

Are you passionate about your community and would like to stand in the parish council election in 2019?

Find all the details you need on the Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council website;

[www.tmbc.gov.uk](http://www.tmbc.gov.uk)

## Budget for 2018/19 and 2019/20

2018/19 Budget (£)		2019/20 Budget (£)
<b>Income:</b>		
296,307	Precept	327,018
1,000	Other Income	250
356,850	Kings Hill Sports Park	257,200
146,625	Kings Hill Community Centre	143,850
2,475	Planning, Highways & Environment Events	2,475 21,500
<b>803,257</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>752,293</b>
<b>Expenditure:</b>		
219,620	Full Council	292,253
390,902	Kings Hill Sports Park	269,190
159,975	Kings Hill Community Centre	140,850
29,350	Planning, Highways & Environment	23,500
3,410	Events	26,500
<b>803,257</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>752,293</b>

Do you want to  
hear from  
the parish council  
on local issues?



If you would like to be part of the parish council marketing group, please send us an email with 'MARKETING' in the title to

[clerk@kingshillparish.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@kingshillparish.gov.uk)

stating that you are happy for Kings Hill Parish Council to hold your personal information to enable us to contact you via email.

We will email our privacy notice to you and it can be viewed on our website

[www.kingshillparish.gov.uk](http://www.kingshillparish.gov.uk)

