



Autumn News 2022

from
EYNSFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Welcome to the Autumn Newsletter from your parish council, packed full with useful and interesting information!

There are lots of opportunities for you to feed back to us in this issue. We are looking for nominations of Community Person of the year, plus your views on the councils plan to dispose of land and take out a loan for the new village hall project.



This month residents have the opportunity to borrow a thermal imaging camera to see where their home may be losing heat and needs improved insulation. We have the camera until the end of November, but act quickly to book a slot! Contact the parish office for details.

Don't forget to buy your amazing Eynsford 2023 calendar! Its full of beautiful photos of the village taken by talented local photographers. Only £10 and available from the parish office and other places.

We are looking for your ideas for a coronation celebration next May. Let us know what you think or if you can help in any way!

Don't forget we are here to help. You can email us with any queries. If we can't assist we will try to refer you to someone who can.

Holly Ivaldi, Clerk

Eynsford Parish Council, Parish Office, Priory Lane, Eynsford DA4 0AY;
01322 865320; info@eynsfordparishcouncil.org.uk
Find 'Eynsford Parish Council' on Facebook and Twitter.
www.eynsfordparishcouncil.org.uk

Coronation – Charles III

Cllr Ferne Haxby

It was a historic September. We lost our dear Monarch, unexpectedly, and witnessed what we do so well here in the United Kingdom, giving Her Majesty the 'send-off' that she so deserved with the pageantry and ceremony that brings the country together.



Now, we have King Charles III, who will be crowned on Saturday 6th May 2023.

This leads us to an important question What can we do in the village to celebrate this auspicious day?



Living on an 'A' Road always provides difficulties to road closing for street parties. We do, however, have two lovely meadows, Harrow and Common Meadow. Is this an opportunity to hold a 'Village Picnic' to celebrate the event?

The Parish Council would be very interested in learning what the community groups and Churches in the village may be planning for the day and is

there scope to bring it all together in one event? We will be writing out to groups and local churches to get their views.

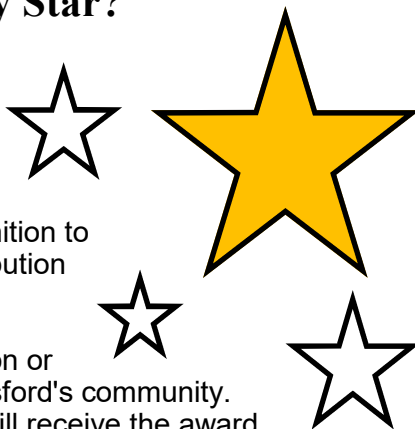
In the meantime, if everyone could let us know thoughts, ideas and/or initial discussion plans you are having and let's see if we can pull together as a village to celebrate the rule of Kings!

Email any ideas to info@eysfordparishcouncil.org.uk

Who is Your 2022 Community Star?

Holly Ivaldi, Clerk

Eynsford Parish Council is delighted to be participating in the Kent Association for Local Councils Community Award scheme again. The KALC Community Award is to acknowledge and give recognition to those that have made a significant contribution to their local community.



Residents are invited to nominate a person or group who has made a difference to Eynsford's community. Parish councillors will then choose who will receive the award from those nominated. Past winners have been Ken Baker, Pauline Penney, Margaret Newbold, Sally Coston, Ed & Iris Holbrook, Christine Witton and Lynda Newton.

Nominees must live or work within Eynsford parish. Examples of possible contribution could be: Long and sustained service to the community or part of it; achievements or actions of an inspiring nature to the local community; activities which have brought benefit or credit to the parish.

The award is a certificate signed by the KALC Chairman and the High Sheriff of Kent and will be presented at our Annual Parish Meeting in 2022.

Please use this form to make your nomination or send an email to info@eynsfordparishcouncil.org.uk

Name of person or group:

Reason for nomination:

Your name:

Please return to: Eynsford Parish Office, Priory Lane, Eynsford DA4 0AY by 12th January 2023.

Remembrance Day Road Closure

Cllr Phil Ward

The heady days of summer don't seem so far away but here we are racing through October, the trees are turning red and golden and there was a light frost on roofs this morning. This time of year is also marked by our act of remembrance for those who fought and died in conflicts past, we should also spare a thought for those currently suffering in Ukraine.

Remembrance Sunday will be held on 13th November and will include the traditional service at the village war memorial. Village groups are invited to lay wreaths, a moment of silence will be observed and the Last Post sounded. The service is always well attended, bringing together our community in a moment of sombre reflection. This year, following the passing of our dear Queen Elizabeth we expect to see equally good attendance.

In years gone by, a few drivers have been frustrated by the short but necessary closure of the High Street. This year, advance notice signs will be installed in the area so regular drivers are aware of this small inconvenience.

For a short period, between approximately 10.45am and 11.15am on 13th November, the High Street will be closed at the junction with Bower Lane. Drivers are advised to avoid the area during this time and use alternative routes via Pollyhaugh, Riverside and Sparepenny Lane.



For those attending, please stay safe and out of the road before the volunteers have closed the road and be mindful that the road will be reopened immediately after the service.

Gold Again for Eynsford in Bloom!

In its eighth's year of winning a Gold Award—Eynsford received seven individual awards ! Congratulations to all of the team!



Eynsford was judged on 23rd July and received the following awards:

GOLD AWARD

EYNSFORD in large village category

SILVER GILT AWARD

ST. MARTIN'S CHURCHYARD in Church yard of the Year category

ADVANCING LEVEL 3

THE ISLANDERS, OLD MILL CLOSE It's Your Neighbourhood category

Online Entries:

GOLD AWARD

ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGE

GOLD AWARD

WEEDS & WILDFLOWERS a private garden entry

GOLD AWARD

ANTHONY ROPER PRE-SCHOOL & KINDERGARTEN

And finally :

THE CHAIRMAN'S CHALLENGE

PAULINE PENNEY

Congratulations to Pauline who has co-ordinated the group since 2005 and thank you to the ten regular volunteers and ten more who work frequently, including the administrative support. Thank you to other residents, including the Adopt-a-Plot team, who help in many ways including litter picking, cleaning and sweeping the pavement outside their proper-

ties, keeping front hedges cut well back, and having colourful gardens. The regular SDC. road sweeping and rubbish bin emptying keeps our village clean year round.

Ten S & SE in Bloom certificates will be presented at the Eynsford Gardeners' Club Show on 19th November and the recipients who have contributed to this year's success will be notified.



Key areas that Eynsford in Bloom maintain are the War Memorial a focal point in the village particularly resplendent in Spring with Tulips and flowering Cherry tree blossom, The station area and the Village Hall drive. Several other areas are maintained including footpaths, churchyard and road junctions and spaces in the village.

Volunteers meet every Tuesday morning and first Saturday of the month. Many are in their 70s and 80s but also have strong support from some of our teenagers working towards their Duke of Edinburgh award. Come the summer months the group works most evenings and mornings with watering especially this long hot summer. Apart from the war memorial all our sites have to be watered by hand with watering cans.

If you would like to volunteer or find out more about how you can help, contact Pauline on 01322 864751.

A225 Speed Reduction

Cllr Phil Ward

The main road leaving Eynsford south towards Shoreham is the A225. Currently, as the road leaves Eynsford under the rail bridge the speed limit increases from 30mph to the national speed limit of 60mph. This is continuous all the way to just beyond Fackenden Lane,



Shoreham on the outskirts of Otford where the limit reduces to 30mph.

Shoreham Parish Council have been lobbying for a reduction in the speed limit along a section near Shoreham Station resulting in a proposal agreed with KCC Highways. The proposal reduces the current national limit to 40mph from the Otford boundary extending north to several hundred metres beyond Shoreham Station. The justification is largely to provide safer conditions near the Station for both pedestrians and drivers and also for a residential access point further north. There are several footpaths crossing the A225 in this area which will also benefit.

From the point north of the station the limit will then increase up to 50mph. To provide some consistency the proposal is to maintain this through to Eynsford and the drop to 30mph.

Although this was a Shoreham initiative we were party to early discussions with Shoreham council and KCC and responded to a now closed KCC public consultation.

We acknowledge there will be Eynsford residents in favour of the proposal and those against, we understand both arguments and the drivers for change at the Shoreham end.

Our response was to support the proposal and also to request an amendment to extend the 30mph limit further south from the Eynsford rail bridge. We support Shoreham in their aims and agree that a consistent limit through to Eynsford is sensible. We believe 50mph is reasonable given the road junction to Lullingstone and access points to Preston Hill and Castle Farm. The road is also popular with cyclists who will benefit from

slower passing vehicles.

The rationale for requesting the 30mph limit further south is to further protect pedestrians crossing the road from Eynsford station. As bus services reduce the number of rail users including school children is likely to increase. We are also supportive of local initiatives by Darent Valley Landscape Partnership and Darent Valley Community Rail Partnership to encourage tourism to the valley, ideally arriving by train. We feel this change will improve road safety and encourage greater use of the station for locals and visitors.



We recognise this response will not please those in favour of the status quo, however, on balance we believe this to be in the best interest of all road users.

Parish Council Information

Our main meetings are generally held on the third Thursday of the month and we have committee meetings on the first Monday of the month. All meetings are open to the public and start at 7.30pm. Full details can be found on noticeboards and our website. We break for public questions at around 8.30pm.

Information about what we are doing and the services we provide can be found on our website www.eynsfordparishcouncil.org.uk and also on our facebook page. We have a twitter account if you tweet!

Do pop in when the office is open to pick up bin bags, garden bags, look at leaflets and magazines in the office and to ask any questions or raise any concerns! We also offer a photocopying service for a small charge.

Normal opening hours are 8.30 - 2.30 Monday to Thursday.

Trees of Eynsford

Cllr Michael Barker

TREES IN THE CONSERVATION AREA

Eynsford's conservation area covers the central area of the village that is deemed to be of historical and archaeological interest, an area the character or appearance of which should be preserved or enhanced.

The special character of this area is not just made up of buildings; it is also defined by other features which contribute to particular views and the familiar local scene:

- the way roads, paths and boundaries are laid out
- characteristic building and paving materials
- the way buildings are used
- public and private spaces, such as gardens, parks and greens
- trees and street furniture

Conservation areas give protection across a broader area of land than listing individual buildings.

One aspect of the character of the conservation area is the trees growing therein, which can be on public or private land. Any land owner wishing to carry out tree work, e.g. cutting down a tree or doing any pruning work must request permission from Sevenoaks District Council six weeks in advance. This is to give the Council time to assess the contribution the tree makes to the character of the conservation area and if the works would damage this. There is no charge for this service.



If you are not sure if your property is in the conservation area the Parish Council can advise. Unauthorised tree work in the conservation can attract hefty fines.

TREES ON COMMON MEADOW:

One year ago the parish council planted 5 new trees on the common meadow. Some have thrived but others have done less well so remedial action is required.

All the trees have been watered on a regular basis by members of the parish council but despite this one of the new willow trees, furthest south near the Riverside Club, never really became established and will be replaced with a new, healthier sapling in the autumn. Likewise the middle one of the three new trees which appeared to be getting established before being vandalised during the summer. This one will also be replaced in the autumn. The third willow was also vandalised in the summer but has recovered quite well and should thrive if left.



The new London Plane tree appears to be thriving and should start to look quite impressive in the spring and the yew tree commemorating Peter Brown is looking good despite the drought that took hold during the summer.

In addition to the two replacement willows, a third willow has been given to the parish council so a home will be found for it among the willows so that the character of the common meadow will be preserved for future generations.

To the same end, two of the magnificent willows by the river were reduced last year in order to prolong their lives. These have grown back beautifully so the remaining three will be reduced this autumn. They will be unsightly in the short term, but by this time next year should be starting to look glorious again.

TREES OUTSIDE THE CONSERVATION AREA ON PRIVATE LAND:

Occupiers Liability Act 1957 and 1984 place a Duty of Care onto all tree owners to ensure that they act as a reasonable and prudent landowner. This requires the Council to ensure they avoid acts or omissions that could cause foreseeable risk or harm from trees to persons or property. The same duty of care is the responsibility of private landowners whose trees are obstructing paths or public highways and forcing pedestrians to walk in the road. Also if trees are obscuring road signs that could cause a hazard. It is the responsibility of the land owner to eliminate these hazards with judicious tree work.

Please take a moment to check the hedges or trees around your property and see if they are sticking out over the pavement or road. This is the ideal time of year to cut back any growth that will impede pedestrians or motorists.

A new survey of trees on parish council land has recently been carried out to determine whether there are any health and safety issues relating to our trees. The findings will be discussed at the next Parish Council meeting.

Photocopying Service

Did you know that you can use our photocopier in the office for a small charge? This is less expensive than using your home printer! A reduced price is offered to local clubs and societies. Contact the office for details.

Follow us Online

Eynsford Parish Council's website is the best place for you to find useful information about the council and its services. There are also areas dedicated to the village and community groups with the option for you to add your own events for listing. Have a look at www.eynsfordparishcouncil.org.uk

We are also on **Facebook** and **Twitter** (search for Eynsford Parish Council) where we post up to date news and share useful information. We love to hear your views and to see your pictures too. Do follow us to keep up to date! Let us know what you think and what other kind of information you would like us to share.



NEW VILLAGE HALL

Cllr Alan Cooke

Back in the summer our archaeological consultant had issued his report to the Development Committee including his recommendations for further investigations. Due to the extremely high cost of this additional work the committee looked into possible ways or reducing the extent of this work.



The committee then reached out to two independent archaeologists to give their view on the extent of additional investigation that KCC may require. Both parties concluded that because of the extent of Bronze Age artifacts found in the initial investigation, then it was likely that KCC would require a considerable amount of additional excavation. Based on this feedback we instructed our consultant to formerly issue their report to KCC, and as yet we are still waiting for their response.



However, our consultant has agreed in principle that if areas of the building and football pitch work does not disturb the depth at which the archaeology was found then there is a case for reducing the scope of this additional investigation. Our research indicates that there is no funding available for this investigation, therefore the likely additional funds needed for this work is in the order of £80k to £100k

Members of the Development Committee along with our quantity surveyor interviewed the two contractors that had provided the lowest bid. The scheme has been tendered on the basis of a two-stage selective tendering process under a JCT Design and Build Contract. The first stage of this process is where contractors provide a firm price for items such as design fees, prelims, and over heads and profit, also at this first stage tenderers produce a forecast for the main building elements.

Following the review of this stage 1 tender, the committee will enter into a contract with one contractor and then open discussions as to how to 'value engineer' all of the building packages.

At the interview, each contractor gave a summary of their companies' profile, identified what consultants they would engage for the final design work and presented a program of the contract period, which varied between 51 to 74 weeks.



We are still in the process of discussing the sale of the existing hall site with prospective developers.

The formal appointment of the contractor will of course be subject to our fund-raising progress. Recently we have held a number of events including Eynstock, which raised about £2K, Jazz event and a raffle which raised in excess of £5k, so a big thank you to all those that supported these events.

Our fund-raising committee are looking into what grants may be available and recently have made a submission to the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Spending Board at Sevenoaks Council where our application was accepted. Following our presentation to the Board our bid for £260k was accepted subject to us securing all the other funds identified in our submission. These funds included £200k from the National Lottery Community Fund, small grants from KCC as well as local fund raising, which had been identified as £122k. One other item of fund raising is through a Public Works loan where residents pay a small additional amount on their council tax (see the back page). So, we have a big task ahead of us and would welcome all the help you can give.

Scan to donate



gofundme

We will shortly be publicising on the village hall web site where you can sponsor a brick, a roof tile or paving slab. Further events to look out for are a Comedy night

and an auction. Also being planned are a Garden Safari (see below) and a Fun Run! Eynsfordvh.com

Eynsford Gardeners' Club are planning to hold a Garden Safari over the weekend of the 17th & 18th June 2023 in order to raise funds for the new Village Hall. The open gardens will be of varying sizes and layouts and may have water features or fruit and vegetables or just quirky features. Just something to interest the visitors.

We are looking for volunteer owners to open up their gardens to the public. It doesn't matter how neat and tidy the garden is; if there is enough to interest people for ten minutes or you have interesting views or a wild flower area we would love to hear from you. If you might be interested or you know someone in the Village who would please get in touch with David Ketley at davidketley1@outlook.com

Eynsford 2023 Calendars!

You can help now by making a donation online, or by purchasing one of our new Eynsford 2023 calendars that have been produced using beautiful photographs of Eynsford taken by local people. People from in and around Eynsford were invited to send in their best photos of Eynsford. A selection committee went through all the submissions and selected best ones for the calendar that matched particular seasons, were identifiable as Eynsford and were the best in terms of quality and design.



The calendars are £10 each and can be bought from Eynsford Parish Office, Raffertys, Riverside Tea Rooms and Anthony Roper Primary School.

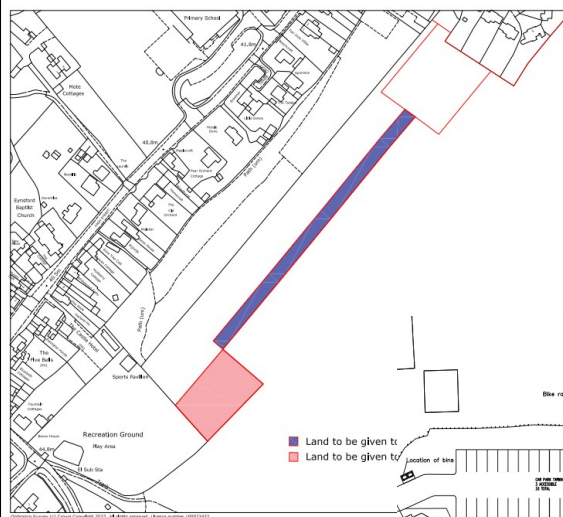
This is an ideal Christmas gift for family and friends.

Disposal of Land - New Village Hall Project

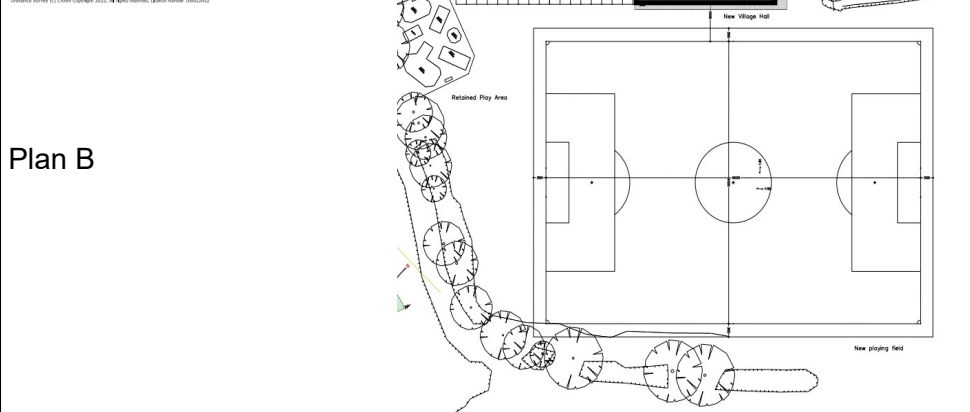
The parish council has agreed to dispose of two pieces of land to facilitate the new village hall and football pitch project:

1. An area of land adjacent to Castlefield Allotments (approx. 2850m²) that will be swapped with an equal sized area of farmland to enable the repositioning of the football pitch. (see Plan A)
2. An area of land on Harrow Meadow (approx. 760m²) in the form of a long lease to the Eynsford Village Hall Trustees for the purpose of the construction of the village hall. (see Plan B)

If you wish to comment on this proposal, please email the parish council at info@eynsfordparishcouncil.org.uk or write to Eynsford Parish Council, Priory Lane, Eynsford DA4 0AY by 10th December 2022.



Plan A



Plan B

Loan to Support the New Village Hall Project Have Your Say!

At the Eynsford Parish Council meeting of 3rd October 2022 it was resolved to seek the approval of the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities to apply for a Public Works Loan from the government of £300,000 over the borrowing term of 20 years for the New Village Hall and Football Pitch project. The annual loan repayments will come to around £24,000 depending on interest rates at the time taking out the loan.

In order to repay the loan it will be necessary to raise our precept from Sevenoaks District Council by about 28%. This will have an impact on our council tax bills. The part of your council tax bill* that is paid to the parish council will increase by approximately £2-£5 depending on your house band. The exact amount will depend on interest rates but will be along these lines.

This loan will really help us to meet a large part of the funding gap to achieve this important community amenity for you and future generations.

Please let us know your thoughts by answering these questions:

1. Are you in favour of Eynsford Parish Council proceeding with the New Village Hall and Football Pitch project? **Yes / No**
2. Are you in favour of Eynsford Parish Council proceeding with the New Village Hall and Football Pitch project if it includes a council tax precept increase of £2-£5* (dependent on your house band) for the purpose of the annual loan repayments? **Yes / No**

Name:

Address:.....

Please return this page to Eynsford Parish Council, Priory Lane, Eynsford DA4 0AY or email your responses to info@eynsfordparishcouncil.org.uk by **10th December 2022**.

*amount per bill, based on ten bills per year.