

## Who will you nominate for a Community Award?

*Holly Ivaldi, Clerk*

Eynsford Parish Council is delighted to be participating in the Kent Association for Local Council's 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.

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 2018.

Please use this form to make your nomination or send an email to [eynsford.pc@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:eynsford.pc@tiscali.co.uk)

**Name of person or group:**

**Reason for nomination:**

**Your name:**

**Please return to: Eynsford Parish Office, Priory Lane, Eynsford DA4 0AY by 7th January 2018.**



## Autumn News 2017

from  
**EYNSFORD PARISH COUNCIL**

Welcome to the autumn newsletter from Eynsford Parish Council.

This quarter's newsletter contains a range of articles about hot subjects in the village including parking, housing, and, of course, Eynsford in Bloom's magnificent Gold award!

Make sure you fill in the nomination form at the back of this newsletter to let us know who is your community hero!

The picture shows one of the new road signs in Eynsford's twin village of Camphin en Pevele in France which were unveiled last month. We hope to have similar signs in Eynsford within the next year.



Keep your eyes open for all sorts of events going on in Eynsford this autumn on our website, on social media and on noticeboards. A councillor will be laying a wreath at the Act of Remembrance in Eynsford on 12th November.

*Holly Ivaldi, Clerk*

Eynsford Parish Council, Parish Office, Priory Lane, Eynsford DA4 0AY; 01322 865320; [eynsford.pc@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:eynsford.pc@tiscali.co.uk)  
Find 'Eynsford Parish Council' on Facebook and Twitter.  
[www.eynsfordparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.eynsfordparishcouncil.org.uk)

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01322 865320**

## Neighbourhood Watch for Eynsford?

Cllr Ferne Haxby

Residents in Eynsford are always looking for ways of building and protecting the wonderful community that we have.

It has been interesting to read the posts on 'the Massive' just lately concerning Neighbourhood Watch in the village. Long ago, in my distant youth, I can remember a scheme and many houses had the yellow banded sticker in their window, but over the years saw them often faded in the sun and peeling at the corners on their door and windows!! People felt just that little bit more secure knowing neighbours were watching out for each other.

So what is neighbourhood watch? Looking through the internet, on the Kent Police website site I found this:

*"Neighbourhood Watch is a way for communities to help themselves to stay safe. Groups of local volunteers working in partnership with the police and their local council to:*

- distribute safety advice*
- help make sure elderly and vulnerable residents aren't targets for criminals*
- gather information to help police tackle local problems*
- alert residents when there's a particular crime problem in an area"*

For example, in around 2009, Woldingham Surrey set up a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme.

Woldingham is an established and well-defined community with a strong sense of identity and purpose. Residents began to voice concerns about rising levels of crime and their overall security and a proposal was put forward by a resident to start a neighbourhood watch scheme.

Initially a village meeting was held where 170 households attended. At the meeting, the local PCSO and a Surrey Neighbourhood Watch representative gave presentations and from this, a group of about 15 enthusiasts stepped forward to become co-ordinators in the village, each taking on roads and a number of houses each.

## Are you a Responsible Dog Owner?

Holly Ivaldi, Clerk



Many people in our community have a pet dog and, fortunately, most people are responsible owners. However, a few dog owners spoil the environment and the safety and enjoyment of our streets and open spaces.

The parish council has paid for several dog poo bins to be placed around the village and also pays for them to be regularly emptied. Please pick up after your dog and put the waste in the bins provided or take it home. Allowing a dog to foul in a public place is not a crime, but failure to clean up afterwards is. Sevenoaks District Council will issue a fine of up to £1000 to persistent offenders.

Did you know that dog poo can cause toxocariasis via the passing of roundworm parasites from dog faeces? This can cause a range of symptoms from a headache to fits. The parasite eggs can survive for months in soil that has been contaminated by dog faeces.

This is one of the reasons that we don't allow dogs to enter our recreation areas - Riverside Green, Common Meadow (cricket ground), and Harrow Meadow (football ground). No-one is exempt from this law and you will find signs displayed adjacent to each of these areas. As well as the risk of spreading disease, we wish these areas to feel safe for all users (not everyone enjoys the company of dogs), and we wish to avoid the risk of dogs fouling in these areas. Even if you feel you are doing no harm by walking your dog in these areas, others may see you and follow your example. We would be grateful if you would find an alternative route.



We are lucky that there are a range of footpath and other areas around Eynsford that are open to dog walkers.

for many years though and are referred to as "*lapsed pollards*" Some of the old hornbeam pollards within upper beechen wood have faults on the main structural timbers and also excessive end weight on some of the limbs. To minimise the possibility of complete collapse the trees are undergoing a reduction on the heavily weighted limbs and very minimal tip pruning of the crowns (roughly 10%), to stimulate some new growth. This has to be done with great care and any reduction carried out in stages to make a gradual change to the tree and lessen the impact. We try to maintain as much deadwood in the crown as possible especially where we have cavities and woodpecker holes that are great wildlife habitat. In fact rather than remove timber during pruning operations we sometimes perform ring barking and leave the end of the limb to die back, thus providing deadwood high in the crown and creating further wildlife habitat. This is obviously only possible to do on trees away from paths and areas not frequented by visitors to the park.

We also do this with what we call "*competition trees*" which are smaller trees and shrubs growing within the area covered by the crown (*drip line*), of an existing veteran or pollard. By pruning back or removing these trees we are helping the veterans to continue a little bit longer into the future. Even this process has to be carried out with care as opening up a tree to the sunlight that has previously been in deep shade, can cause it to suffer from what is known as "*sun scorch*" which is like sun burn in trees!

We hope to carryout a programme of work to not only manage the existing veterans but to promote new trees to become the veterans of the future.

On 1<sup>st</sup> October, The Ash Project, held a tree identification course at Lullingstone, which was very well attended. To find out more about the The Ash Project please visit [www.theashproject.org.uk](http://www.theashproject.org.uk)

Lullingstone Country Park has been awarded the Green Flag for another year. The Green flag award is the benchmark national standard for publicly accessible parks and green spaces in the United Kingdom.

We have also been awarded South and South East in Bloom 2017 Gold Award.

Activities they covered were:

Spreading the message. Signs were installed at the entrance to the village and at strategic points. These were supplemented by gate post signs for houses.

No cold calling zones initiated. An application was prepared by the local PCSO and submitted to Trading Standards which confirmed that it met the criteria. Packs were developed, containing a letter explaining the scheme, Trading Standards information and a No Cold Calling door sticker. These were delivered to houses in the village by the co-ordinators.

Keeping residents informed. Articles were regularly placed in village publications, giving advice and information on how residents can keep safe, including email scams, cold calling and briefings on police initiatives; ensuring the content was crime/ security related.

Partnership working with the local PCSO. Incidents were reported of any unusual behaviour or alerts, especially when the PCSO was on leave.

Over a 5-year period, crime was reported by the local Police, to be down by about 1/3 since the scheme was established.



Neighbourhood watch is a wonderful opportunity to bring together residents and neighbours to work together to look after each other, especially for our older and more vulnerable population.

West Kent have a Neighbourhood Watch Association and their latest newsletter can be found at <http://www.wknwa.org/>

[currentWatchout.pdf](#)

If residents are interested in forming their own watch in Eynsford, Dave Spitter, the Kent Police Volunteer and Watch Liaison Officer covers our area. For more information and to gain information to start a scheme, contact him on 01622 604395 or [dave.spitter@kent.pnn.police.uk](mailto:dave.spitter@kent.pnn.police.uk)

The Parish Council is always happy to support any initiatives that protect our communities and we can help advertise, publish news updates and promote the scheme.



## Sheds Project: Have you got skills to share? This could be just for you!

Sheds Kent & Medway Programme is an exciting new opportunity that has come to Groundwork South. A Shed is a place where people meet, share interests and skills, working shoulder to shoulder with each other. The Sheds movement originated in Australia and is defined as 'a community-based, non-profit, non-commercial organisation where there is provision of a safe and friendly environment where men can work together on meaningful projects at their own pace'. Groups can come together in many ways, including allotments, furniture restoration, repair shops, outdoor leisure activities or any activity to improve your wellbeing.

Although Sheds Kent & Medway is initially aimed at men and ex-service personnel, it is inclusive to all. Sheds are known to have a positive impact on wellbeing especially where people come together and take part in shared interests or hobbies.

We are welcoming groups, ex-servicemen and organisations that would like to create a 'Shed' to affiliate to our Sheds Kent & Medway Programme. By joining we will offer support to your group to help make your shed idea real, we also offer financial assistance for purchasing equipment, promotion and help support running costs.

### Applying for a Grant

Sheds Kent & Medway is looking to establish and support 10 sheds across the county, by offering grants of up to £5000. Do you already have an idea? Would you like to help others come together and form a shed? All groups that apply will have the support of our mentors, who will help you through the process of setting up and continuing into the future.

Information about applying for a Shed's Grant can be found at: <https://www.groundwork.org.uk/sites/south> or contact our office: 01322 384848  
[shedskm@groundwork.org.uk](mailto:shedskm@groundwork.org.uk)  
[chris.hoddinott@groundwork.org.uk](mailto:chris.hoddinott@groundwork.org.uk)



## Lullingstone Country Park

*Clare Collings, Visitor Services Manager*

The park has been very busy this summer particularly during the school holidays. 411 families enjoyed the activity trail around the park.

The ranger team have been busy keeping as many of the main routes clear of vegetation through the growing season making sure the waymarking on our main routes has been in good



order. Many butterflies have been sighted on the chalk grassland including Dark green fritillaries, Marbled whites and chalk hill blues. To help the grassland improve and maintain the flora we will be starting our annual cut and collect of all the managed areas during September/October. The grass cut is removed from the sensitive areas to keep the nutrient levels low and provide the right conditions for many of the wild flower species present at Lullingstone. We deposit the grass in selected sites around the park and allow it to rot down, this provides good habitat for many wildlife species including slow worms and grass snakes.

As we are now entering autumn we are turn our attention to the veteran trees at Lullingstone and look to carryout some essential management with one of our specialist tree contractors. Lullingstone has a fine collection of old trees including an Oak which has been dated to be approximately 1,019 years old. Many of the older trees were once managed as pollards, which is a process whereby the limbs are cut back at a height where the regrowth would be out of reach of any grazing animals (*this would be especially useful considering many of these trees were growing within an old deer park*). The timber could be harvested regularly from these trees and the process actually helps to prolong their life span. Many of the old pollards haven't been managed as pollards

protected where possible. You may also recall last year SDC issued a 'call for sites' asking for interested parties to put forward sites for development, some of these will eventually be included in the local plan. Several sites in Eynsford have been suggested which extend into Green Belt areas but no site will be formally ruled in or out until the new Local Plan is finally adopted around the summer of 2019.

These figures feed concern for our green spaces and also raise issues around the supporting infrastructure. Our roads are already congested, the water and sewage systems may need a significant upgrade, there are insufficient school places for the increase in population, medical services will need additional resource and there is already a shortage of retail space in the district, which must compete for brown-field space with housing.

As a council we have responded to the consultation, recognising the urgent need for new housing locally but at the same time pressing that housing needs to be appropriate for the area and for local needs, of good quality, mindful of the rural nature of our village and with careful consideration for infrastructure. We hope SDC take on board these key issues as the new Local Plan develops.

## Parish Council Surgery & Meetings

The Parish Council surgery is held on the last Saturday of each month between 9am and 11am. Come along to the Parish Office to speak to a councillor about your concerns.

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 8pm. Full details can be found on noticeboards and our website.

Do pop in when the office is open to pick up bin 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 and Wednesday, 9.00 - 3.00 Tuesday and Thursday.

## Parking Drives Villagers Crazy!

*Cllr Theresa Durrant*

If Facebook is anything to go by, then no subject is more divisive to a community than 'parking'. It's very easy to point a finger and blame haulage companies, commuters or mums and dads at school drop off times, but in reality the issue of parking and congestion is much more wide spread around the village than many residents realise, except for those living in the affected hot spots that is!



Hot spots such as Eynsford Rise/St Martin's Drive, outside Anthony Roper and the High Street are locations that often have people tooting their horns and swapping a few heated words, but the effects of poor parking can be problematic for many reasons, such as; the cost in repairing damaged vehicles, pedestrians and vehicles repeatedly coming into close contact, minor accidents, and, on the extreme side, loss of life if emergency vehicles are not able to navigate through the traffic.

The parish council receives a number of complaints each year from concerned residents, and whilst every complaint is treated very seriously and advice sought from Sevenoaks District Council or Kent Highways, the solution isn't always to pop in a few parking restrictions, such as yellow lines or bollards and hope this resolves the problem. The growing population invariably means more cars per household and potentially more school drop offs. A dwindling public transport service and more housing demands across the district means more road users in general, all of which put extra pressure on parking around the village. Any long term parking restriction plans need to be considered very carefully in order not to push the problem to another area of the village, where the effects of congestion may be even more detrimental. The parish council also need to consider that not all residents have access to off street parking and therefore putting in parking restrictions could be rather unfair on them.

So what can we do about the problem?

The parish council is aware that many streets in the village were not designed to accommodate the number of cars currently being parked in them. In the long term, the parish council has set up a parking committee who will be responsible for investigating viable parking initiatives. However, they are under no illusion that both budget constraints and available space for development, could limit these to small scale initiatives. The parish council and the Village Hall trustees are also working closely to ensure that parking is a consideration in the new village hall design should the project get the go ahead.

In the short term, arrangements have been made with the parish council and some of the pubs to open their car parks during school drop off and collection times, so they can be utilised by parents. However, we would ask parents to vacate the parking space as soon as they have dropped off or collected their children to ensure the space is available for other parents.



We are also urging visitors, commuters and residents to exercise some restraint and to take extra care when parking to ensure that the daily commute is more enjoyable for all of us. For example, did you know that a fire engine needs 10ft (3 metres) of clearance to pass safely? Poorly parked cars could be putting the lives of friends, families and neighbours at risk and could make a difference in saving a life.

The parish council is also currently pursuing parking restriction initiatives around the village, to ensure that the roads are kept safe for both road users and pedestrians. By reducing parking on both sides of the high street, this will help to improve visibility and prevent narrowing of the road caused by double parking and ensure that vehicles and emergency vehicles can navigate around the village safely. However, these are just small steps towards alleviating what is becoming an increasing and more pressing problem.

## Sevenoaks District Local Plan

*Cllr Philip Ward*

Few days seem to go by when housing or the lack of it doesn't feature in the news. As I write, the Conservatives are due to make an announcement regarding the building of new



council houses at their annual conference. There have also been a number of local articles about pressure on the Green Belt due to increasing housing demand. Recently, you will have received a questionnaire from Sevenoaks District Council (SDC) as part of The Local Plan consultation, the main focus of which was housing. The current Local Plan was adopted back in 2011 but already needs to be updated, due largely, to increasing housing targets from central government. The consultation aims to inform SDC enabling the plan to be updated based on new housing targets for the period up to 2035.

A few weeks ago parish councillors attended a workshop hosted by SDC to share information and opinion on this consultation and some interesting facts were learned:

- Sevenoaks district currently averages a build 250 new homes per year
- The Government target is for 620 homes per year to 2035 (12,400)
- SDC have identified sites for 6,500 homes
- 93% of Sevenoaks District is Green Belt

Since then, new targets have been proposed increasing the 620 figure to 698 per year, either figure placing significant pressure on our green fields. SDC have stated that development will be targeted at brown-field sites and that the Green Belt will be



### Community Participation

"New links have been forged with Eynsfara, a new community group, which should be nurtured to continue a great relationship. A facebook page has been set up which will allow the group to reach out to other new areas of the community. The Brownies made bird feeders from recycled materials and local businesses displayed floral window boxes and hanging baskets. Lloyds bank provided support too. Fountain Court residents maintain their own garden and Old Mill Close residents support each other with shared gardening. Pre-school children sell vegetables they have grown to parents.

The group should focus on recruiting new members to keep projects going. Volunteers such as the one from Lloyds bank could be given specific practical projects e.g. helping with the school garden. The judges would like to see more involvement from the school itself during judges' visits. The RHS can provide support of how to integrate gardening into the curriculum."

We always welcome volunteers to help with our work and new ideas and projects. We have not yet decided whether to enter in 2018, and this will depend on the help available. Our present volunteer team is aging and the time and effort they can give is reducing. If you can help, contact me on 864751.

### Follow us Online

Eynsford Parish Council's website is the best place for you to find useful information about the council and it's 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](http://www.eynsfordparishcouncil.org.uk)

We are also on **Facebook** and **Twitter** (search for Eynsford Parish Council) where we post up to date news, 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.



### How do other villages cope?

Parking issues seem to be a common occurrence across many rural villages and some residents have come up with creative ways to help reduce the problem. For example, some parents have taken to petitioning their school to open up space for designated drop off/ pick up points within the school grounds. Other initiatives include a proactive approach to educating road users by training teachers, residents or parents to issue parking tickets through volunteer parking warden schemes.



Other villages approach the parking issue by communicating the importance of walking short journeys wherever possible, which not only has the added health benefits, but can reduce household bills by as much as £50-£100 per month.

Then of course there is the common sense approach, which includes road users not double parking their vehicles, leading to reduced sight lines, but could also mean avoiding a costly trip to the garage to replace wing mirrors; leaving more room at junctions, parking as close to the kerb as possible, leaving pavements clear so wheelchair or pushchairs users don't have to step into the road to pass parked cars and of course using indicators so other road users know your intentions and don't inadvertently block oncoming traffic.

This is clearly a problem that is set to be around for a while yet, but the parish council and parking committee welcome any ideas and collaborations to reduce the parking impact on the village. In the meantime, if you are experiencing problems with parking around the village, you can find more information about reporting nuisance parking here: <http://www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/travelling-around-kent/parking/nuisance-parking#>

## Three Times Gold for Eynsford!

*Pauline Penney*

Eynsford in Bloom has received a Gold award for the third year running!

South & South East in Bloom judges visited Eynsford on 13th July. The judges were Heather Martin who had also visited in 2016 and Kevin Taitt who had never been to Eynsford. Here are their (edited) comments made following their visit to Eynsford:

### Summary

"The planting displays in Eynsford made an attractive welcome to the village. The group has a thriving year-round social and working calendar. To maintain the number of projects which it is involved with at the current standard, Eynsford in Bloom needs to ensure that new volunteers continue to be recruited or the number or scope of projects kept in check to prevent over stretching the group. Holding the presentation to the judges in the recently renovated church was a good idea, as was the pictures on the computer with the spring flowering displays, which was a great way of receiving support from local businesses."

### Horticultural

"There are a large number of planted areas in Eynsford which are maintained by the group, with the war memorial being the central focal point and the only space that is planted with formal bedding schemes that are updated regularly throughout the year. The bedding is subsequently reused at other spots in the village. There is support from local businesses with hanging baskets and window boxes on display. The railway station borders in particular, continue to thrive and provide an attractive border at what would otherwise be an area of urban hard landscaping.



Take care to ensure the sycamore trees along the church footpath don't overshadow the rose garden. The judges look forward to seeing the development of the wildflowers in Millfield and the Garden Safari next year. Longer term, perhaps the development of a new village hall might open up the opportunity for a new flowering border adjacent to it? "

### Environmental Responsibility

"The group maintains a butterfly meadow at the station triangle and has been involved in bring Millfield under village ownership, where a community orchard has been established. Litter picking takes place throughout the year and residents are encouraged to collect rainwater. The group has worked with the PCC to undertake a wildlife survey of the churchyard. Local research into the history of the area around the old paper mill should prove useful for future projects. The forest school at ARPS continues with the younger children - a tree surgeon has provide a hollow tree stump with had previously had a bees nest in it and could be opened to see part of the old nest.

A strip around the butterfly meadow at the station could be kept mown to show that it is being tended. Encourage the school to invest in training their teaching staff in the forest school which will enable them to incorporate the outdoor classroom into their curriculum. Encourage businesses to consider environmental impact eg. water butts etc. The judges look forward to the further development of the churchyard and community activities such as blossom coffee mornings or harvest apple tasking at the orchard. Also consider using Duke of Edinburgh volunteers or scouts or youth groups to help in clearing around the trees in the orchard."

