

Who is Your 2021 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 and Christine Witton.

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.

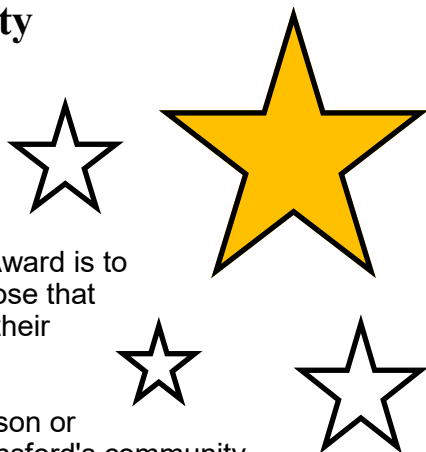
Please use this form to make your nomination or send an email to info@eynsfordparishcouncil.org.uk

Name of person or group:

Reason for nomination:

Your name:

Please return to: Eynsford Parish Office, Priory Lane, Eynsford DA4 0AY by 12th January 2022.



Autumn News 2021

from
EYNSFORD PARISH COUNCIL

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

We have great news that the second part of the planning application for a new village hall at Harrow Meadow has been approved. This means that we can get going with fundraising and planning the project along with the village hall trustees. Help with any aspect of the project is welcome!

Congratulations to Eynsford in Bloom for their Gold success again this year. We are pleased to be able to support their work through funding, and also to have played a part in the Environmental Challenge with our Green Team.

You can help us and Eynsford in Bloom by keeping your hedges, trees and shrubs in front of your homes trimmed back so they don't obstruct pedestrians or motorists using the road or pavements.

Our parish council meetings are still being held in different, larger venues, so check the noticeboards and website to find out where we will be for our next meeting!

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



Electric Cars and Electric Public Charging Points

Eynsford's Green Team

Electric Cars would appear to be the future.....

The Government has made a commitment to achieve net zero emissions by 2050. Road transport is responsible for about one fifth of emissions and the Government are therefore encouraging the transition to electric vehicles. From 2030 it will not be possible to buy a brand new petrol car.



The village survey we carried out about the environmental challenges last year highlighted 45% of respondents said they do or plan to have an electric car within the next 5 years. Of those 45%, 20% said they are unable to charge their car at their home.

The ownership of electric cars will increase over the coming years and charging points will be needed in the village for those residents with no off-street parking.

What have Eynsford Green Team been doing in response to the need for a village charging point?

In light of the above we investigated the possibility of a community electric charging point. Kent County Council is offering financial support to parish councils to install charging points in their villages on community land for those residents that cannot access off-road parking and charging.

We looked into various locations, including the village car park which is owned by Sevenoaks District Council. SDC refused our request for a community charging point stating that *"use would be minimal and could result in the space remaining empty for substantial periods of time"*.

It would be interesting to know what residents think, are you local to the car park, have or want an electric car and would use the charging point? Or do you agree that the spaces should be saved for residents and visitors with petrol cars only? It may be that we can campaign on this if enough residents come forward stating they would use the charging point. Let us know your thoughts.

offices, she is responsible for making things happen and co-ordinating the activities of our strategic partners such as Go Coach, Darent Valley Landscape Partnership, the rail companies, Station Masters, rail user groups and the many businesses that benefit from better transport links.

Looking beyond Eynsford, you are probably be aware of the major schemes already started to upgrade Swanley and Sevenoaks Stations.

Shoreham Station is also looking at a renovation scheme to turn the waiting room into a local museum and information centre, with an off-road footpath link to the Darent Valley Path and ramp access to the London bound platform.



New station signage, wayfinding signs, large planters and ongoing funding for plants, information points and posters are planned for all stations to make them more user friendly and a better experience. These improvements will encourage people to use the trains and buses rather than a car.

Keep up to date with our plans and news on our website <http://darentvalleycrp.org>

What's going on at the station?

Cllr Geoff Kirby

The Darent Valley Community Rail Partnership is becoming a reality.

With plans to improve the environments of all the stations of the Darent Valley Line from Sevenoaks to Swanley, some of the projects are getting underway.

At Eynsford, we have installed a new toilet in the old waiting room and quotes are being obtained to redecorate the rest of the waiting room.

The shelter on the London bound platform is currently being restored, using as much of the original materials as possible.

We have obtained funding to finance a feasibility study into installing a ramp to the London bound platform from the current recycling area and creating car parking space in this area, safer street crossing and bus stops. We also are funding legal searches into the ownership of the areas of land involved. This scheme is designed to allow disabled and pushchair access to the platform.

In the longer term, we have applied for funding to restore the exterior of the building to it's former, Victorian glory from the Rail Heritage Fund.

The Community Rail Network is funded by the Dept of Transport and promotes local groups and partnerships to improve the rail travel experience. You can find out more at www.communityrail.org.uk.

Our group is chaired by Linda Larter, who is Sevenoaks Town Council's Chief Executive and lead the scheme to improve a once derelict Bat and Ball Station. If you are passing, pop in to see what can be done to restore these historic buildings and give them a new life.

Sarah Newman is our Rail Officer. Based at Sevenoaks District Council



We also looked into the Parish Office car park currently leased to the Scout Association however due to the Scouts concerns over safeguarding issues this is not an option.

The new village hall site does have plans for electric charging points but this will be a few years away.

Other possible locations

There might be other village locations that may be suitable for a charging point. Whilst these are not local authority land and would not qualify for the current grant, there may be alternative options and schemes for such charging points. We have been in contact with Darent Valley Community Rail Partnership who work closely with Southeastern and Network Rail, and they are looking into installing one or more charging points at Eynsford station.

We are also looking to local businesses and whether they would be willing to have a charging point. Do you have a business in the village with room for a charging point? If this is something you may consider please do get in touch with us.

Other Government Schemes

The Government is also providing funding to local authorities for installing on-street charging points in residential areas. We haven't yet explored this with Sevenoaks DC as we were hoping to apply for the grant detailed above but this is something we will start looking into.

Community Electric Charging

One idea is for residents to share charging points on their driveway. There are services that enable people with home charging points to share their charger with the public, for example, www.co-charger.com.

Emerging technology

Technology is rapidly changing for charging points. Charging points can be now found in lamp posts around London, customers purchase a smart cable that connects to the lamp posts. Perhaps the village lamp posts could be utilised in this way.

There are also kerbside charging points being developed by a company called Connected Kerb and Urban Electric are working on charging points sunken into the ground when not in use. With space at a premium in many towns and villages and the need to keep pavements free of clutter, these could be brilliant solutions.

Map of electric charging points

The zap map is very useful to find your local charging point. It would appear from the map that Brands Hatch Hotel and Otford Village hall car park are our nearest public charging points.

www.zap-map.com

The link below is for a map showing the density of public electric charging devices by each local authority. Sevenoaks DC is within the second to lowest category within the country.

www.maps.dft.gov.uk/ev-charging-map/index.html

Summary

The Eynsford Green Team have been working hard trying to find a location for community charging points however space is at a premium and there is no easy solution. We will continue to look for solutions with the aim to help those residents who don't have an off-street charging option.

Do let us know your views on the above,
at info@eynsfordparishcouncil.org.uk.

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.



**For a large print newsletter call
01322 865320**

Moving to the evening, we are planning a music event on Harrow Meadow showcasing local bands and headliner. It won't finish too late as we need to be mindful of local residents but a good knees up is needed after what everyone has gone through. This will be limited, for safety and by ticket only. Fancy a night of music and dance?

**Save the Date
4th June 2022**

Thank you to the local residents who have been involved on our committee and helping to plan for the day.

To give us an idea on numbers for the day and also if you have any offers of help you can give, contact us at the Parish Council on info@eynsfordparishcouncil.org.uk to let us know:

- Stalls you would like to have
- Help you can offer – don't worry if you are not sure but want to be involved, we will find something fun for you to help with!
- Register your interest in coming to the evening event, so we can get an idea of numbers (only residents of Eynsford & Farningham will be able to come)

We look forward to hearing from you!!

Parish Council Meetings

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.

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.

three willows will be planted along the river bank this year so that they will be well established when the current set expire.

In addition to this plan it is intended to plant a heritage tree, probably a London Plane or Service tree in the corner of the common meadow and a new tree will be planted to replace the tree (now dead) that was planted, adjacent to the pavilion, in memory of Eynsford Cricket legend Peter Brown. An attractive Yew tree is the most likely choice for this. Evergreen like "Brownie" himself.

Also planned for the common meadow is some pollarding of the Aspens and the Whitebeam that are against the hedge between the common meadow and the Riverside Club. This is also intended to preserve their long-term health.

Post COVID Village Event

Cllr Ferne Haxby

Planning is underway for our Post-Covid village event in June 2022. This will also co-incide with the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations!

Saturday 4th June is going to be a day for residents of Eynsford and Farn-ingham to come together and celebrate the wonderful community spirit that has kept us going through the pandemic years.

During the day, a good old fashioned village fete is planned in Eynsford Castle moat. We want the groups and local businesses from the villages to have stalls to show what they have done over the period of lock-down and restriction. Also to advertise for new members and have games, cakes and tombolas for all to enjoy. Lots of local groups have already been in touch to say they wish to be involved, so don't miss out!



There will be an exhibition arena with local music, displays and kids games to keep everyone entertained. We will be inviting some groups and local pubs to put together a tug of war team to bring back the competition of years ago – maybe even a woman's team to show the men a thing or two!!!!, duck race on the river and lots more!!

Communicating with Residents & Local Businesses

Cllr Wendy Gee

In order to keep you up to date and informed of news and events the Parish Council is aware of, we are considering alternative methods of communication and would like to hear your views on how best to communicate with you. We already share information on social media such as the Eynsford Parish Council website, via our facebook and twitter accounts, the Eynsford & Farn-ingham Massive Facebook page and in local publications including Trident and the quarterly EPC Newsletters but, for example, would you also be interested in signing up for email alerts?

Other Parish Councils already do this by having a subscribe network which allows residents and local businesses to subscribe to the Parish Council for updates. If you were interested in this option, then the Parish clerks would keep you informed of news and events via email (your details will be kept confidential).



Or is there an alternative method of communication you would prefer? Please do let us know your views on how you would like us to communicate with you in the most efficient and effective way by contacting the Parish Office (see details on the front of this newsletter) or speak to one of your councillors.

Photo by [Nick Morrison](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Eynsford Parish Office

The Parish Office has a stock of black and recycling bags and garden waste sacks that you can collect/purchase during opening hours.

We also offer a photocopying/printing service at competitive prices. If you have a larger amount to do, please contact us in advance to arrange.

We can offer help and advice on a number of issues and can put you in touch with other services.

Normal opening hours are 8.30am—2.30pm Mon—Thurs
01322 865320; info@eynsfordparishcouncil.org.uk

At Last We Have It! Village Hall Project Gets Go-Ahead!

Cllr Alan Cooke

As previously reported we already have planning permission for the new village hall on Harrow Meadow back in July 2020. Since then our architects and the development committee have been in discussions with Sevenoaks planners to obtain planning consent to build three four bed houses on the site of the existing village hall. Finally, after several minor changes to the submitted plans, we received planning consent on 6th October 2021, albeit with a number of conditions.



The planners acknowledged that the application for three houses was submitted with the express purpose of providing funding to develop the new hall. The planners also accepted that the existing hall is substandard and no longer fit for purpose. Structural surveys, provided as part of the submission, indicated that not only are there a number of structural defects, but the cost of renovating the hall is unaffordable. Furthermore, even if renovated, the hall would be well below current standards, and this existing facility is likely to be lost altogether.

The planners have therefore stipulated that demolition of the existing hall shall not be commenced before a valid contract has been entered into for carrying out and completion of the works relating to the construction of the new hall. In light of the above, we now need to find a suitable developer to purchase the site from the Trustees, with planning permission, and construct the three houses.

The first phase of the overall development at Harrow Meadow will be to move the football pitch through ninety degrees to make way for the new hall and associated parking. This contract will involve excavating a significant amount of earth in order to achieve a level playing surface. To reduce the amount of spoil to be spread over a section of land owned by the parish council, parallel to the allotments, we have specified that the pitch level adjacent to the new hall should be no higher than 1.2 metres above finished floor level of the hall and the side line of the pitch no closer than ap-

The Tree Wardens chose them for the following reasons:

- The trees are native to the UK.
- Eynsford is based around the river, and the willows play an important part in being close to water.
- The willows are/ were used for cricket bats, therefore appropriate trees for a cricket ground.
- The cluster of trees can easily be accessed and viewed from the surrounding hillsides.
- They are great for shade in the public area.

The Parish Council is planning some significant pruning work to these willows to help to keep them healthy for many more years, so they may look a little unsightly for a time. We are also planning to plant some new willows which will eventually replace the older ones.

Thank you to everyone who nominated a tree this year. You will be able to put forward your choices again next year. The Parish Council and the Green Team are always looking for places to plant new trees and to support the preservation of existing trees in our village.

Planned Tree Work at Common Meadow

Cllr Michael Barker

Surely one of the most beautiful sights in this village must be the five willow trees at the common meadow, especially when there is a gentle breeze blowing their characteristically slender leaves about. All trees, however, have a finite life span and in the case of *salix babylonicus* it is not always very long, 30-40 years on average.

One way to prolong the life of these much loved trees is with judicious crown reduction so that is what is planned for the willows at the common meadow. Also, one of the these willows has a branch that is overhanging the river bank and looks to be in danger of breaking, thereby endangering unsuspecting anglers/stickleback hunters. Some reduction of the crown of this tree will be undertaken fairly urgently.

In order to reduce the visual impact of this tree work it will be staged: trees number 2 & 4 will be reduced immediately and trees 1,3 and 5 will be reduced next year, all by a top local tree surgeon (arboriculturalist).

With one eye on the future a succession plan is also in place: an additional

Eynsford Tree of the Year 2021

Holly Ivaldi

We finally have the news you have all been waiting for... the decision on Eynsford's Tree of the Year!

Thanks to our Tree Wardens, we have two winning trees for the price of one.

The People's Choice winner is: the Silver Birch (*Betula Utilis Jacquemontii* 'Doorenbos') outside Lullingstone Roman Villa.

Photo: Jacky Smith

This large multi-stemmed birch is beautiful at all times of the year and was nominated by a number of residents.

We don't have any information about when and why it was planted, so if anyone can tell us, please get in touch.

The Tree Warden's Choice winner is: the group of mature Willow trees (*Salix Babylonica*) on Common Meadow.



Photo: Amanda Gilbert

proximately 10 meters from the building face.

At the end of this September a geotechnical soil investigation was carried out at Harrow Meadow. The purpose of this is to provide advice on the design of foundations for the new hall, a soakage test for the disposal of surface water and soil profiles in the area of the new football pitch. Photos of this event were kindly recorded by a member of the Eynsford Photographic Club.

The next phase will be to appoint consultants to prepare preliminary designs in order to obtain Stage 1 tenders from contractors which will provide us with a more accurate cost of the hall build.

We all now, have to put our heads together and start the task of fund raising and getting the whole community involved. We will be reaching out to individuals who can spare some time to research and approach funding bodies for grants. In addition we would call on all Eynsford societies, clubs and groups to come up with ideas either separately or jointly. Anyone interested, please don't wait to be asked, just contact James Staniland on james_staniland@hotmail.com or Alan Cooke on agcooke49@gmail.com and let us know.

Just remember, we are building a village hall to service the community and their children for the next 100 years.

Football in Eynsford

Eynsford has two enthusiastic adult football clubs that play at Harrow Meadow. Here is a taste of what they have been up to recently.

Riverside Wanderers

Riverside Wanderers had an enjoyable early season trip to Guernsey. On our second tour to the island we faced Belgrave Wanderers veterans. We brought an enthusiastic squad of 17 and our own referee Clive, meaning we had plenty of cover for the inevitable injuries that occur on a weekend away. Belgrave had a lovely ground with a main stand, clubhouse and go-kart track round a verdant pitch.

The teams were evenly matched with Belgrave taking an early lead against the run of play through an unlucky own goal by Evans. Under the heat of the island sun we created a few chances, one of which Basham took beautifully to equalise before half time. Our manger, Fisher, rotated the squad to bring

on fresh legs to combat the younger and better rested Belgrave team. We pressed for a lead but were hit with two sucker punches as they twice broke at pace to go 3-1 ahead. Clisby scored a long range consolation in the dying minutes to make it 3-2 but we couldn't find an equaliser.



Many thanks to Tim Leach and Danny Herriet for arranging what was agreed to be Riverside's best ever tour.

We are looking forward to another season, and would welcome any new local over 35s who would be interested in playing on Sundays. Please call Gav on 07771 695171 to find out more
Sean Laird

Eynsford FC

Eynsford have kicked off our season in the Sevenoaks first division and have played very well to date in a competitive league. Having won our first fixture 5-2 versus Fleetdown with goals from Hutchins, Hutton (2), Kelly and Anderson, we moved into the next 2 fixtures vs Leigh and Ide Hill with very small squads, due to injury and end of summer holiday commitments, losing both in the dying minutes (3-2, 2-1), despite goals from Hutton (2) and Anderson.

We now aim to move into a winning streak with a settled team in the coming weeks. It is worth saying that 10 of our current squad are from Eynsford and attended Anthony Roper School, so the village is competing well, but we are always looking for new recruits, so call Mark on 07985127653.

Mark Reynolds

Brownies Help Eynsford Reduce Waste

Holly Ivaldi

Eynsford's Green Team worked with our local brownie group to obtain a new recycling bin.

We were pleased to gain the support of 2nd Farningham & Eynsford Brownies in our pleas to Sevenoaks District Council for a recycling public waste bin. The Brownies spent some time during lockdown working on the Take Action theme of the new girlguiding programme to raise awareness about an issue important to them. One of the Brownies, who was concerned about waste and recycling, wrote a letter and created a petition asking for recycling bins in the village which she sent to Eynsford Parish Council. The parish council's Green Team was able to use this letter to back up their request for a new bin for Eynsford.

We are all delighted that the new bin has now been installed on Riverside. It is a 'smart' bin and can communicate with the depot to indicate when it is full! This means that fewer wasted journeys are made when the bin is not full, saving fuel and cutting carbon emissions. We hope that in the future we may be able to obtain more of these bins for the village.

The Brownie rightly obtained her Make Change and Speak Out badges and is well on her way to achieving her Brownie GOLD award!

Let us know what you think of our new bin. Would you like to see more opportunities to recycle your rubbish in Eynsford?

Pictured: Brown Owl, Brownie and Eynsford Parish Council's Chair of Community and Green Team member.

