



# Spring News 2020

*from*  
**EYNSFORD PARISH COUNCIL**

Welcome to the spring newsletter from your parish council.

This quarter's newsletter is somewhat different to usual due to our new quarantined and socially distanced country. We will be publishing the newsletter online and some copies will be available to pick up in our local shops, until the #stayathome rules change.



We hope you find the information useful and interesting. The parish office is closed to the public at the moment but we are happy to respond to any queries you have by email ([info@eynsfordparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:info@eynsfordparishcouncil.org.uk)) or you can leave a message on our answerphone 01322 865320.

New government legislation is allowing us to hold our meetings remotely via video conferencing. If you would like to 'attend', please email the parish council for a link. Please keep checking our website and facebook page for details.

We are very grateful to members of our community for the support they are providing to those who are self-isolating.

*Holly Ivaldi, Clerk*

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

# Covid-19 – and our Villages

*Naomi Morgan*

Over the last few weeks, Eynsford & Farningham Parish Council have been working together to pull together an army of volunteers, to help with those that are self-isolating and vulnerable people. Hopefully by now, everyone in Eynsford & Farningham will have had a 'Hello' postcard through their door, with a name and contact number on (along with the Parish Council's logos). Please do get in contact with your volunteer, for any essential shopping, picking up medication, or just a friendly chat. If you haven't had a postcard you can contact [info@eynsfordparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:info@eynsfordparishcouncil.org.uk) to be put in touch with your local volunteers.

The Sevenoaks Care in the Community Group are also organising free frozen meals for those most in need in our villages.

Others in our village are helping too: For those over 70, in Eynsford & Farningham, Lizzie from Riverside Tearooms is offering a free Sandwich and Scone/cake to be delivered every Wednesday. I know she has already had some delivered to residents in Eynsford & Farningham, if you wish to receive one of these care packets, please get in touch with her via -mail [lizzie@riversidetearooms.co.uk](mailto:lizzie@riversidetearooms.co.uk).

Our village shops—Rafferty's, Norman's and Bridge House Stores have been busy keeping us all supplied with our groceries. Rafferty's are offering free deliveries to those who can't get out.

Lots of people are enjoying our local countryside for their daily exercise. Remember to follow social distancing guidelines, and please don't drop litter (including disposable gloves and dog poo bags!) and help us to keep our countryside beautiful!

We are humbled to see how everyone is working together and making sure we are not alone in this uncertain time.

For updates and lots of useful information, please check out the parish council website [www.eynsfordparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.eynsfordparishcouncil.org.uk)

**#Stay Safe, #Stay at Home**

# Bonfires – think before you light

*Cllr Ferne Haxby*

There have been some queries into the Parish Council around the use of bonfires during this unprecedented time of lockdown.

We are all trying to live a normal life as possible at the moment and our own garden or allotment is our world, at present. With so many recycling and waste disposal outlets closed, people are asking whether they can get rid of certain items with bonfires. Is it safe? What about other people? Can I do it?

## **The Law**

The law states that bonfires are not specifically prohibited but may cause a statutory nuisance under the Environmental Protection Act 1990.

The statutory nuisance occurs if smoke interferes unreasonably with the ordinary use or enjoyment of another person's property. It is also an offence to burn any waste generated as a result of a commercial activity or any waste, that will cause dark or black smoke.

## **What about now?**

There are a lot of colds, snuffles and allergies beginning to peak as well as COVID-19 and a lot of people are dealing with symptoms that could be respiratory in nature. Requests from Sevenoaks District Council, via Cllr Margot McArthur are asking residents *'During this difficult time we are all working hard to pull together to support one another so we are urging residents not to have bonfires for the safety of others'*

Although lawfully bonfires are not banned, at present, we would ask you to 'Think before you Light' and consider your neighbours and friends at this time. Try composting garden waste, if you can rather than light a bonfire.

## **Essential Burning**

If there is an essential reason to have a bonfire, please consider the following:

*Notification* – If you are planning to have a bonfire. Use the Eynsford & Farningham Massive to let your neighbours know.

*How often you burn* – The more often you have a bonfire, the more likely it is that your neighbours could be affected and may complain!

*The size of the fire* – It must be small enough to be controllable and hot enough to burn with minimal smoke. Remember fire safety. Always supervise and have water available to put out at any time

*Location* – This needs to be as far away from your neighbours as possible

- Weather** – On a day when there is ideally no wind or a light breeze, blowing away from nearby houses
- Time** – More people will be having their 30 mins/1 hour exercise during the day. Light your bonfire at evening time before nightfall when most people will be indoors.
- Suitable materials** – Only burn dry material as this will burn quickly and give off a minimal amount of smoke and smell. You may be able to burn dry garden waste, clean wood, paper or card.
- Never burn** – Oil, green garden waste, animal bedding, rubber, plastic, foam or paint as these produce dark smoke, which is potentially toxic and environmentally unacceptable.

Sevenoaks District Council have said they can investigate and, if necessary, act against any persistent offenders whose bonfires are impacting upon neighbours. People can contact the Council on 01732 227000, if bonfires are impacting on their health and well being.

By following the above, we can get on with our lives, protect our friends and neighbours and keep some sanity in these mad times.

For more information see the Government Website which offers information on a range of areas: <https://www.gov.uk/garden-bonfires-rules>

## **Beware the Ford!**

*Cllr Malcolm Richardson*

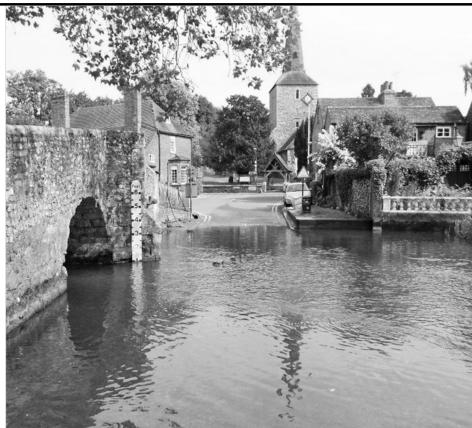
The village of Eynsford was first mentioned in writing in 864 as 'Egenes homme'. The derivation is unclear although it is thought to relate to 'Aegen's river-meadow' or 'Aegen's ford' from the Old English, Aegen being a well established Anglo-Saxon name.

The village is well known far and wide for its ford across the River Darent, alongside a picturesque hump-back bridge which is thought to have been built prior to the 17th century. In days of yore (and indeed even today), the simplest way of crossing a stream or small river was to wade through at a shallow point called a 'ford'. Villages grew at these traditional crossing points and indeed, it is thought the ford was in existence (although not in its current form) in Roman days with traffic to and from Lullingstone Roman Villa.

These days pedestrians usually use the bridge although during the sunny summer months, the ford is alive with tourists and locals alike, enjoying the relatively shallow waters, looking for fish and other creatures. And so to today; the bridge is generally used by cars although due to its narrow width and weight restrictions, heavier vans and lorries to drive

through the ford. A depth gauge is attached to one of the bridge supports showing the depth of the river – this has been checked and is accurate!

However the ford seems to present a challenge to car drivers – there it is, with the water twinkling peacefully, saying siren-like ‘come on, drive through, it will be fun’. And so they do, only to discover halfway through that, although they thought that they could drive through only one foot of water – they can’t. And thus they



are stuck with a car gently filling up with water and the odd fish. Not only that, but they have the ignominy of having to get out and flounder to the bank with local residents tutting gleefully behind their camera, pictures posted on Facebook in a millisecond. And so there they wait, embarrassed and with wet feet, for the tow truck to arrive and a very expensive bill.

Now while seeing people stuck in the river might be, to some, a perk of living in Eynsford, it does however cause a number of problems, not least sometimes due to the time wasted by local emergency services.

So the Parish Council have asked KCC for another sign to be erected on both sides of the ford which reads ‘Unsuitable for Cars’ or similar. Now while this might lessen some people’s feelings of schadenfreude, it really is better to try and discourage car drivers from trying to drive through in the first place. Fear not however, there will always be someone who will ignore the new signs at their peril. Make sure it’s not you!

## 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](http://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.



# **Latest Information from the Surgery**

*Cllr Geoff Kirby*

**Braeside Surgery, Gorse Hill, Farningham, DA4 0JU**

**Tel: 01322862110, Fax: 01322862991.**

## **Updated advice from the surgery:**

If you are showing symptoms of the Corona Virus or have been exposed to someone with Covid19, call 111 or go online to [www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk).

**Do not go to your Surgery or the pharmacy or attend hospital as you will infect others. Follow the instruction on the website or on the phone.**

## **Doctors and Nurse appointments:**

If you need an appointment for any other reason, call the surgery in normal opening hours: 8.30-12.30 and 4.30-6.30

The receptionist will advise you what to do. Only one patient is allowed in the waiting room at any one time so you may be asked to wait outside until you are called.

If you have access to our on-line service, please use as usual.

## **Dispensary:**

The dispensary is open at the same times as usual; we are however asking for people to wait outside and ring the intercom at the front door so they can come inside one at a time.

If you need a prescription picked up, call Sevenoaks District Council helpline and a volunteer will collect medication.

Visit the website at <https://www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/requesthelp>.

For patients with no internet access the telephone number is **01732 227000**.

All of the volunteers are checked and given an I.D badge from the council.

If a friend or relative is picking up your prescription on your behalf, please give them a note identifying who they are and your name and date of birth.

We have now been asked to only issue one month's worth of medication at a time to prevent stock issues.

We are working hard to help all our patients during this very difficult time and we ask for your co-operation, patience and courtesy to make our task easier and more effective.

# Community Award Winners!

*Holly Ivaldi & Ed Holbrook*

We were delighted to award this year's KALC Community Award to Ed and Iris Holbrook. They would have received their certificate at our Annual Parish Meeting which has now been cancelled. We hope to be able to celebrate with them later in the year.



Ed and Iris Holbrook wish to thank those who nominated them for the KALC 2020 Community Award. We have always tried to help make Eynsford both look good and be somewhere desirable to live. We have also raised funds for Guide Dogs for the Blind (GDBA) and been actively involved in the Eynsford Village Society (EVS) especially the village enhancement work which is continued today by the Eynsford in Bloom (EiB) group (also part of the EVS).

We met in 1954 at a dance in Eynsford Village Hall. When Iris left school she took a ladies hairdressing apprenticeship and, as her father had the village hairdressing shop, she joined him there in 1956. When he retired she converted the shop to a ladies only salon which continued until her retirement in 1989. This salon always had a strong social atmosphere and many village social events were planned there. Ed has an engineering background having undertaken the hard slog involved in an engineering apprenticeship and ending up with his own design & manufacturing engineering company from which he retired in 1992.

Iris had always had a GDBA collecting box in her shop and in 1984 organised a summer garden party to raise funds for them. This was so successful that she organised two more. Since then we continue to help GDBA with street collections, collecting aluminium and used postage stamps (both good money makers). It currently costs some £50K to provide a trained guide dog and cover its costs through all its working life. We have both enjoyed providing homes for retired guide dogs, which make wonderful companions.

Ed's involvement with the EVS started at their 1988 AGM where it was decided to create a major "post hurricane" village enhancement scheme. Almost monthly major fund raising events therefore followed and by that

summer enough had been raised (some £10K) to enable work to start. We were both heavily involved in fund raising and work parties and Ed was Treasurer for several years, as well as organising many of the August Bank Holiday Boot Fairs. We still get involved by storing/maintaining EIB tools, providing refreshments and helping keep Ford House Car Park well maintained.

We are not unique and, certainly, no longer young. The EVS will only continue to be successful if new and younger residents get involved. Remember every resident of Eynsford is automatically a member (no membership fee involved).

## **Eric Syddique**

*Holly Ivaldi, Clerk*

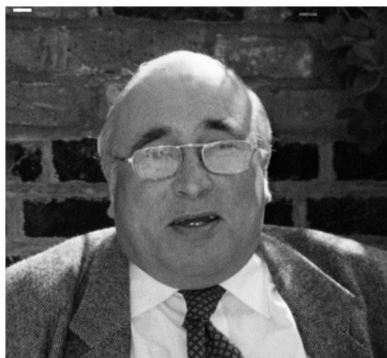
Eric Syddique died in January this year at the age of 84. He served as Sevenoaks District Councillor for Eynsford from 1977 to 1995 and was a member of Eynsford Parish Council from 1987 to 1995.

Former Chair of the Parish Council, Clive Stanyon says:

"I met Eric soon after moving to Eynsford, from Horton Kirby, in 1987. At the time, Eric was our district councillor and was also a member of the parish council. Eric was an expert on electoral law and how to run, and contest, an election, his job being at the Electoral Reform Society. He was also a liberal, in the old sense of the word, and was a member of the Liberal Party, as it then was. He persuaded me both to join the Liberal Party and to become a parish councillor. What I would say mostly about Eric is that he was fundamentally a servant of the people.

I don't think that Eric had a concept of selfishness. Those of us who knew him well could see that the trappings of materialism passed him by. His life was, pretty much, devoted to others and there was no element of self-aggrandizement. One passes through life meeting a few extraordinary people that make you think about what life is all about and Eric was such a person. I have benefitted from his wise counsel, for which I am thankful."

Hugh Darrington, who served as a District Councillor for Eynsford more recently, and was a friend of Eric's has written the following:





“During his working life, he was chief executive of the Electoral Reform Society and took a very keen interest in electoral procedure. From 2001 to 2013 he was secretary of the Electoral Reform Society's Electoral Reform International Services Company, which provided assistance in conducting elections worldwide. He was also a Justice of the Peace.

Eric's father owned a garage and an upmarket car dealership in Bexley. In fact in his younger years Eric could often be seen driving a Rolls Royce round the village, which he told me ran like a Swiss watch. When I came to Eynsford in 1998, Eric was still driving but had downgraded to a 1963 Rover P4, which he eventually abandoned on his drive, and which remained there until around 2017.

He was one of life's eccentrics. In 1968 he drove a 1936 Daimler convertible coupé into his garage, shut the doors, and they were never opened again until 2012. By that time the garage had disappeared under vegetation. This car was unusual in that it was one of the first to have an automatic pre-selector gear box. When the garage roof was replaced, I sneaked up and took some photos.

Eric had lived in his bungalow for around 60 years, living alone when his parents' died, surrounded by an ever mounting pile of books documents and newspapers. As his health degenerated in his 70s, he became incapable of caring for himself. Bob Smith, an old friend and local builder, came to the rescue in 2010, undertaking a complete bungalow renovation, putting the garden in order, and organising hospital treatment aided by an old work colleague Peter Stock. The garden has changed from a jungle to one of the nicest looking front gardens in the road.

In his last few years Eric was wheelchair bound and supported by a live-in carer. I saw him just before Christmas and he was as alert as ever. He was a committed Liberal, and recent political events provided us with the basis for a heated discussion.”

Eric was also a trustee of the Eleemosynary Charity of Henry Cox for many years, a Victorian trust set up to help elderly widowed women of the parish. He managed the funds and help to distribute donations until a few years ago when the task was handed over.

The parish council is hoping to plant a tree in the village in Eric's memory. It has been suggested that a 'yellow' leaved tree would be appropriate.

Thank you Eric.

# **Annual Parish Meeting – Cancelled**

We have decided to cancel our Annual Parish Meeting for 2020 as government has passed legislation to allow this. Our Annual Parish Meeting was planned for 1st May in the village hall and would have involved lots of people chatting and circulating—not compatible with social distancing. Instead we are bringing you some of the information usually shared at the meeting here. Thank you to our committee chairs for providing written reports for 2019-20.

## **Governance**

*Holly Ivaldi*

The council has been busy as usual over the past year. In August Cllr Andrea Cornwell left us - she had acted as Chair of Community & Environment and had led on the School Run Safety Campaign. We co-opted Cllr Michael Barker in November to take her place. In May 2019 Mrs Boyle stood down as Chair after serving as Chair since January 2015. Mrs Durrant became Chair in May 2019 but sadly has had to stand down from the council this month due to work pressures. A new Chair will be elected at our AGM on 21st May and we will be hoping to co-opt a new councillor shortly.

Much work was carried out around GDPR (data protection regulations), to ensure that the council was working within the law.

The council has been working with the village hall trustees on the plan for a new village hall on Harrow Meadow and work has been done setting up a clear agreement between the two parties.

The council was pleased to be represented at the Act of Remembrance in Eynsford and laid a wreath at the memorial.

The budget for 2020/21 was set and a precept of £81,757 was requested from Sevenoaks District Council. This is a 2.5% increase on 2019/20.

## **Planning**

*Cllr Philip Ward*

Over the last 3 years, Pedham Place has been a hot topic with the proposal for a mixed use development, including up to 2,500 houses. Most local residents have been opposed to the plan although there has been a very small minority in favour, crucially though Sevenoaks District Council has supported the plan. Sevenoaks will have received much argument and evidence as to why this is the wrong development in the

wrong place; however, there are other issues at play. Sevenoaks have been given a target for 11,312 new homes over the period of the new Local Plan, up to 2035.

Sadly, this target, dictated by central government, in my opinion, has shaped Sevenoaks' decision making and largely explains the decision to include Pedham Place in the Local Plan, albeit as a future consideration. Regardless of Pedham Place, Sevenoaks has still failed to meet the target within the submitted Local Plan with only 9,410 houses included, even after significant effort to identify land new for development.

This brings us onto the most important issue for the district this year. The draft Sevenoaks Local Plan was submitted for inspection last year but during the process the inspector concluded that Sevenoaks had failed to engage sufficiently with neighbouring councils, to establish if the un-met housing need could be offset. Consequently, the inspector has declared the Local Plan 'unsound', which may have serious consequences for planning matters going forward. Sevenoaks rejects the findings in the inspectors report; however we now are left with an uncertain future regarding our key planning policies. We will monitor this situation carefully and hope that a suitable solution or compromise can be found. In recent months, we have seen a number of planning applications approved by Sevenoaks, which the Parish Council firmly believe should not have been approved. We suspect decisions are being made that are influenced by the shortfall against the housing target. As a Council we care passionately about our community and the green space we live in, so have always looked to balance the need to preserve the Green Belt and Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty within which Eynsford sits, with that of sustainable and appropriate development. We will continue to do so.

## **Highways & Transportation**

*Cllr Malcolm Richardson*

### Darenth Valley Community Rail Partnership

2019 saw the launch of the Darenth Valley Community Rail Partnership, which aims to bring together local groups and partners along railway lines, to engage with local communities and help people get the most from their railway. The scheme has been set up in partnership with the rail companies to promote understanding of the importance of local railways, in terms of improving mobility and sustainable travel, community cohesion and wellbeing, and social and economic development. Such a partnership it is hoped, will bring about improvements to the railway and stations back to life.

There are a number of CRPs around the country and the Darent Valley CRP runs from Sevenoaks to Swanley, including all the stations in between. If any resident wishes to become involved in the scheme then please contact the Parish Council

### Highways Improvement Plan

KCC have encouraged Parish Councils to prepare a 'Highways Improvement Plan' for their areas. The idea is for the PC to consider improvements that they would like to see to the roads and incorporate these in one document. Eynsford PC have taken into account residents' comments and have submitted a Plan to the Council. Some of the suggestions have been rejected by KCC where they feel they do not comply with highway parameters but EPC will continue to push for action to tackle issues such as speeding through the village and better road markings.

### Speed Check – Sparepenny Lane & Bower Lane

Kent Highways recently undertook speed checks along both Bower Lane and Sparepenny Lane, at the request of the Parish Council, as reports had been received of excessive speed. The checks were undertaken over a number of days and results showed that, generally, the speed limits were observed within reasonable limits (with some exceptions) and KH declined to take any further action.

### Community Involvement

The PC was very pleased when a couple of Brownies and their leader attended a recent monthly PC meeting in order to raise concerns about street lighting and highway safety. They drew attention to what they felt, amongst other things, was inadequate street lighting in parts along both Station Road and the High Street due to too few street lights, and also potential danger to pedestrians at a number of places along the main road. The PC will be looking into these issues and consider possible solutions, but we welcome attendance at our monthly meeting by any resident or groups who would like to raise issues with us if they feel the PC may be able to assist.

## **Community & Environment**

*Cllr Ferne Haxby*

This year's focus for the community & environment section of the Parish Council was around 'Green' issues and how as a village, Eynsford, we can contribute to reducing the carbon footprint and build a sense of well-being for the community.

A 'Green Working Party' was set up involving both Councillors and

Residents who meet quarterly and look at ways we can bring forward information and projects to raise awareness and think about what waste are producing and what we do with it.

Various projects are underway and will continue. Over the Christmas period, ideas and information was put forward around using innovative ways of wrapping and making gifts, decorations and dealing with the waste material from the celebration period.

A new scheme came on board collecting used Crisp packets. These cannot be put in the recycling bags so the Pubs, shops, school, tearooms, nursery and Parish Council office have collection stations so people can deposit their crisp packets. These are then collated by the Council, School and Nursery to sent to the Kent & Sussex Air Ambulance who can send on to specialised recycling plants and receive a payment that goes towards their valuable work across the counties.

The Group will be looking at local food centres, pack your own shopping and other incentives to pass on to residents as well as investigating possible electric charging points.

Over the year, various donations were made (including to Age Concern, Swanley Citizen's Advice, the Dementia Café and more) and access to Parish Council land given to organisations that support and help the community in different ways to promote village life and improve the quality of life for our residents.

## **Recreation**

*Cllr Alan Cooke*

### Allotments

A periodic inspection of each allotment plot continues and this year several plots were identified as not being cultivated for some time. These plots were therefore reassigned to new tenants and it wasn't long before the new tenants had transformed these plots and I have to say, the whole allotment apart from a couple looks neat and tidy and the best it has ever been.

A work party was arranged for March 2020 and a skip provided by the parish council so that tenants could dispose of any unwanted rubbish on their plot such as old carpets, bricks, concrete and metal work. It was pleasing to see so many tenants turn up on the day not only to help dispose of their own rubbish but also to tidy the common areas. The skip was located adjacent to the parish office, to deter household rubbish being dumped by the gate into the allotment, however, it is still amazing

to find sitting on top of the full skip the next day, a rusty and dirty old mattress.

Parking in the designated allotment spaces still remains an issue. Registration numbers are requested from plot holders so that parking users can be monitored.

Bonfires are also an issue, whereby some residents have complained of smoke from bonfires having been lit during the afternoon. It is a council policy that tenants should be considerate and only light bonfires early evening.

### Harrow Meadow

The 2019-20 season started with Eynsford Football Club playing their matches on Saturday afternoons and Riverside Wanderers playing on Sunday mornings. Both football clubs have had a good season although a number of matches were called off due to the exceptionally wet January and February.

Dampness in certain of the internal walls of the changing rooms still exists. Previous attempts to improve the situation have failed, however, a number of air vents have been installed to help with the damp issues. A safety electrical inspection and testing has been carried and the most urgent recommended repair work has been carried out.

### Play Area

A regular inspection of the play equipment is carried out throughout the year and most minor defects are rectified. The equipment is also inspected by an external consultant in accordance with EN 1176:2008 and provides a risk assessment of the play equipment and identifies maintenance in the high, medium and low risk categories.

Wet rot noted in the leg of one of the support post to the main swing became significant and the whole of the frame work was replaced under the guarantee. In places, the soft surfacing may need to be repaired or replaced at some stage and the PC is looking at the cost of replacing this surfacing.

The fence around the play area was cleaned and treated with a wood preservative. Shortly after this work had been completed it was sad to see part of the fencing vandalized and had to be repaired.

The condition of some timber support members to the 'trim trail' is deteriorating and is being closely monitored. It may well be that this equipment will have to be removed.

### Riverside

Parking along Riverside, particularly during the hot summer period, is still

an issue with visitors ignoring the double yellow lines. The PC has made enquiries of Sevenoaks as to how this can be better enforced. The PC have made enquiries of Sevenoaks to see if they could make more frequent rubbish collections or provide larger waste bins during summer holiday period, unfortunately, Sevenoaks were unable to help.

### Common Meadow

Common Meadow is generally maintained by the grounds man of the cricket club and made an enjoyable setting for the gardeners' club annual show. However, certain parts of the field became flooded due to the very wet winter. The Guy Hart Dyke bench has been installed and a commemoration ceremony is to be held during the summer of 2020.

### Other

Two family fun days were arranged and supported by the PC during the school holidays with excellent feedback from both the children and parents.

In August councilors carried out their annual inspection of all Parish Council owned land and property and those items which were in need of urgent repair were identified and an appropriate budget agreed.

### New Village Hall

The sub development committee has worked closely with the architect and other consultants in order to reach a suitable layout for the building and to be able to submit a planning application for both sites during December 2019. Some feedback has been received from the planners, particularly regarding the three houses on the existing site, where they wanted a change to the building size and an amendment to the external finishes. Revised drawings have been submitted and a decision from Sevenoaks is now expected in June 2020.

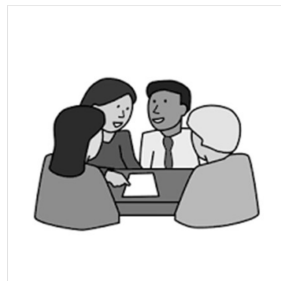
The overall cost of the project comprises the quantity surveyor's estimate for the hall and car park, combined with the cost of turning the football pitch around and consultants' fees. Funds at present include a donation from the parish council, current funds from the village hall trustees and an anticipated sum from the sale of the existing hall site, which means that a figure in the order of £900k has to be raised.

Another committee has been formed to co ordinate fund raising and publicity activities. Two people have put their names forward to join this committee and it is hoped that one member from each user group will volunteer and act as a key contact for the different groups.

# Your Council Needs You!

*Holly Ivaldi*

We are looking for a new parish councillor for Eynsford. It could be you!



We are a friendly, but busy council and meet two times a month on the first Monday and third Thursday of the month. The council consists of 8 councillors supported by two part-time Clerks.

If you are keen to get more involved in the community, this is an excellent opportunity. The role of councillor is voluntary, but you may reclaim out of pocket expenses incurred while fulfilling your duties.

Parish Councils are the third tier of local government and we have a variety of powers and are also statutory consultees on a variety of issues.

Our work includes:

- Responding to consultations on planning applications in the parish.
- Responding to consultations on planning policy.
- Lobbying for changes and improvements to Highways safety, and schemes and requesting repairs.
- Working with other village organisations on community initiatives and changes to our village environment.
- Maintaining green recreation and verge areas within the village.
- Providing allotment plots for local residents.
- Maintaining buildings owned by the parish council.
- Maintaining and providing amenities such as litter bins and benches.
- Supporting local groups and charities.
- Communicating with Eynsford residents via our newsletter, website and social media.

Applicants must be:

- Age 18 or older
- Eligible to vote\*
- Resident in Eynsford or within 4.8km for the past 12 months, or principally working in this area for the past 12 months.
- Without a criminal conviction resulting in a sentence in the past 5 years.

\*full conditions are available on request.

To find out more contact the Clerk on [info@eynsfordparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:info@eynsfordparishcouncil.org.uk) or speak to one of the Councillors. To apply, please contact the Clerk.