

material from gardens, it provides suitable habitats and food for wildlife, the basket looks attractive with the green foliage and it is great fun (it really is!).

This hanging basket uses single flowers, which provide a colourful display that will provide plenty of food for bees and other pollinators. Hanging baskets often use bedding plants which are double-flowered, (more than one layer of petals) or are bred for long-lasting colour and don't tend to have accessible pollen or nectar for wildlife. The basket is lined with conifer clippings and lawn moss from the garden, rather than sphagnum moss, which is often taken from peat bogs. This provides hiding places for insects and is good for recycling.

Suggestions of suitable plants include Bidens, Calibrachoa, Diascia, Helitropium arborencens, Lobelia erinus, Lobularia maritima, Petunis and Verbena.

Many of these ideas would also be relevant for your pots and other planters in your garden.

The Village would look even more beautiful if we could make a display in our front gardens of wildlife-friendly planters. (Although the insects would also like a wildlife-friendly hanging basket in your back garden!). Not only would this be great for wildlife, and create an attractive feature in your garden, but it would also help with our 2021 entry to Eynsford in Bloom.

If you need help sourcing any of the equipment, materials or plants please let us know as we might be able to help!

The full tutorial is available on our website at [https://www.eynsfordparishcouncil.org.uk/post-make\\_your\\_own\\_wildlife\\_friendly\\_hanging\\_basket33.html](https://www.eynsfordparishcouncil.org.uk/post-make_your_own_wildlife_friendly_hanging_basket33.html)

Alternatively email or call us to receive a digital or hard copy of the tutorial.

We would love to see your planted containers and baskets. Post your photos on the Eynsford Parish Council facebook page or email [info@eynsfordparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:info@eynsfordparishcouncil.org.uk)  
*Kaz Langridge, for Eynsford's Green Team*



# Spring News 2021

from  
**EYNSFORD PARISH COUNCIL**

Welcome to the Spring Newsletter from your parish council.

Lots has been going on with the parish council despite the lockdowns. We have managed to pursue various projects including the housing needs survey and allotment extension described in this newsletter. We have also been working with the village hall trustees to push ahead with the new village hall project. Hopefully you have all received and responded to a separate leaflet about this.

We have become adept at 'Zoom' meetings but find we have to return to face to face meetings in May—socially distanced, of course.

The Green Team (a subcommittee of the parish council including members of the community) has also been busy and you will see details of the Tree of the Year competition and the Wildlife Friendly Hanging Baskets inside as well as plans to provide electric vehicle charging points. Thank you to everyone who responded to our survey, and those who volunteered to help—we are working on different opportunities for you to get involved.

The parish council is planning its Annual Parish Meeting on 25th June 2021 in the village hall, subject to government guidelines. We hope this will be an opportunity for you to speak to councillors face to face as well as other local agencies and charities, and to let us know what issues concern you.

In 2022 we are hoping to hold a post-covid party! We would like everyone to be involved and more information will be available as plans develop.

*Holly Ivaldi, Clerk*

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Find 'Eynsford Parish Council' on Facebook and Twitter.  
[www.eynsfordparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.eynsfordparishcouncil.org.uk)

## Community Award for Christine!

We are delighted that the 2021 Kent Association of Local Councils Community Award for Eynsford has been won by Christine Witton.

Many of you will have seen Christine on her daily walk around the village, sometimes with her dog Bella, collecting litter.

Christine says: 'Daily I collect along the High Street, Farmingham High Street, Sparepenny Lane, Crockenhill Lane down past Eagle Heights and back to Station Rd (I have to mention that Carol (Friends of Farmingham also covers the High Streets and Sparepenny Lane). Every other day I will either litter pick the main road down to Castle road up to the Hop Farm along the river path and along Lullingstone lane or Beesfield Lane, Donkey lane and along the A20 back into Farningham. Once a week I litter pick Upper Austin Lodge Road. On alternate months Carol and I will clear Button Street and Eglantine Lane.'

Christine is a medically retired ward sister and tissue viability nurse specialist, she has a chronic back condition which now no longer allows her to run long distances so, instead, she walks long distances with or without her dog Bella. Christine moved to Eynsford with her partner Wayne in 2011.

Christine's litter picking started about four years ago after taking a walk up Crockenhill Lane and being shocked by the amount of rubbish on the road and verges. This prompted her to start collecting litter.

Christine says: 'As I do not enjoy gardening I feel that litter picking contributes to Eynsford in Bloom and the Friends of Farningham. I also have



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Lots of comments accompanied the survey bringing into focus the need for affordable housing but respecting the green belt. Traffic, parking and infrastructure questions were also raised to support any further housing.

Next steps for the Parish Council will be working with RKAC and Sevenoaks District Council, to consider the results from the survey and how this fits into the affordable housing programme for the district.

The full report can be seen on our website at [https://www.eynsfordparishcouncil.org.uk/article-eynsford\\_housing\\_needs\\_survey.html](https://www.eynsfordparishcouncil.org.uk/article-eynsford_housing_needs_survey.html)

*Cllr Ferne Haxby*

## Make Your Own Wildlife-Friendly Hanging Basket

We are pleased to announce a joint initiative between Eynsford's Green Team, Eynsford Gardeners' Club and Eynsford in Bloom.

Brighten up your garden, make it more attractive to wildlife, and help to make Eynsford more beautiful for the Eynsford in Bloom competition!

Are you currently choosing bedding plants for your garden hanging baskets and containers? Why not have a go at creating a wildlife-friendly hanging basket.

We have put together some ideas to help you make your hanging baskets more attractive to bees and other pollinators. This includes;

- ideas on lining your planter so that it is more wildlife-friendly and incorporates recycled materials,
- some suggestions for more wildlife-friendly, colourful and scented bedding plants, and,
- ideas to help with manual watering.

Creating this hanging basket makes good use of readily available plant



## Eynsford Housing Needs Survey January 2021

Sevenoaks District Council as part of a 5 year programme is looking at local housing needs. In November 2020 they approached Rural Kent Action with Communities to undertake a survey within Eynsford to establish whether there was a need for affordable housing for people who live in or have close ties to Eynsford. There was also an opportunity to investigate the needs of older households who may be in need of alternative housing.

Rural Kent Action with Communities is a charity that provides direct advice and support to community organisations by developing and managing projects, providing information guidance and networking opportunities to help rural communities identify and address local needs.

The Parish Council were happy for this to be undertaken as it would give an overall picture of the housing requirements. A survey was posted to every household and out of 845 distributed, 167 surveys were returned – a 20% response rate.



The survey covered all aspects of living within the village including size of house, whether owned or rented. How long people had lived in the village and whether family members have had to move away. It also asked whether residents supported a small development of affordable housing. A second part of the survey asked those people who deemed themselves in need of alternative housing to answer some questions.

From the surveys returned, 92% of respondents were owner occupiers and 75% had lived in Eynsford for over 10 years. People completing the second part of the survey revealed there was a need for five affordable homes and eleven homes for older households.

friends in different places that are happy for me to leave my full sacks and the council workers who empty the bins provide me with sacks and collect my sacks which I leave near the bins.'

Well done Christine, we are very grateful for this amazing service you provide for our village.

A certificate from Kent Association for Local Councils will be presented to Christine when conditions allow.

Thank you to everyone who nominated someone for the award, unfortunately the council could only choose one winner.

*Holly Ivaldi, Clerk*

## Castlefield Allotments

Over the last couple of years the Castlefield allotments have been transformed with neatly cut pathways between plots which have recently been covered in wood chip, the introduction of raised planters, and a variety of small sheds many constructed out of old pallets. There is certainly a community feel where people can exchange ideas.

A zoom meeting was held between a number of the tenants and the parish council to discuss issues in setting up an Allotment Society. The main benefit to the Society is the purchase in bulk of horticultural products as well as access to a wealth of experience and knowledge. The parish council is still waiting for a decision as to whether sufficient tenants want to take this forward.



During lockdown it was evident that people had more time available to spend at the allotments, this was not only rewarding in terms of getting a head start on propagation but also helped on the mental wellbeing of individuals.

At the start of the year there was a waiting list of at least ten people wanting an allotment plot so the council agreed to the expenditure to clear an area at the southern end of the existing plots. This area comprised three



small trees a lot of small saplings and surrounded by bushes and well established small saplings. The first job was carried out by two volunteers to fell the trees and then cut back the undergrowth around the perimeter.

A small excavator was hired for two days, to strip the site and push unwanted earth and saplings to around the perimeter and to excavate any large roots. Our thanks go to the Alexander's for allowing the machine to access the allotments via their field. Seven plots were pegged out and within a couple of weeks all plots were let and new tenants have made a start in digging over and some installing raised beds. Shortly the southern gate will be moved back and a post rail fence installed along the southern boundary. The gap in the hedge will be refilled as there is no public access to the allotments.

Next year the intention is to extend the water supply and introduce a further trough or tank. Here's to a successful first crop on the new allotments.

*Cllr Alan Cooke*

## **Eynsford Tree of the Year: A Celebration of our Village Trees Nominate Your Favourite Tree!**

You may be aware of the Woodland Trust's annual Tree of the Year contest (<https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/trees-woods-and-wildlife/british-trees/tree-of-the-year/>) which aims to showcase the UK's favourite trees to help promote their value and need for protection.

We thought it would be fun to run a similar contest for our village trees, after all we are the place where Arbor Day first started in the UK in 1897!

So, do you have favourite tree in the village? Perhaps a tree which you think is a perfect example of that species. Alternatively, is there a tree in the village that makes you smile



parking spaces adjacent to the council office, although these are not available 24/7 and are limited in number plus not very conveniently situated.

Anywhere else would be more complicated at present. There will be publicly available charge-points at the new village hall but that is still some way off. Pubs and clubs will probably have charge-points installed in due course if there is sufficient demand from customers, as will the railway station. It is uncertain how accessible these will be to the general public.

Meanwhile the parish council would be interested to hear from anyone who is considering going electric but would rely on publicly accessible charge-points to get an idea of the likely demand.

*Cllr Michael Barker*

## **Post-Covid Village Event**

The past year and this has been history making. Nationally, we have experienced illness, tragic deaths and enforced lockdowns. Locally, the village closed its doors but there emerged unsung heroes in our local hospitals, care agencies and volunteers who went more than beyond to ensure our community was supported.



Eynsford Parish Council is working with a group of residents to bring the villages of Eynsford, Farningham and Lullingstone back together for a post COVID event in June 2022. We want to show what people have been doing in lockdown, regenerate groups, recognise the wonderful things that have been happening and enjoy each other's company again.

All the local community groups will be contacted together with local businesses and cottage industries around the villages to put on a good old fashioned village fete with stalls, kids games, tug of war, beat the goalie and lots of other fun things. In the evening, we are planning dancing and a hog roast and beer tent with local bands. Something for everyone!

We want everyone involved so if you have any skills to help us, contact Holly or Naomi at the Parish Council office and come on board. It's going to be a wonderful event! We don't want you or your group or business to miss out.

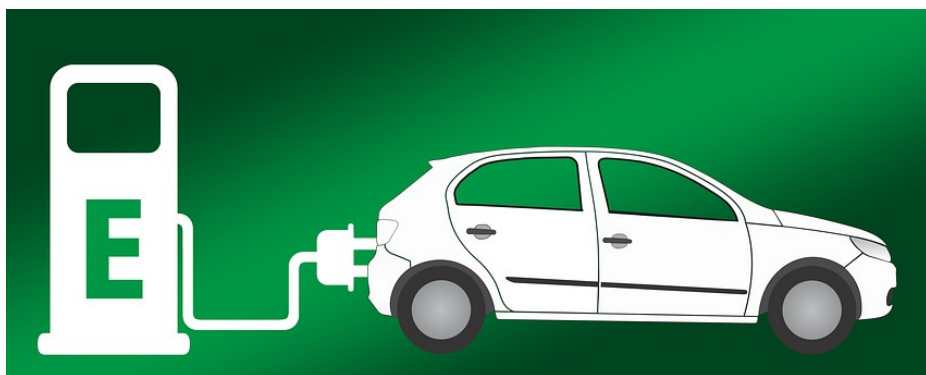
*Cllr Ferne Haxby*

## Reducing Emissions: Electric Vehicle Charging Points

Road transport is one of the most significant sources of greenhouse gases in the earth's atmosphere and is also a major source of air pollution. Reducing emissions from road transport is a challenge for the government as it strives to achieve net zero emissions by 2050. According to the official figures road transport is responsible for about one fifth of the UK's total greenhouse gas emissions.

Part of the government's strategy for reducing GHG emissions from vehicles is to encourage the transition to electric vehicles for private use. The number of low, ultralow and zero emission cars on the road in the UK is rising but still low (less than 2%) but will rise as internal combustion is phased out.

Kent County Council, as part of its drive to reduce emissions in the county, is supporting the installation of publicly accessible charging points in towns and villages throughout the county and is offering substantial financial support to parish councils that would like to install them in their villages, particularly for those parishioners that do not have private off-road parking and cannot install their own chargers.



Eynsford Parish Council supports this initiative and would like to install charge-points in the village. The challenge is to identify appropriate sites. The ideal scenario would be a parish council owned building with multiple parking spaces close to a residential area without off-road parking. The village car park seemed the obvious place and would cater for people living along the high street. Unfortunately this car park is owned by Sevenoaks District Council and so far the relevant official in SDC has not been receptive to the idea. We will continue to pursue this. Another option is the

or brings back happy memories? Or maybe a tree which you think embodies Eynsford village?

If so, then why not **nominate it for Eynsford Tree of the Year**. To nominate your tree please email [info@eynsfordparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:info@eynsfordparishcouncil.org.uk) or drop in a note to the parish office, and tell us;

- which tree you wish to nominate (the tree must be within Eynsford parish)
- a few lines about why you are nominating this tree.
- the location of the tree, and the species (if you know it)
- and ideally please include a photo

Nominations need to reach us by June 2021. The winner will be chosen by our Tree Wardens and a representative from our Green Team. The winning tree will be unveiled, rather more Arbor than Oscar-style, the following month. There are no prizes if your chosen tree is picked - it's just for fun. But, the winning tree and its story, will be featured on our website, social media and in our next newsletter.

The Arbor Day Movement was established in America in 1872 where one day each year is set aside as a festival to plant trees. A similar event was established in England in 1897 in the Kent village of Eynsford.

*Jane Laird for Eynsford's Green Team*



### 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.

## Managing Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour

The parish council set up a working group to look at crime and behaviour that impacts on the lives of residents. This was prompted by the increase of visitors to Eynsford during the pandemic and lockdown period whilst options for getting out and about were limited.

We have reviewed particular areas of concern, and have consulted with Kent Police about the best ways in which to report and manage crime and anti-social behaviour.

Areas we have investigated are as follows:

- Lack of Social Distancing (particularly on Riverside and around the ford): we will be putting up additional signage about this.
- Anti-social behaviour: we have obtained advice from Kent Police which is available on our website. Please report all incidents to the police.
- Lack of Toilet Facilities: we will work with local businesses such as the Tea Rooms to provide toilet facilities for visitors.
- Littering and Rubbish: An additional bin was installed on Riverside in the autumn to help to deal with the quantity of litter left at Riverside during the summer months. We are also lobbying Sevenoaks District Council about bins to separate recycling from general waste.
- Use of BBQs: signage is already up on Riverside. We will see whether this can be improved. Police have been informed about the byelaws.
- Misuse of river by 4x4s and horses: we are re-installing the chain across the river and will continue to monitor the situation, involving the



We continue to work night and day, 365 days a year, to keep you safe.

Our tried and tested plans allow us to focus on what's most important and work together with communities across Kent.

Thank you for supporting us and the vital work we do with our emergency services partners.

**#stayhomesavelives #covid19**

If you need us:

- Report a non-urgent crime or incident online at **[www.kent.police.uk/report](http://www.kent.police.uk/report)**
- In an emergency, call **999**
- If deaf or speech impaired, text 'police' and your message to **60066**
- For advice and information visit **[www.kent.police.uk](http://www.kent.police.uk)**
- For the latest news follow **@kent\_police** on Twitter or find us on Facebook



**Protecting and serving**  
the people of Kent

police if necessary.

- Nuisance Illegal Parking: We have worked with SDC to create 'no loading/waiting' zones at areas at Riverside that suffer from illegal parking which often causes blockages.
- Drug use: reports of drug use should be sent to the police. A leaflet about this is included on our website.
- Local Watch Schemes: we discussed how to raise general awareness of crime in the village and how to encourage reporting and sharing of information. We have set out our ideas in more detail below.

### Local 'Watch' Groups

We would like to encourage YOU to set up local groups within the village to monitor and report crime. We know that some streets already have WhatsApp or email groups that they use to share information. This is a great way to share information about crime or suspicious activity. It would also be great if your group leader could be in touch with neighbouring streets/areas, so that the information is 'passed along the chain'.

Important things to consider:

- Ask permission of people in your group to use their phone number or email address as it may be visible to others.
- Report all incidents to the police using 999 or 101 as appropriate.
- Communicate with the next group in case the criminals are working through the village.
- If people in your group have CCTV on their properties this information might be useful to the police.
- Let us know if you have set up a group (or have one already)
- Not everyone is online, or has a smartphone. Please be prepared to share information with some residents in other ways.

Further information from Kent Police is available on our website at [https://www.eynsfordparishcouncil.org.uk/spage-parish\\_council\\_information-managing\\_crime\\_and\\_anti\\_social\\_behaviour.html](https://www.eynsfordparishcouncil.org.uk/spage-parish_council_information-managing_crime_and_anti_social_behaviour.html)

*Holly Ivaldi, Clerk*