



# Summer News 2016

from  
**EYNSFORD PARISH COUNCIL**

Welcome to the Summer newsletter from Eynsford Parish Council.



There are lots of interesting articles including one on the proposed development sites which I know many of you are keen to know more about. Don't forget our family fun day on 17th August - a free day out for everyone!

May saw the Council's Annual Meeting where Sarah Boyle and Phil Ward were re-elected as Chair and Vice Chair respectively. Thank you to them and the other councillors for their continuing work.

*Holly Ivaldi, Clerk*

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

## Eynsford Parish Councillors' Annual Walkabout

*Cllr Sarah Boyle, Chair of the Parish Council*



If anyone sees a group of Eynsford Parish Councillors outside the Five Bells at about 9.30am on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> August, please be assured that the troubles and travails of EPC work haven't yet driven us to drowning our sorrows quite that early! It is because that is where we start our annual walk around the Village, mainly to examine the areas and property owned by the Parish Council (on behalf of the village).

These include not only Common Meadow (Cricket Field), Harrow Meadow (Football Field), Riverside, the Local History building (old loos), Parish Office, the War Memorial, the allotments with associated car park and nature area but also many items upon them such as benches, noticeboards, bins, lamp posts etc. In addition, it is also a good opportunity to identify issues that need to be reported to Sevenoaks District Council or Kent County Council (such as dog bins, salt bins, bus stops, road signage, fencing by the ford and areas where pavements or road need repair).

In addition, it is a very useful way for Councillors to refresh or learn about the layout of the village and visit bits of it where they may not have set foot before (last year several Councillors saw the Old Mill

## Twinning News

*Holly Ivaldi, Association de Camphin et Eynsford*

At the end of May a group of children from the two primary schools in our twin village of Camphin en Pévèle spent a day at Anthony Roper Primary School taking part in all sorts of activities and making connections with the children there. Members of both committees also took the opportunity to meet together and discuss plans for the coming year.

### Trip to France

We are organising a weekend coach trip to France on 3/4 September – visiting Le Grande Braderie – the biggest flea market in Europe in Lille, staying with host families in Camphin en Pévèle (or a hotel) and visiting the historic city of Tournai just over the border in Belgium. This would be an excellent opportunity to get to know the area better, to practice your French and to make new connections. Full details are available from [eynsfordtwinning@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:eynsfordtwinning@yahoo.co.uk) or call 01322 862405. Leaflets are also available in local shops.

### Moules-Frites Night

Due to popular demand, we will be putting on another Moules-Frites evening in Eynsford Village Hall on 30<sup>th</sup> September. A French meal, good company and possibly a fun quiz will be on offer for only £12 adults/£5 children. There will also be alternative options. To reserve your tickets contact [govusg@btinternet.com](mailto:govusg@btinternet.com).

### French Visit to Eynsford

We are looking forward to welcoming a group from Camphin en Pévèle on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> October in Eynsford. The plan is that they will visit the Roman Villa and Lullingstone Castle and that we will provide lunch for them at St Martin's Church. If you would like to be involved in helping out with this visit or meeting our French guests, then please get in touch.

### Membership and More

We welcome new members to the Association de Eynsford et Camphin – membership is only £5 family/ £3 single. Don't forget to follow us on Facebook – look for 'Association de Camphin et Eynsford'.



## LED Streetlighting

*Cllr Malcolm Richardson, Chair of Highways & Transportation*

The Parish Council have decided to install new LED lamps to all 77 streetlights in Eynsford over the coming months. The new lights will lead to significant reduction in the Council's energy bill for streetlights (between 65% and 70%) and carbon emissions. They also have a life span of up to 25 years, or 100,000 hours use, and thus both maintenance costs and failures should be reduced. Other Parish, District and County Councils are also replacing their lamps – Kent County Council are replacing all 118,000!

The total cost of replacement will be £15,500 for all lights, and the Council have managed to find the money within the existing budget, although some upgrading of certain streetlights may be delayed for a year or two. The total energy bill for lighting is some £3,000 p.a., so assuming a reduction in consumption of 65%, the LEDs should pay for themselves in approximately eight years.

The installation of the new LED lamp is straightforward and takes approximately 15 minutes per light, so there should be little disruption to residents.

The lamps have a different light to the previous sodium ones in that they are predominately white rather than orange. This 'neutral white' light, to some, may appear brighter than before, but the general output is similar. The light from the LEDs focuses downwards rather than spilling into surrounding gardens, driveways and windows of surrounding properties and also reduces light pollution. The white light also allows colours to be more easily identified.

The new technology means that the lights can be dimmed and therefore, initially, the lights will revert to being switched on all night during the hours of darkness, although they will be dimmed by up to 50% after a certain time (probably midnight or one o'clock) to further reduce energy consumption.

The contract is shortly to be placed and we would hope that the work will start within the next two months. However should any resident have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Parish office.

Close weir for the first time) which is of great assistance when trying to visualise where the site of a planning application being discussed is or talking to a parishioner about a specific place related issue.

All issues are recorded during the walk and later discussed with the Clerks to ensure that SDC and KCC are advised of any issues that are their responsibility. Those remaining will be discussed at a Council Meeting and prioritised on a high, medium or low basis. Where possible those with a "high" rating will be dealt with immediately or put into the budget for the following year. In addition, those which are quick and easy (and preferably cheap) will also be dealt with.

So if you see us on 20<sup>th</sup> August during our walkabout (you'll know us by the clipboards we are carrying) please come and talk to us. Let us know of any problems with which you think we can help or any areas that need special attention.

In case you don't see us on the day feel free to advise the Clerks in advance (e-mail: [eynsford.pc@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:eynsford.pc@tiscali.co.uk), telephone no: 01322 865320) and we can slot it in to our programme. Alternatively, there is a good chance you will find us in the 5 Bells at about 12.30pm enjoying a well-deserved cool drink after a long (and if last year is anything to go by) hot walk.

## 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.

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

## Trees in Eynsford

*John Gee, Tree Warden for Eynsford Parish Council*

The tree wardens have been busy since the last Newsletter looking at permissions to remove, reduce or raise crowns on many trees in the conservation area of Eynsford. At least one tree was victim to the strong winds we experienced over the winter period. If you are in the Conservation Area and need to carry out any works to trees either on your land or overhanging from a third party, please remember that any unauthorised works may attract a fine by Sevenoaks Council. Therefore it is always a good idea to contact us via the Parish Council office or look on the SDC website ([www.sevenoaks.gov.uk](http://www.sevenoaks.gov.uk)) for further information.



Four Service trees (*Sorbus domestica*) were planted in an area in Millfield in the spring. These were planted to mark the Queen's 90th birthday. Hopefully if they survive drought and vandalism they will grow up to be excellent specimens of a quite rare native tree these days.

A survey was carried out this month to detail the entire large specimen trees located on Eynsford Parish Council land, or land maintained by the parish. These trees will be plotted on a map and used for future reference when carrying out an annual tree safety survey. Some trees have already been identified that require work to be carried out to preserve the trees or limit damage to the public and property.



When we hear the sound of a chainsaw in the village, it is sadly all too common to mark the loss of yet another tree. The Eynsford Parish Council land is limited, therefore we may be able to advise and assist any land owner who is interested in

Sevenoaks District Council is firmly committed to protecting the Green Belt and I expect many sites across the whole of the District to be thrown out at the first available opportunity.

However as part of that process, Sevenoaks District Council must fairly "consider" all sites, no matter how inappropriate or outrageous they are.

There are four sites that have been put forward that would directly impact on Eynsford:

- 1) Land south/south west of Eynsford Rise in between Upper Austin Lodge Road
- 2) Land south west of Eynsford Rise on the opposite side of Upper Austin Lodge Road
- 3) Land adjacent to Little Mote, High Street
- 4) Land east/north east of Priory Lane/Priory Fields (access to the site would be in Farningham)

I would like to clarify I am firmly opposed to sites 1,2 & 4. I remain open minded about the site being put forward for site 3.

I have already met with some residents of Eynsford Rise to discuss the sites affecting the area; however I will endeavour to communicate with all residents who would be most affected by all four sites.

Please nonetheless do not hesitate to e-mail me directly, wherever you live in Eynsford, and I will gladly talk you through all the plans and whether you need to be concerned about any sites near your home.

My e-mail is [cllr.horwood@sevenoaks.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.horwood@sevenoaks.gov.uk) or you can telephone me on 07815483891.

The process of cutting down these sites is going to span up to a year, so there will not be any immediate decisions being made just yet. There is no need to panic!

## Housing Development Sites in Eynsford

*Cllr Michael Horwood, Sevenoaks District Councillor for Eynsford*

Some residents may have heard about sites “being considered for development” in the Eynsford (and Farningham) area, particularly in parts of the Green Belt around the villages. I appreciate the worries and concerns that residents have about this and wish to give some reassurance about the suitability of the majority of the sites that have been put forward.

Just as a brief and simple explanation as to why Sevenoaks District Council is considering pieces of land for building on, a Government Inspector has told the District Council that it needs to build more houses to meet housing demand. To use a farfetched example, if we do not build enough houses, if someone puts in a planning application to build a house in the middle of a rural field, even if it is refused by the District Council locally, a planning inspector will overrule the local decision and allow the applicant to build a house anyway.



It is important to bear in mind that the sites that are in the public domain are ones that the landowners, or their agents, have put forward. At this stage, Sevenoaks District Council has not made any judgement or any decision in relation to any of these sites. Any individual could put any plot of land – their back garden, a village green or a green park – and they will be included in the sites that are in the public domain. I cannot emphasise how unsuitable many of these sites are and how it is simply “blue sky thinking” to believe they are going to be built on.

planting new trees.

Finally we are always being approached with the same question, 'that tree next door is too big and blocking my view or daylight'. Please consider your neighbours, communicate and work together to resolve these issues, reduction thinning or raising a crown should be considered in these situations.

## Changes to Eynsford's mobile library stops

*Kent Libraries Service*

The redesign of Kent's mobile library service is to go ahead, following a public consultation.

At the moment, the 11 mobile libraries make 651 stops at a cost of more than £367,000 per year to Kent council taxpayers. KCC has analysed the performance of this service over the last year. Some of the stops had very low levels of use and KCC therefore proposed



to reduce the number of stops, focusing on improving the service where it is well used while ensuring all customers have the means to still access a library service, through access to online services, the Home Library service or using one of the 99 library buildings in the county.

KCC's consultation asked for the views on its proposals from those



who use the mobile libraries and other Kent residents. In total 1,554 people responded to the consultation and 86% of those were people who are currently using the service. The results of the consultation showed that the majority of people who responded agreed with the proposals put forward.

The feedback from the consultation has been considered and there will be changes to the final timetables as a result plus the addition of 23 stops to the rotas. These changes are a result of looking at suggestions and feedback put forward by customers.

Customers will not see any immediate changes to the mobile library operation; the new service is expected to come into effect in late July 2016.

For Eynsford, two stops of thirty minutes are proposed, both fortnightly on a Wednesday:

10.20am at Pollyhaugh, and  
10.55am at the High Street Bus layby.

The new routes will initially be tested out for about a month to check that the timings are viable, before they are adjusted if necessary before being adopted.

## How We Can Help

Eynsford Parish Council can help you with a variety of everyday services:

- We hold bin bags & dog poo bags provided by Sevenoaks District Council which you can pick up from the parish office during opening hours.
- You can come and photocopy your documents for a small charge or use our laminator. Please call 01322 865320 in advance to check that it is convenient.
- You can look at planning applications that we hold, by appointment.

Let us know if there is anything else you think we could offer!

## Report from the Annual Parish Meeting

*Cllr Andrea Cornwell*

On the 22nd April 2015 the Annual Parish Meeting was held at the village hall. The event continued in the same style as the last couple of years where organisations providing services to the community were present to give advice to residents along with the parish council display and the annual reports available to take and peruse. This organisations attending included Kent Police, Citizens Advice Bureau, The Woodland Trust, Rural Age Concern, Kent County Council and more

For those who were unable to attend the Eynsford Parish Council annual reports written by each chairperson are still available on request. The parish councillors were also present to talk to and discuss any issues.



Parishioners were invited to submit entries to this year's art competition 'Eynsford, Our Community'. All art work was displayed at the meeting in the four different age categories. Everyone enjoyed viewing and judging the art. Why not make your own entry next year!

People were able to pop in or stay for a while. Many took the opportunity to speak to councillors and the organisations represented. Light refreshments were provided, as well as a colouring-in table to keep the little ones occupied whilst the adults

perused. The meeting finished at 21:00.

During the evening Sarah Boyle, Chair of the parish council accepted the toilet twinning certificate for Eynsford from Rev Gary Owen, a retirement gift was presented to Community Warden Steve Armstrong, and a Community Award was made to Ken Baker for his contribution to our community.

Overall the evening was a great success with many more 'new' people attending, hopefully finding out what goes on in their village, and knowing that they have a say and it counts.