

## Your Council Needs You!- Deadline 16th August

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 (currently online). 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, look on our website or 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.



## Summer News 2020

from  
**EYNSFORD PARISH COUNCIL**

Welcome to the Summer Newsletter from your parish council.

Inside you will find lots of interesting and useful news—so do have a read before your recycle!

We have kept applications for a new parish councillor open for longer than usual as we have continued to meet online, and were hoping to meet applicants in person.

However, we have decided to set a deadline, and if necessary, we will 'meet' candidates online before a decision is made. If you are interested, have a look at the back page.

We were sad to have cancelled our usual summer fun days this year due to the virus and continued social distancing guidelines, hopefully we will be back to normal by next summer. However, our children's playground is now open again, with additional signage for parents of children using the equipment.

Thank you so much to our network of volunteers for all their work over the past few months, helping those who could not leave their homes.

*Holly Ivaldi, Clerk*

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



## Eynsford & Farningham Volunteers

*Michael Barker*

During this period of lockdown, the people of Farningham and Eynsford have risen to the challenge of helping those vulnerable people that have been self isolating. As soon as lockdown was announced plus the guidance that certain more vulnerable people, including people over the age of 70, should be self-isolating, the call went out for volunteers.



Holly and Naomi at Eynsford Parish Council, along with Jane at Farningham Parish Council, recruited a team of around 60 volunteers in Eynsford and Farningham. Each volunteers was allocated a road and many delivered flyers to their areas with their contact details, offering assistance.

Lizzie in the Riverside Tearoom recruited a team, with some overlap, to deliver free lunches, on Wednesday mornings, to people self-isolating in Eynsford and Farningham. A selection of frozen meals, (including desserts) prepared by head chef Kym was also available. In my experience this service was very well received and the people that I delivered to were very grateful for this gesture.

The parish council team had a broader remit, offering shopping, collection of prescriptions/medication, visits to the post office, friendly chat and virtually any other helpful act. They worked with Sevenoaks District Council in registering volunteers and matching those in need with suitable volunteers. They were also able to refer those in need to other service providers. Shortly after lockdown started the team was given a consignment of frozen meals from Cook in Sevenoaks, to be delivered to the council office every Wednesday morning for distribution to those most in need. This service became one of the main focuses of this team's activities, although there was demand for other assistance as well.

Also, not only were these systems working but we heard, through the grapevine, of many other acts of kindness by volunteers official and unofficial: shopping collected, dogs walked, conversations engaged in that kept vulnerable people "in the loop" and less isolated. Local businesses offered extra services such as free delivery, to ensure that those in need received food and other supplies when they were unable to get out.

Well done to Naomi, Holly and Jane for organising this team and well done to Lizzie for organising her team and for her kindness in providing a large number of packed lunches free of charge. Lizzie has "stepped up"

## CASTLEFIELD ALLOTMENTS

**Alan Cooke**

The Castlefield allotments are looking particularly good at this time of year with a wide variety of fruit and vegetables being grown. At the end of last year, several of the plots were very overgrown with weeds waist high and as a consequence these plots were re allocated. Within weeks these plots were weeded, dug over and generally transformed and now display a good crop of differing vegetables.

We have also noticed a number of timber structures springing up. These have generally been constructed out of old pallets, and whilst the majority of these structures are acceptable, tenants are reminded that there is a maximum size of shed ( 8' x 6')?? and that you should obtain the parish council's permission prior to erecting any structure.

During the year, the parish council has carried out general maintenance work such as strimming and cutting back hedges. It would be good if tenants could tidy up the hedges between plots as some are becoming overgrown with brambles.

The allotments have had an even greater benefit during the lock down period and now there is a waiting list of at least eight people. As a consequence, the parish council is looking into the possibility of introducing between 6 to 8 additional plots at the southern end. We are currently looking at the cost of hiring a mini digger for a couple of days to grub out weeds and roots and then to erect a wire fence. There may be a call for a working party to help with the clearance.

The parish council have in the past discussed whether it would be feasible to have an Allotment Association to manage all the allotments. If you think this may be a good idea and wish to discuss the pros and cons then please contact the parish clerk via [info@eynsfordparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:info@eynsfordparishcouncil.org.uk)

## Bikes for Africa

*Ferne Haxby*

### **A Charity who care for the environment, re-cycling bikes instead of sending them to landfill.**

Lots of people are taking the opportunity during the Pandemic to reassess their fitness and have updated their family's bikes. What do we do with our old ones? There is a great charity collecting these and sending them to Africa where they are changing lives.

Across the UK thousands of bikes are thrown away or lie unused in sheds and garages, whilst many people in Africa are forced to walk for hours carrying heavy loads to get to market, school, work and to fetch water and crops.



Enriching the lives of those less fortunate, by giving them the independence of a bike really does change lives. Our bikes provide people with opportunities to gain new skills and sustainable income which enables them to invest in their own projects.

Bikes which may not be suitable to send to Africa by the Charity are stripped down for spare parts or are repaired and sold to the community here in the UK. In 2019, the charity received 14,500 bikes at its Warehouse and to date, over 111,000 bikes have been obtained.

[WWW.re-cycle.org](http://WWW.re-cycle.org) would love to hear from you if you have any bikes that can be donated and there are drop off points all over the country. Contact them on their website or telephone number: 01206 617865 (at present, the drop off centre is in Colchester in Essex, is open but this should change as more opening up of drop off centres go ahead)

Another great way to re-cycle, save the planet and provide lifelines to people!

in many ways while also managing her business under lockdown. The Tearoom is looking great and will, I'm sure, continue to be a fantastic social hub for the village.

Well done to all the volunteers who provided an excellent service that not only helped isolated people materially but also provided much needed social interaction at that difficult and unsettling time.

As life slowly approaches normality both programmes have been wound down. So, when's the party?

## The Green Team

*Ferne Haxby*

We have been enjoying great weather lately in the village with a chance to enjoy a few more restrictions to go outside to collect the rays. The lack of rain has meant water is valuable so look at the ways we can all help below:

### **To Wash or not to Wash ...**

The hot weather lately has caused water levels to drop in reservoirs and it is all our responsibilities to ensure that we have enough water at this time. A dishwasher needs about 50 litres of water every time it is used, a lot more than if you wash by hand. Think about saving water by doing or getting someone in the household to do the washing-up instead!! Make it a game not a chore!

A lot of people save water in rain butts and tanks to use on the garden. Our gardening experts in the village will have good information and advice that they can share but using a watering can instead of a hose or sprinklers to water your flowers can make a real difference. Also, the water you wash your veg in, put it on your pot plants??

Other good ideas that have been submitted to us are:

Take a shower instead of that long soak in the bath  
Turn the tap off when brushing your teeth, we can all be guilty of this one!!!

Most houses have a water meter installed, this is great for catching the water leaks early

If your car looks like mine after lockdown, it definitely needs a wash, out with the bucket and sponge, rather than the hose will save water.



### That is the question .... Of plastic!

We had a great idea from a resident that can save on the use of plastic. By washing out plastic packets that rice, nuts and fruit arrive in, you can use these to freeze food. Looking at the recycling bags from the council, it states on them that plastic film can't be put in them so by using the any plastic bags will be helping reduce this waste in the black bags.

Thankfully, a lot of food industries are stopping the use of black plastic on food which can't be put in recycling, something to watch out for when shopping.



If you love your takeaway coffee but don't like disposable cups, Lizzie at the Tearooms has a selection of reusable takeaway cups supplied by Oxfam. Buy one for £6.99 (cash only) and drink your skinny cappuccino with a clear conscience and help the world's starving. Be quick while stocks last!

Thank you to Ellie Hatton for this month's poster, just great!

### 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.



some free garden waste bags from Sevenoaks District Council which we were able to distribute to help reduce the need for bonfires while the tip was closed. We are continuing to stock these garden waste bags for sale.

We have also continued to chase Sevenoaks District Council about parking enforcement, but unfortunately the traffic wardens were not on duty for much of this period. The parish council is in talks about creating a loading ban on parts of Riverside to facilitate more effective enforcement.



Throughout these past months we have had to comply with procedure in terms of meetings and decision making, and also to think about the costs of different measures to the tax payer. Different options have all been considered carefully. We are always happy to hear from our parishioners about these and other issues. You can contact the council on [info@eynsfordparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:info@eynsfordparishcouncil.org.uk).

### Laura Trott—MP

With the Government guidelines being gradually lifted, it has been great to get out and about again in the constituency – which most recently included a visit to Eynsford.

Following my daily phone surgeries carried out during the lockdown, I know many residents across the village have been concerned about the recent increase in antisocial behaviour. The untold stress such a crime can bring to a local community cannot be underestimated, and it must, and will be addressed. As part of the visit I met (while socially distancing) Sgt Pete Ballard of the Community Safety Unit, Councillor Alan Cheeseman and Kelly Webb, Community Safety Officer from Sevenoaks District Council. Sgt Ballard shared details on the antisocial behaviour challenge and explained what steps were being taken to protect residents. I was clear we need to see a continued increased police presence in Eynsford.

I also had the opportunity to meet a number of local parish councillors and residents and listened to their concerns relating to antisocial behaviour. Sgt Ballard joined me for these discussions, and it was useful for the police to hear directly the strength of feeling. I will continue to make sure local voices are heard. However, to help make sure we have the resources needed it remains vital that we report all incidents of crime. If it's not an emergency, please notify the police by calling 101 or by reporting the incident to Sevenoaks District Council by calling 01732 227000. Always call 999 in an emergency.

My visit also coincided with the reopening of the hospitality sector and it was a pleasure to visit the Malt Shovel pub to hear how Alan and his team were intending to create a safe environment for both customers and staff. From Joan in the newsagents, to Lizzie at the Riverside Tearoom it was great to see local businesses open and operating with community support. So far, the infection rate in the Sevenoaks district is amongst the lowest in Kent, please let's keep it that way and enjoy the summer safely.

## Riverside and Anti-Social Behaviour in Eynsford

Holly Ivaldi

During lockdown and the following easing period, Eynsford has experienced many issues with anti-social behaviour and an excess of visitors.

Initially there were concerns about lack of social distancing during the hot weather in April and May, closely followed by complaints about littering and anti-social behaviour. As more areas have opened up, the crowding has reduced a little, although inconsiderate and illegal parking is still providing a problem. There were a few incidents where individuals were threatened and property was damaged. There were also the issues resulting from a lack of toilet facilities open to the public. We are grateful to the groundsman at Eynsford Cricket Club and to the staff at the Riverside Club for dealing with this.

Throughout this period the parish council continued to meet online, and we were pleased to welcome members of the public who raised and discussed some of these issues. The parish council had an online meeting with Kent Police to discuss anti-social behaviour and what measures could be done to tackle this. In addition the parish council has been communicating with our local PCSO and Community Safety Unit throughout this period about specific incidents as well as general concerns. Reported crime has indeed been much higher during this period, particularly anti-social behaviour, however, prosecution of these types of crimes is very low, so prevention is the best way forward.



The parish council has produced additional signage around our recreation areas at Riverside, Common Meadow and Harrow Meadow giving users more guidance about their expected behaviour. We contacted Sevenoaks District Council to ensure that the bins at Riverside were emptied frequently and also researched hiring or installing additional litter bins. We have decided to monitor the situation for the rest of the summer, but in the meantime, are providing extra bin bags at Riverside which we are pleased to have seen being used. We also looked into providing portaloos near Riverside, and also considered the possibility of vandalism, that the challenges of providing frequent enough cleaning. In the meantime Lizzie installed portaloos at the Tea Room which she opened to the public, not just customers. We are very grateful to Lizzie for doing this, and did offer to help with the cost, but Lizzie did not wish to receive any contribution.

We have also been working with District Councillor Alan Cheeseman around the possibility of setting up a CCTV system around Riverside and Common Meadow. A study has been commissioned to see what is possible and also the likely costs. Some residents think CCTV would be a good idea and might deter anti-social and criminal behaviour, whereas others are concerned about invasion of privacy.

Another issue that was raised was nuisance bonfires. We managed to obtain

## Village Hall gets Go-ahead!

Malcolm Richardson

The Trustees of Eynsford Village Hall and Eynsford Parish Council are pleased to report that planning consent has now been granted for a new Village Hall on Harrow Meadow, together with the re-alignment of the football pitch to create, literally, a level playing field.



This has been the culmination of many years of hard work by the Trustees and the Parish Council and it is great news for the village who at last will have a modern Hall fit for the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

We are still awaiting news of the application to redevelop the existing hall site to create three houses but we hope that this will be decided within the next couple of weeks.

Now planning consent has been granted, the hard work will begin to raise the money. It is estimated that we will be seeking some £900,000 (even taking into account funds held and money which should be raised from the existing site). Some of the money will come from grants, and some from local and district councils, but a huge fundraising effort will be needed, assisted, we hope, by local residents.

In this respect, we are looking for someone to help co-ordinate fund-raising. It would be useful, but not essential, if you have had experience of fund-raising activities, applications for grants, approaching potential donors and developing methods for raising funds.

It is difficult to estimate the time commitment although some time would be needed between Monday to Friday in order to keep in touch with organisations during opening hours. However such hours can be discussed and estimated.

This is an exciting project and we already have a dedicated group of people from the hall trustees and Eynsford Parish Council.

If you are interested, please contact James Staniland on 07870688865 or [James\\_staniland@hotmail.com](mailto:James_staniland@hotmail.com), or Alan Saunders on 07939 244347 or [alan@robins.f9.co.uk](mailto:alan@robins.f9.co.uk) who will provide more information.

## Introducing the New Chair of the Council: Phil Ward

*Phil Ward*

It seems quite odd when I think back ten years to when I first joined the council. I had no burning desire to join, and in fact knew very little about the work of the council. However, I did have a number of friends already serving, so when a vacancy came up, after a few innocuous chats in the Five Bells, I found myself co-opted onto the council.

It took a while to understand the formalities (I still don't understand it all) and to gauge the character of the existing councillors. It all seemed quite daunting particularly with the more established members who were knowledgeable, confident and at times vocal. That said they were always friendly and accepting of me and my views. In time my own knowledge and confidence would grow.

Councillors come from all walks, retired, career busy, family people but sometimes circumstances mean commitment to the council is no longer possible; people move on. When that happens you may find yourself stepping up a little, so after a short while I was elevated to Chair of the Planning Committee. Again, not something I coveted but I soon settled into the role reviewing planning applications, studying policy and leading planning issues for the council; it's fair to say I actually enjoyed it.

Roll on to this year and our excellent Chair Theresa Durrant decides to step down. The remaining councillors start looking at each other, as the dust finally settles I find most eyes are looking at me. So ten years after Clive Stanyon first 'tapped me up' in the Bells, bizarrely I find myself leading Eynsford Parish Council.

Who am I? Well, I'm just a long time resident who loves living here and has found a sense of fulfilment from serving my community. I currently work in project management but was a police officer for 12 years and before that I worked in the communications industry. You may be lucky to see me running or cycling locally, or less lucky to see me on the village hall stage.

Throughout my ten years the council has always operated in an open,



friendly and constructive manner with party politics playing no part. We come from differing backgrounds, but what brings us together is a desire to make Eynsford a better place; we may not always get it right but we will never stop trying. My simple vision for the council is to keep doing the good things, be creative, do more but don't be too stuffy about it.

Finally, we still have a vacancy, a chance for you to join us with your new ideas and energy; who knows where will you be in ten years time?

## Overgrown Foliage

*Holy Ivaldi, Clerk*

Please check whether any trees, hedges or shrubs from your property are overhanging the pavement or road. If they overhang at all, they need to be cut right back (but please avoid disturbing nesting birds).

Overgrown or overhanging vegetation can obstruct the way for pedestrians, cyclists and motorists, and can be particularly dangerous during this darker weather. Please remember to remove any cuttings from the path or the road.

If you wish to report a problem you can report it on the Kent County Council website at [www.kent.gov.uk](http://www.kent.gov.uk) or call 03000 41 41 41.

## Parish Council Surgery & Meetings

*During normal circumstances..*

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. We break for public questions at around 9pm.

Do pop in when the office is open to pick up bin bags, look at leaflets and magazines in the office and to ask any questions or raise any concerns! We also offer a photocopying service for a small charge.

Normal opening hours are 8.30 - 2.30 Monday to Thursday.