

New LED Street Lighting Project

Naomi Morgan, Deputy Clerk

Further to our article in our Summer Newsletter 2016 regarding the installation of the LED lighting. The council have now agreed which LED style of lighting will be used throughout the village. This was after a trial at Priory Fields, where we placed the 3 different styles that were on offer.



The Corn Lamp at a cost of £95 per lamp,



The Gear Tray at a cost of £195 per lamp,



or the SL1W at a cost of £295.00.

At a recent meeting, the council agreed to install brighter (white) LED lights 'Gear Trays' on the main roads in the village (Station Road, Eynsford Road, High Street, Riverside, Sparepenny Lane and Crockenhill Lane) costing £5655 and to install more gentle lights 'Corn Lamps' on all other roads costing £4560.

The total energy bill for lighting for the village is some £3,000, so assuming a reduction in consumption of 65%, the LEDs should pay for themselves in approximately 5 to 6 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, and we are hoping that the work will be starting within the next month or so, but definitely within this financial year.



Winter News 2017

from
EYNSFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Welcome to the Winter newsletter from Eynsford Parish Council.



Happy New Year! We hope you kept warm in the recent wintry weather.

This quarter's newsletter includes articles about trains, parking, phone boxes, planning, street lighting & more - all the things that the parish council gets involved in to make life better for you. There are details of this year's Annual Parish Meeting on 26th May which is your chance to meet with members of the council and other service providers and to let them know what is important to you and what changes you would like to see. We hope to see you there!

Holly Ivaldi, Clerk

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Find 'Eynsford Parish Council' on Facebook and Twitter.
www.eynsfordparishcouncil.org.uk

Save the Date!

Councillor Andrea Cornwell

This year's Annual Parish Meeting will be **on Friday 26th May, 6-9pm at Eynsford Village Hall.**

You are welcome to come along for a sociable evening to find out what has been going on in Eynsford over the last year. Eynsford Parish Council will be able to show you many of things that it has done over the year including maintaining amenities, lobbying for change, following up requests from residents and more. Did you know that we have been looking into making businesses more accessible, we are finding out about becoming Dementia Friendly, we are helping to fund a new school playground, and are working closely with the Village Hall trustees in looking at the future of the Village Hall?



The aim of this event is to provide you with information via displays and reports (if you wish to read them) along with other major groups that service the village such as Age Concern, Kent Police, Kent County Playing Field Association, Kent Libraries (plus many more)* being available to answer any questions. There are always a few freebies and something new to find out

about or learn.

At the event you can also speak to the parish councillors about any ideas or issues you have. You can also voice them with your local district and county councillors.

Along with this you can take advantage of a free glass of wine and some nibbles to ease the stress of coming out on a Friday night as these meeting must take place after 6pm!

the river to Swanley – has been given a rating of 5, meaning it is meeting all requirements of the Green Belt.



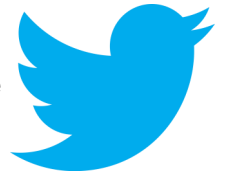
In layman's terms, this means that all the signs suggest that the pieces of land in the Green Belt mentioned above are extremely unlikely to be taken forward at all. The final proposal as to what sites across Sevenoaks District should be taken forward will be consulted on later this year.

Follow us Online

Eynsford Parish Council's website is the best place for you to find useful information about the council and it's services. There are also areas dedicated to the village and community groups with the option for you to add your own events for listing. Have a look at www.eynsfordparishcouncil.org.uk



We are also on **Facebook** and **Twitter** (search for Eynsford Parish Council) where we post up to date news, 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.



Hello!

Do pop in when we are open to pick up bin bags, look at leaflets and magazines in the office and to ask any questions or raise any concerns!

Normal opening hours are 8.30 - 2.30 Monday and Wednesday, 9.00 - 3.00 Tuesday and Thursday.

Land for Housing in Eynsford

Sevenoaks District Councillor Michael Horwood

You may recall me writing an article previously about land that had been submitted by landowners in consideration of housing development across Sevenoaks District Council, in preparation for a new Local Plan, which determines where housing development should go up to the year 2035.

The Local Plan takes around two years to formulate and we are already six months in, having had the initial 'call for sites', where landowners can consider sites for consideration of housing development. Although no formal decisions have been made about those sites, decisions will be taken in conjunction with consideration of the Green Belt Assessment, which Sevenoaks District Council has carried out in conjunction with ARUP planning consultants.

The Green Belt Assessment will (or has been, by the time you read this article) be submitted to the Planning Advisory Committee at Sevenoaks District Council on 17th January 2017. The Assessment gives pieces of land (or rather huge parcels of land across the District) an assessment of 0-5, where 0 means that the land is 'useless' in meeting the requirements of the Green Belt and 5 means it means all the requirements of the Green Belt.

I am pleased to state that the pieces of land at the back of Upper Austin Lodge Road, and the piece of land at the back of Priory Lane, have all been given a rating of 3, meaning that it meets many of the requirements of the Green Belt.

Furthermore, the land to the north-west of the village – land from



This year the theme of our art competition is '**Eynsford, Big and Small**' and is open to all residents in the village in various age categories. During the evening the art competition will be judged with votes from the public and at 8pm each age group will be awarded a prize. Full details will be available soon!

To keep any little ones occupied whilst you visit we have provided a colouring station along with some games.

There will be a short talk from the Chair of the Council and the winner of the Community Award will receive their certificate.



If you have never been before please do pop your head in this year! The event has been designed in such a way that you can come for a few minutes or stay for the whole evening, it's up to you....but the main thing is that you come – it's your village and your chance to see what's going on.

*participants to be confirmed closer to the date.

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.

High Street Parking Restrictions

Councillor Phil Ward, Vice Chair of the Council

Many of you will be familiar with the traffic issues outside The Anthony Roper School, particularly at 'school run' times. Some years ago the Parish Council instigated the School Run Safety Campaign with the aim of identifying and implementing ideas that would improve the safety of primarily the children attending the school but also parents, staff and anyone else in the locality. These ideas have ranged from installing the pedestrian crossing to simply supplying hi-visibility vests for pupils to wear. Although individually these schemes may only deliver small improvements, together they are having a major impact on road safety in this area.



More recently the council has championed the implementation of parking restrictions on the High Street outside of Alton Cottages and with the promise of funding from our local Kent County Councillor, Roger Gough, we pursued this proposal.

News that planning approval had finally been granted came last month, which is good news indeed. Although we don't have a date for the full installation of the yellow line restriction, new dropped

Eynsford's Telephone Box

Councillor Phil Ward, Chair of the Planning Committee

Towards the end of last year, BT invited us to comment on a proposal to remove the telephone box located next to the car park by Bridge House.

This was part of a wider consultation across the country with the aim of removing from service telephone boxes that are seldom or never used.

Following some debate, councillors resolved not to oppose the removal of our phone box should BT decide to do so. In fairness, BT have stated they would not remove facilities where there was opposition from the local council, however, we felt that in this day of mass mobile phone use the need for a fixed line telephone box had passed.



This issue sparked another debate about heritage phone boxes. Our existing box is a more modern type and arguably less traditional and less attractive than the distinctive red boxes I first used, many years ago.

We are considering sourcing one of the red heritage phone boxes but before a decision is made we thought we would canvas parishioners. We therefore welcome your thoughts and ideas; is this a good idea? Where could we site a heritage phone box? What could it be used for? Would you be willing to help with funding or assist in some other way? We want to know what you think before we decide. Heritage boxes can be expensive but can also add character to an area and present interesting opportunities for their use. Please do let us know by writing or emailing the clerk.

Update from Braeside Surgery, Farningham

Councillor Geoff Kirby

We have added a new section to the newsletter to allow Braeside Surgery to keep you up to date with information and requests. There is already a surgery information page in The Trident, but we are aware that not everyone in the village subscribes to The Trident and can therefore miss out on important news.

First a plea to help the Surgery and also other patients.

Last month, over 120 patients did not turn up for appointments without informing the surgery. This means that 120 other patients could have been seen earlier and the booking time for appointments could have been reduced. It wastes time and money at the surgery and reduces the number of available appointments for patients who have an urgent need to see the Doctors.

If you cannot attend an appointment, please inform the receptionist who can then release the appointment slot to another patient. You may be thankful in the future to someone else who has had the courtesy to let us know and allowed you to make an appointment at short notice!



Parking

If the surgery car park is full you can park on the road but please be courteous to our neighbours and do not block their driveways. The road outside the surgery is also access to the houses up the lane so please do not park in such a way as to leave insufficient room for other vehicles to pass. Including delivery vehicles and emergency vehicles.

New Website

On a more positive note, we have launched a new website. Please visit this at www.braesidesurgery.nhs.uk/ for the latest news from the surgery. The Braeside Surgery Team.

kerbs have already been installed near to Mill Lane. Once complete, parking outside Alton Cottages will be restricted between 8.30 - 9.30 am and 3 - 4 pm Monday to Friday.

We appreciate this may cause some displacement of cars to other areas but believe the restrictions will ultimately create a safer place for all of us. To help counter the displacement we have also negotiated use of the Scout Hall car park during these periods.

In 2017, we look forward to safer roads in our village and offer our thanks to Roger Gough, Eynsford and Farningham Scouts and the School Run Safety Campaign for working with us to make this happen.

New Photocopying Services

We have recently updated our photocopier and can now offer colour and black and white photocopying services. Many clubs and societies in the village already use our copier for their newsheets and information documents as well as for accounts and other items for their AGMs. You will now be able to copy your colour posters and leaflets. We also have a booklet making facility if you need to produce folded leaflets.

New prices from 2017 will be as follows:

	<u>Eynsford Clubs/Societies</u>	<u>Personal Use</u>
B&W A4	3ppc*	5ppc
Colour A4	6ppc	8ppc
Laminating	10ppc	

*First 10 copies free.

Please ask for a quote for leaflets and large orders. A3 copying also available. Please call the office in advance to arrange a convenient time for copying on 01322 865320. Thank you.

Commuters, have your Say!

Holly Ivaldi, Clerk

In December one of our residents Andrew Docherty attended a Southeastern rail users forum for us. He has written his thoughts on how Eynsford is affected by rail problems.

Do you think it would be a good idea to set up a user group for Eynsford made up of commuters and other rail users? It could help us to lobby for change to represent Eynsford at different forums. If you would be interested, email eynsford.pc@tiscali.co.uk and we can see how we could make this work.



Photo by David Rogers

Andrew writes:

'Eynsford is probably seen by SE trains as a bit of a backwater, as there are more trains that speed through the station than serve it, so I think that attending their forums is our opportunity to voice our concerns to them, as they do manage the station. Also, there is representation at these forums from Network Rail, and ultimately they make the day to day decisions about the running of the railway.'

The main issue for Eynsford users is poor timekeeping and the

frequent cancellations with the Thameslink service. The reasons for this vary. It's not just the weather of the leaves on the line etc. The main cause of delays is due to congestion which many find amusing when they hear this excuse.

The trains that serve Eynsford travel between Sevenoaks and stations north of London to Bedford, including St Albans, Luton and Luton Airport. This stretch of line north of St Pancras is very busy and heavily used not just at peak times. A problem with overhead cables in the Elstree area for example can create serious delays for us here.

As well as rail congestion, there is passenger congestion, and those of us going to work in the morning and returning home in the evening peak on the Catford Loop know only too well that a stop at a station takes far longer than the scheduled 90 seconds for passengers to get on and off. This is a major contributor to delays, and I don't see how this can be improved.

Major delays with Thameslink services can mean that a decision is made to skip stations, and usually they will send a late running train straight to Sevenoaks from Bromley South or vice versa so it can begin its return journey on time. Not much help if you have had to get off at Bromley South or travelled with South Eastern from Victoria. And this is where I made my point at the forum. There needs to be some cooperation between the two operators when there are delays, where a decision is made quickly to serve Eynsford with a stopping train because when a train is cancelled or the station is skipped, the train behind can sometimes be thirty minutes away or more.

I am pleased to see that the new Class 700 units are being introduced on our service, and this should reduce delays caused by failures of the 30 year old units still being used.'

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01322 865320**