



## **RYARSH PARISH COUNCIL**

### **Parish Council Updates**

- The Parish Council is liaising with the Primary School to provide a souvenir to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee.
- St Martin's Church are running the Queens Jubilee Celebrations which will be held in the Village Hall and on the Recreation Ground on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2022, with a service on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June. Councillors are helping with the event. If you can offer any help in organising or on the day, please contact the Clerk.
- A white van is parking on Chapel Street just about the Baptist Chapel and is eroding the bank, causing damage and also spreading mud across the road. This has been reported to PCSO James Robinson and also to Kent Highways.
- The Parish Council's contractor has mended the street light by the play area which was only working intermittently.
- Trinity have given permission for a Notice Board to be put up in Ryarsh Park. Cllrs were pleased to hear from a Ryarsh Park resident with suggestions about where to locate the Notice Board.



### **County Councillor Report**

Cllr Hohler was unable to attend the meeting but provided the following report:

- The KCC budget meeting is on 10<sup>th</sup> February. It is a one year budget, not the 3 year one we anticipated. The budget consultation had over 2,000 responses. 70% of respondees were not comfortable with reductions in social care for the over 65s or for children, nor for savings on highways, the environment and waste. KCC have looked for opportunities to deliver services at a lower cost to give better value for money: a challenging time to deliver a balanced budget.
- The consultation on the booking system for visits to the Household Waste Recycling Centres has also been out to consultation. Residents were asked for their opinions on the booking system with 10,705 replies. About 30% of those responding said they would like to be able to book a slot on the day, as well as booking in advance, and this is now being phased in. The sites are open for 362 days a year.
- There have been fewer visits to the sites but residents are bringing more waste (from an average of 60kg a visit to the 44kg before). Recycling has gone up from 63% to 69% which has led to lower costs of disposal, which is good news and has enabled a saving. The booking system has also meant that queues of traffic waiting to get in to

the centres from busy roads have gone. This has made it better for everyone and has given the staff more time to help residents.

- KCC has 99 libraries and is currently engaging with residents on how to make the libraries more user friendly. Logging on to KCC libraries explains the engagement process which runs until 7<sup>th</sup> March so please do send us your suggestions. We have received over 100 ideas already and 94% of current users say they will continue to use their library. Later this year there will be a full public consultation. Libraries offer so much more than book borrowing and I think they are going to become increasingly important as community centres, as well as places for children to learn to enjoy reading, with all the benefits that brings, especially at this time.
- We are discussing our new strategic plan, delayed because of the pandemic. We will develop a Civil Society Strategy soon, to strengthen our relationship with the voluntary sector. Kent Together is still available to help and support more vulnerable residents.
- She is chairing the cross-party member group which is developing the next five year strategy for our wonderful country parks. We are currently providing new playground equipment, or improving what we already have, and discussing all sorts of exciting new plans. Do look online to get a feel for what the parks offer and consider buying an annual parking ticket which allows you to park all day at any of the KCC country parks.



### **Borough Councillor Report**

Cllr Montague attended the meeting.

- Negotiations are continuing between TMBC and Urbaser about the refuse collections. It is hoped these will conclude in a matter of weeks rather than months.
- The Cabinet have a budget meeting this week
- There was a question about refunds for those who had subscribed to the garden waste collections. Cllr Montague explained that subscriptions have been extended for the length of the missed collections. Waste collections are now running ok and the driver situation seems better than it was. Crews often work Saturdays to catch up on collections they could not do in the week and reports of missed bin collections are going down.
- Tonbridge & Malling are top in Kent for recycling at 51.5%. There is a marked difference in garden waste in Borough compared to Tunbridge Wells.
- A comment was made that drivers are going through bins and rejecting them if they contain the wrong things. Cllr Montague explained that collections are rejected for payment if there is too high a proportion of wrong materials.



### **Kent Police**

Church Road – On Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> January between 17:00 and 18:00 somebody damaged a vehicle parked in the Road.

If you sign up to My Community Voice you receive regular reports from the police including what they are working on and where they are on duty.

### **Defibrillator Training**

Ryarsh Village Hall Committee plan to run some more defibrillator training sessions soon. If you are interested, please contact Ba Storey – [ryarshbookings@gmail.com](mailto:ryarshbookings@gmail.com).

### **Food Banks**

St Martin's Church and Ryarsh Baptist Chapel both collect for local food banks. You can leave donations of dry food, tins, packets, toiletries etc in the Porch of St Martin's Church who will pass these on to the Pilsden Centre in West Malling for distribution. You can also leave items at the Baptist Chapel who pass these on to the Halling Food Bank for distribution.

### **Next Parish Council meeting**

The next meeting which will be held in The Davison Room of Ryarsh Village Hall is Monday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2022 at 8pm.

You can contact the Clerk by email at [clerk@ryarsh-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@ryarsh-pc.gov.uk).  
For more information, please go to our website [www.ryarsh-pc.gov.uk](http://www.ryarsh-pc.gov.uk)



**PUBLIC  
NOTICE**

**KENT COUNTY COUNCIL  
The Street, Ryarsh  
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING)  
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984  
TEMPORARY ORDER MARCH 2022**

To allow works to be carried out on Iron work, Kent County Council has made an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on part of The Street, Ryarsh.

A closure is planned from 10th March 2022, between the hours of 09:30 and 15:30, with estimated completion by 11th March 2022, or where stated on a valid Permit (GE70711303897-01 - Kent County Council). The scheduled dates may vary for these works with appropriate signage on site and the works will be displayed on [One.Network](#)

The Street will be closed between the junctions with Chapel Street and Roughetts Road, to the extent indicated by signs and barriers on site.

The closure is required for the safety of the public and workforce while ironwork works are undertaken by Kent County Council.

The alternative route for any through traffic is via Roughetts Road, A20 London Road, A228 Ashton Way, Leybourne By Pass, Birling Road, Bull Road, Ryarsh Road and vice versa.

For information regarding this closure please contact Kent County Council on 03000 418181, who will be able to assist with the scope of these works.

*Simon Jones, Corporate Director of Growth, Environment and Transport.  
Kent County Council, County Hall, Maidstone, ME14 1XQ*

# Tonbridge & Malling Police Community Safety Newsletter

## Ryarsh

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### **Contacts**

[csu.tonbridge.and.malling@kent.police.uk](mailto:csu.tonbridge.and.malling@kent.police.uk) Contact your local team

<https://www.kent.police.uk/> Report online, check statistics, information on your area.

<https://www.crashmap.co.uk/> Road Safety Information

January 2022

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Information provided by: PCSO 59862 James Robinson Community Safety Unit

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### **Crime Series or Crimes of Note**

24 December – Theft. Birling road. Theft of number plates from vehicle.

8 January – Criminal damage. Church road. Headlights on vehicle smashed.

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### **Anti-social behaviour and other incidents of note:**

N/A

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### **Items of good work:**

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## Changes to the Highway Code starting 29th January

Good evening,

The Highway Code is changing and you need to be aware of the changes!

The changes follow a [public consultation on a review of The Highway Code to improve road safety for people walking, cycling and riding horses](#). It ran from July to October 2020, and received more than 20,000 responses from the public, businesses and other organisations. Most people who responded were in favour of all the changes. The changes will be made to The Highway Code from Saturday 29 January 2022.

Click on the below link to find out the 8 changes that you need to know about:

[The Highway Code: 8 changes you need to know from 29 January 2022 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

Stay safe,

Tonbridge and Mall





## March 2022

### Guided group walks

Our friendly group is one of 13 Ramblers groups in Kent and part of the national Ramblers walking organisation. We explore the beautiful countryside of Tonbridge and Malling and surrounding areas.

You don't have to be a Ramblers member to try out a couple of walks with us, to help you decide if you'd like to join. If you are new to our walks, it's a good idea to contact the walk leader beforehand to check that their walk will suit you.

We look forward to welcoming you on a walk soon!

Sunday 27 February	A moderate circular walk to discover the new permissive footpaths between the North Pole and Barming.	5.5 miles
Wednesday 2 March	A moderate circular walk from Boxley with a steep ascent to join the North Downs Way. We join the Pilgrims Way at the White Horse Stone and return via vineyards and the remains of Boxley Abbey.	6 miles
Sunday 6 March	A leisurely walk from Matfield through orchards, fields and tracks. There will be two leaders, offering the choice of a 5-mile and 3.3 mile option.	5 or 3.3 miles
Sunday 13 March	Moderate circular walk from Ide Hill to Toys Hill and Emmetts. Great views to the South Downs walking through the early spring flowers	5 miles
Wednesday 16 March	Moderate circular walk from the North Pole(!) to the River Medway at Nettlestead.	5.5 miles
Sunday 20 March	A moderate circular woodland walk from Oldbury Hill with lots of hills; may be muddy. Good views from Raspit Hill. Half-way refreshment break, cafe and toilets at Ightham Mote.	6 miles
Sunday 27 March	Tunbridge Wells Rocks Tour: a moderate circular walk from Groombridge over Harrison's Rocks.	4.2 miles
<p>Walks usually start at 10.00 or 10.30. There's a short break half-way through the walk (bring refreshments) and we usually finish near a pub. For start times and walk leader contacts, see the Upcoming Walks link at <a href="http://www.tonbridgandmallingsramblers.org.uk">www.tonbridgandmallingsramblers.org.uk</a> or email <a href="mailto:info@tonbridgeandmallingsramblers.org.uk">info@tonbridgeandmallingsramblers.org.uk</a></p>		

# Councils crack down on fly tippers

A joint operation involving Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council, Gravesham Borough Council and the Kent Police Rural Task Force has targeted unlicensed waste carriers involved in fly tipping and other environmental crimes.

The operation on Tuesday 9 February saw a large number of vehicles carrying waste stopped across the two boroughs. In total, three vehicles were seized, including a suspected stolen van, and one man wanted by West Yorkshire police was arrested.

The operation focused on areas in the north of the Tonbridge and Malling borough and parts of Gravesham where unlicensed waste carriers were believed to be operating and where fly tipping has been reported.

The stop-checks also allowed environmental enforcement teams to speak to licensed traders, who lose income and have their reputations tarnished by cowboy operators. Officers stressed the important role legitimate carriers can play by working with local authorities and the police to tackle fly tipping and other environmental offences.

Fly tippers often target households via social media or local advertising offering cheap rates to dispose of unwanted furniture, building rubble or garden waste. Householders or small businesses found to be using criminals to dispose of their waste can be issued with a fixed penalty notice of up to £400 per offence.

Householders should ensure they receive a written receipt or transfer note, including contact details, description of waste removed and details of where the waste is being taken for disposal.

Cllr Piers Montague, Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council's cabinet member for waste, said: 'Rubbish being carried by unlicensed operators all too often ends up being fly tipped in our rural areas. We want to send a clear message to the criminals involved in this activity that we are coming for you and will prosecute you.'

'We also want to remind householders of their duty to make sure any business they are using to dispose of rubbish has a waste carrier licence. Using an unlicensed carrier means they too could risk a hefty fine.'

Householders can check whether someone is licensed to carry waste on the [Environment Agency website](#) or by calling 03708 506506.

Fly tipping can be reported via the [Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council website](#).



# Flats recycling service set for full roll out

Service available to all by end of 2022

People living in flats across Tonbridge and Malling will get regular recycling collections for the first time after councillors gave proposals the green light.

Following a successful trial involving 500 flats in the Medway Wharf Road area of Tonbridge, the service will be rolled out in phases to around 2,500 flats across the borough. Residents will be able to sort their plastic, glass, metal and paper for collection from communal bin stores, rather than take it to public recycling banks.

Residents will be notified ahead of the service starting in their area over the course of 2022.

The proposed roll out timetable is:

- Hadlow, East Peckham and parts of Tonbridge – spring 2022
- Snodland, Borough Green, Walderslade – spring 2022
- Royal British Legion Village, Ditton, Eccles – summer 2022
- West Malling, East Malling, Kings Hill – autumn 2022
- Larkfield, Aylesford – autumn 2022

Members of the council's environment services advisory board met on Tuesday 8 February to review the trial results and proposals for the borough-wide roll out. A summary of lessons from the trial highlighted that engaging with residents was vital and helped deliver more than 10 tonnes of material for recycling in the three months to December 2021.

The proposals follow latest figures from the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) showing Tonbridge and Malling to be the [top area in Kent for recycling rates](#). Following the introduction of kerbside collections in 2019, latest figures show residents recycled 51.6 per cent of their rubbish, compared to an average across Kent of 43 per cent and a national average for England of 42 per cent.

Cllr Piers Montague, cabinet lead on waste and recycling, said: 'Challenges posed by the pandemic and recent driver shortages have meant that residents in flats have waited longer than we'd have liked for this service to be expanded to reach them. I'm delighted we are finally in a position to go ahead with the full implementation and make it easier for them to recycle their rubbish. I'd like to thank the council team and residents who have made the pilot such a success and to everyone who is contributing to our record recycling rates.'

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