



RYARSH PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Council Updates

- The Local Government Boundary Commission for England has published its final recommendations, putting Ryarsh into an electoral ward with Birling and Leybourne. The Parish Council does not support these recommendations, and believes that Ryarsh and Birling should be warded with other similar villages. There is more information later in the newsletter.
- TMBC are responsible for emptying litter bins and dog waste bins. If you find a bin that has not been emptied you can report direct to TMBC – waste.services@tmbc.gov.uk.
- Cllr Barton was thanked for installing a new picnic bench in the play area.



- A new Notice Board is being ordered for Ryarsh Park.
- The Clerk is contacting TMBC Planning Enforcement about the damaged fence along Birling Road.



County Councillor Report

- KCC are very concerned about the situation in Ukraine and the people there, and are supporting a sponsoring initiative. KCC are also being very careful about cyber-attacks. There is guidance available about what you can do to protect against cyber-attacks. KCC are looking at all their investments, pensions and finances and are trying to change those that have any links with Russia.
- The bus companies only run routes that make them money. Over the years KCC has listened to people who need buses that aren't commercially viable (eg in evenings, to villages etc) by putting in lots of money to support those buses. At the moment, the number 58 bus is being looked at. It costs KCC £6m per year in order to support these buses and it doesn't seem to be a sensible use of taxpayer money if people are not using them. There is a consultation available online.
- Cllr Hohler made a complaint about the Quarry at Ferns and this went to Committee about 6 months ago. There are two breaches of planning conditions to do with the land by the motorway, and planning is the responsibility of TMBC who are dealing. There are also breaches of hours and other conditions. Ferns have been told about this but it is a

slow process. Cllr Hohler is continuing to work on this. Cllr McKinlay suggested that the Parish Council make another visit to the quarry.

- There is an Engagement underway about Libraries asking the public what they think and what they like. It is really important to build the love of books for children. KCC has had over 2,000 replies with 99 ideas. 94% of those responding want to still use the libraries and say they are important. KCC need to make sure buildings are up to scratch as well.
- There are lots of scams going on at the moment. One is saying the police need more funds to follow a problem up, but the police would never ask for money.
- The Chair of the Committee on Climate Change, John Gummer, has visited and was pleased with what is being done in Kent.
- There is a campaign on speed limits. This is the limit and not a target. In 2020 there were 144 crashes caused by excessive speed. 2/3 of the crashes involved drivers who were male aged 17-34.
- Rogue traders – ring Citizens Advice Bureau to report any problems.
- The Levelling up White Paper is to do with the way we deliver services. Michael Gove is coming to Kent about this. KCC is one of the largest strategic authorities in the country. Kent is one county and works well as one County.

KCC Bus Funding Reduction Public consultation

There is a consultation available online at <https://letstalk.kent.gov.uk/bus-funding-reductions> into proposed reductions to the bus service. Under the proposals, the Number 58 Nu Venture bus which serves Ryarsh would be withdrawn. The consultation is open until **20th April 2022**. Ryarsh Parish Council does not agree that this service should be withdrawn and believes there is a good argument that people haven't used the buses so much during lockdown. A good proposal would be to carry on the service for another 6 months - 1 year to see if usage picks up. Residents are urged to respond to the consultation.



Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council

Parking

As part of the Borough Council's review of fees and charges for its services, the Council is proposing alterations to off-street parking charges across the Borough, along with changes to permit and season ticket prices. This requires a change to the Council's Off-Street parking Traffic Regulation Order, and with this in mind they are now consulting on the changes to the Order. The draft Traffic Regulation Order can be viewed on the Borough Council's website www.tmbc.gov.uk/offstreetcharges, however, paper copies of the proposals are available on request. Additionally, all of the consultation documents are available 'on deposit' and may be inspected during normal working hours at certain locations – details are on the TMBC website.

Housing

The TMBC Draft Housing Strategy Consultation is open until 13.04.22
<https://www.tmbc.gov.uk/housing/housing-strategy-2022-2027-consultation>

New Electoral Arrangements

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) has published final recommendations setting out new electoral arrangements for Tonbridge & Malling.

Details of the recommended changes are contained in a report which explains how they have been developed, including how the LGBCE have taken into account local views.

The report and interactive mapping are available on the LGBCE consultation site <https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/node/27207> and the full library of information relating to the review is available on their main website <https://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/south-east/kent/tonbridge-and-malling>.

The recommendations are for Ryarsh to be grouped with Birling and Leybourne in being represented by the same Borough Councillor. Ryarsh Parish Council does not support these final recommendations and will be making further representations to the LGBCE. Ryarsh and Birling Parish Councils worked together for the initial consultation, asking to be placed with a wider rural population such as a suggested 'Pilgrims Ward' with other BART group parishes (Birling, Addington and Trottiscliffe). This would provide affiliation within a larger rural community, acknowledgement of common ties, interests and issues, and enable fairer representation at Borough level. Ryarsh and Birling Parish Councils do not believe that Leybourne reflects the existing links which are in place with other rural parishes. Ryarsh, like Birling is land rich with a relatively small population unlike the Leybourne estates. The intensity and size of the population in Leybourne results in completely different community priorities. The Birling and Ryarsh rural electorate in the proposed ward accounts for 22% growing to 24% in 2027. Hence being placed in a ward with only two relatively small rural communities disadvantages us in terms of representation at Borough level. In our view the proposal puts us at a democratic disadvantage when voting for Borough representation which is considered unacceptable.

The Parish Council will respond to the consultation and urges residents to do the same.



Kent Police

- On Friday 11th of March around 00:52, somebody smashed a window of a residential property on Woodgate Road.
- There was a van break in and tool theft in the early hours of Thursday 10th March in Ryarsh Park.
- Between 20:00 on Monday 7th of March and 09:38 on Tuesday 8th of March, somebody broke into a Vauxhall Astra parked in Woodgate Road.

Next Parish Council meeting

The next meeting which will be held in The Davison Room of Ryarsh Village Hall is **Monday 11th April 2022 at 8pm**. This includes the Annual Parish Meeting which is an opportunity for residents to ask any questions.

You can contact the Clerk by email at clerk@ryarsh-pc.gov.uk. For more information, please go to our website www.ryarsh-pc.gov.uk



SAVE THE DATE! SATURDAY 4TH JUNE 2022 QUEENS JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS AT RYARSH VILLAGE HALL. THIS WILL BE A TICKET ONLY EVENT. MORE INFORMATION COMING

**WORRIED ABOUT BURGLARY?
THINK **WIDE(N)****

- 👁️ **WINDOWS** LOCKED
- 👁️ **INTERIOR** LIGHTS ON A TIMER
- 👁️ **DOORS** DOUBLE OR DEADLOCKED
- 👁️ **EXTERIOR** LIGHTS ON A SENSOR
- 👁️ **(NEIGHBOURS)** KEEP AN EYE OUT



Neighbourhood Watch Network is a charity registered in England & Wales, CID no. 1173349

Tonbridge & Malling Police Community Safety Newsletter

Crime Prevention Information:

- As spring approaches the number of shed break-ins can increase. Items such as lawnmowers, bicycles, golf clubs, fishing tackle and power tools can all be kept insecurely in sheds and these can all be easy pickings for thieves to target.
 - The tips below can help to prevent you from becoming a victim of this crime.
 - Install a shed alarm, with a notice displayed to warn thieves that it is not worth the effort of breaking in. The alarms are easy to install and can be purchased at most DIY stores.
 - Make sure the door is always securely locked.
 - Ensure all valuable property is marked with your postcode. Post coding property makes your belongings very unattractive to a thief by making items easily identifiable and difficult to sell.
 - Lock up pedal cycles. Use bike locks and chain them inside to other large items or to the shed.
 - Keep a record of the make, model and ID numbers of bicycles and all other equipment and take photographs of unusual items.
 - Check your household insurance policy to ensure that the value of things stored inside is covered by your contents' policy.
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- Please make all reports of ASB via 101, the online reporting form or 999 in an emergency.
 - The Community Support Unit can gain a better picture where reports have an official reference number so we can collate data effectively.



**Kent
Police**

For more information about policing in your area, visit www.kent.police.uk

To report a non-urgent crime online, visit www.kent.police.uk/contactus



Cuckooing - What is it and what are the signs.

Good Evening,

What is cuckooing? Would you know how to spot the signs that someone is being cuckooed?

Cuckooing- Taking its name from cuckoo birds who will take over another bird's nest to use as their own. The most common form of cuckooing is where criminal gangs, usually county lines drug gangs, will target a vulnerable person and take over their home to either store, use or sell drugs. They will also isolate the victim and stop them from seeing any friends or family.

What are the signs to look out for?

- An increase in people visiting the property both day and night.
- Increased signs of drug use and paraphernalia.
- An increase in people congregating outside.
- Someone becoming distant and obstructive around their living situation.
- A decline in family, friends and healthcare professionals visiting the address.

If you have noticed any of these signs, and believe someone you know is being cuckooed, please call us on 101 or send us a message on live chat, via the Kent Police website.

Kind Regards

PCSO Linda Baker



Message Sent By

Linda Baker

(Police, PCSO, Tonbridge and Malling Community Safety Unit)

April 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 3 April	Leisurely circular walk from East Peckham across farmland to Golden Green	5.5 miles
Wednesday 6 April	Moderate circular walk from Horsmonden through orchards, fields and woods and across streams. One long uphill stretch.	5.5 miles
Sunday 10 April	Moderate circular walk from Five Oak Green to Spring Grove through hop fields, orchards and woods.	5 miles
Wednesday 13 April	Moderate circular walk from Lullingstone Park to Shoreham along the River Darent and past Lullingstone Castle with views over the Darent Valley and viaduct.	6 miles
Sunday 17 April	Moderate circular walk from Otford to Shoreham. One steep climb at the start and a few stiles but the views over Otford are well worth it.	5 miles
Wednesday 20 April	Moderate circular walk from Wrotham to Stansted. Fairly steep climb to the top of the ridge for great views towards the Downs.	5.2 miles
Sunday 24 April	Moderate circular walk from St Mary's Platt to Basted, Ightham Warren, Claygate Cross and Crouch. Woodland, orchards, quiet lanes and footpaths with good views.	6 miles
Sunday 1 May	Moderate circular walk from Plaxtol Spout.	5 miles
<p>Walks usually start mid-morning. 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 www.tonbridgeandmallingeramblers.org.uk or email info@tonbridgeandmallingeramblers.org.uk.</p>		