



RYARSH PARISH COUNCIL



County Councillor Report

- County Councillor Hohler's Annual Report is available on the Parish Council's website.
- She has been County Councillor for nearly 33 years.
- She is Deputy Cabinet Member at KCC for Communities, which covers 13 different services including Community Wardens, Libraries, Coroners and Public Rights of Way.
- It has been a challenging year with lockdown but has enabled fresh thinking about how to do things.
- She is also a trustee for Kent and Medway Fire and Rescue Authority, Kent Music, Rochester Bridge Trust and Turner Contemporary, representing KCC.
- A lot of work and informal consultations are being carried out around Kent libraries
- Kent Country Parks were very important during lockdown, being popular and well used. There are 12 KCC Country Parks. She is trying to connect them to other open spaces. There are 4,827 miles of country paths in Kent and 12,000 hectares of publicly available space
- The Recycling Consultation provided an extraordinary number of responses who liked the booking system, and staff like it also. You can now book on the day, and 40% of bookings are for that day.
- The recycling site at Allington will be opened in May. It is going to be one of the most environmentally friendly waste disposal ones in the country.
- The Green Agenda has a new plan. We do want farmland and environmentally friendly ways to produce food. There are more vineyards in Kent than anywhere else in the country. We are renowned for cutting edge technology and innovation in food. DEFRA does give grants to help farmers but you must be alert to that. There is too much building on farm land. It would be good if farmers are confident in producing food and don't sell for building
- Tree planting is good, but many forget to water and they die. Hedges are also good.
- It is nice that the younger generation are caring about the environment.
- She is passionate about road safety. It is essential that anyone walking and cycling should wear bright clothing.
- There should be a different speed code for country lanes.
- When walking on country roads you should face oncoming traffic.



Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council

- The Annual Report from Borough Councillors Kemp and Montague is available on the Parish Council Website.
- Things are getting back to normal at TMBC. Everyone was working from home and still a lot of people are. They are trialling to see if that will work on a permanent basis. They are only use half of office space so they have not paid to heat the old Gibson building which has added to savings. TMBC have to find £2.5m savings
- Council meetings are back in the Council Chamber and can be watched on You Tube.
- TMBC took part in Operation Assist going out with the police and other agencies to tackle fly tipping. The only way to stop fly tipping is to catch them red handed so if you see anything please take a photo and please report it.
- Household Waste collections have been a problem over last year so she is pleased it is back on schedule. She has been notified about problems with collections in some of Ryarsh, with green bins being neglected and will pass this on.
- The Local plan was rejected by the Inspector, so they are working on a new plan and hope it will be adopted in 2024/2025.
- There has been a big changeover of staff in the planning department and they are still settling down with new people. There is a back log and matters may be taking longer than normal so please bear with them.
- The Boundary Commission decided to divide us up. Ryarsh and Birling will now group with Leybourne. Cllr McKinlay noted that Ryarsh was very reluctant to see this happen and there is a tremendous difference between the villages and Leybourne.
- Cllr Kemp has been a member since 1999 and started representing Oast ward (Offham, Addington, Stansted and Trottiscliffe) and then the Downs Ward in the early 2000's.
- She is on the Planning Committee at TMBC, having previously been Chairman. She is now Chairman of the Audit Committee and Vice Chairman of the Licensing Committee. The auditors report this year for TMBC has been without blemish and says the Borough Council are very good value for money.
- The HGV park was refused at Wrotham, although it didn't make it to planning.

Cllr McKinlay noted how very pleased we are to have County and Borough Councillors who take the trouble to come to our meetings. Not every Parish is this fortunate so we are very grateful to Sarah, Ann and Piers.

Planning Applications in the Village

TMBC is the planning authority. Any applications are sent, once a week, to the Parish Council who is a consultee only. A strict deadline for replies of 21 days is imposed on the Parish Council. We circulate details of planning applications to anyone on our email list, and if the deadline allows it will be listed as Agenda item to be discussed. It is not possible to provide copies of every application to every resident in a printed version.

If you would like to be notified direct by TMBC about every application in the village, you can register with them at <https://www.tmbc.gov.uk/planning>, or email for instructions planning.applications@tmbc.gov.uk.

TMBC as the planning authority have a duty to advertise applications, but they are not under an legal duty to notify many people at all: <https://www.tmbc.gov.uk/planning-applications-appeals/planning-view-comment-planning-applications/2>. They notify neighbouring properties that directly adjoin the site only. They "may" post a printed notice on the site, but they don't have to.



Defibrillator Training

Ryarsh Village Hall has arranged a defibrillator training and familiarisation Session on Sunday 15th May 2022 - 11am - Ryarsh Village Hall. Anyone wishing to attend should e mail Ba- ryarshbookings@gmail.com.

Platinum Jubilee – Afternoon Tea in Ryarsh Village Hall

The event is being held on Saturday 4th June 2022 and a leaflet is at the end of this newsletter. This event is being organised and run by St Martin's Church, but is supported by the Parish Council, Ryarsh WI and The Duke of Wellington.

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.

Next Parish Council meeting

The next meeting which will be held in The Davison Room of Ryarsh Village Hall is **Monday 9th May 2022 at 8pm**. This includes the Annual Parish Council Meeting.

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



KCC BUS FUNDING REDUCTION

Some local bus services in the Tonbridge & Malling area which are '*socially-desirable but commercially-unviable*' are provided with financial support from Kent County Council (KCC). KCC is now faced with difficulties funding them in the future and propose to alter or withdraw services including the following in Summer 2022.

Tonbridge and Malling KENT KARRIER – to be discontinued without replacement.

Bus 58 (Trottscliffe/Ryarsh/West Malling/East Malling/Maidstone Hospital) – to be discontinued without replacement.

Bus 59 (Grafty Green/Kingswood/Chart Sutton/ Boughton Monchelsea/Sutton Road) – Nu-Venture buses to be discontinued without replacement.

Bus 70 (Borough Green/Offham/West Malling/Lunsford Park) – to be discontinued without replacement.

Bus 88 (Kings Hill/Barming/Maidstone) – to be discontinued without replacement.

Bus 208 (East Peckham/Tonbridge/Pembury) – Go-Coach journeys to be withdrawn without replacement.

Bus 222 (Borough Green/Ightham/Plaxtol/Tonbridge) – to be reduced on Mondays to Fridays and withdrawn without replacement on Saturdays.

Bus 502 (West Malling/Kings Hill/Wrotham School) – to be discontinued without replacement.

Bus S4 (Shipbourne – Plaxtol – Sevenoaks) – school times - to be discontinued without replacement.

Buses X1/X2 (Kings Hill/West Malling Station/Maidstone) – to be discontinued without replacement.

If you have any concerns about any of the above proposals, please let KCC have your views at once and **NO LATER THAN 20 APRIL!**

Please check the KCC website – look for

KCC BUS FUNDING REDUCTION – Public consultation

and complete the questionnaire there – by 20 April.

KCC will only review their proposals if they receive views and comments from the affected passengers, community groups and stakeholders.

Don't leave it to others to take part in this consultation!



May 2022 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 1 May	Circular walk from Plaxtol Spout (moderate difficulty).	5 miles
Thursday 5 May	A walk girdling the hilltop village of Goudhurst with lovely views. Mostly tracks and fields and some quiet roads. Some stiles and hills and a steep climb at the end of the walk (moderate difficulty).	6.5 miles
Wednesday 11 May	Circular walk from Leeds village through Kingswood and Broomfield. Dogs welcome but must be on leads in the castle grounds (moderate difficulty).	5 miles
Sunday 15 May	Circular walk from Ryarsh to the Pilgrim's Way, including a gentle climb to the Pilgrim's Way (moderate difficulty).	5.5 miles
Tuesday 17 May	Leisurely circular walk from Frittenden via Sissinghurst Castle Lots of stiles, some sections on quiet lanes.	5.5 miles
Sunday 22 May	Circular walk in the beautiful countryside around Plaxtol (moderate difficulty).	5 miles
Wednesday 25 May	Circular walk from Boxley with a steep climb to the North Downs Way. Then along the Pilgrims Way, returning via vineyards and farmland (moderate difficulty).	6 miles
Sunday 29 May	Circular walk from Yotes Court, down Gover Hill and along the Greensand Way to Plaxtol, returning via Hurst Wood and the Swanton Valley. Some steep hills (moderate difficulty).	7.5 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 www.tonbridgeandmallingeramblers.org.uk or email info@tonbridgeandmallingeramblers.org.uk.</p>		



Can you help your community and spare a few hours to reduce speeding vehicles in your area?

Do you have speeding in your community?

Kent **Speedwatch** Schemes are looking for volunteers to support them in reducing speed and improving the safety on their roads with the support of the police. Speedwatch is a community-based scheme where volunteers record speed of passing vehicles in the area where they live. Around **90%** of vehicles observed once by Speedwatch volunteers are not seen speeding again in the next 12 months.

CONTACT US

If you would like to join the group and help, please visit www.communityspeedwatch.org to register, or for more information visit www.kent.police.uk/speedwatch



Please feel free to share this message via your social media channels as well as email to your neighbours.

Thank you for your time and should you have any other questions please let me know.

Many thanks

Alan



Message Sent By

Alan Watson

(Kent Police, Community Speedwatch Manager, Kent)