



## **Ryarsh PC Chairman's report May 2023– May 2024**

I usually start my report with positive news about our much loved village, but sadly, this year we are again facing the threat of the quarry. It was a shock to receive the survey request especially since there was no communication directly to the Council. We had already voiced our objections last September when KCC were asked to provide a scoping survey but had had no reply. We have now enlisted the support of our neighbouring parishes, T&MBC and KCC. We cannot do anymore until a formal planning application is raised. Please rest assured that we will do everything in our power to resist this development.

More changes this year, having lost our two of our Parish councillors, Ivor Emson and Mel Barton we are happy to welcome Eddie Dennis and Chris Bowyer. The local elections last year resulted in our having two new T&M Borough Councillors, Bill Banks and Paul Boxall who have been assiduous in attendance at meetings and helping to look after our interests at Borough level. We are fortunate to have County Councillor Sarah Hohler who continues to represent us at KCC.

As your Parish council we continue to maintain replace and repair streetlights, contribute to grass cutting in the Churchyard and the Recreation Ground. We have made donations to help the Village Hall and support the Christmas Tree, Heart of Kent Hospice, Citizens Advice and Air Ambulance.

The Highways improvement Plan made some progress and we are looking for additional finance to continue this. We have regular meetings with the KCC Highways team. The number of planning applications for the village had continued to decrease during the year but planning continues to be a topic of major importance. We are still waiting for the outcome of the proposed development next to the school on the Ryarsh Place Farm site which we opposed. The last Tonbridge and Malling Local Plan was rejected by the Inspectors and TMBC preparing the next version to be assessed this year. We spent a

good deal of time reviewing the rejected plan since, although it did not propose many changes to the village, the impact of district development on the A20 and local roads would have been considerable.

On the transport front, the number 58 bus will continue the weekly service and is being jointly funded by parishes.

Refuse collection has been better this year we are recycling more than was ever anticipated. The new re-cycling centre off the A20 on the outskirts of Maidstone is now open.

We have had many examples of fly-tipping over the last year. The Rural Police are working with KCC and TMBC to catch the culprits.

Fly-tipping has not been the only local crime. There have been many local examples of shed break-ins and burglaries. I know that you have been concerned about these and we have brought the matter to the attention of the Police and Crime Commissioner and Senior Police. We now have a dedicated Beat Officer and are working with him to hold another Police event on home safety.

The Remembrance Day Service was held and we were able to place a wreath from the PC and were pleased to have two "Tommys" keeping guard over the village for the coming year we have another one and a lady soldier to keep him company. (Supporting the British Legion).

We have purchased a new notice board for the village (to replace the battered) one with help from Cllr Hohler and are expecting delivery soon. A bench seat for Ryarsh Park has been delivered and we are grateful to Trinity for putting it up. We will be putting some plastic webbing down in the playground entrance to improve safety in wet weather.

My final item is to thank all the Ryarsh Councillors for their support and hard work. We are all willing to help. Our names can be found on the Village website, Please have a look.

Don't hesitate to get in touch if you need any help or information. We publish a monthly newsletter, please contact Lynne to have your name put on the distribution list.

Mary Mckinlay

Chairman Ryarsh PC May 2024