

Bonfire Advice

Through the last questionnaire some of you raised concerns about bonfires lit by neighbours and how these were affecting the enjoyment of your property. There are no specific laws relating to garden bonfires or times at which they can or cannot be lit. While occasional bonfires are to be expected, TMBC may be able to investigate if your neighbour is lighting bonfires so frequently as to cause a 'statutory nuisance'. Further advice can be obtained from TMBC Environmental Protection Team on 01732 876184. Information is also available at <http://www.tmbc.gov.uk/services/environment-and-planning/pollution/pollution-control-nuisances/bonfire> The page also contains advice for those lighting bonfires upon how they can help to minimise the problems caused.

Roger and Michelle will see you now

Earlier this month Michelle and Roger held a Surgery in the Centre Cafe at the East Malling Centre (next to St James Academy) when they were pleased to discuss local issues with residents. They plan to hold these surgeries regularly, on the **second Wednesday of each month**. Their next surgery will be in the cafe on 9th December from 11am until 12.30pm so if there are any local issues that are of concern to you please drop into the cafe to see them. No appointment necessary!

Ragstone Wall at New Road

After more than a year, and having been chased several times, Russet have now begun repairs to the damaged ragstone wall. Footpath repairs behind the wall have failed and will need to be re-done.

In Memory of 'Sir'

A seat has been placed on East Malling Green to commemorate Douglas Rabjohn who was a local teacher in East Malling at the old school in Chapel Street (now Manningham House) and then at what was Blacklands in Mill street. It was organised and funded by former pupils. Do read the lines from a song inscribed on it.



Highway hiccups

Over the last few months we have reported numerous potholes and streetlights in need of repair. Many have already been fixed but we are keeping an eye on those which still need attention. If you have anything to add to our list please email Roger or Michelle with the details or report directly at www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/report-a-problem

East Malling Christmas Market

Organised by the Church, this year's Christmas Market will be on 28th November at the East Malling Village Hall. Doors open 1.45pm - 3.45pm. Lots of stalls, including tombola, toys, bric-a-brac, cakes, 'Grand Draw' and much more! Teas, Coffees, Biscuits & Cakes will be available.

East Malling Hotline

Nov 2015



Turn the lights on again!

Kent County Council has had to admit that it broke the rules when it failed to ask local people about street lights being turned off for part of the night. They paid £3 million to install new controls which turned lights off between midnight and 5.30am. The move was intended to save £1 million per year in electricity costs. THEN they discovered they could make more savings by converting to LED lights. In the Spring they promised to turn them on again after the lanterns had been converted.

BUT now they are thinking again and have started a consultation with residents asking whether you would like your street lights on all night or not. It's nice to be asked, even if it is 12 months and £3 million too late.



Paper copies of the consultation document are available from Libraries and Gateways or by email request to streetlighting@kent.gov.uk But most people are expected to complete the online form at <http://consultations.kent.gov.uk/consult.ti/streetlighting/consultationHome> The consultation favours part night lighting for the whole of the county. So, if you want your street, or cul-de-sac, or dark part of the village lit all night, you must use the comment part of the form to say so. The deadline for responses is 29th November 2015.

TMBC Local Plan - Call for Sites

The Government requires all councils across England to review their Local Plans and particularly the amount of land allocated for new housing. As part of this process a "Call for Sites" takes place when developers and others can suggest new sites for housing or employment uses. Locally, this has resulted in over 220 responses and a map with a list of sites in Tonbridge and Malling has recently been published on TMBC's website and can be viewed at https://www.tmbc.gov.uk/services/planning-and-development/call_for_sites

In East Malling sites include East Malling Research; Broadwater Farm (labelled as a Kings Hill extension!); the playing field owned by the Malling School next to Winterfield Lane, and Woodlands Children's Centre. In Larkfield KCC officers have included Larkfield Library which the Parish council is vigorously contesting. Proposals may emerge for both employment and housing on the site of Aylesford Newsprint following its closure.

Consultants have advised TMBC that it will need to allow land for 673 houses per year. With existing sites, such as Leybourne Grange and Wouldham, TMBC will not need all the sites put forward but we will need to wait until next year to learn the outcome of the Planners' assessments of the sites. Public consultation will then take place.

Parish Chairman David Thornewell says: 'As we have an approved Local Plan with a range of sites not yet fully developed we do have some breathing space to consider all these sites. However, it is clear the Government do think some green fields can be released and elsewhere this is happening including in the Green belt and Areas of Outstanding natural beauty. At present the Parish is gathering information but it is going to be a hard fight to prevent East Malling losing its character and setting.'

We will be keeping a VERY close eye on the situation.

If you return this form the Liberal Democrats and their elected representatives may use the information you've given to contact you. By providing your data to us you are consenting to us making contact with you in the future by mail, email, telephone, text, website and apps, even though you may be registered with the Telephone Preference Service. You can always opt out of communications at any time by contacting us or visiting www.libdems.org.uk/optout For more information go to www.libdems.org.uk/privacy.

Grumble Sheet

If you have any grumbles, ideas, or want to give us your views on the issues in this Hotline, please use this space to get in touch.

Please return to:
Tonbridge and Malling Lib Dems
250, London Road, Leybourne,
West Malling, Kent,
ME19 5AU



Name.....

Address.....

Tel Number.....

Email (Please write clearly!)

**CAN YOU HELP DELIVER HOTLINE
IN YOUR LOCAL ROAD? Please get
in touch if you can help.**

Trudy Dean trudy.dean@kent.gov.uk
Roger Roud rouds@talktalk.net
Michelle Tatton michelle.tatton@aol.com

Email Bulletins

We now issue an email Bulletin of local news direct to your home computer. There are many things we need to tell you about faster than we can do through Hotline, like road closures and local crime threats for instance...and in colour! To sign up, just e mail your request for the East Malling Bulletin to

trudy.dean@kent.gov



Lorry Watch arrives in East Malling

New Road / High Street junction

During the election campaign many of you expressed concern about the volume of traffic in the village, including the number of lorries. Roger and Michelle decided to conduct a Lorry Watch at the New Road / High Street junction to begin assessing the problem of oversized lorries breaching the width restriction. You may have seen them sitting outside the King and Queen in the summer for 90 minute sessions during the morning and evening rush hours. They recorded only 6 potential breaches of the width restriction across the whole period, but also recorded 147 large van movements, split roughly equally between both morning and evening sessions and between travel north and south. Many of these were recognisable delivery vehicles. While these vans can use High Street legally they will clearly be adding to the congestion and ideally would be using other routes. Subject to the weather, Roger and Michelle plan to conduct more Lorry (and Van!) watches during the coming months at other times of the day to gather further statistics. They will report back in the next Hotline. If you would like to be involved please email Michelle at michelle.tatton@aol.com



East Malling Research Land Sales

ROCKS ROAD: A proposed development of five houses on former EMR land at Rocks Farm has attracted so many objections that the developer reduced the number of properties on the site from five to four. However still more objections have since been received, so many in fact, that the application was removed from the agenda of the recent TMBC Area 3 planning meeting in order that the later objections can be considered further. The Parish Council has requested a site visit before Borough Councillors decide the amended application as this site is not visible from the public road and most Borough Councillors will not be familiar with it. This application can be viewed on the TMBC website under reference number TM/15/0547/FL.



SWEETS LANE: A second EMR parcel of land (58 acres) on Sweets Lane has been sold subject to contract. At the moment it is unclear as to what the purchaser proposes to use this land for but we understand that

it was offered for sale for agricultural use. We will of course be keeping a watchful eye on this and will report as soon as anything further is forthcoming.

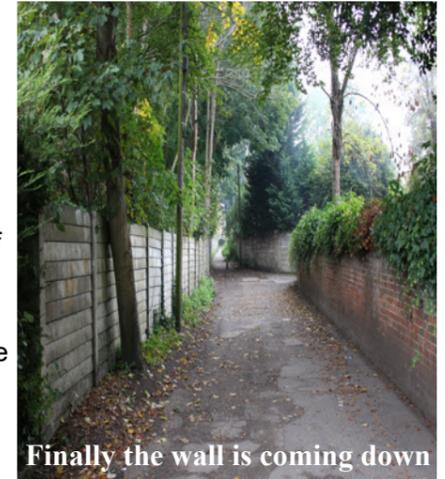
The mystery of the blue post box

While on the campaign trail we spotted that the Royal Mail Post Box in Columbine Road, opposite Jasmine Road, had been painted blue! Having successfully persuaded Royal Mail to repaint the rather sad looking Post Box in Bradbourne Park Road, we asked them to restore this box to its rightful colour. This has been done.



Clare Lake Project

Work has progressed well at Clare Lake over the summer. Following Removal of the non-native fish the lake was de-silted using specialist Equipment and projects to improve the habit for wildlife on the water have taken place. An interpretation panel will soon be erected at the southern end of the lake using a lump of Kentish Ragstone generously provided by Gallagher's and a panel designed by pupils at The Malling School. The meadow area between the lake and the Blacklands footpath is due to be mown and once this has been done we will be looking to co-ordinate a team of volunteers to help maintain the area. If you would be interested in taking part and have not already provided us with your details please email Michelle at michelle.tatton@aol.com who will then keep in touch with you regarding likely dates and tasks. We are also very pleased to report that after what seems like a lifetime the wall alongside the Blacklands footpath is finally to come down. When it starts the work is likely to take up to 2 days, and we ask for your co-operation in using the footpath alongside the lake while the work is underway.



Finally the wall is coming down



GOING AROUND IN CIRCLES?

During the election campaign a number of you told us that Circle Housing Russet were taking too long to carry out housing repairs. Roger and Michelle have been in touch with Russet regarding these complaints and a number of outstanding issues have now been resolved. We were unable to resolve one issue which related to fencing as this was not strictly the responsibility of the Housing Association but we did offer some advice to the resident. There are one or two items that are ongoing. If you are experiencing similar problems with Circle then do contact us if you would like us to take the matter up for you.

A BIG THANK YOU!

Roger and Michelle would like to say a VERY BIG THANK YOU to everyone who supported them during the elections in May. Roger topped the poll while Michelle missed out on the second seat by just 44 votes! Roger has met the challenge of representing you on the Borough Council head-on while Michelle continues to work hard alongside Roger to support residents and tackle local issues. You can contact either Roger or Michelle using the contact details on the back page.

TIME TO TALK RUBBISH

There have been reports of bin men becoming more enthusiastic about issuing notices to residents whose bins are overfull. Advice from TMBC is that a bin is considered to be overfull when the lid is open more than 45 degrees. In these circumstances a notice will be issued and a second or subsequent 'offence' will result in the bin not being emptied. To avoid getting out your measuring tape and having arguments over whether tickets have been issued fairly you may prefer to try to make sure the lid of your bin is closed and dispose of additional items at a refuse centre or via the bulky refuse service, or request a bigger bin. Also consider whether any of the rubbish that you currently put into your black bin could be recycled via your green lidded bin or green box. If you need further information about what goes in each bin or for timings of the bulky refuse service please visit TMBC's website <https://www.tmbc.gov.uk/services/environment-and-planning>

Planning Enforcement

Following the completion of the development of Darcy Court in Mill Street the developers were issued with an enforcement order after discrepancies between their drawings and the finished building work were identified. The developers appealed to the government inspector who upheld their appeal and so the development will stay as it is. The most disappointing aspect of this is that the 'DARCY PRODUCTS' signage on the front of the oast barn, so long a feature of this site, has been lost forever.