

# East Malling Hotline

February / March 2021



## News from your Local Lib Dem Team in East Malling

### East Malling Centre Community Larder - there to support you

Huge thanks to the team at the East Malling Centre who have continued to do a fabulous job supporting residents during this latest lockdown. If you are in need of support, or if you wish to volunteer, please contact Liz Simpson.

**THESE ARE DIFFICULT TIMES AND PEOPLE ARE FINDING IT TOUGH**

## THE COMMUNITY LARDER

**ARE YOU STRUGGLING FINANCIALLY?  
UNABLE TO GET TO THE SHOPS?**

**Then contact The Community Larder for help with food, hygiene and cleaning products. We can also offer advice, support or just a friendly chat.**

Contact Liz Simpson on 07463 222733  
Email [lizsimpson55@outlook.com](mailto:lizsimpson55@outlook.com)

If you wish to donate then there are drop off points in Coop and A&D stores.

Working in partnership with  
The East Malling Centre  
Snodland Town Council  
Clarion Housing Group

Find us on Facebook  
[theeastmallingcentre](https://www.facebook.com/theeastmallingcentre)

FareShare  
Community Food Banks

Trudy has given £1,750 to the East Malling Community Centre from her Councillors Community Fund for redecoration and repair work. She says "I haven't been able to run the Dragons Den event this year because of Covid. So I have tried to use it where it will benefit most people ... on cutting traffic speeds, and helping the many activities run at the Community Centre."

### Have your say on 20mph scheme for residential roads



The most common complaint we receive is about vehicle speeds. So through her County Cllrs' Community Fund Trudy Dean is paying for KCC to design a 20 mph scheme which would cover East Malling, Larkfield and West Malling

Trudy writes: After many years of resisting 20mph Schemes, KCC is now favouring them on the large scale used in many towns and cities. So I have used £3,500 of my Councillors Community Fund for KCC to prepare a scheme for consultation to cover East and West Malling and Larkfield.

The idea is that all residential roads should have a 20 mph limit, marked only by road signs and markings on the road surface.

KCC say the main through routes of Winterfield Lane, Clare Lane, Mill Street and New Road (between the King and Queen and Beech Road) could also be restricted to 20 mph. However they suggest added features such as ramps, flashing signs or chicanes would be needed, for which funding would have to be found. Consultation on a 30mph limit for New Road between Beech Road and A20 is expected soon.

So, all estate roads in Bradbourne Park, Clare Park, Stepstile, and Winterfield estates would have 20mph limits. The northern/adopted end of Blacklands, Middle Mill, Stickens Lane, Upper Mill, Cottenham Close, Vigor Close, Church Walk, The Grange, Rocks Close, Gillett's Lane and Four Acres would also be covered by 20 mph restrictions.

High Street, Chapel Street and parts of Rocks Road are already in the 20 mph limit. But are the entry points to the zone in the right place, or should they include a wider area, starting further away from the village centre along Watringbury Road, for instance?

Broadwater Road, Well Street, The Heath, Sweets Lane and Easterfields would all become 20 mph, and our view is that all parts of those roads should also be included in the Quiet Lanes Network.

You can tell us what you think by filling in our survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/BWQDDVT>

**INSIDE: Covid Testing - Beech Road Traffic - Quarry News - Flooding**

## Have you been jabbed yet?



Some of us have had our jabs while others have taken elderly relatives for theirs. The system locally is working well thanks to our hard working NHS staff and the many volunteer stewards who are helping shepherd patients in and out.

As we went to print those over 70, health/social care workers, the clinically extremely vulnerable, the housebound and those with a learning difficulty were being contacted with over 65s due to be called imminently. When it's your turn you will be called by the surgery, receive a text with a link, or get a letter from NHS England. You will NOT get an email. If you do it will be a scam.

Larkfield Library is operating as a symptom free testing centre. If you have to leave home for work or for other necessary reasons on a regular basis then it is recommended that you get tested every two weeks. You can book a slot on line at [www.kent.gov.uk/symptomfreetest](http://www.kent.gov.uk/symptomfreetest)

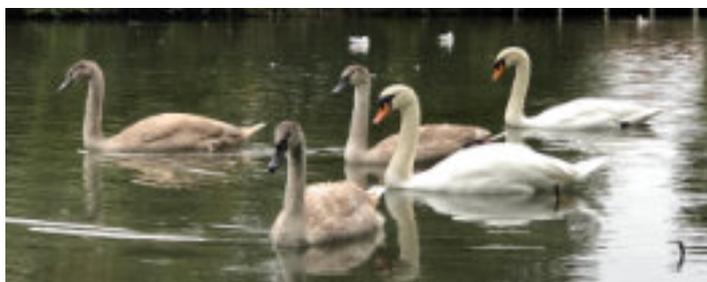
If you have Covid symptoms then you should book a test or request to be sent a home test. Visit <https://www.kent.gov.uk/social-care-and-health/health/protect-kent-and-medway/test-and-trace/testing-for-people-with-symptoms>

## Catapult / BB gun alert!!!

In the last few weeks there have been several catapult / BB gun incidents reported. Teenagers were seen firing at the swans at Clare Lake; a delivery vehicle was targeted on the A20; and a window of a house and the windscreen of a car were damaged in a neighbouring village when shots appear to have been fired from a passing vehicle.

These are very serious incidents which could have caused injury or even death. If you know who may be responsible please let the Police know on 101. If you are a parent and you know your child has access to a catapult or BB gun please confiscate it before some really serious damage is done.

Please stay alert.



## Beech Road Chaos

Roger and Michelle are working together and in conjunction with The Malling School to try to find a solution to the traffic problems in Beech Road during school drop off and pickup times.

Many parents drop their children in the turning circle within the school grounds. As these cars exit they face pinch points in Beech Road created by parked cars. Unless cars can get out of the school others cannot get in and it soon becomes chaotic. More often than not the road becomes gridlocked and tempers flare with parents having no option at times other than to drive on the pavement to escape and get traffic moving again. This in turn causes a risk to students and other pedestrians.

Roger and Michelle are looking at the possibility of reducing parking in Beech Road during critical hours, with restrictions much the same as were introduced in New Hythe Lane which have had some positive results. They intend to undertake a consultation as soon as is possible and will present their findings to the Planning and Transportation Board at TMBC to be assessed and, if agreed, implemented.

We would welcome the views of anyone who is impacted by the existing difficulties.



Congestion in Beech Road morning and afternoon during school term time

We are also aware of obstructive and inconsiderate parking on The Rocks Road near near the tight bend near near the footpath that leads to Four Acres. Vehicles are parking too close and even on the bend. Pavement parking is causing an obstruction to pedestrians. These issues have been raised with TMBC and in due course there will be a consultation regarding yellow lines.

## KCC Quarry Monitoring

Following on from our previous reports, KCC have now agreed that 6 monitoring sites can be set up locally to monitor the increased blasting at both Hermitage Quarry and Blaise Farm Quarry.

We are hoping that one of the monitoring stations will be at East Malling Research as we suggested previously but if you have a garden where you can securely provide a home for the equipment on alternate weeks, please contact Trudy as soon as possible at [trudy.dean@kent.gov.uk](mailto:trudy.dean@kent.gov.uk)

Hermitage Quarry has around 15 more years of life in it. Quarrying is being undertaken in an anticlockwise direction so the blasting is nearer to East Malling than it has ever been. During this summer work should start to turn towards the south again before heading back eastwards.

We continue to monitor the blast data that is now uploaded to KCC's website. All blasts are shown to be well within the legal limits. We will of course compare this data with KCC's monitoring data in due course.



## Forty Acres and Local Plan

The Forty Acres Inspector was unable to complete her site inspection before the latest national lockdown was introduced and as far as we are aware this has still not been carried out. Therefore it may be several more weeks before she publishes her decision.

Meanwhile, the Borough Council has issued a robust response to the Local Plan Inspectors who have raised issues of legal compliance. You can read more about this on our website at

<https://eastmallingsmatters.mycouncillor.org.uk/tmbc-issues-response-to-local-plan-inspectors>  
Salt bin requests

The large amount of surface / flood water on New Road near the King & Queen, is causing problems when the temperature drops so Trudy is looking to see whether a salt bin could be installed near one of the bus stops.

If you know of other locations where a salt bin would be beneficial please get in touch.

## Water water everywhere!

Once again, the centre of East Malling has been subject to flooding by the stream rising in Gilletts Hole.

A similar situation arose last year resulting in a near miss for the Hall House in Church Walk. Water was lapping at the front door step. This forced a ditch to be dug in the Village Green so as to let water escape. It was found that an underground culvert which runs through the garden of Court Lodge was blocked in the verge at Church Walk. KCC Highways eventually uncovered the source of the problem and repaired it. All was well until late January this year when a similar problem occurred, this time almost flooding not only the Hall House but the small bungalow belonging to EMR opposite the King and Queen.

We got KCC Highways on the case again. They jetted out the culvert under the road and the water disappeared although it soon returned and Michelle made further calls to KCC for more jetting out.

On speaking to a representative of EMR, Roger discovered that they are trying to solve the problem permanently by clearing out a second culvert which runs across their access road and under the front of the properties formerly owned by them on New Road. This culvert originally took the excess water from the stream and channelled it through to a ditch which runs down the eastern side of New road behind the brick wall. On investigation, they found the culvert was blocked and so installed a new manhole on their land to help solve the problem. Unfortunately, they have until now been unable to clear the blockage which appears to be on private land. Until this problem can be resolved, it seems the flooding will continue although we will carry on pressing Kent Highways to use the powers available to them.

Whilst investigating the streams, EMR are also trying to pinpoint the problem that causes New Road to flood at the junction of Chapman Way. Again, the stream of water drains into their grounds. Let's hope they are more successful with this blockage!



Trudy, Michelle and Roger inspect the flooding at New Road

## Not getting Trudy's Email Bulletin? Check your SPAM Folder

Trudy sends out an email bulletin with local news and information every couple of weeks. We are aware that in some cases the emails are not finding their way to email inboxes but are diverting to SPAM folders instead. We are looking to see whether there is anything we can do at our end to stop this happening but if you are signed up to receive Trudy's Bulletin and are wondering why you haven't seen one for a while please check your SPAM folder and mark the emails as 'ok' so that in future your system will hopefully recognise the email as coming from a trusted source.

If you seem to have dropped off Trudy's circulation list, please email her at [trudy.dean@kent.gov.uk](mailto:trudy.dean@kent.gov.uk) and she will make sure you receive future bulletins.



## Sign up for a Postal Vote

The Government is clear that it wishes elections to go ahead on 6th May. If you are already registered to vote you can apply for a postal vote by downloading a form from TMBC's website. For full details please visit [www.tmbc.gov.uk](http://www.tmbc.gov.uk) and type 'postal vote' in the search box to find the correct link. Alternatively message us and we'll send you details.

## How to keep in touch

Trudy Dean (Kent County Councillor)	<a href="mailto:trudy.dean@kent.gov.uk">trudy.dean@kent.gov.uk</a>	01732 843119
Roger Roud (Borough & Parish Councillor)	<a href="mailto:rouds@talktalk.net">rouds@talktalk.net</a>	01732 <b>840828</b>
Michelle Tatton (Borough & Parish Councillor)	<a href="mailto:michelle.tatton@aol.co.uk">michelle.tatton@aol.co.uk</a>	01732 521889
David Thornewell (Parish Council Chairman)	<a href="mailto:davidthornewell@blueyonder.co.uk">davidthornewell@blueyonder.co.uk</a>	01732 847415

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[www.eastmallingsmatters.mycouncillor.org.uk](http://www.eastmallingsmatters.mycouncillor.org.uk)

Email



Sign up for Trudy's email Bulletin, or send us your comments/suggestions using the form below:

Name:

Address:

Email / phone:

Comments: