



The Hartley Herald

The Parish Council Office, Hartley Library, Ash Road, Hartley, Kent DA3 8EL
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September 2006

Highways Update—A yellow line warning

The Parish Council has over the years received many complaints about the inconsiderate parking around the schools in Hartley. As many of you will know, the parking issues around Hartley Primary School have been increasing over the last few years with inconsiderate parking across people's drives and on the pavements, creating damage to the surface and the services below and preventing access by pushchairs and wheelchairs.



Many of the roads near our schools have become a danger zone to our children arriving and leaving the school and it will not be long before we have a serious accident. The first move in trying to solve this problem was the provision of 'SCHOOL KEEP CLEAR' markings on the road, but you will note that many people are now parking on these anyway.

The Highways Committee took this issue on board and requested that the Chief Parking Officer for Sevenoaks visited Hartley to see what could be done. His proposals consist mainly of providing double yellow lines at all corners near the schools and restricting parking to one side of the road at school arrival and departure times. Full details can be obtained from the Parish Office but please bear in mind that these are only initial proposals and will need to be honed to meet our requirements.

Another issue is that at the top of Woodland Ave, opposite the Church, the buses have been having problems turning left out of Woodland Ave at school times due to parked vehicles. It has therefore been proposed to provide double yellow lines here also. We have asked that at least 2 spaces are left outside the Church to allow for wedding and funeral cars to park.

Whilst we understand the problems that parking restrictions cause, we feel that something has to be done and we can assure you that it is aimed at protecting our most important assets, the children in our schools, hopefully without too much impact on the local residents.

Rectory Meadow - Draft Byelaws

Following the Parish Council's success in achieving Local Nature Reserve status for Rectory Meadow it is now proposed to adopt a set of byelaws specific to Local Nature Reserves.

A draft set of byelaws is now available for inspection and anyone wishing to view them may do so at the Parish Council Office, Hartley Library, Ash Road, Hartley, Longfield, Kent DA3 8EL from Monday to Friday inclusive, during the hours of 9.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. and 2.00p.m. to 5.00 p.m.

The Parish Council would welcome your comments.

Rectory Meadow - Open Day

An 'Open Day' was held on 16th June 2006, to celebrate the success of achieving Local Nature Reserve status and also to thank the organisations and individuals who have been instrumental in restoring the meadow. Those attending included representatives from English Nature, and the North West Kent Countryside Project along with some of their volunteers. Several members of the public also came along.



Your Parish Councillors are: Larry Abraham, Chris Alford, Alan Barnett, Jane Burns, Yvette Coutts, James Gaywood, Malcolm Harris, Anne Oxtoby, Brian Ramsay, Vince Sewell, Margaret Solman, Andrew Tremain and Chris Ward. They can be contacted via the Clerk, Julie Hoad at the Parish Office, Hartley Library, Ash Road, Kent, DA3 8EL, by e mail mail@hartleyparishcouncil.org.uk or by phone 01474 709441.

URC Update

The feasibility report, proposing the use of the URC site as a Village Hall/Heritage Centre, was agreed by the main Parish Council and was well received by the URC Synod. They were sympathetic to the need and the use of the site. At a meeting with the Synod, they confirmed that there were a number of small issues to be resolved, one of which was whether the legal requirements of the Church would be met by leasing the building to the community. We are still awaiting the outcome of those legal deliberations. If these are agreed, the Synod will come back to the Council with their proposed leasing arrangements.

At present, the Parish Council is putting together the business case and management requirements in the hope of making our own community centre become a reality. As you will appreciate, the cost of running such a facility would not be small and we are looking at ways of raising the funding on a regular basis. One idea is to have a membership fee of say £5 per annum, per household with members obtaining discounts when hiring the premises. We must also consider setting up a trust, registering as a charity and creating a management board to administer the day to day running. If the Synod come back with a proposal, which on the outset seemed acceptable, then a public meeting would be arranged to ascertain support for the project.

As requested in the last newsletter, if anyone has any skills, knowledge of funding or would be prepared to use such a facility, please contact the Parish Office if you have not already done so.

Parish Council Website

The official website has undergone a few changes recently with more pages added giving up to date information about council activities including minutes of council meeting and activities as well as useful contact information.

The website address is www.hartleyparishcouncil.org.uk



Parish Council Surgery Dates

Members of the Parish Council will be available on Saturday 14th of October from 10 am to 12 noon in the Parish Office. The surgery is your opportunity to talk to your councillors about what is happening in Hartley and to voice any concerns you may have regarding the village.

Benefit Outreach Surgery

The six-month trial that offers benefits advice to the local community avoiding the need to travel to the Council's offices in Sevenoaks or Swanley is due to end shortly. It has yet to be decided whether the service will continue.

During the last 6 months residents have been able to have their Council Tax and housing benefit application forms checked and make general enquiries about benefits eligibility and how to claim. Original documents taken to the clinic can be copied and verified by one of the Council's Benefit Officers, then returned immediately.

There have been two half-hour appointments available from 3pm every Wednesday afternoon which have proved to be very popular. The drop in clinic from 2.00pm to 3.00pm has also been well used.

If you would like to take advantage of the service and want to make an appointment contact the Council's Benefits section on 01732 227000, select option two for benefits followed by two for 'other benefit enquiries', or drop in to the library between 2.00pm and 3.00pm where you will be seen on a first come first served basis.

Your Parish Councillors will do their best to have this service continued as we feel it offers a valuable service to the community.

Public Highways

Kent Highway Services is part of Kent County Council and is responsible for looking after roads, pavements and cycle ways throughout the County. Faults ranging from potholes, broken street lights, vegetation overhanging footpaths, obstructed or dirty road signs, etc., can be reported to Kent Highway Services on 08458 247 800. The call centre operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Alternatively faults may be notified on line at www.kent.gov.uk/highways

In the Zone

In the Zone is the holiday activity scheme operated by Sevenoaks District Council for young people aged 8 and above. The In Zone bus visited Hartley [Woodlands Avenue] from 11 am to 3.30 pm on the 4th of August. Despite low numbers attending, only 29, those who did come along had a fun day that included drama games with improvisations, mimes and Chinese whispers using actions instead of words. There was a wide range of circus skills equipment to try out, and games of football and basketball were played. There was also the opportunity to make badges, keyrings masks and pictures in the arts and crafts tent.