

FEBRUARY 2024

NEWSLETTER

High Halden Parish Council Newsletter

WELCOME TO OUR NEWSLETTER. OUR AIM IS TO PRODUCE AND DISTRIBUTE THIS NEWSLETTER ELECTRONICALLY ON A REGULAR BASIS. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE FUTURE COPIES OF THIS NEWSLETTER OR HAVE SOMETHING YOU WOULD LIKE TO RAISE WITH US PLEASE CONTACT THE PARISH CLERK



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ALLOTMENT UPDATE

The Parish Council is delighted to announce that the allotments are now up and running. A lease for the land has been agreed with the landowner and all ten allotments have now been let out. The Parish Council is very grateful to Mr Terry Haigh and his family for providing the land for the allotments. If you would like to go on the waiting list for the allotments please do contact the Clerk.

The Parish Council has applied for and been granted permission for a parking area and these works have now also been completed. All ten plots have been fenced in with rabbit protection fencing and a gate. We are now looking to install some sheds. All of these works have been funded by developer contributions.

CONTACT US... The Parish Clerk — Louise Goldsmith

Email: clerk@highhaldenparishcouncil.co.uk

Tel: 07900 693572



Find us on 

[We need your help to create a Multi-generational fitness and community space.](#)

As reported in the last newsletter we are in the process of reviewing the playground equipment and activities for all ages on the recreation ground as further developer contributions could be available to fund replacement equipment. Some of you responded to our survey to install a Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) as developer contributions have been attributed to this and we had commenced a tender process to install one.

However, following various site visits and discussions with some of the contractors we have had a bit of rethink. We are not convinced that the installation of a stand-alone MUGA would be the best use of the space and maximise engagement with all age groups. The contractors have opened our eyes to all types of alternative equipment such as pod swing, climbing nets, pendulum swings, table tennis, outdoor gym equipment, dance mats to name just a few.

We have therefore taken the decision to reconsult and incorporate into this research a number of different options for equipment and social areas to hopefully create a space which is both inclusive and used for many years to come.

The consultation will take place in two parts:

An online survey: This will include questions about your preferences and there will be an opportunity for free comments. Access the online survey via this link :

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/L65BRMY>

An in-person survey: We will display boards in the **village hall** and **school** with all the different options. Residents can then place stickers on their favourite items which will give us a visual understanding of the most popular features. These boards will also serve to inspire and prompt conversation between people attending the event. The in-person survey will take place as follows:

High Halden Village Hall: SUNDAY 18TH FEBRUARY 2024—10am—2pm

High Halden Church of England School: TUESDAY 20TH FEBRUARY 2024—2.30pm—4pm

If you would like a **hard copy of the survey** please contact the Clerk

We really want to get this right and would be very grateful if you could complete the online survey and attend one of the consultation events to give your views

COMMUNITY ORCHARD

The Parish Council met with KCC late summer to consider planting a community orchard on the land where the allotments are sited. KCC suggested that an application was made by ABC, on behalf of the Parish Council, for funding from the Coronation Living Heritage Fund to plant a community orchard at the allotment site. The landowner kindly agreed to this proposal and the Parish Council were delighted to recently hear that the application for funding was successful. The fruit trees, which will be carefully selected to be native to the area, will be planted in the Autumn. The thinking is that the trees could be 'adopted' and tendered by parishioners as celebration trees. If you are interested in 'adopting' a tree please contact the Clerk.



Kent Police Update and Anti-social behaviour in the village

Kent Police's new Neighbourhood Policing model launched in June 2023:

Each district in Kent now has a community safety unit with three teams to tackle problems within their areas.

These teams are:

Beat Officers who will be the key contact

Neighbourhood Task Force

Child Centred Policing Team

PC Darren Laker is the Beat Officer for our area and he recently attended a Parish Council meeting.



We are continuing to work with all the agencies regarding the incidents of anti-social behaviour in the village and PC Darren Laker also attends these meeting. However, Kent Police has advised that recently there has been very few reported incidents and have asked us to encourage residents to continue to report any concerns about anti-social behaviour. We are aware that there has been a number of incidents involving catapults. Please do report any incidents such as catapulting to Kent Police as this is anti-social behaviour. The reports will help the Police with their intelligence and should increase the police presence in the village.

The best and quickest way to report a non urgent incident is online at www.kent.police.uk or use the link below [Report antisocial behaviour | Kent Police](#). Full confidentiality is assured.



Highways Improvement Plan

Unfortunately, KCC do not agree that an additional Vehicle Activated Sign to cover both directions of travel in the vicinity of Tilden Close in the 30mph zone is required. The recent speed survey results did not support the installation of this equipment. The Parish Council is challenging this decision and will continue to fight to get a reduction in the speed limit. Thank you to all those residents that have displayed the speed reduction stickers on their wheelie bins on the A28. Hopefully these will give a clear message to motorists. We have recently received a petition for a speed reduction on Redbrook Street and will be pursuing this in conjunction with Woodchurch Parish Council.

POT HOLES

You will not be surprised to learn that figures from KCC show that the number of potholes reported between 1 October and the 19 December 2023 numbered 5,510 compared to 1,959 in the same period in 2021. In 2022 there were 3,073 reports.

KCC have reported that £50m is now being ploughed into tackling the problem in Kent with new, semi-automatic technology being trialled as well as taking on additional contractors to carry out repairs.

In November, the government pledged £150 million to tackle the "scourge of potholes" and other road issues across the country as part of an ongoing programme to provide long-term certainty to local authorities and helping to prevent potholes from coming back in the future.

Please do continue to report any issues you spot on the roads including potholes. The best way to report a pothole is online at [Report a problem on a road or pavement - Kent County Council](#) or contact the Clerk.



If your vehicle is damaged by a pothole you might be able to make a claim. You must report any damage by calling KCC on [03000 41 81 81](tel:03000418181) (available Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm). You will then be sent a claim form and be given instructions on how to complete this.

Introducing your new waste & recycling service

The new service begins at the end of March 2024 and will bring in new technology and industry improvements, whilst retaining large parts of the existing service, which helped make Ashford one of the best recycling local authorities in Kent, and beyond.

Fortnightly collections of waste and recycling will continue across the borough, with one green wheeled bin for recycling, alongside the regular weekly food waste collections.

The new contract offers the chance to increase recycling rates, more efficient routes, lower emission vehicles and better technology to keep residents up to date on collections.

The new vehicles are being funded directly by the council to help save costs and will be more modern vehicles that use electric bin lifts. This will help reduce the consumption of diesel dramatically, helping lower the services' carbon footprint.

Our street cleansing service will also be delivered by our new contractor Suez. The new contract includes proposed improvements to the level of cleansing in rural and residential areas, as well as quicker response times on removing fly-tipping.

What will the service look like?

Waste and recycling collections in the borough consist of:

A weekly food waste collection — A fortnightly recycling collection — A fortnightly general waste collection

OPTIONAL : paid-for fortnightly garden recycling collection

When will the new contract start & will the frequency of collections change?

From Sunday 24 March. No. The frequency of collections will be staying the same, with fortnightly recycling and waste collections, and an optional fortnightly garden waste collection. Food waste will be collected weekly.

Will my collection day change & if so why?

Although the frequency of collections will be staying the same, it is likely that after Sunday 24 March 2024, your collection day will alter. We will notify residents of any changes well in advance of the new contract start date.

The changes are being made to make a more efficient collection schedule. Half the borough will have their recycling bins collected while the other half of the borough will have their refuse bins collected. This will be easier to process at the waste processing centre and will also mean it is easier to catch up on any missed collections.

RECYCLING

Cardboard, Paper & Magazines
Plastic Bottles, Tubs, Pots & Containers
Tins, Cans inc Sweet & Biscuit Tins
Glass Bottles & Jars
Foil, Meat Trays & Ready Meal Trays
Fruit & Veg Punnets
Empty Aerosols

PLEASE RINSE ITEMS OUT WHERE POSSIBLE

FOOD WASTE CADDY

Meat, Fish & Bones
Fruit & Veg, inc. Peelings
Teabags & Coffee grounds
Bread, Pasta & Pulses
Eggshells
Dairy inc. Solid Butter, Marg & Lard
Leftovers from Meals
Out Of Date Food Products
Pet Food

NO FLUIDS

**ALL ITEMS NOT ON
THESE TWO LISTS
MUST GO IN THE
GREY HOUSEHOLD
WASTE BIN**

**Please DO NOT
Contaminate the
recycling with any
items not listed.**

FOR MORE INFORMATION REGARDING WASTE & RECYCLING IN OUR VILLAGE VISIT:-

www.ashford.gov.uk/recycling-waste-and-bins/bin-collection-calendars/

To book a large item collection at www.ashford.gov.uk

www.ashford.gov.uk/recycling-waste-and-bins/large-item-collection/ or call 01233 331111.

www.ashford.gov.uk/garden-waste

For further information about the new service visit our website or follow us on social media.

www.ashford.gov.uk/waste



Ashford Advice

the charity for
your community

Ashford
Borough
Citizens
Advice

Whenever people need advice, we're here

Our goal is to help everyone find a way forward, whatever problems they face.

People come to us with all sorts of issues. You may have **money, benefit, housing or employment problems**. You may have been asked to give evidence in court, or been misled by a dodgy ad. You may be **facing a crisis**, or just considering your options. It doesn't matter who you are, or what your situation is. Ashford Borough Citizens Advice will always give you **free, confidential and impartial** advice. We have specialist advisers in Housing, Debt and Welfare Benefits plus many subject areas who can assist with tribunal and court cases. We have access to **pro-bono solicitors** and offer a **form filling service**.

The Citizens Advice Bureau will be available in the village hall on the third Friday morning of every month to coincide with coffee mornings and the Post Office.



Speedwatch for High Halden

We have an established speedwatch scheme but are always keen to have some more volunteers. Training will be provided and you can do as little or as much as you want. Please do contact the Clerk if you would be willing to help.



Kent Police have introduced a new messaging system which allows members of the public to receive messages directly from their local Police station and PCSO's. All that sign up to the system will receive updates on various things such as community events; latest Scam alerts; Crime prevention advice as well as personal messages from your PCSO. You can reply to messages to offer assistance with CCTV or information you may have about the message you received. Please sign up online on the My Community Voice Kent website to start receiving updates.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

Come along to our council meetings on the 2nd Monday of each month at
The Village Hall @ 7pm.

For more information contact Louise the Parish Clerk

Email: clerk@highhaldenparishcouncil.co.uk Tel: 07900 693572



Jubilee Park

Using S106 funds/developer contributions all the ditches around the recreation have been cleared. Hopefully this will assist with the drainage for many years to come.

