

Meopham Mercury

The Meopham Parish Council Newsletter No.13

Spring 2017

Changes to our Waste and Recycling Service

(Information provided by Gravesham Borough Council)

IMPROVED changes are being made to Gravesham Borough Council's waste and recycling service. From June, homes in the borough that already have a recycling wheelie bin will be receiving a new wheelie bin for general waste, to replace the current black sacks.

Collection days are not changing but the frequency is. All homes in Gravesham will move to alternate weekly collections from June. This means your recycling will be collected one week and your general waste the next. Food waste will still be collected weekly.

The first pieces of literature will start going out in early March and the bins will start being delivered from Monday 5 June. It is expected to take until the end of June for all households to receive their bins. Residents should start using their bins as soon as they receive them.

Cabinet Member for Community Services, Cllr Sandra Garside, said: "This roll out forms phase two of our waste and recycling project, and things are being done in the same way as they were in 2014 when the recycling bins were introduced to homes. We're trying to make it as easy as possible to understand, so everyone on the scheme will get an information booklet and calendar when the bin is delivered and it will tell them what week they need to put each bin out on."

The day of the week that residents currently put their bin out is not changing and no extra side waste will be collected. If you have extra rubbish it will need to be

taken to the Household Waste Recycling Centre at Pepperhill. Any glass items will also need to be taken to the Pepperhill tip or to bottle banks in local supermarkets or Camer Park.

Cllr Garside added: "We'd really like to thank our residents for their help in the way phase one was implemented. We're sure phase two will be just as smooth and we'd like to thank residents in advance for their support in doing this.

"The introduction of this new general waste bin will allow our recycling rate to continue to rise too. Since 2014, when the recycling wheelie bins were introduced, it's risen from 24 per cent to 35 per cent and we hope we'll be able to improve this figure further.

The bins will also help keep our streets cleaner because we'll have less black sacks split by animals, so again we thank everyone for getting on board with this part of the roll out and keeping our streets and neighbourhoods tidy."

Those households that didn't get a recycling bin last time won't automatically receive a waste bin this time, however if residents did want to 'opt in' for the service you will soon be able to do this online. Flats, which are on communal bin systems, won't be affected by the changes.

You can find out more about the service on our website

www.gravesham.gov.uk/waste

Voluntary Community Litter Pick

Don't forget our planned litter picks for 2017. Please come along and join councillors to help keep Meopham tidy and litter free. We provide litter pick

sticks, high viz jackets, gloves and a cuppa at the Windmill afterwards. The more the merrier! Meet at the Windmill at 10am.

Litter Pick dates for 2017:

Saturday April 29th 2017

Saturday July 29th 2017

Saturday October 28th 2017

If you are aware of any areas in the parish that could benefit from a litter pick, please notify the Parish Office in the week prior to the litter pick so we can target this area.

Volunteer Support Warden wanted for Meopham

Are you passionate, enthusiastic and up for a new challenge? Do you like meeting new people, want to learn new skills and provide valuable support to local residents? Kent County Council, working in conjunction with the Kent Association of Local Councils is introducing an exciting new Volunteer Support Warden role in selected areas.

The role will be challenging but rewarding and you'll be making a real difference to local communities. For more information and to find out which areas this role is being launched contact Community Wardens on 03000 413455 or visit www.kent.gov.uk/communitywardens . Current closing date is 31st March 2017 but this may be extended.

Harvel Pond - update

KCC paid for and carried out work on Harvel Pond which included the removal of the silt from the pond and flushing through drains. The silt has been relocated to a fenced off area on Harvel Green, which is Parish Council owned land. The silt needs to dry out before it can be removed and the green reinstated. Depending on the weather this can take a few months. The Parish Council has paid for the tree work around the pond, work which was advised by Kent Wildlife Trust to help sustain the pond for the future.

The tree work had approval from the Conservation Officer.

The Parish Council will now be looking at the second stage of work on the pond, which will include looking at the fencing, installing a gate, restoring the duck house, potentially installing a platform area and some planting. We are in the process of applying to Tesco Bags of Help for a grant for the work in the second phase. In collaboration with Kent Wildlife Trust we also plan to organise some skills and knowledge events in Harvel relating to future maintenance of the pond and broader conservation issues both for residents and the wider public.

Bus Shelters

The Parish Council has recently had to replace two of the polycarbonate panels in the bus shelter at the junction of Meadfield Road/Wrotham Road due to vandalism. The council were fortunate to be able to obtain a small grant from Kent County Council for half of the cost of this work. If you do notice any anti-social behaviour at any of the bus shelters in the parish, please report this to the **police** on **101** and also report to the parish office so we can arrange for any repairs to be carried out.

Pitfield Green Toilets – Proposed Closure

Gravesham Borough Council are planning to close the public toilets on Pitfield Green due to financial constraints. They have confirmed that the closure will not take place until something else is put in place, either a 'community toilet scheme', where potential business premises open their toilets to the public or the Parish Council take over the running of the toilets. The Parish Council believes that the toilets should be retained as a village asset. **Please would you let the Clerk know if you are a member of a rambling group or any other organisation who use these toilets.** We are also planning to survey residents on whether they feel that the Parish Council

should take on the running of the toilets. Please check our website and the notice boards for further information on when this is available to complete.

Picnic on The Green

The Parish Council are looking to hold another Picnic on The Green event this summer. Further information will be published on the council's website and the parish noticeboards.

Telephone boxes

BT are planning to remove the telephone boxes at Meadfield Road, Willow Walk and Harvel Village Hall. Your Parish Council has written to object to this as in many places there is little or no mobile signal - and not everyone has a mobile phone.

New Defibrillator and cabinet at Meopham Village Hall

Kent Fire and Rescue Service have donated a defibrillator and cabinet to the Parish Council for the community. As Meopham Village Hall have been trying to fund raise for a community defibrillator, the Parish Council has donated this to Meopham Village Hall for the community to use in an emergency. To aid local parishioners in learning how to use the defibrillator and save a life, a course sponsored by the British Heart Foundation is being offered at the village Hall on Saturday 29th April 2017 from 10.30am to 12.30pm. This is a practical course to give you 'hands on' experience with resuscitation 'Annies' and a training automated external defibrillator. Minimum age suggested is 15 years old. Although the course is **FREE** and will be filled on a first come, first serviced basis, any donations for this life-saving course collected on the day will go directly to the **British Heart Foundation**. To book your place, email Simon White at sjw1138@gmail.com or call on 07799065590.

Parking Issues in the Parish

The Parish Council has set up a Working Group to look at the parking issues in the parish, particularly at Camer Parade, School Close and Culverstone School areas. The Parish Council does not have any power to make any physical changes to any of the locations, such as installing bollards or putting in further double yellow lines. We have made requests to Gravesham Borough Council's Enforcement Team to send more officers to the locations. We have also requested via our County Councillor, that a mirror is put in at Camer Parade to help with visibility when exiting the parade. The main role that the Parish Council can take is to try and educate people to prevent them from parking in a potentially hazardous way and we have currently secured grant funding to help us put a parking safety campaign into action.

TinyTalk Meopham Baby Signing classes had visit from Peter Andre!

Peter Andre and his wife Emily visited the Baby Signing class at Meopham Village Hall in March to find out all about baby signing. This was part of npower's Family Superpowers campaign, going around the country finding out about the superpowers we all have as families and how we can unlock them.

Planning Applications in the Parish of Meopham

In response to residents and to improve our communication with parishioners, the Parish Council are now detailing all current planning applications on its agendas, which are placed on the village notice boards and the Parish Council website. Gravesham Borough Council do send out individual letters to neighbours of a planning application and there should be a notice on the site. The full details for each planning application in the parish can be viewed on Gravesham Borough Council's website at:-

<http://www.gravesham.gov.uk/home/planning-and-building/view-planning-applications/overview>

Annual Parish Meeting – 16th May 2017

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Tuesday 16th May at 7.30pm at the St John's Centre in Meopham. Members of the public are very welcome to attend as this is **YOUR** meeting. Stuart Alford, Assistant Director (Environment) at Gravesham Borough Council will be coming to the meeting to speak about the new waste and recycling service.

Parish Plan – update

The Steering Group has now set up its constitution, terms of reference and has elected a Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer. The group is looking at ways in which it can involve members of the community in setting up a Parish Plan.

How to contact Meopham Parish Council

You can contact us in the following ways:

- Call into the Windmill - we are usually open 9am-12 noon Monday to Friday
- Telephone - 01474 813779
- E-mail at clerk@meopham.org
- www.meopham.org
- Twitter - @meophamPC
- Facebook-"Meopham Parish Council"

Your parish council members are:

Hook Green & Nurstead Ward

Sue Gofton
Rosalie Knott
Jo McTavish
John Ogden (Vice Chairman)

Camer & Meopham Green Ward

Sheila Buchanan (Chairman)
Peter Hasler
Douglas Powell
Barbara Wade

Culverstone & Harvel Ward

Max Bramer
Dawn Bramer
Pat Luxford
Peter Howard

Parish Council meeting dates

Parish Council meetings are due to take place at 7.30pm in the Windmill unless otherwise stated:

11/4/17	Administration & Resources
25/4/17	Full Council Meeting (Harvel Village Hall)
16/05/17	Annual Parish Meeting (St John's Centre)
23/05/17	Annual Council Meeting (Cricket Pavilion)

Some Other Diary Dates

15/04/2017	The George vs Vigo charity rugby match – kick off at 3.30pm at Vigo Rugby Club
29/04/2017	2 Hour HEARTSTART course – Meopham Village Hall – 10.30am to 12.30pm
03/06/2017	Harvel 5 – Harvel Green
08/07/2017	Meopham Allotment's Open Day

Other useful contacts:

Police:

EMERGENCY	Dial 999
Non-emergency	Dial 101
PCSO Jo Hartley	101

E-mail:
gravesham.neighbourhood@kent.pnn.police.uk

Community Warden:

Mandy Cason	07977 981931
-------------	--------------

Other numbers:

Crimestoppers anonymous	0800 555111
Victim Support	0300 303 0156
Antisocial behaviour	01474 337000
Community Safety Unit	01474 337528
Kent County Council (general)	03000 41 41 41
Kent Highway Services	03000 41 81 81
Gravesham Borough Council	01474 564422
Flytipping (24 Hours)	0800 80 70 60
Graffiti Hotline	01474 337000
Floodline	0345 988 1188