

Luddesdown Parish Council

Email: clerk@luddesdown-pc.gov.uk Website: www.luddesdown-pc.gov.uk



Luddesdown Parish Council Annual Report – 2023

Luddesdown Parish Council will be holding the Annual Parish Meeting at 7.30pm on Monday 20 March 2023 in Luddesdown Village Hall. You are duly invited to attend to hear reports from local organisations and Councillors and ask any questions that you may have.

The Parish Council represents Luddesdown to bring local issues to the attention of Gravesham Borough Council, Kent County Council, MP Adam Holloway and the local policing team. If we are not able to deal with your problem, we can put you in touch with someone who can. Contact details are on the Luddesdown Parish Council website.

The number of PCSO's is due to be cut and Kent Police recommend that you sign up for 'My Community Voice' at www.mycommunityvoicekent.co.uk This two-way engagement tool provides real-time messaging directly to and from police officers and staff about matters that may affect you or your community.

Your Parish Council monitor developments within the area that may affect residents. We have regularly engaged with the Lower Thames Crossing team and have made representation over the likely traffic impact, health and environmental issues at each stage. We are registered as an interested party for the Development Consent Order Hearing, which will be held in the near future.

The Local Plan for new housing in the Gravesham area is on hold pending the government's review of its implementation. The final consultation is scheduled to take place next year.

After many years of the Recreation Ground in Henley Street being in a poor condition, Gravesham Borough Council invested in a new play area for Luddesdown. Thanks must also go to the Luddesdown Village Hall Committee who provided £15,000 of grant funding which enabled GBC to provide additional play equipment. We are also grateful to the team at Luddesdown Vineyard who have offered to provide new fencing around the play area.

In October 2022 more than 200 residents and Councillors welcomed the Mayor of Gravesham, Cllr Peter Scollard, to officially open the play park and enjoy refreshments made by local residents and wine supplied by Luddesdown Vineyard. We hope that the younger residents of our parish will enjoy making use of the new play facilities.

As from 31st March 2023, Kent residents will no longer be permitted to use any of the Household Waste Recycling Centres operated by Medway Council. Non-Kent residents will be required to pay £10 a visit in Centres operated by Kent County Council.

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We would like to thank our dedicated Borough Councillor, Tony Rice, who has kept LPC updated on all Gravesham Borough Council matters. Tony will be retiring in May of this year. His input will be greatly missed.



Due to changes in the Gravesham Ward Boundaries, Luddesdown, Cobham and Istead Rise will be in a ward represented by two new Gravesham Borough Councillors, to be elected this May.

Please note that photographic ID's are now required for all voting at local polling stations, details of which can be found on the Gravesham Website.

Budget and Precept for 2023-2024

At the November 2022 meeting the Parish Council agreed the budget for the forthcoming 2023-2024 financial year. Our precept (the total amount of money we collect from Council Taxpayers in the parish) will go from £7305.90 to £7430.

Despite inflationary pressures, the diligent management of council finances by our Clerk Shaun, has placed us in a strong financial position. Therefore, the increase to our precept from 1st April 2023, represents an increase per household of just £1.78 for the year.

I would like to thank all the Parish Councillors for contributing their time to maintain the high standards for which Luddesdown Parish Council is known. Sadly, Cllr Noel Clark will be leaving the Council as he and his wife are moving. Cllr Chris Mileson will also sadly be stepping down in May due to other commitments. We would like to thank them both for the huge amount of time and effort that they have given to the Parish over a number of years.

Comments and Queries

If you have any queries or comments do not hesitate to contact our Clerk, Shaun Fishenden, or any of your Parish Councillors. Please keep an eye on the noticeboards for information and dates of Parish Council Meetings. These and finance reports can also be found on the website (www.luddesdown-pc.gov.uk). If you do not have use of a computer we are always happy to take a phone call.

We would be grateful if you could help us to keep costs down by receiving future Newsletters via email. Please contact the Clerk with your email address and home address, this information will not be used for any other purpose.

Cllr. Anne Moorhouse
Chairman of Luddesdown Parish Council