



Allhallows Parish Council

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To:

Neil Davis, Chief Executive Medway Council
Kelly Tolhurst MP Rochester and Strood
Cllr Phil Filmer Medway Council, Peninsula Ward
Cllr Mick Pendergast Medway Council, Peninsula Ward
Cllr Ron Sands Medway Council, Peninsula Ward

Allhallows Parish Council – Medway Concerns

The Parish Council of Allhallows has concerns that the support needed for its residents continues to be overlooked and although neighboring parishes have their own concerns, their issues can also compound ours.

While recognising the early stages of the Medway Local Plan was part of a wider consultation across the borough, the strategy for its development put a potential large burden on the Hoo Peninsula, an area with existing issues that remain to be addressed and continues to deteriorate. Delivery of support and services in a rural area will always be a challenge, but one that needs to be recognised and addressed. A new Local Plan is the opportunity to do this. In the past Medway Council has developed Rural Strategy documents but has not followed them up through investment in the local communities. The opportunity to address this via the Medway Local Plan also appears over concentrate on Hoo St Werburgh and High Halstow and even there appears to fall far short of what infrastructure is needed to support the immediate area, let alone the wider peninsula including Allhallows. Even the emerging HIF bid projects, also fail to hit the target of providing sustainable public transport and relief for existing traffic congestion (including air quality) to the Medway Towns and other destinations for work and access to services.

Our local infrastructure is showing serious issues:

- Roads with potholes and ongoing water leaks, leading to closures to main roads to and from the village for extended periods.
- Inconsiderate parking from commercial and private vehicles that really needs to be made illegal and enforced. We also regularly come across those issues are not addressed or given priority by the Police as they treat it as a local authority issue as they expect Medway to have taken on the powers of enforcement through the decriminalisation powers even though they have not – leaving enforcement in a “no man’s land.”
- Unlicensed off road motor bikes and quads using the public highways and green

spaces.

The Parish Council also recognise that large developments that have already been approved by Medway Council and are now being built:

- Haven holiday park - 1,000 holiday homes
- Turners Group Homes (Kingsmead) - 81 residential homes
- There are potential sites submitted through the 'Call for Sites' where we would expect involvement in the detail of any development and wider recognition of local infrastructure needs on and off site.

Both with limited or no public infrastructure off-site, especially the roads, but also water, sewage, and telephone/broadband. These will also bring additional pressure on the medical services, but these do not appear to have been addressed.

Commercial developments at Kingsnorth and Grain also bring pressures that do not appear to be addressed sufficiently.

Concerns with policing in the area continue to worry our community with poor visibility and response to issues as they arise. Although our residents pay the same local authority rates and police precept as more urban areas,

Our medical facilities continue to be stretched and it is increasing difficult to arrange a doctor's appointment, and especially face to face.

We do liaise with our Medway Council ward councilors, the MP, and other areas of the authority, in a positive manner but while smaller local issues can be addressed, the bigger items are not.

We used to have a very good Rural Warden that would get things done locally, including the clearance of fly tipping (directly or via the council). This is notable by its absence.

There is a wish amongst our residents to remain rural, but even then, there are issues that need to be addressed.



Allhallows Parish Council Chairman



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