

# Luddesdown Parish Council

## Newsletter 2018

Luddesdown Parish Council would like to invite you to the Annual Assembly which will be held in Luddesdown Village Hall at 7.30 pm on Monday, 19<sup>th</sup> March. We look forward to seeing you there. We would like to welcome all new parishioners who have joined our community recently and hope you will be able to come to the meeting. It is a good opportunity to meet your parish councillors and to learn more about what goes on in Luddesdown from local organisations who report at the meeting on their activities over the past year.

### PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

Throughout the year your Parish Council holds regular public meetings to which all parishioners are very welcome to attend. At each meeting parishioners do have the opportunity to raise any issues that they would like discussed although it has been rare for any matters to be raised in this way. Still, we would like to remind everyone that this facility is available. You will find the meetings advertised on your local Parish Notice Board and also on the Parish Council's website. The website address is [www.luddesdown-pc.gov.uk](http://www.luddesdown-pc.gov.uk).

In May last year Kate Rogers stood down from the Parish Council. The council is most grateful to her for all the time and hard work she gave while being a member of the council. We wish her all the very best for the future.

We are very pleased to welcome Matthew Newnes to the council, who has been co-opted to replace Kate.

The Chairs of the six parish councils in Gravesham are continuing to meet periodically with the leader of Gravesham Borough Council to discuss matters that are of concern to the parishes. We are able to add things to the agenda for each meeting so if there is a topic you would like raised at any time please let your local parish councillor know.

### PARISH COUNCIL EVENTS

**Beating of the Bounds** - Once again we provided refreshments at Luddesdown Village Hall for the walkers who undertook the Mayor of Gravesham's annual Beating of the Bounds event that took place in October last year. Many thanks to everyone who provided their help.

**Annual village clean up** – We are organising a Luddesdown Spring Clean event this year for residents to participate in collecting litter and other rubbish that has accumulated in the verges and hedgerows in the parish over the past year. This will take place on Saturday, 24<sup>th</sup> March between 9.30am and 12.30pm. There will be a skip situated in Brookers Farm Yard for disposal of the litter and rubbish that is picked up. We would like to encourage as many parishioners as possible to participate in helping to improve and protect your local environment. We will be meeting up at 9.30am in the car park of the Golden Lion and after all the hard work snacks will be provided at the Golden Lion at lunchtime. We hope to see you on the day.

### FINANCIAL AFFAIRS

We continue to do our best to keep the Parish Council's expenditure as low as we can. As the council tax grant we receive from the government is now much lower than it used to be we have had to make a small increase to the precept to factor in some expected expenditure increases.

### LOCAL ISSUES

**Fly Tipping** - Unfortunately, fly tipping continues to be a serious problem in the Parish. We encourage you to report any fly tipping you find to Gravesham Borough Council. Gravesham encourages people to report fly tipping incidents using its online form available at:

<http://www.gravesham.gov.uk/home/street-care-and-cleaning/fly-tipping/report-fly-tipping>

Gravesham's current commitment is to remove any fly tipped rubbish reported to it within five working days. It does appreciate any information that may help prosecute the offenders. Gravesham and Kent County Council are committed to prosecuting fly tippers whenever they can but catching offenders is difficult. Gravesham would like to make people aware of things they can do to avoid waste they produce from being fly tipped. Householders are legally responsible for the waste produced on their property. People who offer to remove rubbish cheaply are probably not licensed to do so and are most likely not going to dispose of the waste legally. Householders can be prosecuted and fined if their waste ends up fly tipped and they cannot show that they took reasonable steps to prevent this. For further advice on the safe disposal of rubbish please see GBC's website at <http://www.gravesham.gov.uk/home/street-care-and-cleaning/fly-tipping/get-rid-of-your-rubbish-safely>.

**Roads** - Kent County Council has continued to carry out repairs to various roads in the Parish over the past year, including some resurfacing. However, as ever, potholes remain a problem on some roads. We hope you will make use of the link on the KCC website to report problems with roads to tell KCC about any pothole you find in order to initiate getting it fixed. The link is at the following address

<http://www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/report-a-problem>.

The link also covers reporting problems to KCC in respect of road drainage, streetlights and traffic signals.

**Planning** - To keep up to date with regard to planning applications relating to the parish please click on the Planning Tracker tab on the parish council's website.

**Lower Thames Crossing** - Last April the government finally made the decision that the Lower Thames Crossing will be built along the so-called "Option C" route. This route will run from the M25 near North Ockendon, cross the A13 at Orsett before crossing under the Thames east of Tilbury and Gravesend. A new link road will then take traffic to join the A2 near Shorne. This decision was very disappointing to Gravesham Borough Council, the six rural parishes in Gravesham, our local MP, Adam Holloway and everyone else in our area who have campaigned hard to oppose Option C as it will devastate the local environment and community and spread noise, pollution and poor air quality to thousands of people not currently affected. Members of GBC and parish councils in Gravesham have been supporting the work of The Lower Thames Crossing Association which was set up to benefit the communities impacted by the proposed Option C Lower Thames Crossing route. The LTCA's objective now is to mitigate the adverse effects that the new crossing will have on Gravesham. It has made strong representations to Highways England in this regard. Please see the LTCA's website at <http://www.ltca.org.uk> to find out more about the work of the association and to keep up to date with news regarding the Lower Thames Crossing. Highways England has advised that there will be a statutory public consultation in late summer this year which will cover matters such as the environment, junctions, traffic modeling and tolling options so you will have an opportunity then to express your views on these issues.

Finally, on behalf of all members of Luddesdown Parish Council I would like to offer you our best wishes for the next year and we hope that you are able to join us at the Annual Assembly.

Chris Mileson  
Chairman, Luddesdown Parish Council

#### **Your Parish Councillors:**

**Chris Mileson** – Winnats Farm – Chairman – tel: 01474 816517

**Anne Moorhouse** – Leywood School House – Vice Chairman – tel: 01474 813242

**Sally Stanier** – Brookers Farm – tel: 01474 814476

**Noel Clark** – Leywood Farm – tel: 01474 813770

**Matthew Newnes** – Darnley Cottage – tel: 01474 814100

**Clerk to the Council: Roxana Brammer** – 53 Capelands, New Ash Green, Longfield, Kent, DA3 8LQ – 01474 872729