

HIGHWAYS IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Our **Highway Improvement Plan (HIP)** has now been published on the Parish Council website for residents to view.

The HIP sets out the Parish Council's key concerns and priorities relating to local roads, traffic, speeding, parking, pedestrian safety and other highway issues. It helps us identify areas where improvements are needed and provides a basis for working with Kent County Council and other relevant organisations to seek solutions.

We will continue to review and update the plan as local priorities develop.

You can view the Highway Improvement Plan on our website:

<https://www.knockholtparishcouncil.gov.uk/community/knockholt-parish-council-13068/highway-improvement-plan/>

Following on from contact from a concerned resident we have recently added pedestrian safety outside the village centre to our plan. To carry this forward it has been resolved to pay Kent Highways to carry out a pedestrian safety survey to highlight viable options.

PLANNING MATTERS

Land At Rear Of New Pilling Main Road Knockholt Kent TN14 7LH

You may be aware of the planning proposal to develop 22 dwellings. Details of the application can be found via the Sevenoaks Planning portal under reference: **26/02166/FUL**. Knockholt Parish Council held an open meeting for residents to voice their thoughts and concerns on this development on 28th September. All residents concerns have been taken into consideration in our comments to the application consultation. All comments are also available to view on the Sevenoaks Planning portal. https://www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/info/20013/planning_applications

Broke Hill

The Outline application for development of the former Broke Hill Golf Club was called to the Development Management Committee on 24th September by District Councillor John Grint on the grounds of the application being contrary to Green Belt policy, the previous appeal decision, and the impact of the development on health, education and transportation infrastructure and services. The District Councillors went on to refuse the planning application at the meeting.

Sevenoaks Local Plan update

The latest consultation on Sevenoaks District Council's Local Plan has now closed. The Plan proposes 17,460 new homes and supporting infrastructure between 2027 and 2042. It will be submitted for independent examination in 2027 and, if approved, will guide planning decisions from 2028.

VILLAGE CLEAN UP - 7TH NOVEMBER

We will be hosting the annual Village Clean Up on Saturday 7th November and are asking residents to contribute in this event to tidy up our Village. Anyone that would like to participate please meet in the Parish room at the Village Centre at 10am. Volunteers are welcome to call into the Community cafe after for refreshments! Thanks all, your continued support is much appreciated!



ROYAL MAIL DELIVERIES

Ofcom has revised the speed targets for the delivery of 1st and 2nd Class letters to make them more realistic. For 1st Class mail, they will aim to deliver 90% next-day, and for 2nd Class mail, we will aim to deliver 95% within three weekdays.

Ofcom has also introduced new reliability targets so that 99% of 1st Class mail should arrive within three days and 99% of 2nd Class mail within five days. The new targets come into effect from 1 April 2026.

How to Complain

You can make a Royal Mail complaint by contacting Customer Services on 03457 740 740 or by using the online Complaints & Claims Centre on the Royal Mail website:

<https://help.royalmail.com/personal/s/category/0TOTw00000019z2OAA/complaints-claims>

VILLAGE CENTRE UPDATE

The next stage of required works to the Village Centre will be happening imminently to facilitate the new Pre-School. We look forward to sharing further details with you all soon.

The main hall is still available to hire and bookings can be made via the following link

<https://www.knockholtvillagecentre.org.uk/>

MOVING TOWARDS A MORE DIGITAL PARISH COUNCIL

We're looking at ways to make the Parish Council more accessible and keep residents up to date in an increasingly digital world.

As a first step, future editions of the Parish Council newsletter will also be available on our website, making it easier for residents to read the latest news and information online. You'll find the newsletter here: <https://www.knockholtparishcouncil.gov.uk/community/knockholt-parish-council-13068/newsletters/>

However, we know that not everyone is online, so we will continue to provide printed copies of the newsletter as well.

This is simply the start of us looking at how we can make better use of digital communication while continuing to ensure that everyone in our community can stay informed.

CHURCH PARISHES TOGETHER MAGAZINE

The Church Parishes Together magazine is £6 per year for Badgers Mount, Halstead and Knockholt, delivered to your door and £12 per year if you live outside the villages, posted to you by 2nd class mail. It's so easy to subscribe! You can: Visit the website:

<https://knockholtandhalsteadchurches.org.uk/>

Or email: treasurer@knockholtandhalsteadchurches.org.uk

PLANNING

FULL DETAILS AVAILABLE ON KPC'S WEBSITE.

Applications Received

26/02147/HOUSE 10 BOND CLOSE KNOCKHOLT KENT TN14 7NB

First-floor side extension, single-storey front and rear extension with garage conversion. Associated alterations to fenestration and internal alterations.

26/02166/FUL LAND AT REAR OF NEW PILLINGE MAIN ROAD TN14 7LH

Demolition of existing garage and carport and outbuilding. Erection of 22 dwellings (Use Class C3) with associated access, parking, landscaping, drainage and other matters. Replacement parking to New Pillinge. Existing vehicular access upgraded and widened.

26/02402/LDCEX LITTLE WASHNEYS WASHNEYS ROAD ORPINGTON BR6 7NZ

Siting of a mobile home for incidental use to the main dwelling at Little Washneys

26/02206/HOUSE GROVE END HARROW ROAD KNOCKHOLT KENT TN14 7JT

Conversion and extension to existing outbuilding to ancillary accommodation for elderly occupation.

26/02258/LDCEX ANNEXE 2 HAMLYN HOUSE POUND LANE KNOCKHOLT KENT TN14 7ND

Lawful Development Certificate confirming the lawfulness of the existing use of the converted accommodation as an independent self-contained dwelling house (Use Class C3) known as Flat 2, Hamlyn House.

26/01385/FUL HILL TOP MEADOWS OLD LONDON ROAD TN14 7JW

Proposed re-roofing, re-cladding and new rooflights with internal alterations of the commercial unit, incorporating increases to both the eaves and ridge heights to permit upgraded roof construction. Change of use from Storage to Use Class E (g)(iii).

Granted

26/01478/LDCPR HOLLY COTTAGE MAIN ROAD KNOCKHOLT

Proposed rear extension and installation of skylight

26/01397/MMA NEWSTABLES FARM RUSHMORE HILL KNOCKHOLT

Amendment to 24/00379/FUL to change the roofing material to natural black slate tiles and change the cladding on the first floor to vertically laid rather than horizontally.

Refused

26/00682/FUL 1 SINGLES CROSS COTTAGES BLUEBERRY LANE TN14 7NH

Change of use of land from private recreational and amenity use (sui-generis) to residential garden; demolition of storage compound and summerhouse, removal of static caravan; erection of detached garage with solar panels and brick wall.

Who to Contact



KNOCKHOLT PARISH COUNCIL-www.knockholtparish.org.uk

Clerk- Zoe Brookman-knockholtclerk@gmail.com / 07860 537760

Chairman- Dave Blundell - cllr.blundell@gmail.com—All Committees.

Vice Chairman- Carole Moody - cllrmoody@gmail.com-Highways (Chair), Finance, & Sports & Leisure.

Councillors

Rita Radford - cllrradford@gmail.com -Planning (Chair), Amenities

Helen Fiorini - cllrfiorini@gmail.com -Publicity & Media (Chair) and Finance.

Mandy Hewitt - cllrmhewitt@gmail.com -Publicity, Amenities and Finance

Ray Picot - cllrpicot@gmail.com - Planning, Amenities & Highways.

John Collins—cllrjohncollins@gmail.com - Finance (Chair), Sports and Leisure & Planning.

Steve Maines-cllrsmaines@gmail.com -Amenities (Chair), Publicity & Media, & Highways.

Graham Brookes-cllrbrookes@gmail.com -Sports & Leisure.

Sevenoaks District Council-01732 227000

Cllr. John Grint-cllr.grint@sevenoaks.gov.uk

Cllr. Tony Marshall—01689 852050

Kent County Council-03000 414141

Cllr. Nigel Williams Nigel.Williams@kent.gov.uk

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KNOCKHOLT PARISH COUNCIL

Newsletter

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DRIVE SAFELY

As autumn begins and as many of our roads have no pavements, it is so important that drivers take maximum care to travel well within the speed limit in and around the village especially at dusk and at night. Anyone with concerns about speeding or dangerous driving in their area should report it in confidence to the police:

<https://www.kent.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/asb/asb/antisocial-behaviour/vehicle-nuisance-involving-cars->

ELECTRIC BIKES/SCOOTERS

Electric bikes can be a cheap and useful means of transport as long as they are used safely and within the rules. Like any driver, anyone using an electric bike should be mindful of road safety especially at night.

<https://www.gov.uk/electric-bike-rules>

Just a reminder! It is illegal to ride a privately owned electric scooter (also known as an 'e-scooter') in public, for example on pavements, on roads or in parks at any time. <https://www.gov.uk/electric-scooter-rules>

We want folks to stay safe!

CHRISTMAS EVENTS

Please see details of a few events happening in the Village Centre over the festive season;

KATS Pantomime—Cinderella

Friday 27th Nov 7:30pm / Saturday 28th Nov 2:30pm & 7:30pm

Friday 4th Dec 7:30pm / Saturday 5th Dec 2:30pm & 7:30pm

Tickets will be available to purchase shortly:

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/katstickets>



Knockholt Society Christmas at Penshurst Wednesday 25th November 13th December
£47 per person for Knockholt Society members, £52 if you're not a member. Please email vpicot@btinternet.com – by end of October for further details.

KVCC Festive FUNdraiser —Saturday 14th November.