

Hartlip Parish Council Meeting – 11 January 2023

Planning.

Matters outstanding from December.

Application Ref: 21/503906/EIOU

Application for up to 1,250 dwellings at London Road, Teynham.

Application Ref: 21/503914/EIOU

Application for up to 7,150 dwellings at Highstead Park, Sittingbourne.

Application Ref: 22/503654/EIOU

Application for up to 2,500 dwellings at Bobbing.

Each of the above applications has been carefully considered and objections lodged to all three applications.

The comments of the Parish Council may be found on the Swale Borough Council Planning Portal.

Applications received since 14 December 2022

Application Ref: 22/505931

Erection of three outbuildings, comprising one car barn, one workshop and one fully disabled compliant annexe, with the creation of new side driveway and parking space, along with new access at Eastfields, Old House Lane, Hartlip.

(Under consideration)

Application Ref: 22/505977/PNQLA

Prior notification for the change of use from agricultural building to dwelling at Paradise Barn Nursery, Lower Hartlip Road, Hartlip.

(Under consideration)

Becoming a Local Councillor.

The Borough and Parish Council elections take place on 4 May 2023.

The Kent Association of Local Councils (KALC) is running three identical online events each lasting one hour to give potential candidates an idea about the rewarding role of being a councillor on a Parish Council.

The dates of these events are 17 January, 21 February and 21 March and they will be held at 7pm each evening.

Further information from the KALC website (kentalc.gov.uk)

The Parish Precept.

Swale Borough Council collects Council Tax on behalf of itself, Kent County Council and Parish Councils.

The Parish Council portion of Council Tax is referred to as The Parish Precept. The Parish Council must decide at its January meeting the amount of revenue which it wishes to ask the Borough Council to collect on its behalf for the precept through Council Tax.

For the year 2023/2024 the Parish Council has decided not to seek an increase in the Parish Precept as this would be inappropriate at a time of financial strain to householders. The Precept therefore remains at £8,000.

Date of next meeting.

The next meeting of Hartlip Parish Council will be held at Hartlip Village Hall on **Wednesday 8 February 2023** at 8pm.

The open half hour for residents to ask questions will be from 8.00 to 8.30pm. The Parish Council policy "Speaking at Meetings" is on the HPC website for the information of potential attendees who should register their wish to attend with the Clerk to the Parish Council.

Hartlip Parish Council: Trees in Hartlip

One of the very important and highly characteristic features of the Parish of Hartlip is the number and variety of trees which are found all over the Parish. Many have stood for a great many years, others are younger. The landscape of the Parish is richer for them and they play a significant part in contributing to the overall greenness which makes the Parish attractive to so many people.

In recent years the Parish Council has planted a great number of saplings to replace a defunct hedgerow on the Allotments and this hedgerow is now home and feeding ground to many birds.

Over the past two years members of the Parish Council have planted over 250 further trees and saplings around the Parish. The project to continue the

hedgerow re-establishment on the boundary of the Allotments has been extended with many saplings planted and hopefully more still soon. A large number of saplings have been planted around the edge of The Recreation Ground.

Most recently and importantly seven oak trees have been planted on The Parkland together with an appropriate plaque to commemorate the seventy year reign of the late Queen Elizabeth II. They form part of the national 'Queen's Green Canopy Project' which has been heavily promoted with everyone encouraged to preserve and plant trees and hedgerows. Oak trees were chosen as a tree of longevity and so appropriate for commemorative planting. Oaks can live for 500 – 1000 years. It is also the national tree of England and represents strength and endurance, qualities often attributed to the late Queen.

Parish residents have been informed of the plan for the planting of 'The Queen's Oaks' to mark, as a Parish, the incredible reign and service of Her Majesty in Forum items and on the Parish Council website at intervals during 2022.

The seven oak trees are protected by a substantial fence creating an enclosure round them to ensure that the horses presently grazing on The Parkland are kept very distant from them and this fence, in turn, also protects the horses. Professional advice was taken regarding this project.

During the coming year the Parish Council will be looking at the possibility of planting more saplings and trees around the Parish of Hartlip.

The Parish Council is grateful to those residents who have planted trees on their land and those who work to care for and preserve those already in place.

The Parish Council is assisted in its work in this matter by Peter Blandon the Parish Council Tree Warden who is at present undertaking a survey of the trees on The Parkland. The Parkland is a valuable and tranquil green space over which residents of this Parish may roam, accessing it from the northern end where a footpath runs. Its landscape is special and trees are an integral part of it.

The planting of these trees contributes directly to the ambition of KCC to increase tree cover in Kent by 1.5 million (a tree for every person in Kent) as an important part of the county's response to the world-wide climate and

ecological crisis. Tree planting supports the recovery of wildlife, provides natural climate solutions and enriches people's lives. KCC's Tree Establishment Strategy is named 'Plan Tree'.

Trees in Conservation Areas are important features adding to the character of the area and this is particularly the case in Hartlip's Conservation Area.

Proposals to fell, lop, top or uproot a tree in a Conservation Area, not already covered by a Tree Preservation Order, require six weeks' notice in writing to be given to Swale Borough Council.

On a sober note it should be understood that if a tree in a Conservation Area is cut down, uprooted or wilfully destroyed, wilfully damaged, topped or lopped in a manner likely to destroy it, can carry a fine of up to £20,000 on summary conviction, or on indictment be liable to an unlimited fine.