



## Boughton Aluph & Eastwell PARISH COUNCIL

[boughtonalupheastwellparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://boughtonalupheastwellparishcouncil.gov.uk)

Welcome to news from your Parish Council, Boughton Aluph & Eastwell.

### What has been happening recently?

Two community coffee & winter warm spaces sessions running each week.

1600 native spring flowering bulbs were planted by councillors & volunteers on the green at the Boughton Lees.

We have been working hard with Kent County Council on a Highways Improvement Plan. This shows which areas most worry residents. We received funding for detailed road surveys (the boxes across the road) from KCC to see where they may allow speeds may be reduced.

We will be providing 'grow your own' seeds to local children & residents.

Grants were given to two charities; Dads Unlimited (to support their work with local families) and the Iron Room Hall (towards their sustainable heating system).

### Diary dates

**Tuesdays 1-3pm** (until 28 March), community coffee & warm space at the Flying Horse

**Thursdays 9.30-11.30am** (until 30 March), community coffee & warm space at Sandyacres

**March 4** Meet your Parish Councillors 11.30-1pm Iron Room, 2.15- 3.45pm Goat Lees Hall

**May 4** Elections to Parish Councils and Ashford Borough Council. Remember that to vote you will need photo ID. Ashford Borough Council can help.

**May 17** Annual Parish Meeting, Goat Lees School 7.15pm, speakers from Dads Unlimited

**Coming soon** Defibrillator and CPR awareness **FREE** (register your interest on our website)

### What is the Parish Council & what do we do?

We are the first layer of local democracy, working to represent your local area. There are 8 Parish Councillors who make decisions, and one member of staff to support the Council.

The Parish Council carefully examines all local planning applications, small, medium (and enormous) and submits comments to Ashford Borough Council.

We work with Ashford Borough Council and Kent County Council to make sure they know about local needs when making strategic plans. We keep a check on whether the Neighbourhood Plan is being properly considered (good news, it is)!

Ashford Borough Council will be reviewing its local plan starting this year. We will be making sure they know about what matters to people in Boughton Aluph & Eastwell.

Your Parish Council funds & maintains 4 defibrillators in the Parish:

- outside Goat Lees Community Hall
- on the outside of the Sandyacres Building
- the front of the cricket pavillion, Boughton Lees
- inside the Iron Room

The Parish Council funds the supplies for a volunteer litter pick, with allocated funding for another. We plan to supplement these much appreciated efforts with paid for collections.

The Parish Council provides grass cutting at the popular and peaceful St Mary's Eastwell.

We are responsible for the well used Village Green at Boughton Lees. A regular tree survey ensures that the trees are safe and healthy.

Our councillors and Clerk regularly undertake training to keep everyone up to date with the latest developments affecting local communities and relevant current legislation.

## Council Tax & the Parish Council from April 2023

This year, for a band D property the annual Parish Council bill will be £33.28 (split across the year). This is £8.90 more than last year, or about 17 pence per week for a band D home.

The Parish Council has managed to keep the Precept (overall amount we need) at the same total level since 2016. This has been possible by wisely using our reserves to fund projects, routine work and very tightly controlling our budget.

This has to go up this year to ensure that we can keep working hard for the community, as well to fund potential highways improvements (currently being assessed by KCC).

In 2022/2023 the Boughton Aluph & Eastwell Band D equivalent was the lowest but one of all 45 Ashford Parishes. The range of Band D Parish Council amounts charged across Ashford Borough Parishes ranged from £22 to £168 (in 2022/2023).

## Find out more

You can find out more and sign up to receive news on our website. There are also five noticeboards around the Parish (Sandyhurst Lane, Sandyacres entrance, outside the Eureka shops, Boughton Lees & outside Goat Lees Hall).

Email: via [boughtonalupheastwellparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:boughtonalupheastwellparishcouncil.gov.uk). Office mobile 07419 740559.