

# MANSTON NEWS

APRIL 2019

DO YOU HAVE  
WHAT IT TAKES  
TO BE A  
PARISH COUNCILLOR?

THE LOCAL ELECTION ARE DUE  
TO TAKE PLACE  
2nd MAY 2019

MANSTON NEEDS YOU AS WE HAVE 7  
COUNCILLOR SPACES TO FILL

IF YOU WOULD LIKE ANY INFORMATION  
PLEASE CONTACT OUR  
CLERK ASHLEY ON  
MANSTONPARISHCOUNCIL@GMAIL.COM

# FLETE ROAD TRAFFIC CALMING

On Tuesday afternoon, 12 March, we had a meeting at Cllr Irene Dolan's house. The meeting was chaired by James Wraight (Highways). Without James' support and guidance, this project and many others would not be possible. And his approach is always to achieve the best outcome for residents, i.e. he is most definitely not a "jobsworth". Also present was Matt Bembridge (KCC engineer), Emma Dawson (County Councillor), 2 community wardens including our own Tony Gander, Chairman Linda Samme, Cllr Irene Dolan and myself.

In a previous telephone call from James, he specifically asked that I did not invite Flete Road residents, as Cllr Dawson would be entitled to invite people with opposing views and this could result in heated exchanges that would not have been productive. I saw the sense of this and agreed, only to have Rex Goodban arrive 15 minutes into the meeting. It seems that Councillor Dawson had invited him. James later confirmed that he did not know that Rex would be attending. Though Chairman Samme, Cllr Dolan and I were not happy with Rex being present, I decided not to object at that point, as it might stall the discussion and frustrate the outcome.

Coming back to James' previous phone call, he raised the alternative solution of lowering the speed limit and installing speed bumps in Flete Road. I reminded him that I had applied for that idea over 2 years ago and was flatly refused by Fiona Wiles of "Planning and Schemes". James assured me that it might now be possible if the street lighting was improved /increased. I think that this had already been suggested to Councillor Dawson, as she raised the possibility of speed bumps at Monday's Parish Council meeting (11th March), at which point, there was only one objection to the idea, that was from Ann Goodban.

During the meeting, James made it clear that with the stiff local opposition, highlighted by Rex Goodban's petition, to the road closure scheme, together with further hurdles including the problem of sourcing land for the large vehicle turn-around ground and concerns from certain farmers re access to fields for harvesters, etc, it seemed highly likely that the road closure was all but impossible to achieve. Whereas, the traffic calming scheme, comprising of reduction in speed limit, and installation of speed bumps, had a far greater chance of success.

Obviously, Linda, Irene and myself supported traffic calming, and both James and Councillor Dawson were in favour of speed bumps, as were the 2 community wardens. So, I asked Rex if he would object to speed bumps. He said he would not object. James Wraight made it clear that, although there would be a wider consultation at a later stage of the road project, the opinions, given the most weight, would be of people living in roads closest to the project and that, if we pursued the speed bump idea, only the closest roads would be "letter dropped" in the initial consultation. And the letter drop would be carried out by KCC. These were the roads, I had targeted, when petitioning for support of the closure scheme. It took me several days to get my signatures. That included all of the Westwood Cross end of Manston Court Road, all of Vincent Road, most of Vincent Farm Mews, and over half of Valley Road. In all, 64 people were in support of the scheme from the roads that the KCC letter drop would also target: this was in addition to the 31 signatures of support, obtained by Cllr Dolan, from Flete Rd residents.

Rex had 120 signatures opposing the scheme, but it must be pointed out that only 16 were within the target area and included 5 volunteer TAG workers who were not residents. Rex's signatures came from Margate, Ramsgate, Broadstairs, Pegwell, Garlinge, Westgate and included one from Wingham and one from Canterbury. Hardly a level playing field!

At the meeting, Irene pointed out that Rex's petition was invalid because of this inconsistency. There was no response from Cllr Dawson on this objection.

James explained how he would finance the "speed bump" scheme and was confident there would be enough to cover the work. At that point, I asked Cllr Dawson that, in the event of a short fall in funds, would she be prepared to make up the balance as she had already spoken of funding other road safety schemes. She agreed to this.

I know that some residents have really warmed to the idea of a road closure but, I now know from James's honest evaluation, that that idea is dead in the water: Also, more to the point, the speed bumps were our original target and many "rat runners", as a result, will find Flete Road far less appealing. If this traffic calming

had progressed from the start, there may well have been a campaign against that idea as there was against the road closure. Now, hopefully, the project can progress without too many complications.

How long will this new project take? Well, most of the groundwork has been covered, we have 100% support from Flete Road residents, we should now have full support of both County Councillors, we have the speed check results to prove inappropriate speeding in the road, and James Wraight is fully committed to working towards a successful outcome.

In these matters, nothing is guaranteed and it will take as long as it takes but, while road closure is now a non-starter, effective traffic calming is a distinct possibility for the long suffering residents of Flete Road.

Regards

ClIr John Dearing

Joint Chairman, Manston Parish Council



RAF History Museum, Manston Road, Ramsgate, Kent CT12 5DF

T: 01843 825 224

Open: March / April / May / June / July / August / September / October

Open 7 days a week

From 10.00am to 4.00pm

November / December / January / February

Open Sat & Sun

From 10.00am to 4.00pm



## MINSTER SURGERY

NEWSLETTER - APRIL 2019

### NEW INITIATIVE FOR MINSTER SURGERY

In conjunction with Kent and Medway Clinical Commissioning Groups, we are working to improve "Foot Care" for those patients with diabetes. As a result, we will be holding health information sessions at the surgery for those patients considered to be at high risk of such problems.

### OUR NEW PROJECT

We have had several suggestions and recommendations put forward and all will be discussed with the Senior Partners and Practice Manager, so thank you for your participation. But please, if there is anything else you have in mind - get in touch! The decision will be announced on our notice board and in next month's Newsletter.

### 10th ANNUAL SPRING FAYRE

Our Spring Fayre will take place on Saturday 11th May at "Old Schools" Minster as usual, and of course, as always - Free Entry! Tables remain at £8 for small and £12 for large and are selling fast, so please book early to avoid disappointment. We will be launching our raffle in April with many excellent prizes so please check our notice board for more information.

### MISSED APPOINTMENTS - THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

Despite a slight increase in nurse's figures, they remain encouraging.

28 PATIENTS DID NOT ATTEND THEIR DOCTOR'S APPOINTMENT!

49 PATIENTS DID NOT ATTEND THEIR NURSE'S APPOINTMENT!

But that's STILL 77 WASTED APPOINTMENTS and TIME costing the NHS over £12,000 So

Please remember -DON'T NEED IT? CANCEL IT! By Phone, By Text, Online.

Please note that the surgery will close at 12.00 Mid-day on the following days for the purpose of staff training: Wednesday 24th April; Wednesday 15th May; Thursday 27th June

### BANK HOLIDAYS:

The surgery will be closed all day on: Good Friday 19th April and Easter Monday 22nd April, Monday 6th May and Monday 27th May.

Please ensure you have sufficient medication to last you during these periods, and of course, please don't forget to include all the family who may need medication and also check when their Medication Review is due. Should you need to see a Doctor when the surgery is closed, please call the NHS 111 Service via the normal surgery number 821333 where you will be transferred automatically, or you can call direct on 111, to receive "non-urgent" confidential health advice and information for all the family, available 24 hours a day and 7 days a week. For urgent/life threatening issues, dial 999 as normal.

### PATIENT LIAISON GROUP MEETING

If you have any issues you would like to raise at our Annual General Meeting in April, or require further information on any of the above, then please contact Ken Self on 821200, Jeanne Lawrence on 821049 or email [kenself@me.com](mailto:kenself@me.com)

# A Day in the life of a Village PCSO

As you can imagine, no two days are ever the same!

A day is also time dependent. An early shift can differ from a late shift for example, as days and nights can bring their own challenges. The same can be said for weekends. Any day will start with a timely, smart arrival at Margate Police Station and the first thing I do is open my locker to retrieve my radio, turn it on and log on. Not only does this show that I have turned up for duty but it enables me to listen to all activities and be available for a call at a moment's notice.

There are of course occasions when I arrive at the station and am immediately sent out to preserve a scene or help with an RTC or with any issue which may have occurred and my assistance is needed but generally lots of admin aided by a strong cup of tea is the first order of the day.

We have several systems in The Police which we need to check every day and some of them we need to check constantly throughout the day. These systems inform us of any issues which need to be attended to on our Wards. Thanet villages is my Ward, this covers Manston, Acol, Monkton, St Nicholas and Sarre. My Ward or Beat Code is ZB21, so I log onto a system to see if there is anything displayed on my ward. If there is, I have a good read of the job and ensure that it is dealt with asap.

If there isn't, I have a look at my colleagues Wards to see if there is something I can attend to, particularly if they are on a rest day or annual leave.

I look at Briefing to see which criminals are of interest in the area, I look to see which crimes have been committed and at CCTV images to see if I can identify any of the offenders.

I look at another system which informs me of any suspicious criminal activity which has been submitted via an intelligence report or any crime reports which I have submitted which may need my attention, this same system holds all of the information on persons, vehicles, addresses, offenders of any description, who is in custody at that moment in time, it informs us of many things. It's not only informative but it is also a safety tool as it shows if there are any warning markers connected to a person or address. This may indicate that the issue may not be suitable for a PCSO as we don't have any protective equipment other than our stab vests.

I may also need to address issues which have been sent to me privately via an email or our Sergeant may task us with a job or two.

All being well, I have a list of jobs which need tackling so off we go. If I'm lucky, I manage to get to my ward to deal with my jobs and also patrol. I have the benefit of a vehicle as I have a large area to cover but it is always nice to patrol on foot particularly on a nice day!! I try and attend residence meetings when operational duties and working days allow. I pay particular attention to places of interest which have been pointed out to me by Parish Councillors or residents which may appear to have suspicious activities occurring and I may have received intelligence from one of our systems regarding a certain place on my ward which I would pay particular attention to. Patrolling and attending meetings also gives me the opportunity to meet the people on my ward and allows them to speak with me about any issues they may have. (It's also the best way of establishing tea stops! A lot of you have offered me the chance of a cuppa and I am extremely grateful for that and if I haven't already, I shall definitely take you up on the offer!) I do call in to some of your houses for a chat and a catch up.

There is of course always the very real possibility of receiving a call on the radio to attend a job immediately. This is why I always say that whether it's a Police Surgery, a meeting or even a chat that I will attend if "operational duties allow".

I may have a school safety talk to attend as myself and a colleague visit most of the Primary schools in Thanet to speak to the younger years about keeping themselves and safe and to show them that the police are approachable and to not be frightened of us or test the speed at which vehicles are travelling on a road which a resident is concerned about. I may be looking for a missing person or attending a call for a concern for welfare. I may be dealing with nuisance youths or with a person who is having a mental health episode or searching an area because of a suspicious event, I may be called to a burglary in progress, a neighbour dispute, a fraud victim, a death, paying a reassurance visit to somebody who has been the victim of crime, the list is not only endless but continual.

Whole team meetings are also an essential part of the routine, this enables all of us to discuss any concerns or issues amongst ourselves and with our Sergeant and Inspector, and importantly it is also a time for praise and recognition.

We are very lucky to be given talks by some very interesting people and these talks are always relevant and interesting. We also get the opportunity to visit some interesting places, I think my favourite so far is the Lifeboat Station at Ramsgate, I didn't think that I would ever board a lifeboat!

We are an essential part of the Police Organisation, our presence enables Police Officers to attend to all of the extremely demanding issues which they have to deal with on a daily basis. I like to think that we are an effective support not only to the Police but to the public.

Throughout the day I may return to the station for refreshments or to book in evidence or to compile a crime report or an intelligence report, I may also have more jobs which have come onto my list which need resolving.

As a lot of you will already know, I formed Village Voices, a community choir which is open to absolutely everybody, so this is also a commitment which I need to uphold every Wednesday evening.

I have four Parish Councils on my ward who all have meetings and it is extremely difficult for me to attend these meetings as they always fall on a rest day but I try and submit a report to them I hold Police surgeries on the first Wednesday of every month too.

At the end of what is usually a varied shift, I go back to the station to tackle more admin almost certainly accumulates throughout the shift and update on all of the jobs I have managed to complete.

The job is demanding, exhausting, exciting, rewarding, sad at times and a real eye opener, it's challenging but I love it. It is our duty to keep you all from harm and enable our communities to flourish.

I feel extremely proud to be a part of this mission and Kent Police.

If you need to contact me my email address is:- [Deborah.forsyth@kent.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Deborah.forsyth@kent.pnn.police.uk)

## **SCAM**

### **Victims losses to TV Licensing scam now totalling £830,000!**

The ongoing TV Licensing scam, first identified in September last year, is continuing to be reported to Action Fraud in high numbers. Fraudsters are sending the public these fake emails designed to steal their personal and financial information. Since April 2018 reported victims have lost more than £830,000. Please be vigilant.

#### **How It Works**

An email is received about TV licence payments/refunds.

The payment/refund link is to a "genuine-looking" website.

Personal and bank details are requested on a fake form.

Within two weeks, the criminals call, claiming to be from the fraud department of the victim's bank.

They tell the victim that fraudulent activity has taken place on their account and to transfer their money to a new "safe account".

#### **Protect Yourself**

Never answer unsolicited emails.

Don't assume a phone call or email is authentic.

Always question unsolicited requests for your personal or financial information

TV Licensing will never email you, unprompted, to ask for bank/personal details or tell you about a refund.

Your bank will never ask for your PIN, password, or to transfer money out of your account.

#### **What To Do If You've Fallen Victim**

Let your bank know as soon as possible and monitor your accounts regularly for unusual activity.

If you have lost money to the scammers, contact Kent Police by calling 101

TV Licensing offers helpful information on scam emails here

If you have received this scam email please report it.