

DUNTON GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Annual Parish Meeting held at Dunton Green Pavilion on Wednesday 22nd March 2017 at 7.00pm

1. Chairman's Opening Remarks

The Chairman welcomed all those who had come along and stated that there would be three parts to the evening, each part getting better: firstly, the formal Annual Parish Meeting; secondly, an opportunity to share some refreshments and thirdly, a talk & presentation about Wildernesse School would be given by Alan Williams and Ed Thompson.

2. Present

Ian Bayley (Chairman of Dunton Green Parish Council & of the APM), Sevenoaks District Councillor Cameron Brown (Member for Dunton Green and Riverhead), Yulia La Kruz (Community Development Worker (Dunton Green) Sevenoaks District Council), Sarah Brown (Chairman of the Governing Body Dunton Green Primary School), Ms. Tracy Godden (Clerk to the Parish Council) and 8 members of the Public (including three Parish Councillors).

Apologies for Absence

Sharon Saunders & Vanda Marchetti (Acting Headteachers Dunton Green Primary School), Sevenoaks District Councillor Mrs. Kim Bayley (Member for Dunton Green and Riverhead), PCSO Ellie Collins (Kent Police), Kelly Webb (Community Safety Manager Sevenoaks District Council), Kathryn Bone (Community Development Worker (Dunton Green) Sevenoaks District Council), Kent County Cllr. Richard Parry (Member for Sevenoaks West).

3. Minutes of 2016 Annual Parish Meeting

The minutes of the March 2016 Annual Parish Meeting were approved. Proposed - Mrs. Piper, Seconded - Mr. Lockey and Agreed.

4. Matters Arising

None.

5. Annual Report of the Parish Council

Cllr Bayley commented that once again it had been a real pleasure to be Chairman of the Parish Council over the last year, his third in that office. It was an enjoyable and rewarding role and it was fantastic to work alongside his fellow councillors, the Community Development officers and Sevenoaks District Council - a real 'Team Dunton Green'. The contribution of the Clerk was not underestimated either; she continued to do a wonderful job, working hard for the Parish Council & Dunton Green and ensuring that the Chairman is kept on the straight & narrow!

The Chairman informed attendees that there are many volunteers in the village, working away quietly in the background. Their unsung efforts make the village a much nicer to live and work. What unites all of these volunteers, the Parish Council and other interested agencies is working for the greater good of Dunton Green and the desire to have a lovely community. The Chairman encouraged anyone who wanted to get involved to talk to him, any of the Parish Councillors and voluntary organisations in the village to see what they might do to help.

The Parish Council's Annual Report for 2016/2017 was provided to attendees and a copy of the report is attached.

6. Community Development SDC

Yulia La Kruz introduced herself as the newest member of the Community Development team for Dunton Green, working alongside Kathryn Bone since October 2016 following Alberta Atkinson's departure.

Yulia highlighted three projects which demonstrated creative ways and innovative ideas to have activities to benefit the community.

Dunton Green Lunch Club: partnership working with AgeUK had seen this project get off the ground. The Community Development team had provided a lot of initial support at the outset but the Lunch Club now runs with the aid of volunteers on the 1st Wednesday of the month with a regular 20+ clients and is expected to become fully independent this year. The Lunch Club has also benefitted from links with the wider community with the school choir coming along to the Christmas Lunch.

Street Dance: this project was originally supported via the Youth Diversionary Fund but is now continuing with other funding. A local volunteer teacher who has had full training and support from the Community Development team now runs the classes. There has been a slow start to the new format since Christmas but it is anticipated that by making some links within the community this group can grow.

Easy Netball: this is the newest addition to the programme of activities. It is for everyone aged 14+ but it is aimed at young adults/commuters. Early indications are encouraging as, despite being new, this has already been very well supported and attendance is growing - most participants are from Dunton Green and include newer residents from Ryewood. The sessions are Pay As You Go which is attractive as there is no financial commitment or outlay in advance.

The Community Development Report for 2016/2017 was provided to attendees and a copy of the report is attached.

7. County Councillor, Richard Parry

Unfortunately, Cllr Parry was unable to attend the meeting. A report for 2016/17 was provided to attendees and a copy of the report is attached.

8. District Councillor, Cameron Brown

Cllrs. Brown and Bayley had provided a detailed joint report; a copy of the report is attached.

Cllr. Brown made mention of a few highlights of the report:

- Parking in Riverhead is an issue; a parking review to be undertaken there but anxious not to displace parking to Dunton Green.
- Call for Sites review: The District Council has had imposed on it (by Government) the number of houses that must be built. The big issue is that the district is 93% Green Belt. Numerous sites have been identified although the priority will be Brownfield Sites. However, having undergone an independent review, a site has been identified in Dunton Green although a decision is not due until the Summer. Cllr. Brown has raised concerns with SDC officers pointing out that Dunton Green has already had its fair share of development with Ryewood and with Fort Halstead proposed to the north of the village.
- Issues with broadband connectivity at Ryewood: Berkeley Homes under installed the number and type of boxes required. BT has still done nothing to affect any

improvement.

- Proposed medical facility at Ryewood: The NHS indicated that there was no money to run a surgery even if a building was provided. Initially the money was going to go to local surgeries although Cllr. Brown has asked for a review of provision which is under way and he is waiting to see how the money is allocated. Suggestions that if a surgery was not possible a pharmacy or private surgery might use the space have proved impossible as Berkeley Homes has indicated that there has been no interest. It is highly likely that Berkeley Homes will apply for residential development as this is more economic for them, at which point they will be asked to provide more money for the community.
- Scrutiny Committee: With several leisure centres running at a loss across the district a review was undertaken. The conclusion was that Sencio was not offering good value for money and so this will be reviewed.

9. Kent Police

Unfortunately, there were no Police representatives available to attend the meeting. However, a report from the current PCSO (Ellie Collins) was provided to attendees and a copy of the report is attached.

10. Dunton Green Primary School

Mrs Sarah Brown (Chairman of the Governing Body) was in attendance and provided a full report (attached to the minutes). Mrs Brown emphasised that Dunton Green is a community school and is deeply embedded in that community. Anyone who visits the school will find it a happy place, with well behaved children. There have been ups and downs of late but there is now a real buzz about the place. The Acting Headteachers love the school and are working with great enthusiasm to introduce new learning schemes and the school is being transformed. Mrs Brown particularly thanked the Parish Council for its contribution which enabled the school to improve its reception area, an area so important for first impressions. Headteacher recruitment is underway and the Governing Body are looking for a very special person to take the school forward. Lots of effort is being put into promoting the school to the wider community; the school role is currently around 180 but there are places for 210.

11. Consideration of any resolutions for which notice has been given

None

The meeting closed at 7.34pm



Dunton Green Parish Council Annual Report 2016/2017

COUNCIL

The Council & its committees met 15 times between April 2016 and March 2017 inclusive of which 11 meetings were full council meetings and 4 were committee meetings. There was an average attendance of 82% of Council members at these meetings.

Of the eleven meetings that Kent County and Sevenoaks District Councillors were expected to attend Cllr. Richard Parry (KCC) attended 3 meetings (27%), Cllrs Mrs Kim Bayley and Cameron Brown attending 1 between them (9%) - Cllr Mrs Bayley 1 (9%) and Cllr Brown 0 (0%).

The members of the Parish Council are currently: Mr Ian Bayley (Chairman), Mrs Freda England (Vice Chairman), Mr Graham Hersey, Mr Andy Lapham, Mr Robin Piper, Mrs Angel Gomes-Chodynietki, Mr Paul Lockey and Mr Anthony Carrol.

Having started the year with a full complement of members the Parish Council was saddened to see three councillors bid farewell - Cllrs. Tingley, Mrs Monks and Miss Guy. The Parish Council has yet been unable to fill the three vacancies.

Appointments made in 2016 included:

- Mr Graham Hersey as the councillor responsible for the allotments
- Mr Robin Piper representing the Parish Council on the Village Hall Management Committee
- Mr Robin Piper representing the Parish Council on the Donnington Hall Management Committee
- Mr Graham Hersey & Mrs Freda England representing the Parish Council on the Fort Halstead Working Group
- Mr Graham Hersey & Mrs Freda England representing the Parish Council on the Kent Association of Local Councils
- Mrs Lesley Edmeads continues as the Council's appointed representative on the Sir Thomas Smythe charity

CONTACTING THE PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council office is in Dunton Green Pavilion. Enquiries can be made by post, telephone, email, Facebook or via the Parish Council's website at www.duntongreenpc.org.uk.

PLANNING MATTERS

The Parish Council is consulted on planning applications in the village and has reviewed 36 applications over the last 12 months (April 2016 and March 2017 inclusive) versus 18 in the previous year.

POLICE COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Following a riding accident last summer (from which she is making an excellent recovery) PCSO Amy Hardy has unfortunately been on long term sick leave. In her absence, the village has been served by PCSO Ellie Collins. PCSO Collins has had to deal with an increase in anti-social behaviour over the last 6-9 months (predominantly graffiti and drug-related activities) but she and the community policing team continue to work on behalf of the parish to help to deter such activities.

COMMUNITY FACILITIES & RECREATION GROUND

Another busy year has elapsed for the Parish Council and Tracy, our Clerk, continues to work very hard to manage all the Parish Council's facilities & assets alongside all the statutory duties that she and the Parish Council must undertake. The pavilion goes from strength to strength with more activities being offered to residents and providing them with a modern, light & airy venue for their private functions. The recreation ground provides some excellent facilities not just for the young. The outside gym equipment is available for anyone who wants to keep themselves fit & healthy and are free of charge to use.

ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

The Parish Council continues to fund numerous activities and is committed to broadening the scope of what is on offer to residents. However, activities do need to be sustainable and the Parish Council would very much welcome enquiries from villagers who are prepared to help organise and run activities that they would like to see in the village. It's all about building our community, together.

The Kick Kent football sessions on Tuesdays remain as popular as ever and DGPC is proud to support this activity for our young people. The Parish Council has also introduced programmes for young people on Monday evenings, run by Play Place. We've seen a variety of themes for the programmes including photography, cookery, drama and arts. The Parish Council will continue to support these activities which have been so well received.

Other groups, such as the Knitting & Crochet group, now meet monthly at the pavilion, as does the Over 55's Social Club (an excellent example of how local people have come together to set up their own activity) and the AgeUK Lunch Cub which returned to the village back in May 2016 continues to be very popular with our more mature residents.

The Parish Council now has some excellent regular events which we are delighted to see are so well attended. These include Carols around the Christmas Tree, the autumn Fireworks display, the summer Village Picnic, the Remembrance Day Service and the latest addition (on a more frequent basis) is the Movie Night. Many of these events are well supported by other local organisations (such as the primary school, Dunton Green & Riverhead Scouts, Dunton Green Rainbows & Faithworks, for example) which brings a true sense of community involvement to these village activities.

The Parish Council is also very involved with the work of our Community Development Officers and their continued efforts to introduce new activities and to develop a real sense of community between more established and newer residents.

COMMUNICATION

The Parish Council introduced a new format quarterly magazine last year (Dunton Green News) which is hand delivered by parish councillors and other volunteers to all residents. The format has received some very positive feedback but we're not resting on our laurels. We are always interested to hear from residents with ideas for content and even to receive articles that they have written themselves. We want Dunton Green News to be a community magazine so we would very much welcome input from the wider community. We also now have a Facebook page where we share information about events and activities on a regular basis. We are also working on a new website format which we are hoping to launch around Easter. Whilst the website address will remain unchanged (www.duntongreenpc.org.uk) the new platform will have more facilities to allow you stay informed about what's going on in Dunton Green.

HIGHWAYS & FOOTPATHS

As reported last year, we have continued to see a reduction in the maintenance of verges and footpaths by KCC over recent years as part of cost saving measures. This will undoubtedly continue with budgets being further squeezed and KCC is actively trying to encourage Parish Councils to take on services that have historically been provided by the County Council. There is little or no financial contribution from the County to the Parish Council to cover the costs. This is 'devolution' of services and is something that DGPC has so far resisted but it is something that may have to be seriously considered in the future if we are to try to ensure the good appearance of the village.

LIGHTING

The Parish Council is responsible for most of the street lights in Dunton Green that are not on the main road with the principal exception of the Mill Road estate, Station Road and the Ryewood Meadows estate. If you have a concern about a streetlight (e.g. it is not working, it is day burning and so on) then please do report this as soon as you can. If you believe the light to be a Parish Council asset, please contact the Clerk and confirm the column number and the location so that she can make a request to our street light maintenance contractors to deal with the matter. If the column is a KCC light, then please try to report direct to KCC. You can contact them by telephone (03000 418181) or via their on-line reporting form on the Kent County Council website (<https://www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/report-a-problem>) where they will also request details of the column number and its location.

ALLOTMENTS

The Parish Council allotments on Dunton Green Social Club land remain fully let and currently there is nobody on the waiting list.

PARISH COUNCIL FINANCES

Summary 2015/2016 Financial Year Annual Return signed off by the Audit Commission:

	£	£
Balances brought forward		84,133
ADD		
Annual Precept		80,000
Total Other receipts		189,387
SUBTRACT		
Staff Costs	32,652	
Total other costs	261,697	
Balances carried forward		59,171

Dunton Green Community Development Officer **Report for Annual Parish Meeting**

Please find below the highlights and key successes of the projects implemented by the Dunton Green Community Development Officers over the year.

Dunton Green Lunch Club

After considerable planning, recruitment of volunteers and training, the Dunton Green Lunch Club was launched in May 2016. Lunch clubs take place on a monthly basis on the first Wednesday of the month.

Key successes:

- 21 people attended the first lunch club and between 18 and 25 people from Dunton Green attend each month.
- Over 80% of all attendees live within the Parish of Dunton Green.
- In December 2016 a Christmas celebration was held. The Community Development Officer invited 37 pupils from Dunton Green Primary School Choir to attend and perform some Christmas songs. The event was enjoyed by everyone that attended.
- The lunch clubs are now delivered by volunteers with minimal input from the Community Development Officers or Age UK

Older People's Forum / Over 55's Social Club

To engage with older people in the community an informal meeting was held in July 2016. At this meeting it was highlighted that across the parish there is a lack of services at the weekend for older people that are not involved in faith related activities.

A key outcome from the forum was the development of an over 55's Social Club:

- A group of interested residents were supported by the Community Development Officers to develop the Over 55's Social Club.
- The groups' first meeting was held in September 2016. The group now meet monthly and attendance ranges between 15 and 26 members.
- A successful Christmas event was organised by the group supported by the Community Development Officers.
- The group are now working towards becoming constituted with the support of the Community Development Officers.

Youth Forum Pizza Night

A free pizza night was organised for young people in Dunton Green on 1st July 2016. The purpose of the event was to engage with young people and establish their needs and aspirations. Young people were encouraged to record their views in a fun and relaxed meeting using a variety of methods.

- 19 young people attended the event
- Young people highlighted the activities that they would like to have available to them in Dunton Green which included a variety of sporting

Kent Police & Crime Commissioners' Youth Diversionary Activity Fund

Following the successful application to the Youth Diversionary Fund in September 2015 a number of projects have continued throughout the year.

Hip Hop and Cheerleading Dance

- Two dance styles were offered to provide for different interests. Sessions were held weekly between January 2016 and July 2016.
- 16 young people attended the cheerleading session and 18 young people attended the Hip Hop.

Archery

- An archery crash course was offered between 31st May and 3rd June 2016.
- 11 young people attended across two sessions despite the terrible weather. Young people were then signposted to other local Archery clubs to develop further their skills.

Youth Film Night

- A film night was held for young people to attend.
- Whilst attendance at this event was low it has sparked an interest across the wider community. As a result it was agreed that a whole community movie night would be explored.

RRR Course & Celebration Event.

- A Reform, Restore and Respect (RRR) workshop was arranged for everyone that has attended the dance, archery and film night.
- The RRR workshop was delivered to pupils at Dunton Green Primary School in years 5 and 6.
- A celebration event was held to bring everyone together that had attended the course.

Youth Dance

Following the success of the Youth Diversionary Fund it was agreed that the dance element of the project would be continued. To ensure sustainability of the project a suitable volunteer was identified. A volunteer agreement was drawn up and full training was provided. Street dance sessions were then planned and have taken place weekly since January 2017.

Dunton Green Health Walks

Initial planning meetings were held with Dunton Green Parish Council and SDC's Health Team in April 2016. It was agreed that a new Health Walk would be implemented in Dunton Green following the Walking the Way to Health model. These walks would take place on a Saturday morning which would enable residents that work during the week to attend but also provide an activity for families to enjoy together.

Key Successes:

- The first walk took place on 25th June 2016. Since then on average between 3 and 8 people attend each weekly walk. 27 people have registered and attended the walks since they began
- For some attendees this forms their only social contact over the weekend.
- New residents from Ryewood have benefitted from meeting the wider community and exploring paths around their new home.

Kent Shed Project

In Nov 2015 a bid was submitted to the Kent Shed Fund organised by Groundwork to fund a Dunton Green Shed Project. £3800 funding was approved in January 2016. The project aims were to provide a space for men within the community to get together, learn new skills and further develop existing skills predominantly in woodwork & gardening. The project is tailored around the attendees needs and interests. The project hub has been located in a disused furniture warehouse in Greatness, Sevenoaks. An extensive search for volunteers and participants took place with an encouraging amount of interest. However, interest from residents within the parish of Dunton Green was limited and it was therefore agreed to expand the remit for this project to encompass the entire Sevenoaks District. It was agreed that once a firm group had been established explorations would take place into how the group could better link with Dunton Green residents. Suggestions included linking with Dunton Green Primary School, Dunton Green Parish Council and other organisations/groups.

Business Support

Meetings have continued to take place with businesses from across the parish. The purpose for this was to develop an Association. Links were also made with SDC's Economic and Development team. Training opportunities have been identified and the following courses were taken forward, Promotion of Business, Broadband, Development of Businesses and working together as a community group.

Similar to the Over 55's Social Club and the Dunton Green Lunch Club, this Business Group now runs independently with only minimal support required from the Community Development Officers.

8-12's Project

In January 2017 West Kent Extra's 8 to 12's project was launched in Dunton Green. Young people are to be referred to the project, predominantly by Dunton Green Primary School. Young people will develop 'soft' skills such as self-esteem, confidence, social and emotional responses and making friends. Feedback from the project to date has been very positive.

First Aid Course

To ensure the success and sustainability of projects in Dunton Green an Emergency First Aid at Work course was organised and delivered on 1st December 2016. The course was offered to volunteers that support the Dunton Green projects. Ten people attended and completed the course. They are now able to support the ongoing projects in Dunton Green.

Over 55's Keep Fit

A weekly keep fit session for over 55's was offered at Hamlyn Court from December 2015 until May 2016. Keep fit for over 55's allows men and women to keep active through regular exercise. The instructor delivered a targeted chair based dance /

exercise session that worked with individuals ability. In total 11 people participated with 8 people regularly attending.

Half Term Activities

A range of activities was offered to young people in Dunton Green including Fencing, Boxing, Tennis and Cooking over half term in February 2017. In total 81 young people participated of which 60 live in Dunton Green. The success of these events can be seen by the positive feedback received after the events.

Easy Netball

This community focussed Netball session was launched on Wednesday 1st March. The sessions are open to anyone aged over 14. The cost is £2 per session (pay as you go) and takes place on Wednesdays from 6.30pm til 7.30pm on the MUGA. The first session attracted 5 people and was delivered by a young volunteer.

Future Project Proposals

Alongside supporting the existing projects, the Community Development Officers will be developing a number of new initiatives. In addition to this they will continue working closely with those projects already established to ensure they work towards or achieve self sustainability.

- Ryewood Focus - Now that a large proportion of dwellings have been occupied and there are a wide range of projects being offered in the parish it is felt that further community development work should take place in Ryewood. Many residents are currently unaware of the opportunities available to them. The Community Development Officers will work closely with Berkeley Homes and Premier Estates to forge better links with this part of the community.
- Explore Opportunities With New Mums - Investigations will take place with new mums in the parish to ensure that their needs are being met.
- Support Dunton Green Primary School - Support will be offered to Dunton Green Primary School to ensure the success and educational attainment of young people in the Parish. Links will be made to existing projects and future project ideas will be considered as needs arise.
- Provision of Events / Activities That Appeal To Working Adults - To ensure provision of services to the entire cross section of the community, the Community Development Officers will focus attention on providing activities that appeal to working adults. This will be based on any needs identified by the target audience and their support in developing projects as this will ensure sustainability beyond the lifetime of the project.
- Christmas Event - The consultation results indicate a large amount of interest in a local Farmers Market. Investigations into this have already taken place. It has become clear that to ensure its success it would need to have one organisation or business at the lead. Unfortunately none have been identified to take this on. Instead the Community Development Officers are proposing that a large Christmas event should be held. This would help to pull the community together whilst also identifying possible lead organisations for a farmers market.

Dunton Green Parish Council's Annual Meeting: –

County Councillor Richard Parry's Report to the Parish.

I am very sorry that I am unable to attend this year's Annual Parish meeting. Unfortunately work will keep me away from Sevenoaks and I will not be available until next week.

I must give my best wishes, to the Parish Council, its excellent Clerk and all those who'll attend and also live in the village, for an Annual meeting which will be enjoyable and also informative and productive.

For the past twelve years it has been my great pleasure and good fortune to have been the Kent County Councillor who represents Dunton Green at County Hall.

Dunton Green with five other Parishes and one Town currently cover the area of Kent County Council's Sevenoaks West Division; in May this year the Division will change by having two additional Parishes added to the Division.

Kent County Council [KCC], like all English Parishes, Towns and other local authorities has recently set its precept for 2017-18. Despite, for the fifth consecutive year having had to find savings, [in other words a budget reduction or "cut"], of nearly £100 million KCC has managed to contain this year's precept increase to approximately 1.9% ; this year this has been an exceptionally difficult task.

Additionally, as allowed by the government, an additional 2%, which is ring fenced solely for Social Services has been charged.

Despite having had to make these huge and difficult to achieve government's imposed savings target the County Council is still maintaining its "front line" services and continues to deliver these consistently at a very high level of service.

Currently KCC's Children's Services Directorate is in the middle of a "snap, surprise" Ofsted inspection which it is hoped will show that KCC is providing the best possible service to and for Kent's children.

The village's street lights are in the process of being converted to LEDs with the expectation that all will be converted by the autumn. Thus from about October all street lights will be on throughout the night and any difficulties currently being experienced by users of Pole Hill and other roads, because of the current night time "switch off", should cease.

As I've mentioned this is my twelfth year as the village's County Councillor and in this time it has been super to see the Parish Council get better and better at serving the village and all who live in Dunton Green.

The Parish Council has been responsible for so many good things of which I think that the new Pavilion and the Christmas Carols on the Green as possibly the best.

In addition to attending Parish Council meetings, the Carol singing and other events I have also enjoyed helping the village by being able to allocating part of the County Councillors' grant fund to village activities and projects.

However the best part of being the Village's County Councillor has been helping individuals and groups overcome particular problems. These include getting children into their chosen schools, getting school to home transport allocated, providing dropped curbs, overcoming problems and thus getting much needed and otherwise delayed Blue Badges issued and speed restrictions to mention but a few.

It's unlikely that I will be standing for re-election, as the village's County Councillor in May this year, so I must take this opportunity to wish the Village, its Residents and its Parish Council all the best for the future.

Yours sincerely,

Richard J. Parry.

Richard Parry,

Member for Sevenoaks West,

22nd March 2017.

Report of the District Councillors: Kim Bayley & Cameron Brown

March 2017

Introduction

Both your Councillors have attended Full and other Council meetings during the year, as well as a number of informal meetings with Council departments and constituents on a variety of issues.

It has sometimes been challenging to attend as many Parish Council meetings as we would have liked due to a large number of timing clashes but we hope we have been available to you via email and phone as needed.

Parking in Riverhead

Following a meeting with parking administrators SDC has agreed to undertake a parking review in Riverhead. Issues to be considered will be road safety and school parking. A meeting is to take place with Amherst school as to the ongoing issues relating to school parking.

Planning

Planning applications across the district continue to run at quite high levels. Both your Councillors have reviewed a number of applications within the district.

Your district Councillors have been making forceful representations about the 'call for sites' review undertaken by SDC. At the moment one site is under consideration in Dunton Green albeit no final decision has been made. Your Councillors appreciate the large number of new homes that have been built in Dunton Green in recent years, in addition to the development at Fort Halstead. We will strive to persuade the Council that other wards should take their fair share and no further large scale developments should take place in either Riverhead or Dunton Green.

Local Residents

We also met with a number of residents on planning, education and housing issues during the year.

Cllr. Kim Bayley

Kim sits on 2 Committees at SDC as well as being Deputy Portfolio Holder for Direct and Trading Services (encompassing environmental and waste services as well as parking etc. She sits on the Finance Committee, with a particular focus on ensuring that the District Council can continue to deliver the current levels of services with a vastly reduced budget. As Deputy Chair on the Direct and Trading Services committee, she also has regular updates with the head of Environmental Services, the head of Parking etc.

Finance Committee

During the year Council budgets continued to be under pressure due to significant funding cuts by Government at a local level but the current performance indicators of SDC are positive and departments are performing well and targets are being met.

Importantly the Council continued with its aim to become self sufficient to deliver income to the Council and replace lost central government funding. During the year a number of property investments were made in the area with a return of at least 6% pa which should help deliver a sustainable and self sufficient council going forwards. The Council also continues to share a number of functions with other Councils. Council tax has increased by £4.95 this year in order to maintain services.

Direct and Trading Services Committee

In relation to parking we were able to maintain parking fees in most car parks and apart from the introduction of a Sunday charge and some small increases in Blighs and a couple of on street areas most charges have remained the same.

The car park construction in Bradbourne is ahead of schedule and all season ticket holders have been re housed elsewhere. The major hotel project will also commence. We are also expecting to look at plans for a new multi storey in Buckhurst

During the year we improved communication to residents on recycling and met targets on collections across the district. Recycling rates are still below national targets due to our waste collection methods but residents like weekly bag collections and we are committed to this solution.

Other

Kim has also acted as a Governor of Dunton Green Primary School during the year and helped in the landscaping of the roundabout at the entry to Tesco as well as chairing the Lakeside Place Residents committee

Cameron Brown Committees

Cameron is Vice Chair of the Scrutiny Committee and sits on the Development Control/ Planning Committee.

Scrutiny Committee

Cameron completed a review into the provision of sports/ leisure facilities across the district and whether they offer good value for money. Currently the Council pays thousands of pounds per annum to its provider to run and maintain its facilities, including Sevenoaks Leisure Centre. This review resulted in a large number of meetings, including with its current provider, a number of publicly funded providers and a number of privately funded providers. The review concluded Scencio did not offer good value for money by comparison with other providers, making an operating loss for a number of years, and recommended an immediate reduction in the sums paid over by SDC. Cameron also been involved in the discussions as to whether to advance Scencio a further £600,000 to redevelop its facilities.

Development/ Planning Committee

Cameron has attended a large number of planning meetings dealing with applications from across the district. Cameron tries to support parish council objections where he is able to do so on planning grounds (including Rydale Court and Tesco's further extension in Riverhead/ Dunton Green).

Cameron has tried to ensure that there is consistency in relation to planning decisions and that the Green belt is protected where possible

Diversity

Cameron is assisting the Council in relation to some of its employment procedures, ensuring that it complies with its statutory obligations and promotes employment of individuals from a diverse range of backgrounds.

Finally

We of course remain available to discuss any local issues and would like to thank both parishes for all their hard work during 2016 - 2017.

**Kim Bayley
Cameron Brown
March 2017**

Kent Police

PCSO

Dunton Green Annual Parish Council Meeting Report 2017

Overall the main issues since I took over the patch in August have been the following;

- Racist graffiti
- Burglary/burglary other than dwelling (BOTD)
- Nuisance youths

Since the beginning of the year the issue with the racist graffiti had died down enormously, with only a couple of incidents this year that I am aware of. Unfortunately the investigation for this was and is being dealt with by the British Transport Police (BTP) and as such I don't know very much about it. I asked for an update about this back in December of last year and never received a response back; I have since emailed them again and am currently hoping for a reply and an update. Last I was aware their CID department in Ashford had taken ownership of this as it was occurring across a number of different stations and potentially had someone they wanted to speak to. As soon as I receive an update I will let you know.

Unfortunately, burglaries and BOTD's are common in every area. In Dunton Green there is no specific area that has been targeted or a pattern to who is or will be targeted. As a district we always respond to these types of incidents. Every person that has been a victim of either a burglary or a BOTD has, and will be in the future, visited either by myself or a colleague and given crime prevention advice. All neighbours will also be given crime prevention advice in the form of leaflets.

As you are all aware there has been an issue with nuisance youths in the area for the past few months. They have been in a number of places in Dunton Green; I would ask you to pass on to your residents that they shouldn't assume that we know where they are, without their information we wouldn't have as much to go on e.g. number plates, as we do now. A wide range of action has been taken regarding this; a number of youths have been spoken to (some at the location they have been seen in and some at home in front of their parents), some have been issued Anti-Social Behaviour warning letters (as a whole this has been effective for a few as they haven't been seen in the area as much). A couple of them have been spoken to about unrelated offences, so hopefully this will make them think twice about their behaviour.

We have had two nights of actions in Dunton Green, which essentially means that the area was flooded with vehicles and PCSOs, which both turned up negative results as there didn't seem to be any one around. Even though not many people were around and we didn't see many youths, this is still a positive event as the residents can see us and be reassured that we are there and also means that the youths are discouraged from attending the area as there are so many Police around. I believe more of these are planned for the future. In addition to this the area is regularly patrolled not only by myself but by both other PCSOs and Police Officers. I have been informed by a few residents that the youths have now started to arrive later in the evening and as such I am currently in the process of arranging to do a late shift with the Community Policing team specifically to patrol Dunton Green, and hopefully catch them and speak to them.

I am also aware of the nuisance bikes that have started arriving and I will continue to patrol the area and look out for them; I will also be emailing my colleagues and ask them to be on the lookout also.

PCSO Ellie Collins



Dunton Green Primary School

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DUNTON GREEN ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Dunton Green Primary School report to the Parish Meeting – March 2017

This has been another busy and successful year for the school, which continues to improve from year to year.

We were disappointed that in March last year, Ofsted rated the school as “Requires Improvement”, despite the huge steps forward over the previous two years. On reflection, we accept that more time was needed to embed all the changes and to see them fully reflected in the school’s performance. We were glad that the Early Years provision was rated as “Good” and that Ofsted recognised the work we do to keep children safe and to promote pupils’ personal development and welfare. This matters deeply to us.

SATs results in the summer were good for KS1 but less so at KS2. The change to a new more demanding curriculum was challenging and our results, like those of many other schools, suffered as a result. We are working hard to achieve better results this year. Governors and staff are committed to tackling the issues raised by Ofsted and ensuring that the school rapidly moves to Good in all aspects and then goes on to become “Outstanding”.

Our Headteacher, Ms Masson, left us at Christmas after nearly 4 years, first as Deputy Headteacher, then as Headteacher. We thank her for all her hard work on behalf of the school and its pupils. While we look for the right person to lead the school on the next stage of its journey, it is being supported by two very experienced Headteachers, Mrs Saunders who is the Headteacher of Lady Boswell’s in Sevenoaks and Mrs Marchetti who was Headteacher of St Michael’s School in Otford. We much appreciate their help. In a very short time, they have become enthusiastic supporters of the school and are determined to help it achieve its full potential

Under their direction, the school is going from strength to strength. We have an excellent and dedicated staff team. Academic expectations are being raised, and the introduction of new schemes of work and additional learning resources is ensuring that all children are motivated and inspired to learn. The curriculum is being reviewed to ensure that it excites and stimulates the children, and there is an increased emphasis on music and sport. There is a real buzz about the school, and all our visitors comment on how well the children behave.

Out of school activities are also thriving with numerous outings, sporting activities, and specialist clubs, as well as breakfast and after school clubs, so there is plenty to interest and engage all the children and widen their experience. The school also continues to play an active



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part in the local community. The choir sang at the Remembrance Day service and at the Carols around the Christmas tree event; older neighbours were entertained to lunch in the school and the head girl and head boy have visited the AgeUK Lunch Club.

The PTA has again been very active, raising much needed funds for the school at a time when finances are very tight and enabling us to buy more resources to benefit the children. We greatly value their efforts.

The appearance of the school has been transformed with help from numerous parents and others who came in for a Clear Up day. A generous donation from the Parish Council, for which we are most grateful, enabled the reception area to be revamped including a splendid new carpet. The area now looks much more welcoming. The PTA donated money to restore the floor in the hall. The small building at the back has had a new kitchen fitted, been redecorated and carpeted and is now an attractive space for the breakfast and after school clubs, as well as being used as a quiet area during the school day. There is more still to be done. Kent County Council have agreed to provide funding which will enable us to do some long overdue work on the school buildings.

Visitors are always welcome at the school. If you would like to come and see what is happening at your local school, please ring the school office on 01732 462221 and make an appointment.

Sarah Brown
Chair of Governors
13 March 2017