

Bobbing Parish Council – Annual Parish Meeting Wednesday 2nd May 2012

Parish Council Chairmans report

Bobbing Parish Council serves the communities of Bobbing Village, Bobbing Hill, The Grove, The Meads, Howt Green, Keycol Hill and the surrounding rural areas. During the past year the parish council held 12 regular meetings plus the Parish Council AGM. All the meetings were held in the Village Hall usually on the first Wednesday of the month.

During the past year there have been many issues that have been discussed at parish council meetings. During the past 12 months the County Council appears to dominate the issues and requests. (The Freight Action Plan, The Housing Strategy, the Gypsy and Traveller Pitch Allocation Policy, The Minerals and Waste consultation, The Household waste Recycling Service). This is followed by Kent Highways (The inability for anyone in KHS to attend meetings, the salt bags, the A2 closure at Newington, the annual parking and footpath issues). Next came the Borough Council (The SBC Draft Core Strategy and Ward boundary changes). Then we had central government with (The Localism Act, Community Infrastructure and the National Planning Policy Framework). There were other discussions, such as the Southern Water metering programme, The Queens Diamond Jubilee, The Village Hall, fly tipping and landscaping down to residents' concerns about streetlights not working or overgrown hedgerows.

Planning issues were generally limited to householder developments (Conservatories, extensions and porches etc.). However, the Watermark business park reported slow economic conditions and are trying to redesign their remaining business park land into a residential area.

On top of this the Borough Council updated us on progress with local initiatives such as, Swale West Parishes Forum, Engagement Forums, Rural Forums and Transportation boards. Unfortunately their website is not the best to navigate.

Who said Parish Council evenings are dull, uninteresting and boring.

Looking forward the next 12 months it would be good if central and local government paused to allow parish councils to digest the mountain of bureaucratic officialdom that has come their way. But I suspect not, we will inevitably see the Localism Bill unfolding and how that impacts on parishes, also, our electoral ward boundaries may change. However I hope the parish council will continue to support the village hall and endeavour to keep the Parish a presentable and pleasant place to live. Regrettably this is set against a background of diminishing resources. However, some of the above issues will rumble on for the next 12 months (or more) as the wheels of local government move very slowly, especially when it comes to action on planning and transport issues.

One thing is inevitable. Residents will always take an interest in their immediate neighbourhood and make contact if they want to know what is going on, especially if it is impacting on their lives. The Parish Council endeavours to listen and take much care resolving parish matters as resources, bureaucracy and time will allow. Ideally this should be

a two way process where neighbourhoods within the community build a partnership with the Parish Council, neither should work in isolation.

Residents can always look at the parish web site (www.bobbingpc.kentparishes.gov.uk) or pick up the phone and talk and inform the Parish Council or Parish Clerk of issues or concerns. If we are not aware we cannot help.

Planning

During the year the Parish council considered 21 planning applications, exactly the same last year.

Year	
2011/12	21 appns
2010/11	21 appns
2009/10	19 appns
2008/9	24 appns
2007/8	28 appns
2006/7	24 appns
2005/6	20 appns
2004/5	39 appns
2003/4	31 appns
2002/3	24 appns

Most were for small householder alterations and extensions. However the final parcels of land on the Meads (N of Staplehurst Rd) continue to be redesigned (shops, community services & residential) as does the business park south of Staplehurst Rd.

Regular issues (not an order of priority):

1. Key Street roundabout/Keycol Hill, pedestrian safety/traffic speed.
2. Bobbing Hill, parking issues.
3. Bobbing Hill move speed limit signs to end of houses.
4. Bobbing Village, reduce speed limit past village school/village hall/church.
5. Keycol Hill, Traffic calming and parking (White lining and safety information signs)
6. Car parking (Non residents) Bobbing Hill, Key Street, Keycol Hill.
7. Car parking Hilton Drive (Grove Park School run times).
8. Everywhere, Litter, fly tipping, and wrappers by food shops.
9. Everywhere, Overgrown hedgerows etc especially where public footpaths are concerned.
10. The Meads, Litter and speeding

Attendance at Council Meetings (May 2011 to April 2012)

Bobbing Parish Council (9 Councillors)	Attendance (max 12 meetings)	Expenses £.p
Ken Bullen	4/12	Nil
Robert Ball (Vice chairman)	11/12	Nil
Duncan Dewar-Whally* (Ward councillor)	6/12	Nil
Gill Edwards	5/12	Nil
Graham Herbert (Chairman)	12/12	Nil
Elaine Nappey (Planning)	9/12	Nil
Larry Major (Keycol residents association)	11/12	Nil
Keiran Stammers**	1/12	Nil
Tracey Wright**	2/12	Nil

* Cllr Dewar-Whally (Ward councillor) also attends SBC meetings which sometimes clash with BPC meetings.

** New councillors in 2012

Ward Councillors attending Parish Council meetings during 2011/12

Cllr G Randall (Conservative) attended meetings

Cllr D Dewar-Whally (Conservative) attended meetings

Bobbing Parish Precept

(10th largest of Swales 35 parishes with approx 760 homes)

Year	Parish Precept £	£ Band D property (Annual per household)
1997/98	4,777	8.72
1998/99	4,833	8.73
1999/00	3,888	7.03
2000/01	2,944	7.03
2001/02	4,500	7.82
2002/03	4,500	6.61
2003/04	3,500	4.99
2004/05	3,900	5.56 (Lowest in Swale District)
2005/06	5,000	7.12 (2 nd lowest in Swale District)
2006/07	5,750	8.05 (3 rd lowest in Swale District)
2007/08	9,420	12.60 (5 th lowest in Swale District)
2008/09	10,550	14.07 (5 th lowest in Swale District)
2009/10	10,300	13.60 (6 th lowest in Swale District)
2010/11	10,300	13.56 (3 rd lowest in Swale District)
2011/12	10,500	13.85 (4 th lowest in Swale District)
2012/13	10,500	13.81 (4 th lowest in Swale District)

Finally

On behalf of the Parish Council and myself in particular I would like to express our thanks to Sue our Parish Clerk for all the work she has undertaken throughout the past year, much of it over and above the call of parish council duties. However, without her enthusiasm, determination and dedication, which appears to be never ending, I am sure very little progress would ever have been made. As usual she has chased up not only Swale Borough Council and KCC, but just about everyone else you could possibly think of in order to get things done. We really do appreciate our parish clerk even if we do not always say so, therefore a very big thank you.

Bobbing WI report - Annual Parish Meeting Wednesday 2nd May 2012

Bobbing Women's Institute - East Kent Federation.

Meets every 2nd Wednesday of every month (Except August) at 7.15 pm, at Bobbing Village Hall, Sheppey Way, Bobbing, Kent.

Another successful year at Bobbing WI. Our membership has constant; with changes in people not numbers. Again we have enjoyed many interesting and varied evening together. We have made delicious gingerbread Christmas houses, valentines treats, and of course enjoyed many a fine bake cake or two.

Bobbing WI is about friendship, fun and enjoyment, we like to try new experiences, like indoor curling. However we are also part of the East Kent Federation and this year were host WI for the Spring group meeting. No mean feat for a relatively small group like Bobbing, but we rose to the occasion in fine style.

Bobbing WI would be delighted to welcome any new members to share the WI experience; you do not even have to live in Bobbing parish !!!

Yvonne Herbert

President Bobbing WI.

Bobbing Women's Institute was founded in 1947 and has a relatively small but steady membership of all ages and would be delighted to welcome any new members to join us and have a an enjoyable evening making new friends.