



Speldhurst Parish Council

Working for the whole community

NEWSLETTER

Defibrillators

The Parish Council has purchased three defibrillators and contributed 50% towards another one. Three of them are already in place at Ashurst Village Hall, at Groombridge Village Hall and at Langton Green Village Hall outside the Council Office. The fourth is due to be installed at Speldhurst Village Hall once we have found a suitable location out of direct sunlight.

All of the defibrillators have an electricity supply to keep them within an optimum



Ashurst Village Hall



Langton Green outside Council Office



Groombridge Village Hall

temperature range, and are in cabinets that are alarmed but not locked, which allows for a swift response in a life-and-death situation.

Using a defibrillator may seem a bit daunting, especially if you have not been trained, but there are easy-to-follow instructions with the machine. The Parish Council will be arranging training at various times in the future, so if you are interested please contact the Clerk.

Parish Plan

'The Parish Plan Working Group is pleased to report that the Village Open Days recently held have generated many interesting views and comments from residents on aspects that they consider most important for improving the quality of life in the parish. Most common themes mentioned include traffic speed, aircraft noise, maintaining a rural environment, enhanced village amenities, affordable housing and improved transport services. This feedback is now being assimilated and will form the basis for a residents' survey which every household in the parish will be invited to complete this autumn. Once the survey results have been considered, a parish vision and plan for the next few years will be formulated. This approach will help ensure the Parish Plan is relevant in meeting local needs and expectations.

It is not too late to have your say, especially if you have been unable to attend an Open Day. If you have a comment to make on any topic concerning the future of the parish or any suggestions/ new ideas then please email the Parish Clerk and it will be added to the data input from residents and considered in the development of the Plan. Do not let this opportunity pass.'

Ken Howes, Working Group Chairman

Council matters

Phase 3 (our area) of The Making Kent The election of parish councillors in May turned out to be a non-event, as we ended up with 13 candidates for 13 positions. One councillor, Ed Langridge, stood down after seven years of service, and one new candidate stepped forward - Harry Allen, from Langton Green. Neil Barrington-Johnson, who joined the Council last May, was elected chairman and takes over from Lynn Jeffreys, who has been Chairman since 2008.



Cllr Harry Allen



New Chairman,
Cllr Neil Barrington-
Johnson

Sadly, we have since received the resignations of two other councillors. Councillor Crispin Owen from Langton Green is taking on new professional responsibilities and Councillor Chris Pendleton from Groombridge is moving out of the parish. The vacancies were advertised during June on our notice boards and on our website. As no-one has called for an election during that period the Council will co-opt two new members over the next month or so. If you are interested in becoming a councillor please contact the Clerk.

Footpaths

The Parish Council is not responsible for the maintenance of footpaths and twittens but we are aware that Kent County Council has reduced its commitment to their clearing due to reductions in its budgets. The Parish Council will try and clear footpaths where there is a need but it has limited resources and relies upon information from residents about the paths that are in greatest need. Earlier this month we carried out the clearing of the footpath between Farnham Lane and Mercers (see below).



Diary date

The Parish Council Autumn Open Meeting will take place on Monday 12th October at Speldhurst Village Hall. This is an opportunity for you to tell councillors about your concerns, and to inform us of any community schemes which may need financial assistance, before we set the budget for next year.

Air traffic news

Work will start this year on the new pavilion at With the election now behind us we are currently awaiting the Airports Commission recommendation(s) on its suggested location for an additional runway capacity in the south. Whichever option it recommends (Gatwick or one of the two Heathrow alternatives) there will undoubtedly be a protracted fight from relevant local groups, always assuming the Government accepts the recommendation, and it may not!

In the meantime we continue to focus on other air traffic issues. We have been working with Greg Clark on these and he has just secured agreement from British Airways and easyJet to retro-fit all their Airbus A320 aircraft which do not already have the modification that eliminates that very unpleasant whine. This should be done within two years by BA and by spring 2018 by easyJet, although Greg is pressing easyJet for earlier completion. The efforts on night flight reduction or dispersal and a move away from daytime flight-path concentration over our area continue and we will keep you advised of any future developments on these issues.

Langton Green Sports Pavilion

Work will start this year on the new pavilion at Langton Green Recreation Ground (LGRG). The Parish Council provided a guarantee that sport can be played on the LGRG for the next 30 years, enabling the Langton Green Community Sports Association (LGCSA) to apply for a grant from the Premier League and the FA Facilities Fund.

LGCSA's application was successful and it was announced on June 26th that a grant of £384,000 was awarded to them. This will enable a state-of-the-art clubhouse to be built at the LGRG which will provide a home not only for the thriving football section but also the various other community sports.

Highway issues

Following the recent announcement of a The Parish Council knows that speeding continues to be a major concern throughout the parish and is making a priority the establishment of 20mph limits outside Speldhurst and Langton Green Primary Schools. Kent County Council Highways Department has advised that they will not be funding the zones, so the Parish Council will look into the cost of funding them, hopefully with some help from Tunbridge Wells Borough Council.

The Council is also seeking to install a Speed Indicator Device (SID) to try to make drivers more aware of their speed. A SID is portable and can be moved around a number of sites within the parish, staying in each location for about two weeks. This is in addition to the Interactive Speed Signs (ISS) in Ashurst and Groombridge.

Lastly, the Council is working on the creation of 'gateways' on the main routes into the villages in the parish to try and raise motorists' awareness that they are entering areas requiring lower speeds.

Speedwatch has always been run by councillors and volunteers from the public and is most effective when carried out at peak times. More volunteers who are available at such times are always needed, so if you are interested please contact the Clerk, as another training session will be arranged soon. At the moment the Council's speedwatch equipment is on loan to our local PCSOs, who have been carrying out sessions in the parish.

REMINDER The Parish Council has been keeping a record of the number of accidents in the parish over the last couple of years and relies on information from residents, so please keep us informed. We can lobby for road improvements where they are needed, but without the accident statistics we cannot mount a successful campaign.

FOR REGULAR UPDATES ON ALL OUR ACTIVITIES GO TO OUR WEB SITE
www.speldhurstparishcouncil.gov.uk

Speldhurst Parish Council

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(Chairman)
Harry Allen
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This newsletter will be available, as will future issues, on the Parish Council web site.

All enquiries to the Parish Clerk; Chris May on (01892) 862927 or at clerk@speldhurstparishcouncil.gov.uk