

MINUTES of the Annual Parish Meeting held at Dunton Green Pavilion on Wednesday 30th March 2022 at 7.00pm

01. CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS

The Chairman welcomed residents of Dunton Green and all attendees to the Annual Parish Meeting and commented that it was wonderful to see so many people gathered for the Annual Parish Meeting (APM), the last face to face APM having taken place in 2019. It was particularly good to see volunteers from Age UK, Sevenoaks Larder and the Sevenoaks Community Responders who were thanked for their efforts for Dunton Green.

02. PRESENT / APOLOGIES

Present: Cllr. Freda England (Chairman of Dunton Green Parish Council), Cllr. Kim Bayley (Sevenoaks District Council), Tracy Godden (Clerk to Dunton Green Parish Council), Wendy Jackson (Parish Council staff), PCSO Sue Harwood, Tracey Boanas (Headteacher Dunton Green Primary School), Paul Geraldine (Chair of Governors Dunton Green Primary School), Sue Larken (Age UK), Kathy James (Sevenoaks Larder) and 21 members of the public (including Parish Councillors, Age UK volunteers, Sevenoaks Larder volunteers, Sevenoaks First Responders volunteers)

Apologies (accepted): Cllr. Annie Norton (Parish Council), Cllr. Cameron Brown (Sevenoaks District Council), Cllr. Nick Chard (Kent County Council)

03. MINUTES OF 2021 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The minutes of the 2021 Annual Parish Meeting held on Tuesday 13th April 2021 were approved as a true record.
Proposed – Angel Gomes-Chodynietki, Seconded – Debbie Parker and Agreed.

04. MATTERS ARISING

None.

05. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

A report summarising the activities of the Parish Council (and the wider community) had been received and was noted [attached].

The Chairman highlighted the following elements:

- Parish Council: Covid had initially forced no meetings, then meetings via virtual platforms following a temporary change in the law for Town & Parish Councils, and finally a return to face-to-face meetings in 2021 with no legal means of continuing virtual meetings. Freda England continues as Chair of the Parish Council, with Paul Lockey as Vice Chair. There continue to be two vacancies. The Parish Council increased its communication via social media during the lockdowns to keep people updated; there have been new noticeboards (at Ryewood and on London Road) and the quarterly newsletter has returned to its four editions having had a couple of missed editions in 2020/early 2021.
- Planning: The Local Plan is still awaited. Fort Halstead is going through variations and the proposal for the old Vauxhall garage site is still pending.
- Police: PCSOs have been reorganised again but PCSO Harwood works hard in Dunton Green, trying to tackle the issues of e-scooters, drugs, and other anti-social behaviour.
- Traffic & Highways: The Parish Council is not a Highways Authority but takes a keen interest, arranging a meeting with KCC after two deaths in August 2021 on roads in/near our village; the Parish Council is planning a Speed Indicator Device (SID) scheme and has been asking for community support of this initiative.
- Footpaths: the Parish Council is seeking to protect for the future a branch footpath which extends from the station tunnel to the bend of the SR102 Public Right of Way which runs from the recreation ground. Again, the community is being asked to support this through providing evidence of its use.
- The Pavilion has been closed over lockdown periods in the last two years and income is down. All grants that have been applied for have been successful. And for the coming year (2022/23) there will be no increase in the Parish Council element of Council Tax Bills.
- Speed through the village and litter continue to be the two main concerns of residents. The SID scheme will hopefully help to alleviate some of the speed concerns, and we have reinstated the popular bulk freighter

collections on a bi-monthly basis, have installed 4 new litter bins and have arranged a litter pick for Sunday 3rd April.

- Queen's Platinum Jubilee: to celebrate this milestone, the Parish Council is taking part in the Queen's Green Canopy project and has already planted 12 trees on Longford Meadow. This planting compliments the Climbing Rox play equipment and the picnic tables and bench that have also been installed there.
- The Parish Council has also supported the school this year with £6000 to cover a classroom project and to assist with the project to have an after-school club building.

06. NICK CHARD, KENT COUNTY COUNCILLOR

A report had been received and was noted {attached}.

07. CAMERON BROWN & KIM BAYLEY, SEVENOAKS DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

A report summarising the activities of Dunton Green's two District Councillors had been received and was noted {attached}.

Cllr. Kim Bayley commented that she is here for whatever Dunton Green residents need. Sevenoaks District Council (SDC) looks after waste collections, homelessness, feeds into Kent County Council (KCC), and there is a lot of work on planning issues. SDC has dealt with various Covid-related issues: staff absences, provision of more grants, an increase in the levels of homelessness in the District – the work has been heavy on customer service.

08. KENT POLICE

PCSO Sue Harwood was in attendance to speak to residents. Noting that she had been pleased to receive the invitation to attend, PCSO Harwood confirmed that technically she was now doing the work of 4 people and an enormous geographical area, the patch that she alone is now responsible covers Dunton Green, Riverhead, Knockholt, Halstead, Badgers Mount, Westerham, Crockham Hill, Brasted, Sundridge, Chevening, Chipstead and Ide Hill. In addition, she can be sent anywhere, to assist other officers, Kent Police being short on numbers. That said, PCSO Harwood would like to hear from residents, who are able to contact her via her email address.

As speeding in the village is an issue, the PCSO took the opportunity to advise attendees that whilst she would like to be out more with a speed gun, it isn't always possible, but it does happen. Regarding the A25 average speed camera trial in Brasted that is currently running, that community has been out with Community Speedwatch – their own and the Police's. They have worked hard over a period of years. If Dunton Green is to stand any chance of getting something similar, it really will need a lot of action from the whole community.

09. DUNTON GREEN PRIMARY SCHOOL

A detailed report had been received and was noted {attached}. The Headteacher (Tracey Boanas) highlighted the following:

- The school is very different to the one that the Headteacher inherited five years ago; it is now becoming the norm for the school to be selected as first choice and the school was oversubscribed this year whilst 'competitor' schools haven't reached their numbers.
- Budgets continue to be tight; 34% of the children at the school are from 'disadvantaged' families and the school therefore provides lots of additional support for its pupils.
- The Key Stage 2 classrooms have been renovated and the school thanks the generous donation of the Parish Council which has allowed refurbishment of one of them. The children have taken on (very successfully) fundraising by themselves.

Asked why or how the school has changed, the Headteacher indicated that there are high expectations of the pupils, that staff have been empowered, that communications with parents have improved and that the children are motivated to aspire. There is a shared culture and ethos, and this is what makes the school such a good environment for learning.

The Chair of Governors (Paul Geraldine) was also in attendance and took the opportunity to thank the Parish Council for its generous donations, the Headteacher and the staff who all so ably support pupils, the school, and the wider community. It was noted that the PTA needs support and anyone with children at the school was encouraged to get involved.

Residents took the opportunity to praise the school for all that they are doing and to comment on what a happy place it is – lots of laughter, singing and a wonderful atmosphere.

10. Age UK Sevenoaks Reports – Lunch Club and Pop In

A report had been received and was noted {attached}.

Sue Larken thanked the Parish Council for its support of Age UK in the village, and assistance of all the volunteers. Isolation, loneliness, vulnerability had all been highlighted because of the lockdowns and precariously Age UK has been bringing people back since autumn 2021; such social gatherings are important and are making a real difference, as has the practical help that Sue can provide. The Pop In is regularly attended by 25 people in Dunton Green and Sue can be contacted by anyone who might need some support.

11. Sevenoaks Larder Report

A report had been received and was noted {attached}.

Kathy James thanked the Parish Council for allowing the use of the Pavilion for the weekly Dunton Green drop in. Sevenoaks Larder had started in Sevenoaks Town in the first lockdown, helping people that couldn't get out. Towards the end of the first lockdown, this service had morphed into a more traditional larder at Hope Church. A significant number of people wanting to use the larder were from Dunton Green, so a proposal was put forward to the Parish Council and the drop in at Dunton Green began. People collect a pre-ordered pack of food and collect additional items that might be available. There are more details in the report about a couple of special projects that have been run, but one relates to reconditioned laptops, and it was noted that most of the larder families have been provided with a device now. More recently, a support service has been rolled out. Whilst they are not an advice agency, the Larder knows agencies who can provide support and meetings are being facilitated at the Pavilion on Tuesday mornings when the drop in operates in Dunton Green. The objective of the larder is that they are no longer needed (a reverse of most business plans) and it is hoped that these additional services will help get to that end point. Fifteen regular volunteers assist on Tuesday mornings .

12. OTHER REPORTS, IF ANY

The parish Council Clerk had provided a report on a proposed restructure of Sir Thomas Smythe's Charity, which was noted {attached}.

13. CONSIDERATION OF ANY RESOLUTIONS FOR WHICH NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN

None

The meeting closed at 7.34pm.

After the conclusion of the formal part of the evening, Cllr. England advised that the APM tradition of formally recognising a member of the community for their contribution to Dunton Green had continued throughout but that there had been no opportunity in 2021 to present the award.

The Chairman announced that this year it was her great pleasure to make a presentation on behalf of the Kent Association of Local Councils (KALC) Community Awards to two recipients – one for 2021 and one 2022.

For 2021, the award goes to Tracey Boanas 'In appreciation of Tracey's commitment & dedication to the children of Dunton Green and to recognise the importance and value of a thriving village school to the wider community.'

For 2022, the award goes to Kathy James 'In appreciation of Kathy's dedication to our community in overseeing the Sevenoaks Larder in Dunton Green and to recognise the genuine importance of this service to those families that benefit.'

Everyone was then welcomed to enjoy the Parish Reception refreshments and take the opportunity to talk with exhibitors and representatives of numerous groups and organisations.

Dunton Green Parish Council Annual Report 2021/22



Throughout the last year we have, like many others, had to negotiate our way around the ever-changing Covid regulations. Some meetings earlier in the year, including the Annual Parish Meeting (APM), were held virtually, but as lockdowns eased Parliament failed to extend the legislation for Parish Councils to hold meetings virtually, and we ended up having some very socially distanced in person meetings.

The Parish Council has remained the same with Cllr. Freda England as the Chairman, supported by Cllr. Paul Lockley as Vice Chairman, and 7 other parish councillors. Unfortunately, we still have 2 vacancies and welcome all enquiries. With the reopening of the Pavilion, Wendy Jackson joined us as Bookings & Facilities Assistant in 2021, dealing with the day to day running of this building and the various assets within the village.

Our District Councillors, Cameron Brown and Kim Bayley, and our Kent County Councillor, Nick Chard, continue to support the Parish Council when they can.

The Covid 19 pandemic has impacted all we do. Our social media, including our website, has meant we have been able to ensure our parishioners have been kept up to date on help and support available throughout the crisis. We have refurbished the noticeboard on the Village Green and installed a new one on London Road (at the Rose and Crown end of the village), and we have managed to publish all 4 of our most recent quarterly newsletters. When possible, the Pavilion has reopened but with enhanced Covid measures to keep all our hirers as safe as possible.

The Parish Council still dealt with all village planning applications. We, like the rest of Sevenoaks District, await the Local Plan which was rejected despite an appeal to the Planning Inspectorate. The Fort Halstead application continues to be modified. This major development will impact our village and as a Parish Council we seek to minimise the disruption. In the village we await the planning application decision for the development of the old Vauxhall garage, McCarthy and Stone having made a draft proposal for 36 retirement homes.

Yet another reorganisation of the PCSOs means we now only have 1, Sue Harwood, whose area covers many villages. We continue to work with her in trying to prevent ASB and drug dealing. She has been kept busy with the latest craze of e-scooters which have been confiscated if used on public highways and our land.

Traffic and highways issues are not directly the responsibility of DGPC; however, we do work with outside organisations to help reduce speeding and improve safety. Following the death of a parishioner at Tesco's roundabout and a cyclist on Star Hill, KCC have agreed to the installation of a SID, Speed Indicator Device, similar to the one by the village hall, if we can demonstrate enough support from the village. Its purchase, installation and maintenance will be funded by the Parish Council. We have liaised with Connect England to lessen the effects of diverted motorway traffic, especially HGVs at night. Speeding throughout the village continues and we are still seeking volunteers to run a much-needed Speedwatch group in Dunton Green. We are in the process of formally registering the footpath with KCC PROW across the fields to the station, to ensure its future.

The Pavilion had to be closed for several months because of the pandemic restrictions of recent years. This has drastically reduced our income. We applied and were successful in securing several grants to offset our costs, and through prudent budgeting, our precept request (the money we receive from the Council Tax) will not be increasing this year.

We will continue helping to keep the village clean and tidy when we restart our regular litter picks next Sunday. The popular bulk freighter collections are back, increased to 6 times a year to cope with demand, and we have recently installed 4 new litter bins in the village.

Some of our events have returned including our fireworks and the Christmas singalong. Age UK's lunches and Pop Up Sue's café are also back to normal.

In this year of the Queen's Jubilee, we have been planting trees as part of the Queen's Green Canopy project. In the past month, 12 have been planted around our newest project, the Rox on Longford Meadow. These climbing rocks have been installed to fill a gap in provision for our teenage parishioners and have used funds originally given to Parish Council when the land was gifted as part of the Mill Road estate. More indigenous trees will be planted this autumn in Price's Wood, also as part of the Queen's Green Canopy project.

Only in the past week, 3 benches and 3 picnic tables have been installed by the Rox, in Mill Road and in the recreation ground. Some of these benches and those already in the village will be designated as 'Happy to Chat' benches, part of a nationwide campaign to counter loneliness (plaques will be installed in the coming weeks to identify them).

Financial Update

Summary 2020/21 Financial Year Annual Return signed off by the Audit Commission:

| | £ | £ |
|--------------------------|---------|---------|
| Brought forward | | 120,615 |
| ADD | | |
| Annual Precept | | 136,000 |
| Total other receipts | | 50,774 |
| SUBTRACT | | |
| Staff costs | 44,568 | |
| Total other costs | 100,259 | |
| Balances carried forward | | 162,562 |

Grants to village organisations

We have provided financial support in the 2021/22 financial year to various charitable organisations (listed below), as well as allowing some organisations to use our facilities free of charge to enable vital services to be delivered to our community.

| | |
|--|---|
| Citizens Advice in North & West Kent | £150 |
| West Kent Mediation | £50 |
| Kent Surrey & Sussex Air Ambulance Trust | £150 |
| RBL Poppy Appeal | £50 |
| Kent Community Domestic Abuse Programme | £150 |
| Samaritans | £150 |
| Victim Support | £100 |
| Sevenoaks Volunteer Transport Group | £200 |
| Holding On Letting Go | £100 |
| Relate West & Mid Kent | £50 |
| Sevenoaks CFR | £250 |
| Dunton Green Primary School PTA | £150 |
| MacMillan Cancer Support | £100 |
| Age UK (Lunch Club) / Age UK Pop In | £1500 (£1k Pop In / £500 Lunch Club transport contribution) |
| Dunton Green Primary School | £6000 (£3k classroom / £3k After School Club project) |

Finally, I would like to thank all our Clerk Tracy, the Parish Councillors, volunteers, and hirers for helping us make Dunton Green a better community.

Cllr Freda England
Chairman Dunton Green Parish Council

30th March 2022

Kent County Council report to Dunton Green Parish

Annual Parish Meeting 2022

We have had two years of the Covid pandemic which has meant an enormous change for us all, how we use services and how those services are delivered.

It has, regrettably, meant that some requests are outstanding, improved pedestrian safety near Tesco's and a clear plan for the proposed Fort Halstead development and its impact on Star Hill are still on my agenda to complete.

Some things have improved; however, they will need further impetus. The impact of diverted motorway traffic on Dunton Green; the speed and volume of diverted HGVs are still an issue but there is now much better information and local residents are forewarned.

I have been successful in introducing an average speed trial along the A25 between Sundridge and Westerham, they face similar problems with diverted traffic to Dunton Green. It may be possible to arrange a future trial in Dunton Green and police speed checks to monitor traffic.

Two recent planning applications could have a severe impact on traffic volume, allied pollution and general quality of life.

The application to import 800,000 cubic metres of material in the creation of bunds at Chevening House was successfully defeated, however, it is likely that the applicant will appeal.

The other major application is the restoration of Covers Farm, Westerham. This is a similar 800,000 cubic metres of imported builders' rubble which will mean additional HGVs in our area for 5 or 6 years. This application is likely to go to committee for decision next month.

May I publicly thank my Sevenoaks District Council colleagues, Kim Bayley and Cameron Brown, for their collaboration and support, it's great working with them.

Nick Chard March 2022

Report of the District Councillors: Kim Bayley & Cameron Brown

Introduction

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

Covid

Clearly the Council continued to deal with Covid related issues during 2021. It continued to provide additional services and administer Government business grants, rates rebates etc, all of which have placed some strain on both council resources as well as finances. Car parking income continues to be under budget due to the pandemic and with recent inflationary pressures all areas of the budget are under increased pressure.

Development and Planning

Planning applications across the district continue to run at reasonably high levels, notwithstanding the Pandemic. Both your Councillors have reviewed and taken appropriate action on a number of applications within the district. Of note there are several larger applications in progress or likely in the parishes including a potential development of ca 70 houses off Brittain's Lane, a new McCarthy and Stone retirement development of 37 flats at the old Vauxhall garage site and the possible sale of the Abbeyfield site.

Further afield the new Swanley Leisure Centre opened – a substantial investment from SDC to improve leisure facilities in the district.

Roads

There have been continued discussions around parking near Riverhead Infants School and Worships Hill and around proposals to address safety issues in Chipstead Lane. We are hopeful that a KCC proposal on the latter will be forthcoming shortly.

Net Zero

SDC continues to work on a number of initiatives to improve carbon emissions in the district.

Local Plan

The SDC appeal regards the rejection of this plan on the grounds of failing in a duty to cooperate in 2021 was unsuccessful. The existing Local Plan, with all its current protections, will continue to be used to help decide planning applications until a new plan is agreed – work on this is ongoing.

There is a call for sites currently underway in the District.

Council Tax and Finances

As many of you may know, Sevenoaks District Council now receives no additional funding from central Government and is self-sufficient.

The Council operates a balanced 10-year budget and has an investment strategy that has sought to maximise the investment returns on savings and borrowings, for the benefit of residents as well as a property investment strategy designed to deliver returns of over 5%. Without this investment scheme many of the services we enjoy would have to be reduced. Currently among the larger Sevenoaks projects, the Council has rebuilt Swanley Leisure Centre at a cost of more than £20m and is redeveloping several sites in Swanley for affordable housing and work space.

In February 2022 the Council, on a cross party basis, agreed a limited Council tax increase of a little under £5 a year for the average household.

Cllr. Kim Bayley

Kim now sits on 5 Committees at SDC as well as being Deputy Portfolio Holder for Innovation and Improvement (encompassing major infra structure and Council projects such as the new car parks, major property developments, as well as communications). In addition to Innovation and Improvement, 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, the Cleaner and Greener Committee (waste, parking, environment), the Governance Committee and the Appointments Committee. As Deputy Portfolio Holder, she also has regular updates with the Leader of the Council and the heads of property, finance and communications. During the year the Cleaner and Greener Committee has had a particular focus on driving a green agenda and the Innovation committee has looked to improve communications, customer services and monitor large infrastructure projects such as the Swanley developments.

Cllr Cameron Brown

Cameron is a member of the Audit Committee, is chair of the Scrutiny Committee and sits on the Development Control/ Planning Committee. Over the course of the year he has chaired a number of meetings of the Scrutiny, which has covered topics such as the work of the Sevenoaks and District Chamber of Commerce and the impact of the covid pandemic, an in depth review of the effectiveness of CCTV across the district and issues affecting Kent Highways and Transport. A new in-depth review is set to look at SDC's response to the Covid pandemic and lessons that should be learned. He has also attended a large number of meetings of the Development Control, contributing to a number of lively debates. He has throughout attempted to protect the interests of the residents of Riverhead and Dunton Green.

Finally

We do of course remain available to discuss any local issues with residents and members. Please do contact us by email - Cllr.brown@sevenoaks.gov.uk or Cllr.bayley@sevenoaks.gov.uk

**Kim Bayley
Cameron Brown QC**

March 2022



Dunton Green Primary School

London Road, Dunton Green, Kent TN13 2UR Headteacher: Mrs T Boanas
Tel: 01732 462221 Fax: 01732 743263 Email: office@dunton-green.kent.sch.uk

Empowering life-long learners.



Year 6 investigating how increasing the number of electrical components in a circuit can effect the brightness of a bulb

Overall, although SATs were not held in either of the last two academic years and although a lot of progress still needs to be made, we believe that most children are on track to achieve the targets we have set for the end of this academic year. One point to note is that six of the nine candidates passed the Kent Test this year. We were also pleased last year to be chosen as the Kent Literacy Overall Primary School Champion reflecting the innovative approach the School has developed for Writing and the children's resulting progress and achievements.

Year 4 receive music tuition from the Kent music trust for the year. Here they are practising to play Bye Bye Caterpillar.



It has become clear that the pandemic and lockdowns have adversely impacted the mental well-being of a considerable number of children, a development which is nationwide. Together with their families, the staff continue to support these children, which is a significant additional challenge for the entire School community given the ongoing curriculum recovery work. This has impacted on staff well-being at a time when it has been challenging to recruit and, when necessary, to obtain supply and longer term cover. Ongoing community support will be needed to ensure that the staff can adequately support the additional needs which the children currently have.

In keeping with a trend seen in some other local primary schools, pupil numbers in the 2021 Reception class were lower (23) than in the last few years. Current indications are that the number in the September 2022 Reception class should be back to – or close to – capacity. There are still some gaps in some of the other classes, particularly the current Years 3 and 4.



Dunton Green Primary School

London Road, Dunton Green, Kent TN13 2UR Headteacher: Mrs T Boanas
Tel: 01732 462221 Fax: 01732 743263 Email: office@dunton-green.kent.sch.uk

Empowering life-long learners

Year 4 travelled on train to the Victorian era for world Book Day in March. They had an interesting day of learning listening to stories and making Victorian toys.



The school continues to be supported well by Sevenoaks School and the children in Years 3 and 5 collaborated on a music project at the beginning of the autumn term lead by the music teacher from Sevenoaks, where the children developed musical composition skills. The Year 6 class benefited from a lesson delivered by the science department on dissecting hearts. A range of Sevenoaks students arrive every Thursday afternoon to help the children learn chess and have also delivered a mental well-being programme.



Year 5 learning how to play chess with Sevenoaks school students leading the learning.

The pandemic and lockdowns notwithstanding, the School has continued with a range of extra-curricular activities, including hosting another successful football tournament last June and taking part – and winning first place – in the Kent School Games Infant Agility Competition. We were also very pleased that we were once again able to organise a residential trip last Summer for Year 6 – the children had a wonderful time, particularly as the trip took place soon after the second national lockdown. Day trips for other year groups have also restarted, including a trip for Reception children to Leeds castle, Year 5 visited the London eye and Year 2 will be going to Hastings in the summer term. . The Choir has continued with a range of activities, one of the highlights being the December 2021 Carol Concert which, together with the Nativity Play, made a welcome return after both had to be cancelled in 2020.



Dunton Green Primary School

London Road, Dunton Green, Kent TN13 2UR Headteacher: Mrs T Boanas
Tel: 01732 462221 Fax: 01732 743263 Email: office@dunton-green.kent.sch.uk

Empowering life-long learners.

The success of these extra-curricular activities is dependent not only on the staff and children but also on active support from families and others in the community.



Year 5 writing letters to their penpals in Canada. This initiative has been going for almost two years.

It has been wonderful to be able to have all the children integrating once again this academic year and we have largely been able to remove bubbles. This means that the older pupils are able to support younger pupils with reading. The Year 6 pupils take their role as 'buddy' to the reception pupils very seriously and it is lovely to see them each Friday escorting the younger children to praise assembly.

There are a range of roles and responsibilities within the school and the children enjoy being part of these. The school councillors are democratically elected each year and they have met with the catering team to provide feedback on where they would like to see changes in the menu. A number of children in Year 5 have been trained as peer mentors and they work to resolve issues on the playground and to support children who perhaps need a friend. The Head boy and Head girl presented a wreath on behalf of the school at the local remembrance day service and support the Head teacher at merit assemblies with the presentation the merit badges. They also spoke very eloquently at the prospective parent tours for our new Reception intake.

As children progress to secondary schools and their families have less contact with the School it is essential that others a more active role in supporting the School, including through participation in the PTA and providing practical support for the PTA's activities.

Year 3 enjoyed researching Stonehenge and then using what they had learned to build and label a model version!





Dunton Green Primary School

London Road, Dunton Green, Kent TN13 2UR Headteacher: Mrs T Boanas
Tel: 01732 462221 Fax: 01732 743263 Email: office@dunton-green.kent.sch.uk

Empowering life-long learners.

As we have previously reported, the School buildings are old and, overall, in poor condition. Maintenance continues to be a challenge, both practically and financially. After much lobbying by the Head Teacher, Kent County Council finally undertook a rolling refurbishment programme in the Key Stage 2 Area of the School starting last Summer, most of which was completed by Christmas. This was much needed and we are grateful to the Parish Council and the PTA for generous donations which will enable the children to benefit from new furniture and improved storage facilities as well.

The pupils have recently been involved in their own fundraising for the development of a VIP room. Some pupils have raised in excess of £200. The pupils participated in a 'colour run' fun event to motivate the fundraising efforts.



The After-School Club is an important service which the School provides to the community. For health and safety reasons the After School Club building had to be demolished last Summer. We would like to replace it as soon as possible but this is not a service which is funded by Kent County Council funds so the School will need to meet the considerable cost of replacement. Together with the PTA we are starting to look at various fund-raising options and will need to look to the wider community for support with this important objective. The Parish council have kick-started this fund with a generous donation of £3000, which we truly appreciate.

The Head teacher continues to be committed to the school and in the future she would also like to re-develop the Early Years outdoor learning classroom and establish a Forest school as part of the curriculum.

The School continues to benefit from strong leadership and we were delighted to add to this with the appointment last September of Daisy Fearfield as the Assistant Head Teacher. We also benefit from the dedication of the entire staff team but, particularly in the context of recovery from the pandemic, even more practical help from parents, carers and the whole community – as well as financial support – will be needed to ensure that the School continues to deliver its vision of developing the children in our community.

Dunton Green Primary School Fundraising & PTA Activities 2021-22

Update for Dunton Green Annual Parish Meeting 2022

In the Autumn of 2021 one of our parents worked with the Headteacher to send out letters to local corporate companies asking for sponsorship for a classroom. We did not get a very good response. However, as many of you know the Parish Council kindly donated £3,000 to furnish a classroom. The school also had a £3,000 donation from the PTA for another classroom. Plaques for these 2 classrooms will be ordered in the new financial year to be displayed and donors invited to a grand opening - hopefully there will be a photo in the Chronicle, but we will definitely update the community via the Parish Council's newsletter (Dunton Green News).

The PTA have begun to return to their events that were all on hold during lockdown., including a Valentine's Day 'Wear What You Love' event. Coming up we have:

- Mum to Mum nearly new sale - Sunday 22nd May
- Annual Football Tournament organised by a group of parents and held over the weekend of 11th/12th June is historically very successful raising in the region of £3,500.
- Summer Fair proposed date Sunday 3rd July

The Fundraising page for the minibus is still open however it will be transferred/changed to a fundraising page for the After School Club Building. The Parish Council has also kindly donated £3,000 for this which is currently held by PTA.

[Fundraiser by Team DG : Get Dunton Green School Moving \(gofundme.com\)](#)



[Fundraiser by Team DG : Get Dunton Green School Moving - GoFundMe](#)

Dunton Green Primary School is launching a fundraising Minibus Appeal, and we need your help. The school does not currently possess its own bus and therefore has to rely on the goodwill of other local schools to provide transportation.

www.gofundme.com

Most recently one of our staff members had the idea of a VIP room and organised a sponsored Colour Run which was held on Friday 25th March - this has really captured everyone's imagination and although our target was £500, we anticipate we will raise around £2,000 with both on-line and cash donations. We were also sponsored for the materials by Donnington Manor Hotel.

[Crowdfunding to help fund our VIP Room for all pupils on JustGiving](#)



[Crowdfunding to help fund our VIP Room for all pupils on JustGiving](#)

We're raising money to help fund our VIP Room for all pupils. Support this JustGiving Crowdfunding Page.

www.justgiving.com

Our next big target will be the After School Club building which we will need to have a concentrated effort on, once the page is set up. We anticipate corporate funding for this, sponsored events etc but with such a huge target we will also need to look at other funding streams.

Susan Tickner
Finance Officer, Dunton Green Primary School
March 2022



Dunton Green Primary School

London Road, Dunton Green, Kent TN13 2UR Headteacher: Mrs T Boanas
Tel: 01732 462221 Fax: 01732 743263 Email: office@dunton-green.kent.sch.uk

Empowering life-long learners.

Report to the Dunton Green Parish Meeting, 30 March 2022

This report covers the two years since the start of the first pandemic-related lockdown in March 2020.

As for so many people, the pandemic created enormous challenges for the School, its pupils and its staff. These challenges are ongoing as work continues – and will continue for some time to come – to help the children to recover the ground lost in their education during the lockdowns.

The School remained open throughout the two national lockdowns. Between late March and June 2020 a skeleton staff kept the School open for the children of keyworkers and vulnerable children with 20-30% of the total number of pupils attending, a higher number than in most Kent primary schools. We were delighted with the positive response from pupils and families when the School was able to re-open for the Reception and Year 1 classes in June 2020. We also made arrangements to ensure that the Year 6 pupils were able to mark the end of their time at the School in July 2020 although disappointed that the circumstances prevented the full range of activities and events which usually mark this important point in their education.

We were also delighted in September 2020 to re-open the School fully even though this necessitated a number of variations to daily School life. Again, the response of the pupils, families and staff was very positive and made both the re-opening and most of the subsequent term a great success. It was disappointing that, reflecting the position across the country, we had to close some classes in December 2020 as the pandemic surged resulting in the second national lockdown between January and early March 2021. During this lockdown, as a result of considerable efforts by the staff team, we put in place a wider programme of remote learning which was available to all pupils, including a lot of online support. Most families responded enthusiastically to the considerable challenge of home schooling with a much higher proportion of pupils engaged in learning than during the 2020 lockdown. Again the School remained open for children of key workers and vulnerable children with a slightly higher number of children attending regularly than in the previous lockdown. It was, however, concerning that a small proportion of children had little engagement in their education during both lockdowns.

Over the remainder of the 2020/21 academic year and during the current academic year the timetable has been adapted to incorporate additional Maths and Writing lessons as these were the subjects in which the children's learning suffered most during the lockdowns. This has resulted in some other subjects being taught bi-weekly instead of weekly but no curriculum subjects have been dropped. The Department for Education has provided some additional funding which has helped with the recovery work. Some of this funding has been used to employ a Maths Tutor who was recruited at this time last year and continues to work with groups across the School. Some of the additional funding has also been used to provide a limited amount of additional staff capacity to enable class teachers this year to spend more time working with their pupils who need additional support in English. We are hoping to continue the additional support in Maths and English in the 2022/23 academic year.

Dunton Green Lunch Club

Dunton Green Lunch Club is held on the 1st Wednesday of every month except August at the Dunton Green Pavilion, Recreation Ground, London Road, TN13 2UR.

The Club is run by a group of friendly volunteers who have been together for a number of years now.

Lunch is held in a lovely light airy hall from 11:30 – 13:30 approx. Greeted with a tea/coffee and biscuit, followed by a hot two course lunch finishing with a further tea or coffee at a cost of £3.00.

A chance to meet up in a friendly environment for a meal and chat with friends or an opportunity to make new acquaintances. Christmas is a festive celebration with entertainment, full Christmas dinner and a raffle with prizes for all.

There is easy access with car park. If you have transport problems, please contact us: Judith 07836 525 938.

We are always looking for new lunch members and happy to organise transport if required.

Judith Verlinden & Pat Turner (Volunteers)
March 2022

Dunton Green Pop In Cafe

The classes are held monthly on the 2nd Wednesday of each month 1:30-3:30pm.

The class begins by welcoming everyone in with a cup of tea/coffee and a biscuit, giving everyone time to come in, have a talk and catch up with each other or make new friends and get to know their neighbours.

The exercises in the class are mainly seated and adaptable to suit anyone of any ability to do as much or as little as they want to do in the session, with the ages of the people attending varying from 60s to 90s.

Each exercise session starts with a gentle warm up and mobility exercises for the joints, such as shoulders, and progress to using legs and arms, gradually warming up the body and increasing heart rate slightly to improve circulation. Then we move on to strength exercises, helping to increase strength of the legs and arms and improve ability to stand, improve posture and decrease the chance of falling by practising balance exercises.

Sometimes resistance bands are used, and each participant has their own strength TheraBand to use, working at their own pace and level. Towards the end of the class, stretching exercises are done to improve flexibility and some mindfulness with a few moments of some calm and peace to help those who can practise this if they feel anxious at any time.

As I work for Age UK, I have been able to help refer anyone in need to my colleagues and have done so for applying for help with Blue badges, Attendance allowance, home adjustments, or advice on general wellbeing. We also have guest speakers, most recently from Citizens Advice to speak on energy advice

The classes are always well attended and most importantly we always laugh together in good company.

Sue Larken
Age UK Sevenoaks & Tonbridge Health & Wellbeing Coordinator
March 2022



Report for Dunton Green Parish Meeting 30.3.22

The Dunton Green pop-up of the Sevenoaks Larder opened on Tuesday 20th April 2021.

Clients visit the Pavilion on Tuesday mornings to collect their pre-ordered food, including fresh fruit and veg and protein items, and to choose bonus items from the table selections.

We currently have 27 households registered to use the Sevenoaks Larder Pop-Up in Dunton Green (16 of whom have been registered with us from the start). A further 6 households in Dunton Green have used us but no longer do so. 2 other households in DG (from Wickens Meadow) receive a delivery on a different day as they cannot walk to the pop-up. They make up just under one quarter of the total Sevenoaks Larder client list.

This comprises 83 people in total (35 adults and 48 children).

There are children in all but 6 of the client households.

The 27 households are located as follows :

- Glyn Davis Close 6
- London Road 2
- Rye Lane 2
- Ryewood 7
- Station Rd 3
- Centenary Close 1
- Hillfield Place 1
- Other 5

Each household is entitled to claim one food order per week. The size of the food parcel depends on the size of the family. The sliding scale is as follows:

| | Allowance given | | |
|-------------------|---|--|---|
| | Fresh protein (number of portions of e.g. 600g chicken) | Fresh fruit & vegetables (number of packs) | Store cupboard 'dry' foods' (number of items) |
| Households of 1-2 | 1 | 4 | 8 |
| Households of 3-4 | 2 | 6 | 12 |
| Households of 5+ | 3 | 8 | 16 |

In addition to the above the clients will receive a share of the excess food collected from the supermarkets that day.

Special Provision

- Christmas saw a donation to our organisation which meant we could gift each household a voucher for Aldi as well as providing Christmas staples in addition to their regular shop.
- A partnership with Fine Tuned Tech has enabled us to provide reconditioned laptops and table top computers to many clients (over 60 so far) and most of the Dunton Green clients have now received one.
- Easter donations enabled us to gift an easter egg to every child.
- The recent start up of our Support Services began with Dunton Green. Clients have been asked to complete a questionnaire indicating the three main reasons why they need help from a foodbank. The overwhelming majority have unmanageable debt and are not receiving help with this. Many others cite food bills and the increasing cost of energy is a concern. They will be triaged then referred to a partner charity who may be able to help them with their issues. It is hoped that in this way we will eventually see clients stop needing us.

Volunteers

15 regular volunteers help weekly for between 1-3 hours with the various tasks involved in getting food to the clients in Dunton Green. We are very grateful to each and every one of them.

We are extremely grateful to DGPC for allowing us to use the building which has enabled us to build relationship with DG clients and given them greater freedom of choice and dignity in using the foodbank.

Claire Ritchie
Chair of Trustees

Kathy James
Trustee/DG POP UP co-ordinator