



Paddock Wood Town Council – Quarterly Update July 2018

Chairman's Update

Each May at the annual meeting of the Town Council, elections are held to appoint a Chairman and Vice Chairman for the following year. Elizabeth Thomas, who had ably chaired the Town Council for the past two years, decided to step down from the role and the Council unanimously elected Meryl Flashman, who had been Elizabeth's Vice Chairman for the past year, to take over as Chairman. Carol Williams was then elected to the role of Vice Chairman.

Meryl has lived in Paddock Wood since 1987 and joined the Town Council in 2003. She left her job as a full time teacher in 2012 and now has much more time to devote to her role as a Town Councillor. Meryl manages the PWTC website and is very interested in the history of Paddock Wood. Her other interests include genealogy, travelling and walking her dogs.

The Town Council has four sub committees and at their first meeting of the year they also appoint a Chairman and Vice Chairman for the coming year. Derek Boyle was re-elected Chairman of the Estates Committee and Carol Williams was re-elected Chairman of the Planning and Environment Committee. Derek has also been appointed Chairman of the Personnel Committee whilst the Policy Committee has not yet met to elect their Chairman for the year.

It is a very demanding time for the Town Council which is currently taking forward two major projects - a Neighbourhood Plan and a much needed Community Centre.

You can find out more about the Town Council by visiting the website <http://paddockwoodtc.kentparishes.gov.uk> or following them on Facebook and Twitter.

Cllr Meryl Flashman

Clerk's update

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Welcome to the latest edition of the Town Council's newsletter. You will see the council's new logo which was approved by members earlier this year, in the top right-hand corner. This logo will gradually replace the old logo as and when equipment etc needs renewing.

Paddock Wood Town Council also welcomed a new member of staff earlier in the year. Teresa Maxwell will now be managing the bookings for the Day Centre and football pitches as well as supporting the Clerk and Deputy Clerk in the office. If you wish to make a booking for either, please contact Teresa using the details below.

There is usually one of us in the office on St Andrews Field every weekday until 4 pm. Do feel free to call in if you have anything to discuss or require any help. It might be best to phone first if you are making a special journey or have something specific you wish to raise with us.

We can be contacted on 01892 837373 or email paddockwoodtc@btconnect.com.

For planning or cemetery queries contact Claire at claire.pwtc@btconnect.com.

For pitches or Day Centre bookings contact Teresa at admin.pwtc@btconnect.com.

Nichola Reay
Town Clerk



Estates committee

The Estates Committee of Paddock Wood Town Council is responsible for all of the green spaces and buildings owned by the town and we work hard with our partner organisations to ensure that they are maintained and developed for the public good.

Over the last couple of months we have been planning the work to be carried out by the Estates team for the coming year to maintain and improve several of the buildings that we own, specifically the memorial pavilion and St. Andrews Hall.

The memorial pavilion has had some external refurbishment work, with the tidying up of the area in front of the building and the laying of a new paved area. This can then be used for a seating area for the users of the building such as the football teams and the community café.



Up at the new cemetery, we have completed the raised beds and memorial garden area that is now in use with a planting scheme that has been completed and we are planning on placing a few benches there over the coming year for visitors.





We are looking forward to seeing the results of the fantastic work that the Paddock Wood Football club has been undertaking at the Elm Tree changing rooms to bring the facility up to county standard. PWTC has agreed to undertake some additional exterior work on the building and we are planning to do some major work on improving the pitches over the coming year at a date to be agreed with the club

Cllr Derek Boyle, Chair of Estates Committee

Planning and Environment Committee

The Planning and Environment committee meet on the first and third Mondays of each month to consider local planning applications. Committee members review the planning applications before each meeting, visiting sites as required to look at the potential impact of a development on surrounding properties. Each application is discussed, considering the site visits, plans and feedback from other organisations and comments from the public (written or verbal) before the committee decides whether there are objections or not based on planning grounds. Whilst we might object to some plans, we are unable to make decisions as we are a statutory consultee, not a decision-making body. However, we can ask that a Borough Councillor requests that specific plans are reviewed at the Borough Planning Committee.

Over the last few weeks a great deal of time has been spent reviewing evidence submitted by Persimmons as evidence to the Borough planning team of compliance with pre-application planning conditions. There are two conditions (11 and 15) which we are particularly concerned about because these relate to surface water and foul waste management. The Planning and Environment Committee has co-opted Peter Trent for his expertise in these areas to assist us in reviewing the documentation, which is invaluable as the committee's knowledge of these matters is limited, although we are learning fast. Together with Borough Councillors Allan Gooda and Claire Stewart, Peter Trent and the P&E Committee have persuaded the Planning Team to ensure that these conditions are met before the development can progress. This resulted in a temporary stop notice, which expired on 25th July, but Persimmon have agreed not to recommence work before all required information is provided and before Southern Water can provide a solution to the issue of foul waste management. We would like to thank all those residents who responded to our recent short survey – this helped us provide the evidence to persuade the planners to listen. This makes trawling through all the paperwork worthwhile.

P&E Meetings are public meetings and we welcome residents to attend. Those wishing to speak on specific plans must contact the office to let Claire know prior to the meeting, but we welcome input from residents.

Councillor Carol Williams, Chair of Planning & Environment Committee.

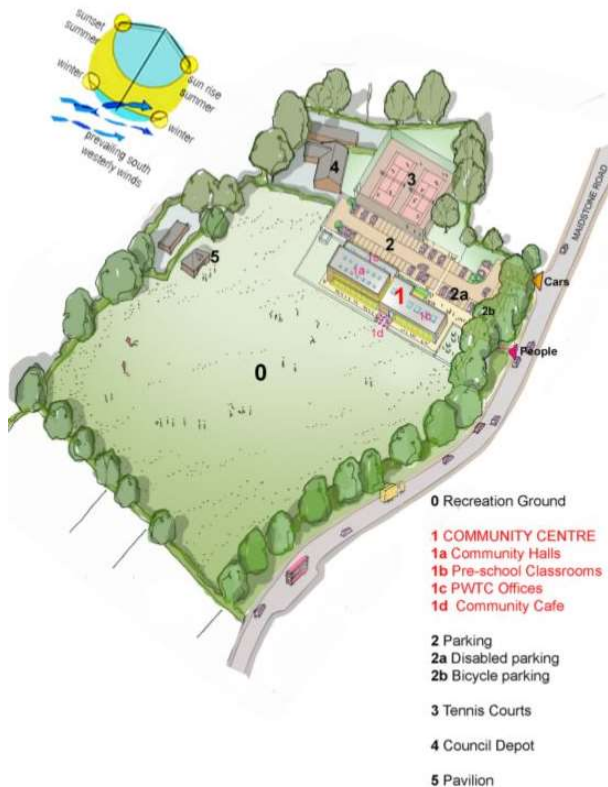


Community Centre update

Most unusually for a place of its size Paddock Wood does not have its own dedicated Community Centre and it can often be difficult to hire a suitable venue to host an event. Ever since the demolition of the parochial hall in the 1960s the residents of Paddock Wood have been trying to raise the money to build a replacement hall in the village/town. Along with a swimming pool this aspiration has topped the wants list most frequently in all consultations that have taken place in recent times

At last Paddock Wood has the opportunity to make this dream become a reality as the provision of a Community Centre for the town is included in the current Tunbridge Wells Local Plan. Paddock Wood Town Council started by identifying all possible sites within the parish on which a Community Centre could be built. In order for the project to be financially viable the Town Council agreed that the centre should be built on land already in the Council's ownership. After considerable discussion it was agreed that the best site for the proposed new centre was on the Memorial Field which had been purchased by the council in the 1950s. Not only will it help meet the needs of the existing residents of the town but also the needs of those people moving to Paddock Wood as new houses are built.

The Community Centre is planned for the northern end of the field. The existing tennis courts will be upgraded, there will still be room for a full-sized football pitch on the site and if the cricket club





were to be reformed a pitch could be re-established. There is no intention to demolish the cricket pavilion nor will dog walking rights be removed. The tree lined entrance into Paddock Wood will be retained.

This is an ideal opportunity for Paddock Wood to be provided with a facility it so desperately and obviously needs.

You can keep up to date with progress by visiting the Town Council's website or watching out for updates in the Town Crier and other publications.

Councillor Meryl Flashman, Chairman of Council and Community Centre Board



The Youth Council was established in January 2016, as a mechanism to access young people's voices for our neighbourhood plan and the development of a community centre. We initially had around 10 young people, representing a wide range of groups, which gave us access to a large number of young people who provided positive and innovative ideas for the future development



of Paddock Wood. Due to the success of this early work, we have continued the group and they are now identifying issues which they would like to see addressed. They did not like the litter around the town so instigated litter picks, which are now undertaken twice a year, overseen by the Estates Committee. They produced posters to encourage people not to drop litter, which are now displayed around the town. When they had concerns about buses for school, they invited Arriva to a meeting to discuss their issues and were influential in lobbying for through buses to Maidstone and

more frequent buses. They are currently planning a Young People's Award, to be advertised in the autumn and awarded at the Paddock Wood Lights Up Christmas event. This will be aimed at young people who have contributed to environmental projects, assisted with a cause or have helped others. Look out for the information in September.

Councillor Eileen Wilson is providing short training sessions for PWYC members to help them develop their skills at meetings and in influencing those around them. It is great to see the talent and commitment we have in our young people in Paddock Wood. If you know a young person who would like to join, we are always looking for new members and would welcome representatives of groups or any individual interested in getting involved.

Councillor Carol Williams, Administrative support to PWYC



Neighbourhood Plan

Following the receipt of the second draft of the Neighbourhood Plan back from our Consultants at the beginning of the year, the Steering group has been very busy further developing the policies contained in it.

There are four working groups dealing with different policies within the draft Neighbourhood Plan; a green infrastructure group, a heritage group, a sports & recreation group and a town centre group. All four groups drew up their policies based on consultation events held in Paddock Wood and discussions with groups/individual residents. It is important that the draft Neighbourhood plan accurately reflects what has been said by residents, as well as liaison taking place with both the Town Council and our four Borough Councillors.

The third draft of the Neighbourhood Plan cannot be finalised until the Tunbridge Wells local plan has been issued for consultation (this has been significantly delayed by over a year). Our plan must be compatible with the Tunbridge Wells local plan as ultimately it becomes part of it.

The next steps for the Neighbourhood Plan will include further consultation with the residents of Paddock Wood.

To keep up to date with what is going on with all aspects of the Neighbourhood Plan you are welcome to join the Steering Group at their meetings which take place in the Wesley Centre on the third Wednesday of each month. The next meeting is scheduled for September as the group is meeting with Tunbridge Wells Borough Council for a workshop in August. You can also follow the Paddock Wood Neighbourhood Plan Facebook page.

Meryl Flashman, Chairman of the Paddock Wood Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

Foal Hurst Woods

The last official volunteer's day of the season was held on the 25th March. Although the day was cloudy, and the clocks had changed to summer time we still had eight volunteers who came to help. We covered several small tasks which over time will enhance the reserve.



The first and biggest of these was the clearing of brambles from the wetland, which Mark and I had started on the 21st. Once this was done we layered the existing hazel trees staking them in place, so they will take root and eventually we should, after several years, have a full hazel hedge round the wetland. This will require a persistent blitz on the brambles which can be covered by the Wednesday team. Other tasks were to plant several willow cuttings in the Orchard Meadow by



the road near the dipping pond. This was covered by Mark and Alexander while Terry removed some metal, possibly an old cattle feeding trough, from the west side of the wood.

I measured the tree where we want to place the barn owl box. This turned out to be just over 5 metres to the first branches which I am told is ideal. I have spoken to the R.S.P.B who have volunteers who will put the box up for a small fee.

Frog News. All the main ponds in the reserve have been visited by frogs and the two Orchard Ponds have had toads as well. Additionally, the Wetland and the Small Orchard pond both have resident newts this year.

Peter Prince – Honorary Warden of Foal Hurst Woods

If you would like to volunteer to help at Foal Hurst Woods, please contact the Town Council Office.

Cemetery & Memorial Garden

The new raised beds have been planted up and there is a wall for memorial plaques. These are now available to be booked, please contact Claire Stewart at the Council Offices.

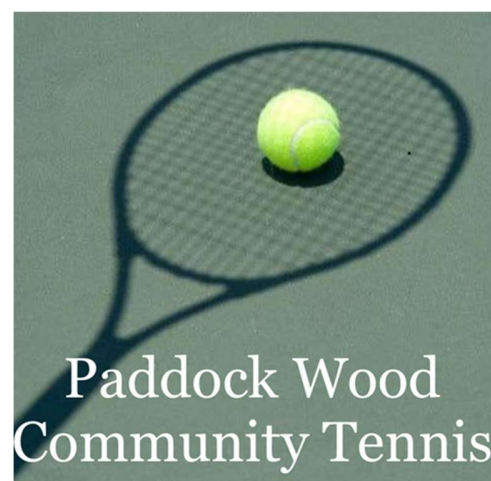
Tennis Court Membership

Paddock Wood Community Tennis Courts are open to everyone. Join our friendly club as a member to enjoy continued use of the courts in Memorial Playing Field.

2018 Summer Membership is free to join! Make the most of the long summer days and get on the courts. Sign up and book through our website,

<https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/PaddockWoodCommunityTennisClub>

We currently have 3 courts off Maidstone Road and access is by code, circulated among members.





Keeping Paddock Wood Safe and Tidy



We arrange bi annual litter picks around Paddock Wood, with many volunteers from various community groups coming to help.

We also have litter pickers, bin bags available which members of the public can borrow too.

As usual we have installed hanging baskets in Commercial Road, they are looking beautiful this year.



We have recently installed a defibrillator outside the Town Council offices. This is available 24/7 for use in an emergency.





Upcoming meeting dates

6 th August	Planning and Environment	7:45pm
20 th August	Full Council	7.45pm
3 rd September	Planning and Environment	7.45pm
10 th September	Estates	7.45pm
17 th September	Full Council	7.45pm

Meet your Councillors

Come and meet some of your local town councillors and ask questions about any local issue that you would like them to take to the Town Council or to pass on to the appropriate Councillors at Borough or County level.

Please see website for details of times and locations.

If you have any suggestions about what you would like to read about in our next Quarterly update which we are going to publish in November, please contact either the Town Clerk or Cllr Derek Boyle via the contact details below.

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Paddock Wood, TN12 6HT Tel:01892 837373 email:paddockwoodtc@btconnect.com