



Paddock Wood Town Council – Quarterly Update July 2019

Chairman's Update

In May 2019 Town Council elections were held. Paddock Wood has two wards i.e. East, which returns 7 councillors, and West which returns six. 4 candidates stood in the East ward and 8 in the West. As a result, all 4 candidates in the East ward were elected unopposed whereas an election had to be held in the West ward.

At the time of writing the Council is advertising for people to put themselves forward to fill the three remaining vacancies for the East ward. Applications should be sent to the Town Council office by noon on Monday 15th July after which an extraordinary town council meeting to co-opt 3 new councillors will be held on Wednesday 24th July 2019.

Please see the Town Council website for information about the current councillors and their responsibilities.

Tunbridge Wells Borough Council has given us a preliminary insight into their draft local plan for the Borough with its projected 4000 homes for this area. The full plan will go out to consultation in the Autumn and I urge all residents to attend one of the roadshows they will be putting on in order to make your feelings known. The Town Council will be making its views known at the same time and will probably employ a consultant to help them do so.

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



Estates committee

Over the last few months the Estates committee have been busy considering and putting in to place various work projects to maintain and enhance our town. We are undertaking the following work at the moment:

- Seeking quotes to update the Green Lane Spinney management plan.
- A new roundabout has been installed in Green Lane playground.
- Working with Waitrose to discuss the installation of a new bin on the edge of their property to help tackle littering between the Railway Station and the stretch round to the John Brunt.
- We are working with KCC to install a new bench outside of the Memorial Field on Maidstone Rd
- We have installed security bollards in the entrances to the Elm Tree football pitch, Green Lane, Putlands and St. Andrews field. This is in direct response to the incursions of travellers we suffered in early May.
- The new pitch at the Elm Tree is growing well, but we are keeping an eye on it and working with PWFC on making sure that it is ready for the new season.
- We are seeking quotes to relay the hedge at St. Andrews closed Church Yard
- We are working on a specific set of Byelaws to further enhance the protection of Foal Hurst Wood from inconsiderate behaviours by visitors.
- The new defibrillators have been delivered and installation is being arranged for the Day Centre and Green Lane.
- We have been working with the Paddock Wood Cricket group to support them in their efforts to hold a charity cricket match on the 7th July. Although their original plans have had to be scaled back, we are happy to support this community initiative as they will be raising money for the Community Storehouse Food Bank.



I have been fortunate enough to have been re-elected as the chair of the Estates committee for the 4th year and I look forward to serving our Town along with the rest of the Estates committee for another year. As the chair of this committee I am also a member of the Community Centre Board who are overseeing the project to build a Community Centre on the Memorial Field. An update on this project can be found later in this newsletter.

Cllr Derek Boyle, Chair of Estates Committee

Planning and Environment Committee

The Committee has continued to lobby for a new sewage pipe around the town to serve the three developments currently approved. We are well supported by our drainage expert, Peter Trent, who has been co-opted to enable us to put forward informed

Clerk's update

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Welcome to the summer edition of the Town Council's newsletter.

Security has been in the forefront of everyone's minds this spring. Following a spate of vandalism at St Andrews Field the Council is planning to install CCTV cameras overlooking the car park & play areas. Also, security bollards have had to be installed on the Council's playing fields following two illegal incursions by travellers earlier in the year. It is hoped that these bollards will prevent further break-ins.

On a lighter note - whilst everyone is enjoying the summer flowering baskets the Town Council is now planning the Christmas lights. The Council's contract for the Christmas lights expired last winter, and new ones are planned for the coming season. As always residents are always welcome to contact the office.

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

Nichola Reay
Town Clerk



arguments for providing an additional pipe for the new developments to prevent further sewage problems for existing residents. We are corresponding with Southern Water to enable us to visit their headquarters in Hampshire to view the modelling used to determine their proposals for Paddock Wood. Please continue to report problems to PWTC and Southern Water where problems with sewers arise.

We are also looking at highways issues to provide a list of priorities to KCC, who are responsible for the roads. As well as looking at repairs required, we have discussed issues such as a 20 mph speed limit in all or part of the town; parking restrictions in specific areas and the issue of a number of reported near misses near the John Brunt, where traffic is exiting Old Kent Road onto Church Road, despite this section of Old Kent Road being clearly marked as 'one way'. If you have any other issues you would like to raise or have comments to make on these matters, please let PWTC know.

Councillor Carol Williams (Chairman, Planning & Environment Committee)

Community Centre update

Little progress has been made on the Community Centre project over the last few months. This has been due purely to the Town Council elections which were held in May. However, it is anticipated that the RIBA Stage 3 document will be discussed and signed off at some point in September. After this an application for planning permission can be made enabling building work to commence in early 2020.

One further development is that the Town Council has been notified by Tunbridge Wells Borough Council that KCC has received a request to consider that the Memorial Field be adopted as a village green. We understand that the application for village green status was made by the Friends of the Memorial Field. No further information has been made available to us.



Youth Council

The Youth Council is raising funds for Peanut Ward, the Children's Burns Ward at East Grinstead. This charity was nominated by Paddock Wood's Young Person of the Year 2018, following personal experience of using the services provide by Peanut Ward. If anyone would like to donate, please contact Councillor Williams for information. The Youth Council are preparing to advertise for the Young Person of the Year 2019, so please start thinking about any inspirational, hardworking or talented young people you may know and nominate them when the forms come out in September.

Councillor Carol Williams, Administrative support to PWYC



Neighbourhood Plan

There has been little progress with the plan over the past three months. This has been entirely due to the delay in the publication of the Tunbridge Wells draft plan.

Our Neighbourhood Plan cannot stop this development as it must support the strategic needs of the TWBC local plan; it cannot promote less development than set out in the local plan or undermine its strategic policies. National policy makes this clear.

However, we could in theory allocate additional/different sites if it was felt by the local population that there was need for more housing than identified in the local plan.

The purpose of the Neighbourhood Plan is to shape and guide the proposed development by determining criteria for layout, design, materials, garden and parking requirements as well as deciding on infrastructure priorities. The Plan can also identify areas for protection. Already TWBC has accepted the concept of green wedges around the town, one of which should ensure there remains a distinct open area between Paddock Wood and Capel.

Versions of our draft policies have already been shared with TWBC and they have made it clear that the Neighbourhood Plan group will have a significant role to play in the master planning process that should take place this autumn. You can access these draft policies on the PWTC website. These will be amended once the Neighbourhood Plan group has seen the details of the proposed impact on Paddock Wood.

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



Paddock Wood & District Lions Club

The Paddock Wood and District Lions Club is a voluntary organisation made up of individuals who want to give something back to the community. We aim to support individuals, families, organisations, and charities both in Paddock Wood and the surrounding district. Each year, a large amount of money is given to these deserving causes and our motto is "We Serve". This is to make sure that no one in our community gets left behind when they need a bit of help.

Many people will know us through our famous sleigh runs in December with our bright red flashing sleigh and Father Christmas giving presents to all the children when we knock on your door. You will also see us in PW high street selling you a





yellow duck for the duck race each year. Of course, our most important and largest event of the year is the Carnival Weekend, attracting people from all over; this huge event is open to everyone. There is a large Parade (free to enter!) through the town, fete, funfair, stalls, attractions and of course food!

The Lions is a staple in the community, last year launching two new very successful events including a 'Fun Run' in East Peckham and 'Rockin in the Rec', a music event on Carnival weekend – totally free and a chance to relax in the evening sun with the family. Look out for our Facebook page 'Paddock Wood and District Lions Club' and please get in contact if you wish to become a member or know someone in need of help.

Diary Dates:

- Friday 12th July 'Rockin in the Rec' music event – completely free
- Saturday 13th July 'Paddock Wood Carnival & Fete' Parade leaves Eldon Way at 12pm and the fete is open 12-5pm on St Andrews Recreation Ground.
- Sunday 4th August 'Fun Run' in East Peckham
- Weekends in December: Sleigh Runs – keep an eye on Facebook and the website for dates and locations

Contact: Phone: 0345 833 9564 Website: www.paddockwoodlions.co.uk
Facebook: Paddock Wood and District Lions Club

Paddock Wood & District Lionesses Club

Paddock Wood Lioness Club was formed in 1989, originally with 20 members. The aims of the Club were, and still are, to help those in Paddock Wood and surrounding areas who are less fortunate, as well as those in need throughout the world.



We have a great deal of fun achieving our aims, which is done by raising funds through hosting a Quiz Night and taking our fundraising stalls to fetes and carnivals, including the Tea Tent at Paddock Wood Carnival. In recent years we have run a Christmas Fayre and also Fashion shows. We also do a joint venture with Paddock Wood Lions Club at Christmas when we go out with Santa's Sleigh.

A Lioness living in Commercial Road has opened her garden to the public serving teas, cake and scones etc. This usually takes place in June.

Many funds raised go to support people and organisations in the local community, such as Scouts and Guides, and have provided washing machines, clothes, bedding, holidays for children and the disabled, all to families in need.



Senior Citizens in the locality are not forgotten, being invited to attend tea dances where Lionesses provide sandwiches, homemade cakes, tea and entertainment.

As a service organisation, we provide help to local groups. We help the local Primary School at their annual Fairs. We serve tea, sandwiches and cake at the local MS Society group on a monthly basis. We also man the first water station at the Paddock Wood Half Marathon and have done for some years. Around Christmas time we also donate £100 each to local Charities such as the Food Bank.

Lionesses are a friendly group, often gathering at each other's houses, attending quizzes, trips to the theatre and other events, including long weekends to Europe visiting Christmas markets.

We meet on the 2nd Thursday of every month at the Day Centre. The meeting starts at 8pm. Visitors and prospective members would be most welcome.



Paddock Wood PCSO & Community Safety Unit

PCSO Dave Gilham is the new local PCSO for the Paddock Wood area, he is supported in his role by the Tunbridge Wells Community Safety Unit and will focus on tackling anti-social behaviour and crime, which in particular affects the quality of life for local residents. PCSO Gilham is a very experienced Officer, he was previously the Tunbridge Wells Town Centre PCSO and will bring the skills and knowledge from that role into his new job, which will pay dividends for the Paddock Wood area. The Paddock Wood area will continue to remain a focus for the Community Safety Unit and partners, with action being taken to tackle anti-social behaviour and crime linked to the High Street and shops, along with identified residential locations and open spaces. We would like to encourage residents to continue supporting positive Police action by reporting crime and anti-social behaviour, with your help we will gain a better understanding of local issues and can effectively tackle offending. The Community Safety Unit would like to draw your attention to the following safety messages:

Rogue traders:

Rogue traders often seek to carry out work which is either completely unnecessary or substandard. Services offered will include cleaning driveways or roof and guttering repairs.

Residents are reminded of steps to take to deter doorstep fraudsters:

- Do not deal with people who knock on your door offering work on your home or garden and if you have any concerns about their behaviour call the police.





- Genuine companies will not expect cash in advance or tell you to go to the bank to withdraw money.
- Use reputable traders who are members of the KCC Trading Standards approved trader scheme, run in partnership with Checkatrade.
- Ask for quotes in writing and check that the tradesperson is from the company they say they are from.
- Ring at least three traders to get a feel for an average price for the job.
- Call 101 to report any problems involving suspected rogue traders or call the Citizens Advice Consumer Services Consumer Direct on 03454 040506.

Phone scams (bogus police and courier fraud.)

Unfortunately, criminals often target the most vulnerable, such as elderly people or victims with learning difficulties. There have been a number of recent incidents where residents have received phone calls from fraudsters trying to obtain bank details or even arrange for the collection of their bank cards.



- A police force will never ask a member of the public for their bank details, or money, over the phone. If you receive one of these calls end it immediately and wait at least five minutes before using your telephone in order to clear your line from the scammer.
- Never hand over any money, or other items, to a courier after receiving this type of call.
- If you are not confident a person claiming to be a police officer is genuine, ask to take their details and then end the call.
- Wait for the call to clear and then contact 101, or 999 in an emergency. A call handler will be able to verify whether your caller was genuine.
- Alternatively, contact Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040. You can also report suspicious activity online by visiting: http://www.actionfraud.police.uk/report_fraud

Stay safe advice for shoppers:

Criminals will sometimes distract unsuspecting shoppers, in order to steal purses or valuables.

- If you're carrying a handbag, keep it zipped up and on your arm/shoulder. Keep the zip pull in front of you so you can see it.
- Never leave your purse, wallet or bag unattended.
- Try not to carry excessive amounts of cash on you.
- Where possible, keep wallets and purses in an inside pocket.
- If you are withdrawing money from a cash machine, be aware of who is around you and always cover your PIN.
- If you believe you see anything suspicious call us on 101, or 999 if a crime is in progress.



Borough, County Councillors & MP

These are the updated Borough, County Councillors and MP for Paddock Wood following the elections in May.

Borough Councillors

Paddock Wood East

Cllr Rodney Atkins – Independent Email: Rodney.Atkins@TunbridgeWells.gov.uk
Cllr Sarah Hamilton – Conservative Email: Sarah.Hamilton@TunbridgeWells.gov.uk

Paddock Wood West

Cllr Matthew Bailey – Conservative Email: Matthew.Bailey@TunbridgeWells.gov.uk
Cllr Elizabeth Thomas – Conservative Email: Elizabeth.Thomas@TunbridgeWells.gov.uk

County Councillors

Paddock Wood

County Cllr Sarah Hamilton – Conservative Email: sarah.hamilton@kent.gov.uk

MP

Tunbridge Wells MP

Greg Clarke – Conservative Email: gregclarkmp@parliament.uk

Upcoming meeting dates

5 th August	Planning	7.45pm
12 th August	PPP	7.45pm
19 th August	Planning	7.15pm
19 th August	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 October, please contact either the Town Clerk or Cllr Derek Boyle via the contact details below.

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