



# Paddock Wood Town Council – Quarterly Update Oct 2019

## Chairman's Update

I am pleased to be able to report that Paddock Wood Town Council now has a full complement of 13 councillors. The three vacancies, following the elections in May, have now been filled through the co-option process by Steven Barrett, Don Kent and Mike Ridger.

Please see the Town Council website for further details of Town Councillors and their responsibilities.

It is a busy time for the Council this Autumn. The draft local plan has at last been issued by Tunbridge Wells Borough Council and exhibitions are being held Borough wide. I hope you have had the opportunity to visit one and you have until 1st November to make your thoughts known to TWBC.

Discussions about the Plan have been held within Town Council meetings and the Council is also employing a Consultant to help with their response to the Consultation. PWTC is also holding a drop-in session on Saturday 19th October between 11am and 2pm at the Day Centre for residents to share their views with members of the Town Council. Residents need to be aware that PWTC can only object to the number of houses planned for Paddock Wood on planning grounds. I am sure water will feature in some shape or form!

As well as the local plan the Town Council has many other issues on which it is working. You can find out more about the Town Council by visiting the website <http://paddockwoodtc.kentparishes.gov.uk> or following the Council on Facebook and Twitter. Or try to attend one of our many meetings most of which are held on Monday evenings at the Day Centre (See website for details)

Cllr Meryl Flashman

## Clerk's update

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

As detailed elsewhere in this newsletter the Town Council has been busy over the summer. Autumn and Winter events are now being planned.

The Autumn litter pick takes place on the 18th October at 5 pm at the Memorial Pavilion. Thank to everyone who can help. The Remembrance Sunday Parade will take place on the 10th November. Marshalls are needed to help with the Parade. If you can assist, please contact the Town Council using the details below.

Paddock Wood Lights Up are again arranging the Christmas Event on Sunday 24th November 2019. The Town Council has new Christmas lights for this year, and they will be installed prior to the event.

Details of the events can be found on the Council's website [www.paddockwoodtc.kentparishes.gov.uk](http://www.paddockwoodtc.kentparishes.gov.uk)

We can be contacted on 01892 837373 or email [paddockwoodtc@btconnect.com](mailto:paddockwoodtc@btconnect.com).

For planning or cemetery queries contact Claire at [claire.pwtc@btconnect.com](mailto:claire.pwtc@btconnect.com).

For pitches or Day Centre bookings contact Teresa at [admin.pwtc@btconnect.com](mailto:admin.pwtc@btconnect.com).

Nichola Reay  
Town Clerk



## Estates committee

The last quarter has been a busy time for the committee and the estates staff and here is a summary of key projects that we have been working on:

- A replacement roundabout for the St. Andrews recreation ground has been ordered from Wicksteeds and will be installed asap.
- The replacement bench has been installed on the Maidstone Rd outside the Memorial Field.
- New draft byelaws for the usage of Foal Hurst Wood have been drafted and have been passed to Natural England for comment. We decided to have these drawn up in consultation with the Foal Hurst Wood Volunteers to strengthen protection for our nature reserve.
- We are developing a job description for a new member of staff to join the Estates team with a broader focus on building maintenance and gardening around the town.
- We have selected the quote for the relaying of the hedge at St. Andrews closed churchyard, using traditional skills and approaches.
- Contractors have carried out strimming work in the closed churchyard and the allotments as well as hedge cutting in the car parks and tree maintenance work at Kent Close, the Memorial Field and St. Andrews Field.
- Our Estates team have been carrying out clearance work on brambles along the boundary wall at the Batters. We are considering if any further work needs to be carried out and what resources would be needed.
- We are working with our drainage engineer and a number of contractors to look at a long term solution for the poor drainage in parts of the Cemetery. We are very mindful of the sensitivity and importance of the site which we must take into full consideration before commissioning any work. This has been an issue that we have been working on for a number of years, but we are determined to alleviate and attenuate the effect of the naturally poor drainage in parts of the site.
- To aid with security on St. Andrews field and in response to continued vandalism and anti-social behaviour in the area, we have commissioned the selected contractor to install a remote monitoring system with a number of cameras to cover the area. We are working in partnership with our PCSOs and the Community Safety Unit to ensure that the system could be used to gather evidence and to pursue prosecutions in the future.
- The conifer hedges in the Cemetery have been blighted by an aggressive aphid infestation, so we have taken the decision to have the area of hedge removed and the stumps ground down. A further area of hedging is





going sprayed with a non-toxic environmentally friendly treatment meaning that it won't need to be removed. We have asked for additional funding to be put in to the 2020-21 budget to replant the hedge with locally sourced native species as well as planting further small copses of trees around the town as well as replacing lost trees in Commercial Rd.

- We have instructed a contractor to improve wheelchair access to the Church Rd entrance to St. Andrews Field by installing a ramp which won't impinge on the public footpath.
- In St. Andrews field car park, we have engaged a contractor to mark out parking bays, hatching and disabled parking spaces. This will ensure that clearly marked out bays will improve the parking experience for users.
- An environmental management plan for the Green Lane Spinney has been commissioned to ensure that we are managing the area sensitively and in line with best environmental standards. Over the winter we are going to be carrying out the third round of coppicing with strict oversight.
- And finally, we have selected the new designs of Christmas lights for Commercial Rd and adjoining areas.



As you can appreciate the committee and the Estates team have been very busy over the last couple of months and we are looking forward to see how the town looks for key events such as the Remembrance parade and the lights up Paddock Wood event which are happening in the next couple of months.

Cllr Derek Boyle, Chair of Estates Committee

## Planning and Environment Committee

This has been a busy two months for the Planning & Environment Committee: as well as commenting on local residential and commercial planning applications, we have continued to lobby Southern Water to address the problems with foul waste in the Town. Following an approach to Greg Clark MP, our MP is working with us to resolve this problem and get a commitment from Southern Water to make a proposal for action and to plan to implement this. Greg Clark has asked Southern Water to come back with proposals at the next meeting in November.

We have been preparing our comments on the Borough Council's Draft Local Plan to put before Full Council on 21st October, prior to submission by 1st November 2019. We were pleased to have input from local residents at the Planning Meeting, including representation from 'Stop Over Development in Paddock Wood'. The Council is holding



an open session between 11 am and 2 pm on 19th October in the Day Centre, Commercial Road, to get further comments from residents

Finally, we have sent comments to Churchill's appeal against the Borough's refusal of their plan for a block of 34 older people's flats in the Town Centre.

Carol Williams, Chairman Planning & Environment Committee

## Community Centre update

Work continues on the proposed Community Centre at the Memorial Field. The Council hopes to be able to approve the RIBA Stage 3 report this Autumn. Once this stage is completed the Council will be able to apply for planning permission.

There is no further news to report on the request submitted to KCC by the Friends of the Memorial Field that the Memorial Field should be granted Village Green status.



## Youth Council

The Youth Council are working on the second Paddock Wood Young Person of the Year Award and are inviting nominations of 11 to 18 year olds who have made a special contribution to the community, environment or others by the end of October. We are hoping for many nominations. Voting will take place at the November Youth Council Meeting and the awards will be made at Paddock Wood Lights Up on 24th November. Please nominate any young people who you think are worthy of the award through the website at: [www.pwypoty.weebly.com](http://www.pwypoty.weebly.com)

Carol Williams, Supporter to PWYC

## Neighbourhood Plan

The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group is currently engaged in reading the relevant parts of the TWBC draft local plan as it prepares to comment on the document. Infrastructure plans will be looked at very carefully (as mentioned previously it is not up to the NP team to comment on the number of houses planned).





Alongside all this the Neighbourhood Plan group and Paddock Wood Town Council have been invited to several meetings on the proposed developments in Capel and Paddock Wood. At this point we can only say that the main focus of the meetings was to discuss a master planning process for the local area. These meetings are due to be held monthly.

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 at 8pm. We are still looking for people to join our Group at this critical time now that we have a good idea as to what TWBC are planning for the future.

You can also follow the Paddock Wood Neighbourhood Plan Facebook page. Further information about the Neighbourhood Plan and its draft policies can also be found on the Town Council website.

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



## Foil Hurst Woods

Another summer is over, and it is time for us to volunteer again, but first, this. I was unable to visit the wood until Wednesday May 22nd when I noted the ponds were all rather low except the pond by the new culvert. Here the stream was still flowing and providing a good water supply. The tadpoles were doing well and were almost ready to produce legs. That day I finished the two beetle pyramids which should have been constructed in April.

On the 29th I moved logs to improve the log piles in the Orchard Meadow and finished placing weed suppressant mat around the orchard trees. The tadpoles were bigger but still no legs.

On the 12th June the tadpoles had back legs and a couple of deer were on Muddy Way. Then, on June 19th the tadpoles were tiny frogs, all vestiges of a tail having vanished. By the 26th the frogs had all left the pond.

On the 29th Simone and I watched dragonflies emerging from their nymph shells. It is amazing how long it takes them to fully dry out

During the summer I have seen several different butterflies and moths including the usual Peacocks, Red Admirals, Marbled White, Meadow Brown, Speckled Wood, Small White, Large White, Gatekeeper, Small Tortoiseshell, Common Blue, and Comma. I have also



seen rarer visitors such as the Orange Tip, Painted Lady, Brown Argus and Small Copper. I was dubious about the Argus until I checked it in the book.

Of course, we would like to let the volunteers know when the work days will be this coming winter. So, here goes.

Sunday Date	Planned activity	Exercise involved
October 27th	Coppicing and dormice habitat improvement	Sawing, stacking logs, log splitting, building dead-hedges
November 24th	Coppicing and dormice habitat improvement	Sawing, stacking logs, log splitting, building dead-hedges
December 29th	Coppicing and dormice habitat improvement	Sawing, stacking logs, log splitting, building dead-hedges
January 26th	Hedge laying	Lopping, sawing, weaving
February 23rd	Hedge laying	Lopping, sawing, weaving
March 29th	General work on paths and hedgerows	Bramble bashing, hedge trimming etc.

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.

## Bereko Review 2019

The Bereko Community Partnership consists of Paddock Wood Primary School, Mascalls Academy, Paddock Wood Town Council and St Andrews Church. The Committee representing the community, is linked to the town of Bereko in Tanzania and has helped with the raising of funds for many projects over the years as well as donating school uniforms and sports clothing. So far, the partnership has held a Soup Lunch early in the year at St Andrews and this was a fantastic success with many donations, including Waitrose. The turnout was great and many thanks to all those attended and a big thank you to Rachel Smith and all the team.





Next up was the PW Half Marathon in April when the partnership staffed a water station and raised funds for the group. A brilliant fun day was enjoyed by all and many thanks to Sue Chalkley for the snacks provided on site.

The Bereko Quiz night was held on the 11th May with a packed hall eagerly anticipating the questions and the fantastic raffle prizes all donated. Many thanks to our quiz master John Flashman and Meryl Flashman his number one helper and again all those that supported Bereko on the night. This is becoming a regular event every year so look out for our dates next year 2020.

The Bereko Community Partnership attended the PW Carnival this July and once again thanks to all those that visited our stall and joined in the fun.

The partnership puts a lot of time and effort in these events but the supporters of Bereko make it happen so a big, Big THANK YOU.



**RETURN TO FITNESS WITH FUSION LIFESTYLE AT PUTLANDS SPORTS & LEISURE CENTRE!**

Putlands Sports & Leisure Centre provides the local community in Paddock Wood with a fantastic workout space and area for all members and new customers to focus on their fitness goals. We have a range of flexible and tailored packages to suit everyone's needs. These include 1:1 sessions, a superb gym with all the latest and best equipment, the best class programmes locally, tennis courts and school holiday programmes. All suitable for a range of ages and abilities.

For a sneak peek you can try us for free and register for a visit online at [www.fusion-lifestyle.com/offers/free-pass](http://www.fusion-lifestyle.com/offers/free-pass)



Join today and let us help you return to fitness this autumn!



## 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](mailto:Rodney.Atkins@TunbridgeWells.gov.uk)  
Cllr Sarah Hamilton – Conservative Email: [Sarah.Hamilton@TunbridgeWells.gov.uk](mailto:Sarah.Hamilton@TunbridgeWells.gov.uk)

#### **Paddock Wood West**

Cllr Matthew Bailey – Conservative Email: [Matthew.Bailey@TunbridgeWells.gov.uk](mailto:Matthew.Bailey@TunbridgeWells.gov.uk)  
Cllr Elizabeth Thomas – Conservative Email: [Elizabeth.Thomas@TunbridgeWells.gov.uk](mailto:Elizabeth.Thomas@TunbridgeWells.gov.uk)

### County Councillors

#### **Paddock Wood**

County Cllr Sarah Hamilton – Conservative Email: [sarah.hamilton@kent.gov.uk](mailto:sarah.hamilton@kent.gov.uk)

### MP

#### **Tunbridge Wells MP**

Greg Clarke – Conservative Email: [gregclarkmp@parliament.uk](mailto:gregclarkmp@parliament.uk)

## Upcoming meeting dates

21 <sup>st</sup> October	Planning	7.15pm
21 <sup>st</sup> October	Full Council	7.45pm
28 <sup>th</sup> October	PPP	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 January, please contact either the Town Clerk or Cllr Derek Boyle via the contact details below.

Paddock Wood Town Council, The Podmore Building, St Andrews Field, St Andrews Road, Paddock Wood, TN12 6HT Tel:01892 837373 email:[paddockwoodtc@btconnect.com](mailto:paddockwoodtc@btconnect.com)