



Paddock Wood Town Council – Quarterly Update Feb 2019

Chairman's Update

This is the time of year when Paddock Wood Town Council has to finalise its budget for the 2019-20 financial year. Preliminary discussions about the budget were held in November and these are translated into the final budget figure which was submitted to Tunbridge Wells Borough Council at the end of January

The increase to the council tax for this year will be 0.3%.

A lot of time and energy continues to be spent on the Community Centre project. It is very disappointing that a group of residents continue to oppose the siting of a Community Centre on the Memorial Field. It is such an exciting opportunity for the town and something so desperately needed. I hope you took the opportunity to visit the exhibition in the library and make comments on the current design. The Council is very keen to minimise the loss of green space and to ensure that all existing activities on the Memorial Field will still be able to continue.

Tunbridge Wells Borough Council continues to consult on their new (much delayed) Local Plan. The potential implications for Paddock Wood are significant and your Town Council along with the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group has been busy making sure that Paddock Wood's views are taken into account.

Paddock Wood Town Council continues to keep a very close eye on what is going on at Mascalls Grange. Your County Councillor and Borough Councillors are also liaising closely with TWBC/Persimmon to ensure that the impact on the residents of the Green Lane area is minimal.

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



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

As you will read further on in this newsletter town council elections are due in May this year. If you are interested in becoming a town councillor, please contact the office or one of the existing councillors – details on the website – who will be happy to talk about what is involved. Cllr Williams has written about being a councillor in this newsletter.

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

Nichola Reay
Town Clerk

Estates committee

It has been a busy couple of months for the Estates team with an increased amount of grass cutting and maintenance work being undertaken around the town. With the War Memorial being cleaned and the area around it being tidied up in time for the 100th Anniversary of the end of the First World War, the town looked well turned out for this important event.

The Committee has also had carried out further work to the ponds around the town. Clearing back vegetation ready to start the de-silting next winter and ensuring that the habitats are be managed sensitively.

To increase the security of some of our sites, we have been considering installing CCTV systems to help combat and provide evidence for prosecution for anti-social behaviour, vandalism and theft. Various options are being considered as well as the physical location of the different options. When we have evaluated all of the options, we will be in touch with any groups that use the respective sites.



We have consulted on and placed an order for a new roundabout for Green Lane which will allow children to have a wider range of equipment that they can use. The design we have chosen will allow children with limited mobility or using a wheelchair to play on the roundabout as well.

Cllr Derek Boyle, Chair of Estates Committee

Planning and Environment Committee

The Planning & Environment Committee have continued to put pressure on Tunbridge Wells Borough Council and Southern Water to address problems with the sewage system in Paddock Wood. You may be aware of the regular foul waste leakage onto Commercial Road opposite the Car Spares Centre and Dowding House, which we have reported to Southern Water and Environmental Health and are awaiting a response. In view of the lack of a solution to this issue and work starting on the Mascalls Farm site in the New Year, we wrote to Greg Clarke MP, to ask for his support in finding a satisfactory resolution to this problem. Greg Clarke will be following this up with the developers and Southern Water. The Planning & Environment Committee met with representatives from Berkeley Homes in January to discuss the problems seen in Green Lane with the Persimmon development, such as mud on the road and failure to work within the agreed traffic management plan. We would ask that where you have concerns regarding



either development you continue to report these, either to Town Council or direct these to the Borough Councillors and the Borough Planning Office, who have the authority to take action where problems arise.

The Committee has also been discussing issues such as speed watch and developing a team of flood wardens within the town. If there are any residents who would be interested in finding out more about either of these issues and becoming involved, please do not hesitate to contact the office or speak to me.

Councillor Carol Williams (Chairman, Planning & Environment Committee)

Community Centre update

Following the recent Parish Poll the Town Council resolved at its January meeting to continue with the Community Centre Project. The Architect has been asked to reconfigure the toilets as residents expressed concerns about the gender-neutral toilets. He has also been asked to re-design the car park entrance so that it does not impact on the Scots Pines. Once this work is complete the RIBA stage 3 report can be put before Town Council. This is the final stage before applying for planning permission.



Youth Council

In November, Paddock Wood Youth Council reviewed nominations for the first Paddock Wood Young Person of the Year Award, selecting a winner and two runners up. The award aims to recognise young people who have helped others, worked within the community or have contributed to improving the environment. The winner, Jessica, was selected due to her bravery and positive attitude following serious burns. She was seen as a role model and inspiration for other young people, as despite her injuries and extensive treatment, Jessica has remained cheerful and positive. She is a worthy winner who has expressed an interest in joining Youth Council. We plan to raise awareness of and are thinking about fund raising events for two charities who have helped Jessica and her family: the Peanut Children's Ward at East Grinstead Hospital Burns Units and the Children's Burns Club.

The runners up are Morgan, who volunteers in the Fair Trade Shop at St Andrew's Church. She has given up her time for the last two years and has become a valued member of the team, working hard, being helpful with customers, ensuring the displays are attractive and taking responsibility for second hand books. Twins Rose and Heather are young carers for their mother who is unwell. They have had to grow up quickly, missing out on activities with friends to support their mother physically and emotionally, which has made them caring young people. Congratulations to all these young people who are an inspiration to others.

Councillor Carol Williams, Administrative support to PWYC



Neighbourhood Plan



The Paddock Wood Neighbourhood Plan continues to be developed albeit slowly due to the continuing delays in the formulation of the Tunbridge Wells Local Plan without which we cannot finalise our own draft.

At the Steering Group meeting in November we were sad to receive the resignation of the Chairman of our Green Infrastructure working group, Mark Noterman, who is leaving Paddock Wood in the new year. He and his team have worked hard to produce the draft Green Infrastructure policy and Mark has always come forward with valuable comments at our Steering Group meetings. He will be very much missed.

The Steering Group is now looking to recruit a new Steering Group member in the new year – all we need is someone enthusiastic about Paddock Wood who would be interested in helping to take the draft Neighbourhood Plan through to completion. If you or someone you know might be interested in this, please contact us via the Town Council on 01892 837373 or via our Facebook page.

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

Who's Missing?

Is It You?

You may be just the person your community needs to -

- Represent the views of local people
- Bring fresh ideas about local services
- Help keep this community a good place in which to live

Elections for your local Council will be held in May 2019. Find out what Town & Parish Councillors can do and how to stand for election from your local council or from the Kent Association of Local Councils.

Have you considered becoming a Town Councillor?

In May 2019 Local Council elections will take place, with all 13 seats across the two wards within Paddock Wood up for election. Have you ever thought about becoming a local councillor and dismissed it because you do not have the right knowledge and skills? I certainly thought this four years ago before talking to existing Councillors who made me realise that the Town Council is made up of people from many and varied backgrounds

with a common desire to improve the environment and facilities for residents. Perhaps you would also like to influence the future of the town?

I thought about the qualities required to be a Councillor: the ability to work in a team, listen to others and negotiate are key requirements along with the power to persuade others to understand your viewpoint. You may not always agree with Council decisions, but decisions are taken democratically, using laws and guidance for local councils



which inform Town Council policies. Other qualities are a sense of humour, the ability not to take criticism of the Council personally and resilience, as often change is slow and a persistent, resilient nature is necessary. Most people use all these qualities in their everyday life, so there are no unusual qualities required.

What do Councillors do? We represent local people and listen to their concerns, addressing issues raised such as the need for more bins and seats, or directing them to others such as KCC where there are issues with roads or the Borough with waste. We all attend the monthly Town Council meeting and sit on other committees of which the main ones are Planning and Environment and the Estates Committee. The Estates Committee makes decisions about management of the areas we own such as local sports fields, playgrounds and buildings, directing the work of the Estates team and allocating funds for issues such as pond cleaning, additional benches and play equipment. Councillors also work with Borough Councillors and the Borough teams to ensure that the views of residents are presented at Borough in areas they control. Recent examples include the development on Green Lane, where we have worked with the Borough to encourage developers to limit disturbance to existing residents from the building works.

If you would like to find out more, contact the Town Council Office or speak to a Town Councillor, who would be willing discuss this further.

Councillor Carol Williams (Vice Chairman)

Paddock Wood Community Tennis Club

Paddock Wood Community Tennis Club is registered with the LTA and offers membership to the courts all year round. Members benefit from access to coaching to improve your game and you can apply for tickets to tennis events including the Wimbledon Ballot.

Our home is at Memorial Park tennis courts where we meet for Social Tennis on Sunday mornings from 10am. We play throughout the year. A warm welcome is given to all who wish to come along and enjoy a gentle warm up, fun and games as well as working on an aspect of the game and brushing up on the rules while meeting new players to try out your new game skills!

This autumn our members have undertaken a clean sweep of the centre court to ensure a better playing surface. Next Spring, we will be taking part in the LTA Quorn Family Tennis Cup where play is on a smaller size court and teams comprise 1 junior aged



10 or under and an adult relative. Get in touch if you would like to hear more about tennis in Memorial Park.
<https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/PaddockWoodCommunityTennisClub>



Foal Hurst Woods

While October brought out lots of cap and stem fungi, November has displayed ball, club and other fungi. The first I noticed was my favourite, candle-snuff; this was followed by coral-spot, puffballs, jelly-ear, earth-fan, witch's butter and cramp balls.

Frogs were still active in the wood until the 15th but the cold spell during the following weekend 18th/19th saw them finally go into hibernation. At about this time, my bees decided it was too cold to fly. On the 27th I went to provide a little food for my hives, should they need it. It turned out that they did not. The first hive was so full of honey that even the air space above the top board, a space I try to keep clear for when I want to feed or give medication to my bees, was full of honey-filled comb.

The second hive only had a little comb in the air space, but I could see the rest of the hive was jam packed with honey: Honey needs to be harvested by the middle of August because if the bees forage from ivy, which flowers in September, it makes the honey taste very unpleasant. I do not extract much honey as I believe it is better left for the bees to enjoy, especially as they put in so much work to make it and will be able to consume it all by March when new, spring flowers start to appear.

Sunday Date Planned activity Exercise involved

February 24th	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.



Kent Community Warden Service

The **Kent Community Warden Service** (KCWS) provides a public facing, frontline service for the residents of Kent. Our over-riding objective is 'to create safer and stronger communities'.



A Warden's uniformed presence helps build community confidence and reassurance by reducing crime, the fear of crime, deterring anti-social behaviour, improving access to local authorities and fostering social inclusion.

The role of the Community Warden is ever evolving, prompted by the changing needs of our communities and other strategic requirements placed upon our Service. We work closely with / on behalf of other operational units within KCC, to address a wide range of issues, for instance:

- Providing an operational response in emergency situations.
- Conducting welfare visits to vulnerable individuals.
- Advice / support to victims of crime, or, those targeted by repeat scam activity.

Whilst my Team of Community Wardens remained deployed in specific communities across Sevenoaks and Tunbridge Wells, they do work closely with Community Safety colleagues in extending KCWS support to those communities who do not have "their own" Warden. Involvement in partnership activities include:

- Community safety campaigns e.g., crime prevention / reduction work within communities.
- Diverse multi-agency referrals / support e.g., elder welfare, E-safety, fraud, hoarding.
- Special events e.g., Safeguarding Adults Awareness Week, Digital Sunset Challenge.

If there is an issue that you wish to bring to my Team's attention, please feel free to contact me:

Siobhan MacKay (Team Leader) Sevenoaks – Tunbridge Wells Team
(07773 396677) email: siobhan.mackay@kent.gov.uk
www.kent.gov.uk/communitywardens



Paddock Wood Community Advice Centre

Paddock Wood Community Advice Centre is an independent charity providing free, confidential and impartial advice to the residents of Paddock

Wood and surrounding areas. We are open for drop-ins and appointments five days a week and can give either general advice or provide specialist support for issues involving benefits, consumer matters, debt, employment, family, housing, relationship breakdown and many other matters.

All of our advisers are volunteers and during the last quarter (October – December 2018) they gave 1,060 hours of their time to support our clients. In the same period, we saw 116 new clients and had 1,034 client contacts. The most common issues were welfare



benefits, debt and housing and our dedicated team of volunteers generated £170,671 worth of financial gain for our clients by helping them to access unclaimed benefits, debt relief and other savings.

At the start of the last quarter, we were audited by Recognising Excellence against the Advice Services Alliance's Advice Quality Standard (AQS). This is the quality standard for providers of general advice services in the areas of social, welfare and public law and we have held accreditation since 2014. We are delighted to announce that the Auditor commended our service, highlighting "an impressive number of good practices across every heading of the AQS Standard" and recommending that our AQS certification be continued for a further period of two years.

It is a privilege to help the people of Paddock Wood and surrounding areas.

Suzi Rich - Manager

Upcoming meeting dates

18 th February	Planning	7.15pm
18 th February	Full Council	7.45pm
4 th March	Planning	7.45 pm
11 th March	Estates	7.45 pm
18 th March	Planning	7.15 pm
18 th March	Full Council	7.45 pm

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 March, 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