



OFFHAM PARISH COUNCIL
Parish Council Matters – November 2020



Blaise Farm Quarry

Cllrs Rickett and Jones attended a meeting at the Quarry and witnessed a blast taking place. Gallagher were keen to work with the village and take measures to mitigate the problems which have been occurring.

- They will be blasting at the current site for another year. When they move to the field on the other side of the footpath they will realign the passage of work to hopefully divert some of the tremors that are coming through the village.
- They are building a huge pile of earth between the quarry and the AD and IVC sites. This bund will divide the site into two so the quarry will be completely separate. The bund should help reduce the air overpressure and some of the vibrations that escape through the corridor past the AD and IVC sites.
- When they move excavations across into the field they are proposing to dig a trench along its northern edge. They will then work backwards away from the village and it is hoped that the trench will create buffer to reduce vibrations and air over pressure
- Normal lorry movements have resumed with blasting back to twice a week
- They do not intend to increase the blast size.



Blaise Farm IVC Site

TMBC have told us that Dunbrik Waste Transfer Station in Sevenoaks closes for around 8 weeks from 12 November for repair works following the fire there in the summer. Some of the vehicles that would have used Dunbrik will be diverted to Blaise Farm. TMBC will be informing residents of the potential delays to collections via our website and social media channels.

Blaise Farm AD Plant

They are still waiting for the Environment Agency to issue a licence and are using farm produce in the meantime to keep the system ticking over. Unfortunately, the plant doesn't function properly without the correct ingredients, which is why there were smells. Urgent action was taken to reduce the emission of unpleasant odours and hopefully this situation is now under control. It is a very technical plant and when using the proper ingredients there should be no smell.

Offham Landfill Site

Cllrs continue to liaise with the Site Operator.

Offham Community Network (OCN)

The OCN has been reformed and the Parish Council are very grateful to everyone who has resumed their roles. If you need any help, please see the details at the end of this newsletter.



TMBC Community Hub

The Community Hub telephone line remains available to take calls Monday – Friday 9am – 5pm on 01732 876152.

The KCC “Kent Together” support line is also available (7 days a week) on 03000 41 92 92.

Teston Road Layby

Cllr Sarah Hohler has arranged for Kent Highways to install red/white barriers in the layby to prevent parking instead of the cones which are being moved or removed.



Offham Village Hall

Thank you to everyone who has donated to the Village Hall following their appeal. Money will be used to replace the old roof.

Message from The Offham Village Hall Management Committee:

Please listen to our fundraising video it tells you everything you need to know

<https://youtu.be/zpeZjnmOio4>

and please help us and make a donation:

There are three ways in which you can donate:

1. A BACS Payment to OFFHAM VILLAGE HALL SPECIAL PROJS 55-81-07
84580550
2. A Cash/Cheque contribution – please email offhamvillagehall@outlook.com to arrange
3. Use our crowdfunder site at <https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/offham-village-hall---raise-the-roof-campaign>

WE ARE HOLDING AN ONLINE AUCTION:

This will run from today until **7.00.pm on Sunday, 29th November**. Bids to be made to offhamvillagehall@outlook.com, including the item number, and those with the highest bids after the auction closes will be advised on payment and how to receive the item, with Covid 19 precautions in place.

Nearly all the items have been made by the Villagers for the Villagers. To show your appreciation of this (and to help move us more towards our target) please bid on these amazing items, they are all perfect presents for yourself or someone else.



The newsletter from NHS Kent and Medway Clinical Commissioning Group can be accessed via the link below, or is available at the end of this newsletter.

<https://mailchi.mp/6c6e651b7a57/community-bulletin-august-6092426?e=84109ffc0a>

Knock and check - you can make a difference this winter

Kent Community Foundation's Surviving Winter Campaign "Knock and Check" is an excellent initiative, which is also supported by principal authorities across the county. The KCF campaign is aimed at reigniting the community spirit seen during the initial months of the COVID-19 pandemic and do something small to help those most vulnerable during the cold winter months.

Small actions could make a big difference:

- Knock on the door to say 'hello'
- Offer to pick up some food or add something to your online shopping
- Drop off a slice of cake
- Plate up an extra meal
- Share books or magazines
- Volunteer for one of our fantastic organisations in Kent and Medway
- Share details of supporting services

Remember to follow Government guidelines on social distancing to keep communities safe from COVID-19.

- Keep a 2m distance, staying outdoors at all times
- Wash your hands before and after a visit
- Wear a face mask

To find out more about how you can take part, visit www.kentcf.org.uk/knockandcheck.



Temporary Road Closure – Aldon Lane, Addington & Offham – 7th December 2020

Kent County Council has made an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on Aldon Lane, Addington & Offham from 7th December for up to 3 days between the hours of 09:30 and 15:30. The road will be closed from the junction with A20 London Road to outside number 2 Aldon Cottages, to the extent indicated by signs and barriers on site.

The alternative route for any through traffic is via Aldon Lane, Teston Road, B2016 Seven Mile Lane, A20 London Road and vice versa.

Access for emergency service vehicles and pedestrians will be maintained at all times during the closure.

The closure is required for the safety of the public and workforce while tree surgery and cabling works are undertaken by BT.

For information regarding this closure please contact BT on 0800 800150, who will be able to assist with the scope of the works.

Police

Between 8:00pm on Friday 23rd of October and 9:00am on Saturday 24th of October, somebody stole the rear number plate from a vehicle parked in Comp Lane.

Tonbridge & Malling Ramblers

Our friendly group is one of 13 Ramblers groups in Kent and part of the national Ramblers walking organisation. Our volunteer leaders offer a variety of walks, mostly on Sunday mornings with additional mid-week rambles each month. Our walks are usually circular and about 5-6 miles in duration. We explore the beautiful Kent countryside from different starting points within the Tonbridge and Malling area and, occasionally, further afield. New members are welcome, as are those wishing to try us out before joining Ramblers.

Group walks are currently paused until at least 2 December 2020. We will be restarting as soon as we can, dependent upon government guidelines and Ramblers national guidelines. Meanwhile, to find out more about our group please visit: <http://www.tonbridgeandmallingeramblers.org.uk> or email info@tonbridgeandmallingeramblers.org.uk.

Offham Parish Council Meetings

Our next virtual meeting will be held on Tuesday 1st December 2020.

To contact the Parish Council please email: clerk@offham-pc.gov.uk

For more information please go to our website www.offhampc.kentparishes.gov.uk

Don't wait...



Your
lawnmower

until it's too late

Use locks and alarms to keep sheds secure

**STAY
SAFE**

Call 101 for non-urgent issues.

Call 999 in an emergency.

If deaf or speech impaired text
'police' and your message to 60066.



**Kent
Police**

www.kent.police.uk



The Offham Community Network

Hello

There is a new scheme in Offham to help people who may be self-isolating (having to stay at home because of the Coronavirus) or who may just need a helping hand.

Our team of volunteers can offer help with:

- Collecting food shopping
- Getting urgent supplies and prescriptions
- Posting mail or running errands
- A friendly phone call to check you are ok

We don't want anyone to feel alone – don't think twice about contacting us if you feel we can be useful!

Groups and societies active in the village have come together to create the Offham Community Network – it's a village network to give help to anyone who may need it.

The Offham Community Network is supported by St Michael's Church Offham, Offham Parish Council, The Offham Society, Offham Lunch Club, Offham May Day Committee, Offham Prayer Group and Offham Open House. ***If you would like help or are offering help, please let us know...***

- ***By email to: offhamcommunitynetwork@gmail.com***
- ***By phone on: 07799 870632***
- ***Alternatively, you can fill in details online: <https://bit.ly/OCN-Cov19> (click for link)***

- ***Or just by asking a friend or carer to contact us for you***

If you would like us to help, we will ask your permission to hold your contact details for the period of time that we are lending you a hand and they will only be shared with those helping.

We will need the information over the page but can collect this over the phone or by email when you let us know you would like help.

(e) offhamcommunitynetwork@gmail.com

(m) 07799 870632

