



OFFHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Council Newsletter – March 2021

March Parish Council Meeting

- Independent monitoring has been carried out at three properties in the village to establish the effect of blasts from Blaise Farm Quarry
- Cllrs attended a liaison meeting at Offham Landfill Site. A further meeting will be arranged for the end of the month. Cllrs were told that the demolition of White Ladies has been delayed by the need for surveys for endangered species and Covid restrictions, and that the mending/replacement of the perimeter fence was delayed by the need to obtain three quotes and also by Covid restrictions. The Parish Council continues to pursue for action on these issues. FCC Environment said that gas extraction is at 97% but they are hoping to achieve 100% extraction.
- The Parish Council has submitted details of initial concerns about the plan for a Solar Park on the landfill site to Arcus Consultancy. The land is owned by FCC Environment but Inifnis who are planning the solar park have the lease for electricity generation.
- The Parish Council is making plans to return to face to face meetings, possibly from June 2021.
- The Parish Council will continue with its membership of the Joint Parish Councils Traffic Consultative Group (JPCTCG) of which Offham is one of the founding members. Cllr Unter will act as the Parish Council's representative and Councillors are grateful to David Stretton for continuing to attend on our behalf.
- Janette Burnard and Angela Unter were thanked, along with other members of the Offham Community Network, for their hard work supporting Offham residents along with other members of the wider community through the food bank collections.
- The Parish Council will work with the Offham Society, Offham Community Network and May Day Committee to plan a village celebration when restrictions enable an event to take place
- The Parish Council will report to KCC Public Rights of Way Office some barbed wire from a private property which runs through moorlands Wood adjacent to footpath MR176. Any reports about footpaths can be made online <https://www.kent.gov.uk/environment-waste-and-planning/public-rights-of-way/report-a-problem-on-a-right-of-way>

- There have been some problems with litter bins not being emptied by TMBC. This can be reported to TMBC by email to waste.services@tmbc.gov.uk or by phoning 01732 844522. Urbaser, the waste collection contractor, have been prioritising household waste collections. Reports of unemptied bins will be actioned by TMBC.



Kent County Council

- The May County Council elections are going ahead
- The traffic flow across the channel is stable and presents no threat to the road network in Kent. The volume is normal for this time of year. HGV drivers are getting the right documentation ready and are getting covid tested before they arrive in Kent so there are no delays on our motorway network

Police and Neighbourhood Watch

- PCSO Sears understood the anxiety and concern among residents following the recent thefts in the village and local area. Calls are being monitored and an operation is in place, undercover police officers are patrolling the area, as is the Crime Prevention Officer and Community Wardens. Visits are being made in marked and unmarked cars. Residents are reminded to lock sheds and garages as soon as they leave them, rather than returning to lock them later on. Padlocks, sensor alarms and smart water to mark tools are available to residents on request.

Census 21st March 2021

The Census is due on March 21st 2020. This Census is Digital-First, although there will still be a paper option for those unable or unwilling to do so, as well considerable support for anyone who needs help. Leaflets are at the end of this newsletter.

Gloria Pearson

The Parish Council is very sad to hear of the loss of another long-term resident and friend of the village, Gloria Pearson. Gloria has always been very active in Village Life, including running Neighbourhood Watch, being part of the Offham Society, volunteering at the Lunch Club and running the Tea Tent on May Day, with military precision, for many years. She received an MBE for services to British Rail as Press Officer. Gloria was involved in far more activities in the village than can be reported on here and received Offham's first KALC Community Award in March 2014. She will be greatly missed by many.



Offham Parish Council Meetings

The virtual Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Tuesday 2nd April 2021 at 7.15pm, followed by the virtual monthly meeting at 7.30pm.

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

For more information, please go to our website www.offham-pc.gov.uk

census
2021

Be a part of Census 2021

Census day is 21 March 2021.

By taking part and encouraging others to do the same, you'll help make sure your community gets the services it needs.



Find out more at www.census.gov.uk

   Follow @Census2021

 Office for National Statistics

www.census.gov.uk

A4GIP1



**citizens
advice**

**North &
West Kent**

census 2021

Need help completing your Census Questionnaire?

**We are the Census Support
Centre for Tonbridge & Malling**

For help and support completing your
Census questionnaire please call us from
March 1

0330 053 7333

Monday-Friday 9-4.30pm

*Outside of these hours, please do call us anyway - you can
leave a message and one of our Census Support Advisors will
contact you to arrange an appointment.*



KCC Waste Services Update

March 2021

HWRC customer survey

A customer survey ran for 7 weeks (14 December 2020 to 31 January 2021) to ask customers about their experiences of both the booking process and their use of the HWRCs. The data is currently being analysed but here are some initial findings:

- More than 8,500 responses
- 97% satisfied or very satisfied with the booking system
- 96% satisfied or very satisfied with their experience of their visit to the HWRC

The full survey will give us greater insight into customers' views and help us design any future changes to our service.

HWRC booking system

Working with our contractors we've been able to increase the number of slots available by 25 a day at each and every one of our 18 HWRCs. The increase started on 02 March and takes the overall number of slots to 39,760 per week. We are confident that the time needed for enhanced cleaning and sufficient space for social distancing can still be maintained.

We are also pleased to be upgrading the CCTV systems at the HWRCs so that they can detect 'hotspots' building up in the waste and avoid fires. All the sites will also have Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR). As well as offering increased security at the HWRCs the

ANPR system can be integrated with our booking system so that bookings can be made in real time. (At present there is a 3-day lead time for bookings to be passed to the contractors). The ANPR system will recognise vehicle registrations on arrival which will speed up the process and keep staff and visitors safe by minimising contact.

On average 58% of the available slots in February were used. The booking levels by site are detailed in the table below:

HWRC	Daily slots available	% of slots booked during February 2022
Ashford	350	71%
Canterbury	350 (450 Sat/Sun 20/21 & 27/28 Feb)	57%
Dartford	275	47%
Deal	250	44%
Dover	350	52%
Faversham	225	38%
Folkestone	200	79%
Herne Bay	275 (325 Sat/Sun 20/21 & 27/28 Feb)	73%
Maidstone	290	82%
Margate	500	57%
New Romney	350	28%
Pepperhill	325	64%
Richborough	175	54%

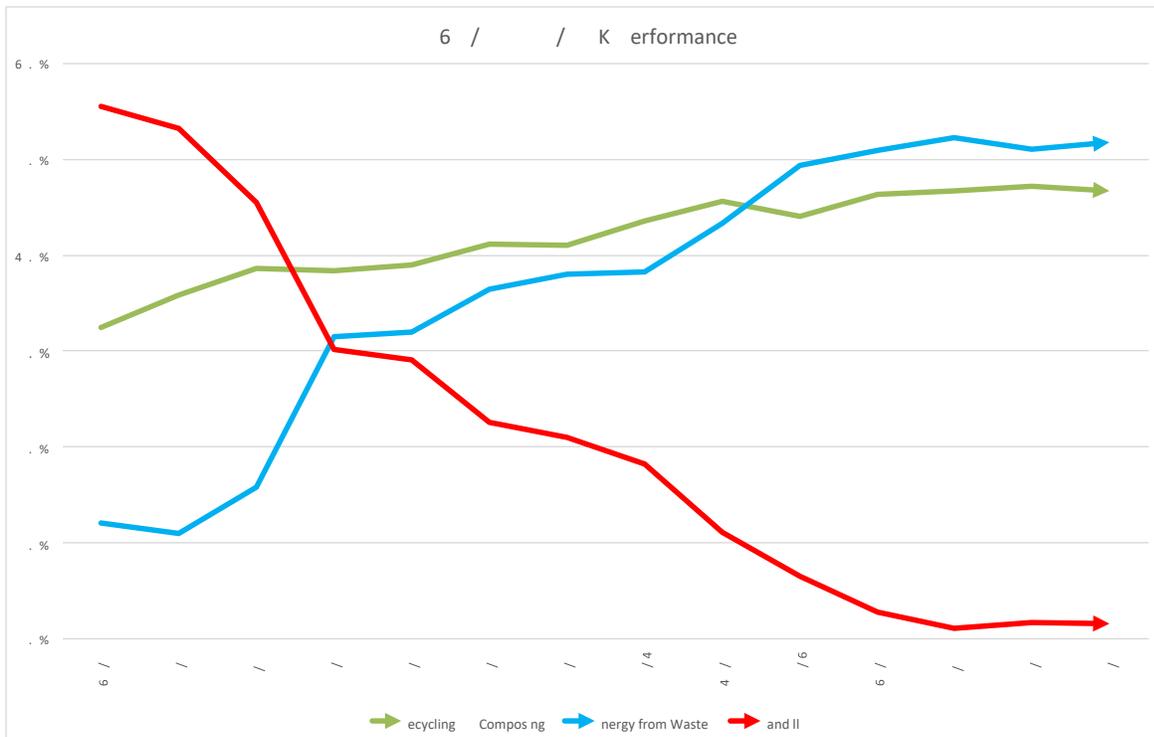
Sevenoaks	240	63%
Sheerness	200	37%
Sittingbourne	275	50%
Swanley	175	49%
Tunbridge Wells	325	74%

Waste and Recycling Statistics

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) has just released the validated 2019/20 figures for Waste and Recycling in England. It's great to see confirmation of the improvements made at both Tunbridge Wells Borough Council (TWBC) and Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council (TMBC) as a result of their new partnership agreement with KCC for waste collection. TWBC's recycling rate is now 50% (the average in England is 44.5%) and TMBC's 46% recycling rate is one of the most improved performances in the country. Congratulations to them both. KCC now has partnership agreements in place with 10 of the 12 district/boroughs in Kent. See <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/local-authority-collected-waste-management-annual-results> for more information.

The 2019/20 figures also show the amount of household waste sent to landfill in Kent remains low at just 1.5%. There are two types of waste that must by law be deep buried – asbestos and large marine mammals so Kent's extensive coastline makes the low landfill rate all the more notable.

The graph below shows the decline in use of landfill since 2006, and the rise of Recycling & Composting and Energy from Waste in Kent.



Duty of Care Campaign

The flytipping ‘duty of care’ campaign continues and now includes two new animations and a short film for use on social media. All 12 Kent district/borough councils, KCC and the National Farmers Union are sharing the same message to reduce waste, increase recycling and tackle flytipping. The campaign has reached over 800,000 people on Facebook and 600,000 on Instagram. Paid for advertisements on Facebook have reached 1.4m Kent residents and a radio advertisement is also expected to have a wide reach.

The district and borough councils have the statutory responsibility to deal with flytipping on public land and, Kent Police are also responsible for catching the criminals who dump waste. Kent Police and the districts/boroughs have ‘days of action’ using intelligence to target suspected criminals. KCC has been funding extra ‘days of action’ as well as providing covert cameras for known dumping hotspots.

The ‘Circular Waste Economy’

It’s our goal that waste produced in Kent is processed here in Kent as well. This reduces costs and carbon emissions for transporting waste as well as supporting Kent businesses and jobs. So it’s great news that the 45,000 tonnes of food waste collected annually from Kent households will now be recycled and used to create biogas at the newly opened Blaise Farm Quarry anaerobic digester near Kings Hill. The biogas will be fed directly into the National Grid and power the plant itself (pictured below) as well as creating farm fertiliser. More details at <https://kccmediahub.net/kents-household-food-wastenow-recycled-in-kent745>



We've also just appointed DS Smith based in Kemsley to recycle more than 15,000 tonnes of paper and cardboard per year. DS Smith's expertise in recycling and the location of the site within the Kent County was an important factor in investing in this new partnership.

Susan Carey

Cabinet Member for Environment