



OFFHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Council Newsletter – July 2021

- Unfortunately, the Government did not relax Covid restrictions on 21st June as anticipated. The Parish Council cancelled the July meeting as it was difficult to arrange this safely and comply with the restrictions. It is hoped there will be a short meeting on 21st July when restrictions are eased. There is no meeting on August. The September meeting has changed to Wednesday 8th September in the main hall. Meetings should then return to their normal pattern on the first Tuesday of each month, from 5th October 2021.
- The Parish Council is pleased to have received five expressions of interest in the two vacancies that have arisen. The new Councillors will be appointed at the September meeting.



Neighbourhood Watch

Offham's Neighbourhood Watch scheme was successfully managed and run by Gloria Pearson for many years. Her death was a great loss for the Village, and has had a big impact on Neighbourhood Watch. If you are interested in taking over this role and keeping the scheme going in the Village, please contact the Clerk who will put you in touch with the police to discuss.

Cake Sale/Raffle Sunday 4th July 2021

Dee, Pam and Sheila would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who supported the fund raising event held for the Air Ambulance and British Heart Foundation. To everyone who took time to bake and donate a cake(s) - you provided us with a wonderful array. Thank You.

To everyone who came along and bought cakes, entered the raffle or just simply donated - you were all so generous with your donations. Thank You. It was lovely to see so many people come and support us. The final sum raised from the cake sale/raffle together with the Virgin Money Giving page that ran alongside was £2,760.00!! The amount raised will be split equally between the two charities. That

sum has helped fuel at least ten helicopter call outs which, in turn, means potentially ten lives that could be saved AND has helped fund some of the important research and work carried out by the BHF. A massive thank you to you all again.

Dee Pam and Sheila



TMBC Refuse Collections



TMBC expect full service to be resumed from Monday 12 July. For more information go to <https://www.tmbc.gov.uk/bins-waste/check-waste-collection-updates/1>

Ward Boundaries for Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council



The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) is holding a consultation on proposals for new council wards and ward boundaries for Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council.

The consultation will close on **19 July 2021**. After they have considered all representations made to them during this consultation they intend to publish draft recommendations in **October 2021**. They will then hold a further period of consultation on their draft recommendations. Their final recommendations are expected to be published in **March 2022**. The new electoral arrangements will come into effect at the local elections in **May 2023**. The LGBCE are minded to recommend that 43 Councillors should be elected to Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council in the future. This is 11 fewer than the current number of councillors. They are now inviting proposals to help them draw up a pattern of wards to accommodate 43 councillors - <https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/have-your-say/27207>



2023 Review of Parliamentary Constituencies

There has been an announcement on the 2023 Review of Parliamentary Constituencies and a Boundary Commission for England consultation **which closes on 2 August**. The proposals include increasing the number of parliamentary constituencies in Kent from 17 to 18. The proposed 18 parliamentary constituencies are as follows:

- Ashford
- Canterbury
- Chatham & Aylesford
- Dartford
- Dover & Deal
- East Thanet
- Faversham & Mid Kent
- Folkestone & Hythe
- Gillingham & Rainham
- Gravesham
- Maidstone & Malling
- Rochester & Strood
- Sevenoaks
- Sittingbourne & Sheppey
- Tonbridge
- Tunbridge Wells
- Weald of Kent
- West Thanet

The review is available at:

<https://boundarycommissionforengland.independent.gov.uk/2023-review/>

The guide to the review can be viewed at:

<https://boundarycommissionforengland.independent.gov.uk/2023-review/guide-to-the-2023-review-of-parliamentary-constituencies/>

The consultation is available at:

<https://www.bcereviews.org.uk/>

Offham Parish Council Meetings

The next meeting of the Parish Council will take place in the main hall of Offham Village Hall on **Wednesday 21st July at 7.30pm**.

Contact the Parish Council E: clerk@offham-pc.gov.uk T: 07563 606573.

The Parish Council Clerk works 12 hours a week, Monday to Thursday, and aims to respond to emails and phone calls within 5 working days. For more information, please go to our website www.offham-pc.gov.uk



To District, Borough, Town and Parish Councillors
In Kent

David Adams
Reconnect Programme Director
Sessions House
County Hall
Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XQ

Phone: 03000 414989
Ask for: David Adams
Email: david.adams@kent.gov.uk

Date: 24th June 2021

Dear Councillor

Reconnect: Kent Children and Young People Programme

I am delighted to write to you to ensure you are aware of the Reconnect: Kent Children and Young People Programme. This exciting programme aims to support Kent's children and young people to reconnect to:

- Health and happiness
- Learning missed
- Friends, family and community • Sports, activities and the outdoors
- Economic wellbeing.

By way of introduction, I provide a link to a [video](#) from our children and young people setting out why this programme is important to them, and what they would like it to achieve. I feel you will find this more inspirational and engaging than anything I might write to you.

This ambitious community programme invites the whole Kent community to join together to provide a range of exciting and supportive opportunities for all the county's children and young people. Reconnect is a programme for every child and young person in Kent, recognising that some will need more support than others and different types of support will be required by each individual. It will run until 31 August 2022. While it's being led by KCC, which will fund activities and promote opportunities, the key to the success of Reconnect is to empower others to get involved. Other local authorities and public bodies in Kent, MPs, schools, businesses, community groups, charities and volunteer organisations, clubs and

societies, and individuals are all being asked to consider whether they could make a contribution. As requested by the children and young people consulted, the programme will be optimistic and forward-looking, focussing on opportunities for their futures.

Current Progress

We have been busy talking with children and young people, colleagues in partner organisations, faith and community groups, voluntary sector organisations, clubs and societies, and businesses to introduce the programme and encourage local engagement. Feedback has been positive and I am grateful to colleagues in the numerous organisations we have spoken to who have given their time and energy, contributing their views, engaging their contacts, pulling together local opportunities, and truly making this a whole community effort.

Today KCC's Cabinet approved £10m to fund the programme, having previously agreed grants, such as the Holiday Activities and Food Fund (£5.3m) would shelter under the umbrella of Reconnect. Localised co-ordination, commissioning and monitoring will take place via the district based Local Children's Partnership Groups which are being provided with £2.5m of this funding by the County Council.

We are currently focused on meeting the immediate needs of children and young people, and planning for summer activities, and will then look at what is needed for the next academic year. Immediate support in the form of services such as counselling and intensive mentoring are helping those most in need of help to reconnect to schooling and friendship groups, additional learning opportunities have been commissioned for the summer, activities such as fun days, holiday clubs, sports and outdoor opportunities are being arranged by a whole host of clubs, organisations and providers, to whom we are very grateful.

Role of Councillors in Reconnect

Clearly a wide range of settings and organisations are already working hard to achieve for their children the aims of the programme. However, we also know that no single organisation can do this alone; to be successful we need the whole community to rally around the cause. Reconnect has to involve everyone.

For this reason, **I would like to ask for your help in making sure clubs, groups and organisations in your district, parish or ward know about Reconnect and consider pledging support for the programme.** Organisations can tell us about their activities and what support they would like from us on the [Reconnect website](#).

If you have any questions about the programme, please email these to reconnect.kentcyp@kent.gov.uk. You can also sign-up to the Reconnect Newsletter [here](#).

Thank you so much for your time. Yours sincerely



David Adams
Reconnect Programme Director

Tonbridge & Malling Police Community Safety Newsletter

Offham

Contacts

csu.tonbridge.and.malling@kent.police.uk Contact your local team

<https://www.kent.police.uk/> Report online, check statistics, information on your area.

<https://www.crashmap.co.uk/> Road Safety Information

June 2021

Information provided by: PCSO 59862 James Robinson Community Safety Unit

Crime Series or Crimes of Note:

19 June – Theft of vehicle overnight from Church road

24 June – Fraud, bank card being used by unknown person.

Anti-social behaviour and other incidents of note:

None to report

Items of good work:



**Kent
Police**

For more information about policing in your area,
visit www.kent.police.uk

To report a non-urgent crime online, visit
www.kent.police.uk/contactus

Tonbridge & Malling Police Community Safety Newsletter

Crime Prevention Information:

- As spring approaches the number of shed break-ins can increase. Items such as lawnmowers, bicycles, golf clubs, fishing tackle and power tools can all be kept insecurely in sheds and these can all be easy pickings for thieves to target.
 - The tips below can help to prevent you from becoming a victim of this crime.
 - Install a shed alarm, with a notice displayed to warn thieves that it is not worth the effort of breaking in. The alarms are easy to install and can be purchased at most DIY stores.
 - Make sure the door is always securely locked.
 - Ensure all valuable property is marked with your postcode. Post coding property makes your belongings very unattractive to a thief by making items easily identifiable and difficult to sell.
 - Lock up pedal cycles. Use bike locks and chain them inside to other large items or to the shed.
 - Keep a record of the make, model and ID numbers of bicycles and all other equipment and take photographs of unusual items.
 - Check your household insurance policy to ensure that the value of things stored inside is covered by your contents' policy.
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- Please make all reports of ASB via 101, the online reporting form or 999 in an emergency.
 - The Community Support Unit can gain a better picture where reports have an official reference number so we can collate data effectively



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Police**

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Tonbridge and Malling Ramblers

Our friendly group is one of 13 Ramblers groups in Kent and part of the national Ramblers walking organisation.

We explore the beautiful Kent countryside, usually starting mid-morning. Our group walks are mostly circular with a moderate pace over a distance of 5-6 miles. You don't have to be a Ramblers member to try out a couple of walks with us, to help you decide if you'd like to join.

Advance booking is no longer required; you can just turn up on the day. Our walks follow Ramblers Covid-19 safety guidelines and we collect contact details for test and trace purposes. To find out more, visit our

website: <http://www.tonbridgeandmallingeramblers.org.uk>.

We look forward to welcoming you on a walk soon!

Date	Route	Distance
Sunday 1 August	Plaxtol to Hadlow and Gover Hill	5.5 miles
Wednesday 4 August	Leybourne	5 miles
Sunday 8 August	Around farmland north of Aylesford	4 miles
Wednesday 11 August	Hollingbourne And The North Downs	5.2 miles
Sunday 15 August	Medway and The Farleighs	5.3 miles
Wednesday 18 August	Bearsted to Otham circular	5 miles
Sunday 22 August	The Lakes and Ponds of Brenchley	5.3 miles
Wednesday 25 August	Mereworth Woods and West Peckham	6 miles
Sunday 29 August	Otford to Shoreham	5.5 miles

All walks start at 10.00. New walkers welcome. For meeting points and details see the programme link at: www.tonbridgeandmallingeramblers.org.uk. Or email us: info@tonbridgeandmallingeramblers.org.uk.