



OFFHAM PARISH COUNCIL
Parish Council Newsletter – June 2023

June Parish Council Meeting

The vacancy from the uncontested election was filled by Sue Taylor. Cllr Taylor was welcomed to the Parish Council.

Sadly, Matt Scullion announced his resignation from the Parish Council. If you are interested in the vacancy that has arisen please contact Charles.unter@offham-pc.gov.uk or clerk@offham-pc.gov.uk for more information.



County Council

County Councillor Hohler provided the following report:

- KCC has a new Chairman, Gary Cooke and Vice-Chairman, Bryan Sweetland
- The Leader of KCC has written to the Director General of the BBC about a proposed 40% cut in finance to radio Kent. The radio is widely used for travel etc and KCC and the Kent Resilience Forum have a good relationship with Radio Kent.
- The Prime minister visited Kent Scientific Services at Kings Hill and met with the KCC leader and Trading Standards. They are seizing vapes that are not legal at Ports and are trying to stop free samples being given to children.
- Due to the risk of fire from batteries there has been a ban on E-Scooters on rail services across the whole South East, including at station storage.
- Natural England has announced Shaun the sheep is the new mascot of the Kent Countryside Code. Cllr Hohler is Rural Champion for Kent.
- KCC have been told to cut the Annual Budget for Waste Disposal by £1.5m. 2 sites are already closed and another 2 are being looked at. Allington HWRC definitely won't close.



Borough Council

- Fly tipping – there are a lot of problems in East Malling as well. TMBC have got CCTV cameras now that we can move around and one is looking at fly tipping.

- A big worry is the proposed development of Bradbourne Village – 1500 houses at the Eastern End of East Malling and an extra road. It is likely that the road would impact West Malling and Offham, but KCC say it is to relieve the traffic on London Road.
- There is a meeting of the Housing and Planning Committee to talk about how they will handle the new Local Plan. Effectively they need to start again. If everything goes to plan the timetable assumes approval for the new plan in 2026 – so there will be another three years without any protection of a Local Plan. TMBC has agreed there is going to be another Regulation 18 document reissued, and it will include all of the new policies and 54 new sites which have been put forward since the publication of the old document
- Re: The change of political balance of Borough – 20 conservatives joined with 2 independents, so they will continue to control Council. Every decision taken will be on the casting vote of the Chair, so it will be quite volatile for the next 4 years. There is an acceptance that the Borough Council needs to be more cross party, so hopefully it will be more balanced than before.
- KCC produced a paper about the provision of special educational needs for children. There are 14,500 waiting for assessment at any one time and Kent has been criticised for the backlogs

Highways

One way that the community can work together to improve speed is through Speedwatch - [Community Speedwatch | Kent Police](#)

Community Speedwatch (CSW) is a road safety initiative that's coordinated by Kent Police and run by local communities. Trained volunteers monitor the speeds of vehicles using approved 'speed indication devices' (SIDs).

The aim of the initiative is to:

- reduce death and injury on the roads
- improve the quality of life for local communities
- reduce the speed of vehicles to the speed limit
- increase public awareness of inappropriate speed

Speedwatch helps reduce speed. Kent Police collect the data about vehicle speeds and assess it. If problems with speeding and dangerous driving are shown, appropriate action is taken. This may include:

- raising the issues with Kent County Council Highways officers
- enforcing speed limits with help from the Kent and Medway Safety Camera Partnership and their Special Constabulary
- enforcing road safety laws using local officers

If you are interested in taking part in the Speedwatch Initiative, please speak to one of the Councillors or contact the Parish Clerk – clerk@offham-pc.gov.uk. If there are enough volunteers the Parish Council will look into arranging training and purchasing the necessary equipment. Speedwatch encourages drivers to slow down but also provides us with evidence to use when asking Kent Highways or the Police to take action.

Police

You can now contact Kent Police for all Wards and Officers here - <https://www.kent.police.uk>

The Tonbridge and Malling Community Safety Unit for Offham are:

Inspector - Terry Newman

Sergeant - Nick Atkinson

Community Liaison Officer - Irina Mgebrishvili

PC - Lisa Whitehead

PC - Oliver Evans

Parish Council and Village Events

- Mobile Health Clinic at Offham Village Hall – 3rd and 10th July
- Defibrillator Training 22nd July in the Committee Room, Offham Village Hall
- Lazy Sunday Jazz in Cosgrave Field in association with St Michael's Church – Sunday 23rd July 2023
- Men's Shed – The Kings Arms, every Thursday 10am-11.30am
- Offham Food Bank – every other Monday from Kings Arms (offhamvillagehall@outlook.com)

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

Offham Parish Council Meetings

The next meeting will be **Tuesday 4th July 2023** at 7.30pm in the Village Hall Committee Room.

PARISH COUNCIL OFFHAM
OF

VACANCY FOR A PARISH COUNCILLOR

There is a vacancy on the above Parish Council due to:

RESIGNATION

For an election to be held to fill the casual vacancy for the above Parish, a request in writing to the Proper Officer must be received within 14 days (dies non) from the date shown at the bottom of this notice from ten electors from the Parish.

The address for the Proper Officer is:

Ms Julie Beilby
Chief Executive & Proper Officer
Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council
Gibson Building
Gibson Drive
Kings Hill
West Malling
Kent
ME19 4LZ

If no valid request is received, the Parish Council will fill the vacancy by co-option.

Signed Lynne Mackie
Clerk to the Parish Council

Date 7th June 2023

Notes

1. Dies Non are 'working days', so exclude Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays.
2. For further information about the election process, please contact Electoral Services at Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council. Visit www.tmbc.gov.uk/voting, email voting@tmbc.gov.uk or call 01732 876022.
3. For further information about the co-option process, which the Parish Council will follow if no valid request for an election is received, please contact the Parish Clerk.

Defibrillator Training

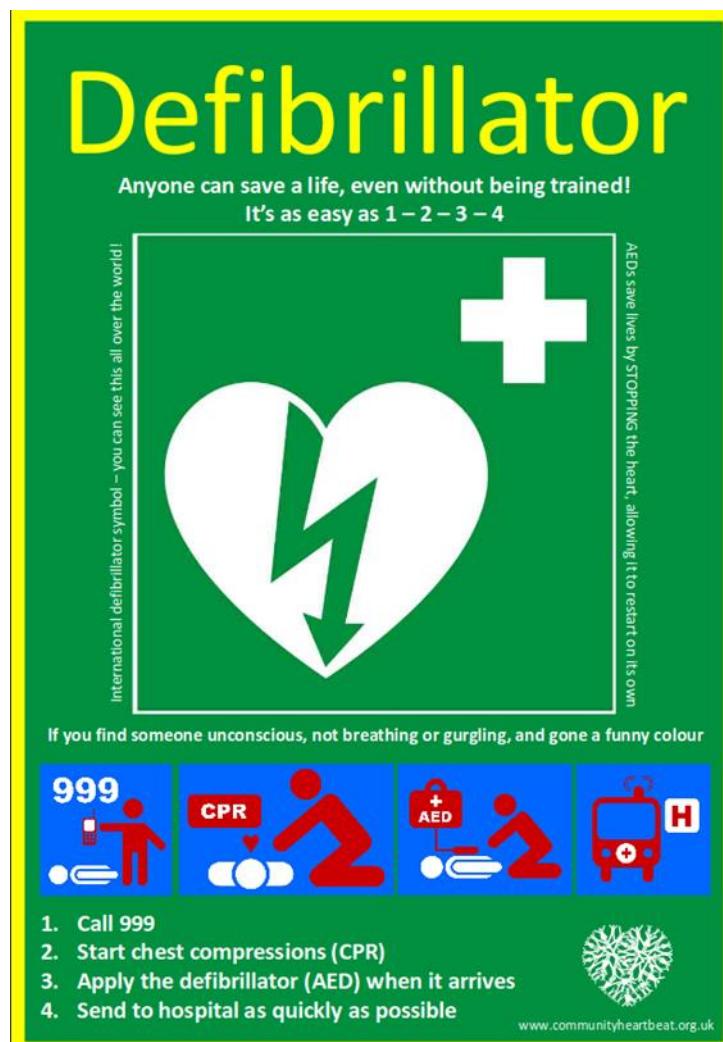
Saturday 17th June and Saturday 22nd July
10am – 12pm
Village Hall Committee Room

Book your place with Cllr Sue Williams
07732 267121

Or

sue.williams@offham-pc.gov.uk

Defibrillator Awareness Sessions run by Cllr Sue Williams and Kathryn Frankling



Defibrillator

Anyone can save a life, even without being trained!
It's as easy as 1 – 2 – 3 – 4

International defibrillator symbol – you can see this all over the world!

AEDs save lives by STOPPING the heart, allowing it to restart on its own

If you find someone unconscious, not breathing or gurgling, and gone a funny colour

999 CPR AED H

1. Call 999
2. Start chest compressions (CPR)
3. Apply the defibrillator (AED) when it arrives
4. Send to hospital as quickly as possible

www.communityheartbeat.org.uk

The poster features a central graphic of a heart with a lightning bolt and a downward arrow, symbolizing defibrillation. To the right is a white cross on a green background. Below the main text are four icons: a person calling 999, a person performing CPR, a person using an AED, and an ambulance. A small heart logo is in the bottom right corner.



Offham Parish Council Calendar 2024



All funds raised will go to Village Projects such as the Play Area

£6 each or 2 for £10

available to purchase from:

- **Sue**

19 Pepingstraw Close, sue.williams@offham-pc.gov.uk

- **The Kings Arms Pub**



Or contact clerk@offham-pc.gov.uk

Here is a message from Janette, Chair of Offham Village Hall Management Committee:

I know a number of people were disappointed not to be seen at Health Check clinic yesterday. As a result, NHS Health and Wellbeing have added an extra date for the mobile health visits. There will now be a Health Check Clinic at Offham Village Hall at the following dates and times:

Monday 3rd July - 12:30 until 16:00

Monday 10th July - 12.30 until 16:00

I hope that those of you who wish to use the service will be able to do so on one of these dates.

Janette



Providing NHS services

FREE Health and Wellbeing Check

Monday 12th June & Monday 10th July
1pm-4pm

At Offham Village Hall, Church Rd, Offham, West Malling ME19 5NY

Take the opportunity to chat to us about any health concerns and receive a full health MOT. Health Checks include:

- BMI
- Blood Pressure
- Cholesterol
- Blood Sugar
- Diet & exercise advice
- Smoking & Alcohol Reduction
- Support with social issues that may be impacting on your wellbeing



Simply walk in, no appointment necessary
Welcome to all 18+



NU-VENTURE **Buses 58 and 70 from 13 February 2023**

Kent County Council financial support for buses 58 and 70 ends from 12 February 2023 and school-time buses 558/578 also cease to serve the Malling area. However, until July 2023, Nu-Venture will continue to operate a limited replacement daytime service on certain days of the week as shown below.

Please - use it or lose it! Continuation beyond July 2023 will be dependent on usage in coming months.

Fridays only - starts 17 February 2023 **Nu-Venture Bus 58**

BOROUGH GREEN STATION	0930	MAIDSTONE King St (Boots)	1300
Wrotham Square	0935	<i>also stops at Town Hall and West Stn</i>	
Addington <i>opp The Green</i>	0945	Aylesford (A20) <i>Sainsbury's</i>	1318
Trottiscliffe <i>opp The George</i>	0954	A20 Ditton Corner	1321
Wrotham Heath <i>adj The Vineyard</i>	0959	Larkfield <i>Wealden Hall</i>	1323
Addington <i>opp Jungle Café</i>	1003	East Malling <i>opp King & Queen</i>	1326
Ryarsh <i>opp Duke of Wellington</i>	1008	West Malling High St <i>opp Tesco</i>	1334
Birling <i>opp Nevill Bull</i>	1011	Leybourne <i>adj The Old Rectory</i>	1339
Leybourne <i>Baywell</i>	1016	Birling <i>adj Nevill Bull</i>	1345
West Malling High St <i>opp Tesco</i>	1023	Ryarsh <i>adj Duke of Wellington</i>	1348
East Malling <i>King & Queen</i>	1031	A20 Addington <i>Jungle Café</i>	1353
Larkfield <i>opp Wealden Hall</i>	1035	Addington <i>opp The Green</i>	1356
A20 <i>Hall Road opp Sainsbury's</i>	1039	Trottiscliffe <i>opp The George</i>	1401
MAIDSTONE TOWN CENTRE	1055	Wrotham Heath <i>adj The Vineyard</i>	1408
		Wrotham Square	1413
		BOROUGH GREEN STATION	1418

Mondays only - starts 13 February 2023 **Nu-Venture Bus 70**

Wrotham Square	0930	West Malling High St <i>opp Tesco</i>	1145
BOROUGH GREEN STATION	0937	East Malling <i>King & Queen</i>	1153
Platt, A25 Long Mill Lane	0942	TESCO LUNSFORD PK <i>Chaucer Way</i>	1200
Wrotham Heath <i>Royal Oak</i>	0945	Leybourne Chase <i>Costcutter</i>	1210
Offham Green	0950	West Malling High St <i>Tesco</i>	1220
West Malling High St <i>opp Tesco</i>	0956	Offham Green	1225
Leybourne Chase <i>opp Costcutter</i>	1006	Wrotham Heath <i>Royal Oak</i>	1230
TESCO LUNSFORD PK <i>Chaucer Way</i>	1016	Platt, A25 Long Mill Lane	1233
East Malling <i>opp King & Queen</i>	1024	BOROUGH GREEN STATION	1238
West Malling High St <i>Tesco</i>	1032	Wrotham Square	1243

Code M = Mondays only - No service on other days. NO service on Bank Holidays
Code F = Fridays only - No service on other days. NO service on Bank Holidays

Buses serve all bus stops on line of route.

When boarding, please give a clear hand-signal as the bus approaches.

Pay on the bus with cash or card. Single and return fares available for all journeys.

Guided group walks – July 2023



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

We explore the beautiful countryside of Tonbridge and Malling and surrounding areas.

You don't have to be a Ramblers member to try a couple of walks with us, to help you decide if you'd like to join. If you're new to our walks, please contact the walk leader beforehand to check that their walk will suit you. For details of all our mid-week and Sunday walks, and walk leaders see: www.tonbridgeandmallinghamblers.org.uk.

Sunday 2 July	Happy Valley, Harvel and Wood Hill: a loop south from Meopham Green with lovely views across the valleys. Moderate difficulty.	4.5 miles
Thursday 6 July	Circular walk 'Over the Hill' - from Dunk's Green to West Peckham. One long leisurely climb; wonderful scenery. Moderate difficulty.	5.2 miles
Sunday 16 July	Circular walk from Harrietsham including sections of the North Downs Way. Excellent views of the surrounding countryside. Moderate difficulty; 14 stiles.	5 miles
Thursday 20 July	Circular walk from Shorne Woods Country Park taking in Cobham Hall, Ranscombe Farm Reserve, the Darnley Mausoleum and Cobham village. Moderate difficulty.	6.2 miles
Sunday 23 July	Kemsing to St Clere circular walk. Steady climb up the North Downs for great views to the South Downs on a clear day. Moderate difficulty.	5 miles
Wednesday 26 July	A flat walk from The Bell at Golden Green to East Peckham and back along the Medway. Moderate difficulty.	7 miles
Sunday 30 July	Penshurst and the Eden Valley via fields, woodland and a vineyard, through the parkland of Penshurst estate and past Penshurst Church. Beautiful rural views. Moderate difficulty.	5.5 miles

Walks usually start mid-morning. There's a short break half-way through the walk (bring refreshments) and we usually finish near a pub.



Rural crime meeting with Maidstone MPs and Farmers

This is a special “rural” edition of our newsletter. The PCC has recently been meeting with MPs, local councillors and farmers, to discuss rural crime around the county. He would like to update you about the work which is underway to try to alleviate some of the problems.

Matthew Scott

Letter from the Police and Crime Commissioner
Sutton Road,
Maidstone, Kent ME15 9BZ



9 June 2023

Dear Resident

Rural crime has always been a priority for me. Crime is important no matter where it takes place and this has always been a guiding principle of my Police and Crime Plan. I therefore wanted to update you on rural matters that have been raised with me in recent months that Kent Police and I have acted upon. First, I’m pleased to report that the Chief Constable has added Rural Crime to the Control Strategy. The control strategy is the document that sets out the operational priorities for crime prevention, intelligence and enforcement.

contactyourpcc@kent.police.uk kent-pcc.gov.uk

It provides the force with a framework to ensure officers and staff focus on the crime types and offenders causing most harm within our communities and presenting most risk to law-abiding residents. This was a key ask of the NFU and I'm pleased this has been listened to.

Secondly, the Neighbourhood Policing Model has started its transition this week. This means that every ward will have a named Officer, and as the Chief Constable has said at my Performance and Delivery Board this week, this will effectively mean having rural beat Officers. These changes are already being seen across the county as the phased roll out of beat Officers begins. On top of this seven PCSOs will be added to the specialist Rural Crime Taskforce.

I have worked with MPs to lobby for greater penalties for flytipping. The Government has listened and will be bringing forward plans on this issue to put these in place. Additionally, the Government is consulting on legislation relating to equipment theft and prevention, so it would be great to see submissions from Kent. You can access the consultation at <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/equipment-theft-prevention-bill-call-for-evidence/equipment-theft-prevention-bill-call-for-evidence-accessible-version>.

On crime reporting, 101 call waiting times have improved. Call attrition (the numbers who disconnect/hang up without answering) is regularly below 10% now, down from a peak of 55% in October. Average waiting times across the 24-hour period were down to less than three minutes. A long term plan is being put in place that will see resources focussed on the Force Control Room so that the improvements that we have seen so far continue in the months ahead. Please remember you can call 999 when life is in danger or when there is a crime in progress, regardless of how serious it is. You can find out more about all the options to report crime at www.linktr.ee/victimvoice.

Finally, response policing was an issue. The Chief Constable has added 300 Officers to Local Policing Teams to deal with emergency calls in the last year which will help with the initial response to crime and antisocial behaviour.

I hope that this update is helpful to you.

Yours faithfully



@kent_opcc



@KentPCC



@PCCKent



Kent PCC's office

contactyourpcc@kent.police.uk kent-pcc.gov.uk