



BIDDENDEN PARISH COUNCIL

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PARISH UPDATE 3 November 2021

Minutes of meetings are available on the Parish Council Website:
www.biddenden.gov.uk

KALC COMMUNITY AWARD



Sue Boon with Cllr Mike Hill

At last night's parish council meeting (2 November), KCC Cllr Michael Hill presented Sue Boon with a KALC Community Award. The Parish Council had nominated Sue for this award for all her work with BEST, Biddenden Blaze and Tractorfest over the years and for funds raised and distributed to local organisations. Sue accepted the award and said that none of it would have been possible without everyone who had helped make the events such a success.

Congratulations Sue!

HIGH WEALD ACADEMY

The Parish Council has submitted its objection to the closure of HWA online.

Helen Grant MP organised a public meeting. An article states that a judicial review is being considered and concerns were expressed regarding alleged backtracking of the Leigh Academies trust of places offered to pupils at Mascalls school.

[MP Helen Grant considers judicial review to fight closure of High Weald Academy in Cranbrook \(kentonline.co.uk\)](http://kentonline.co.uk)

POTHoles – MILLENNIUM FIELD CAR PARK

This issue seems to have been going on forever, but please be assured that the Parish Council has been working on it. Several contractors have been contacted with regard to state of the top half of the car park. The potholes will undergo filling as an emergency and a quote for this is awaited. The longer term plan is to resurface the top half of the car park. This may take a little longer as the weather conditions need to be right, as well as the cost, but you will be kept posted.

CCTV

A new system is now in the High Street car park and covers the entire car park.

SEWERAGE ISSUES

The Parish Council has been pursuing the village's sewage issues with Southern Water for some time and keeping Borough and County Councillors informed, as well as Damian Green MP.

Southern Water informed the Council that a meeting was recently held to secure funding for residents of Biddenden to alleviate the flooding, but they were unable to secure any funding at this stage. They will continue to monitor the situation but believe the pumping station is operating well and the pumps are working as they should.

To say that the Parish Council is disappointed with this reply is an understatement, but we are keeping our MP, Borough and County Councillors informed, and the council will be replying to Southern Water to communicate its disappointment.

If you have any sewage issues, please do ensure you report them to Southern Water and let the Parish Council know. Unless everything is reported, Southern Water will think there is no problem.

VILLAGE SIGN

The Parish Council would like to arrange to have the Village Sign renovated in honour of its 100th anniversary in 2022. Looking at pictures over the last 100 years, the sign has taken on several renovations, each appearing to have been done slightly differently. The Council is keen to engage with residents over the sign. An exhibition will take place in the Old Village Hall on Saturday 20th November between 10 am and 4 pm. Further details to be released.

THE QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE – 2 JUNE 2022

The Parish Council is hoping to join in the celebrations by lighting the beacon on 2nd June to join in with the chain of beacons, and booking a piper to play a specially composed piece of music called Diu Regnare to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee.

COMMUNITY PROJECT FUND

A notice has gone out inviting applications to the fund. The deadline is **FRIDAY 19 NOVEMBER 2021**.

Applications, together with a current set of accounts should be sent to the Parish Clerk by email: clerk@biddenden.gov.uk

HIGHWAYS IMPROVEMENT PLAN

The Parish Council has been working hard on its Highways Improvement Plan, getting the final version and priorities ready so that it can be submitted to Kent Highways. Once complete, a copy will be placed on the Parish Council website www.biddenden.gov.uk

GLADMAN

It is unlikely that Ashford Borough Council will make a decision on the Gladman planning application until December.