



BIDDENDEN PARISH COUNCIL

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PARISH UPDATE 6 October 2021

At the Parish Council meeting held on 5 October 2021, the following issues were discussed:

- **High Weald Academy – Proposed closure:** The proposed closure of the High Weald Academy was discussed by councillors together with the impact it would have on the local area. It is important that those affected or interested in this issue complete the Listening Period survey online: [Closure of High Weald Academy Listening Period Exercise.pdf - Google Drive](#) . The Parish Council has liaised with Borough and County Councillors, Damian Green MP, and neighbouring Parish Councils. The Parish Council will also submit concerns. Details of the public meeting have been publicized. A petition has been organised by a parent at High Weald Academy: [Petition - High Weald Academy- reversal of decision to close - Change.org](#)
- **Village Green:** Photographs of cars parking both on double yellow lines and on the green itself have been sent to KCC (minus licence plate info). Kent Highways have replied that both these situations are in breach of the law and liable for fines. This is being monitored by them and if it continues, additional parking enforcement will be requested from ABC and Kent police. If anyone would like to send the Clerk photos at clerk@biddenden.gov.uk to send on to KCC, they would be welcome. All number plate details will be removed before sending as the aim is to monitor the situation and not to inform on individuals.
- **Noticeboards:** The small noticeboard on the side of Turners shop is being replaced and restoration of the large noticeboard is being addressed.
- **Communications:** is a current topic for discussion. A Working Group has been formed to look at all forms of communication and how it can be improved/modified to reach more parishioners. Ideas being discussed include better use of Facebook, Twitter, additional noticeboards etc.
- **Gladman:** Cllr Bell reported that officers at ABC are looking at the Gladman planning application but a borough council decision is unlikely until December.

- **Cheeselands:** The damage in the play area due to vandalism is being chased up.
- **Potholes:** A meeting is to be held at the Millennium Field car park with contractors to look at the pothole situation and the surface of the car park.
- **2022: Biddenden Celebrates:** 2022 will see celebrations for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee; John Mayne School's 500th Anniversary; and 100 years of the village sign. John Mayne School are leading their celebration plans, but BPC will be working with parishioners on ideas to mark the jubilee and the centenary of our much-loved village sign. It is hoped that a sympathetic restoration of the ladies will be achieved next year. It was noted how different each restoration had been over the 100 years.
- **CCTV:** Works in the Millennium Field Car Park and Gordon Jones Car Park will take place once the contractors are able to do the work. There is a delay at the moment due to contractors being busy, but it is hoped it will take place as soon as possible.
- **PCSO:** The village will see a new, but temporary PCSO as PCSO Kyle Farnfield will be leaving the police. His replacement is PCSO Laura Langridge.
- **E-Scooters:** E-Scooters must only be ridden on private land. They are not to be ridden on any public path or road at any time. Unfortunately, these e-scooters are currently classified as Personal Light Electric Vehicles (PLEVs), so they're treated as motor vehicles and are subject to all the same legal requirements – MOT, tax, insurance, and specific construction. Because they don't always have visible rear lights or a number plate, they can't be used on the road, so they must ask that they are only ridden on **private property**, otherwise the police can issue a section 59 which enables them to give the owner of any vehicle a warning saying should they be caught riding their vehicle again in an antisocial manner (including the e-scooters being ridden on footpaths and roads) they can be seized.

Full minutes of the meeting will be available shortly on www.biddenden.gov.uk