

We have been the Parish Council for six years now, and still going strong, and still maintaining the trust of those who voted for us in 2011.

I want to welcome Bartosz & Drew co-opted to the council in the past year, their youthful enthusiasm is most welcome. I give them the same advice I give everyone else - as a Parish Councillor you do not have to understand politics or planning, your job is to represent the residents, to listen to what they say, and bring those views to the meetings.

They replace Cliff Dobson and Pat Moorecroft. Cliff has finally achieved his dream and moved closer to the sea-fishing, Pat has got even more deeply involved in her community work, but still sits on the Village Hall Committee.

This year has seen the completion of the War Memorial and the Quarry Hill planter and tree, and I want to give special thanks to Nick Taylor for that extra element of love he has put into both projects.

And my thanks to the Lucas family and the Kent Men of Trees for the donations that allowed the planting of the new Woodland Walk area at Potters Mede.

Very shortly we may see a conclusion to Crest Nicholson's application to build 10 houses on the Hanson site. If this comes off, Crest will donate Isles Quarry East and the land north of the surgery to the Parish Council. IQE will become wild public amenity land. The land north of the surgery could be used for expansion of the medical practice, but that will be decided by negotiation with the Surgery, and consultation with residents.

Two months ago KCC finally started the Traffic Scheme, which grew out of our 9 Point Plan in 2009. The Maidstone Road narrowing should slow down speeding traffic. The next phase will entail traffic lights being installed at the Recreation Ground and Co-op pedestrian crossings, the 30mph limits being extended outwards on Sevenoaks Rd and east of Askew Bridge, and installation of 20mph limits at Wrotham Secondary and Platt Primary Schools.

Our thanks to Therese for all her hard work on the defibrillatos and the training - we now have two installed and one waiting for a home.

But it ain't all sunshine, we still have BGGC and Celcon to worry about.

TMBC and a group of local landowners, the Sand Mafia, want to build 3500 houses between Darkhill and Nepicar, the first phase being the Robert Body Landfill site. This is largely Greenbelt and AONB land, but is being justified as "delivering infrastructure". We have joined our neighbouring parishes in a 6 Parish Alliance, to make stronger joint submissions, and to commission a proper traffic study that proves conclusively that BGGC cannot deliver the traffic relief promised. The real answer to Borough Green and Platt traffic is East Facing Slips on the M25 at Sevenoaks, the M26 is already there, let us use it. Our thanks to Tim for all the hard work over the years, pushing this from a parochial action group to the corridors of power.

H+H Celcon are applying to open their "Western Extension" to extract sand supposedly to keep the factory operating. However, there are growing suspicions that H+H are not being totally frank, and again this is a matter where the Parish Alliance will give us strength we don't have on our own. We are also getting more complaints about dust, dust that may be coming from H+H, so we will shortly be commissioning an Environmental study to back up those complaints with hard evidence, evidence that TMBC will not be able to ignore.

We had to try and stop the closure of the Natwest, although we knew it wouldn't work. So I urge every Natwest customer to become an ex Natwest customer, and change banks. Natwest think they can remove their service, but still take our money - let's prove them wrong. Our thanks to Tom Tugendhat, our MP for the effort he has put in on this issue

My thanks to Hazel our Clerk, still keeping us on the financial straight and narrow, and ensuring BGPCs finances are healthy in an uncertain future. TMBC and KCC are steadily reducing services, and if we want our village to stay the same, we may be forced into taking some of those tasks, We will resist unless the funding is made available, why should you have to pay twice, but we need to know that we are in a position to afford it if we have to.

My thanks also to Barry & Rob, our groundsmen.

And finally my thanks to you, my Parish Councillors and Residents, for your support, for your friendship, and for trusting me enough to elect me chairman for the past 6 years.