

**BIDBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL
JANUARY REPORT**

The following items have been extracted from the original Agenda for the PC meeting that was scheduled for the 31 January, also included are reports which are normally provided for parishioners of various organisations in the parish which do not require the action of the PC.

Any outstanding items requiring action will be carried forward to the PC Meeting now scheduled for the 28 February 2022.

1. Highways:

601595/617793: Bidborough Ridge: Chestnut paling fencing leaning plus erosion of land adjacent to pavement, photographs taken and forwarded to Highways with request for further action.

KCC Highways have now advised that this is not their responsibility but that of TWBC and should be dealt with under Section 165 of the Highways Act. Photographs have therefore been forwarded to the relevant department at the borough for advice on what action they will be taking to ensure the safety of pedestrians using the adjacent pavement.

617796: Bidborough Ridge Wall: Area affected by badgers being monitored, further photos forwarded to Highways for record.

614863: Woodland Way: Multiple potholes reported to KCC for action, actioned by highways, further potholes identified at junction.

616855: Salt Bins: All salt bins checked for stock, three refilled.

2. Queen's Platinum Jubilee Beacons – 2 June 2022: Information circulated from KALC – Bruno Peeke

– Pageantmaster regarding new timing of 9.45 pm. Guide to taking part in Queen's Jubilee Beacons on KALC website: www.queensjubileebeacons.com

3. Reports:

a. NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH: David White, the Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator reported:

1. Twice weekly regional N'Watch updates are circulated advising of issues which occur in the vicinity. No reports of criminal activity within Bidborough have been reported.

2. A local resident recently advised of car registration plates abandoned in St Lawrence Avenue, the police were alerted.

3. No meeting had been held as yet with the local PCSO since his return from long term sick.

4. N'Watch had advised that (hard copy) bulletins are no longer provided. These originally were available for collection at Masras.

5. Provision of flyers (for house to house distribution) and new signage and/or improvement to current ones in the village now must be paid for!!.

b. SPEEDWATCH: Speedwatch Checks – Report provided by Lorraine Webb:

Results from Woodland Way on 10th December – kindly note that we only managed to stay out for 60 mins due to sunrise timings and other commitments.

208 vehicles passing, of which

- 146 (70%) were at or below the 30mph speed limit
- 44 (21%) were between 30mph and our cut-off to report of 35mph
- 12 (6%) were between 35mph and 40mph
- 4 (2%) were between 40mph and 45mph
- 2 (1%) were between 45mph and 50mph
- No cars were recorded at 50mph on this session.

18 (9% of vehicles) were at/over the 35mph cut-off – which 17 were successfully reported to Kent Police. We noted another vehicle (taxi) at 47mph but due to the speed we did not successfully capture the number plate which is disappointing

Reports from Matthew:

Results from Woodland Way on 15th December – a 90min session from 8am to 9:30am.
250 vehicles passing, of which

- 164 (65%) were at or below the 30mph speed limit
- 51 (22%) were between 30mph and our cut-off to report of 35mph
- 30 (12%) were between 35mph and 40mph
- 4 (2%) were between 40mph and 45mph
- 1 (1%) was between 45mph and 50mph
- No cars were recorded at 50mph on this session.

35 (14% of vehicles) were at/over the 35mph cut-off – 34 of which were successfully reported to Kent Police.

Results from Woodland Way on 19 January – a 90 min session between 8:00am and 9:30am:

229 vehicles passing of which

- 169 (74%) were at/below the speed limit
- 44 (19%) were between 30mph and our cut-off to report of 35mph
- 12 (5%) were between 35mph and 40mph
- 4 (1%) were between 40mph and 45mph
- **And one vehicle was travelling at 57mph**

61 (26% of vehicles) were actually speeding. 18 (7% of vehicles) were at/over the 35mph cut-off - but we missed complete details on one of those and so reported 17 vehicles. It was a much quieter session than usual, but there was a vehicle parked up near the 30mph speed limit sign which we think was causing vehicles to slow down. That said, we recorded our fastest ever vehicle – a white Vauxhall Corsa at 57mph, which we subsequently identified as also having no MOT.

Results from Woodland Way on 19 January – a 90 min session between 8:00am and 9:30am:

194 vehicles passing of which

- 139 (72%) were at/below the speed limit
- 39 (20%) were between 30mph and our cut-off to report of 35mph
- 14 (7%) were between 35mph and 40mph
- 2 (1%) were between 40mph and 45mph

So 55 (28% of vehicles) were actually speeding, of which 16 (8% of vehicles) were at/over the 35mph cut-off - but we missed complete details on 2 of those due to very dirty number plates and so reported 14 vehicles. It was again much quieter session than usual, which we put down to the temporary traffic lights at the end of Darnley Drive causing vehicles to come through in bunches, with all their speeds dictated by the “lead” vehicle.

For the last half hour we were joined by PC Jason Wright from Kent Police, who also carried on enforcement activity after our session finished at 9:30am. He is on deployment to support Speedwatch groups across Kent and so we should see him again in the coming weeks. He said they are trying to make his role permanent, but also that he was only there this morning because as a community we have shown commitment to reducing speed through the village through what the Speedwatch team do. They will only deploy to locations where Speedwatch are active – and he said he was very grateful for what we do. Needless to say, we expressed our gratitude for his support too.

Results from Woodland Way on 4 February 2022 between 8:00am and 8:50am – a truncated session due to the onset of rain. At the moment we still can't get out before 8:00am due to the time of sunrise, but that will change next week so we can get back to covering our most “productive” period of 7:30am to 8:00am

140 vehicles passing of which

- 81 (58%) were at/below the speed limit
- 35 (25%) were between 30mph and our cut-off to report of 35mph
- 20 (14%) were between 35mph and 40mph
- 4 (3%) were between 40mph and 45mph
- 1 (1%) between 45mph and 50mph

60 (43% of vehicles) were actually speeding, of which 25 (18% of vehicles) were at/over the 35mph cut-off - but we missed complete details on 8 of those due to 6 coming through whilst we were still setting up, one very dirty number plate and one where we missed the full registration, so we only reported 17 vehicles. It was a short session due to the weather, but the percentages of speeding drivers was higher than recent session.

Results from Four Winds on 8 February – a full session with a 7:30am start:

259 vehicles passing of which:

- 169 (65%) were at/below the speed limit
- 59 (23%) were between 30mph and our cut-off to report of 35mph
- 26 (10%) were between 35mph and 40mph
- 5 (2%) were between 40mph and 45mph

So 90 (35% of vehicles) were actually speeding, of which 31 (12% of vehicles) were at/over the 35mph cut-off.

c. Information received from Kent Community Speedwatch: In December our teams recorded the following:



Kent Community Speedwatch County Report.

December 2021

1,114	Vehicles were detected speeding by our teams in the month
11,644	Vehicles passed our groups whilst they were operating at the roadside
237	Volunteers have given up their time to support slowing traffic down in our county.
255	Volunteer hours were spent at the roadside
6	Drivers have subjected abuse towards our volunteers!
35,653	Vehicles recorded speeding from Jan > Year to date.

d. BIDBOROUGH VILLAGE HALL – CIO: TWBC – Emergency Planning Welfare Centre Directory:

Request received from the borough for confirmation of current details relating to the hall in case required as a Welfare Centre in an emergency. Information provided by Mr G Parsons for the borough.

e. BIRCHWOOD: Overgrown Hedging – St. Lawrence Avenue/Darnley Drive: ED had contacted the PC contractor to carry out the work.

f. SPORTS ASSOCIATION: Government Valuation Office Agency: Request received regarding assessment for valuation of property in relation to cricket club at ANRG for business rates purposes.

Request initiated via Tunbridge Wells Borough Council. Information provided by Cllr Shepherdson.

g. PRIMARY SCHOOL: School Pathway – ED advised plans currently withdrawn.

h. CEMETERY:

Burial/Ashes Space Availability: Check undertaken by Quentin Stevens and Stephen Hills indicates 5+ years space available for burials with high level of space for ashes interments.

Cemetery Benches: Memorial benches provided by parishioners for the cemetery (two above the ashes area and one by the large yew tree) have been treated with special wood oil, PC to note that these must not be painted.

Memorials: Three requests for memorials received, compliant with rules and approved.

i. BROOK HURST FIELD: Information Board - Cllr Moore reported he had found boards which have been installed.

j. Streetlights: The first seven replacement streetlights have been installed.

4. TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING:

KCC/TW/ Bidborough CE Primary School, Spring Lane

0187/2021 Proposed pathway and fencing improvements to facilitate safe pedestrian access

Parish Council: PC Support

TWBC: Withdrawn

21/03548/ Drummond Hall, Swaylands.

TPO

Trees: YEW (T1) - Reduce back building side lateral growth in line with outside face of beech hedge, roughly 2m of growth

Parish Council: No Objections

TBWC: Decision Awaited

21/03680: 29 Woodland Way

Two storey front/side extension and reconstruction of fire damaged roof.

Parish Council: No Objections

TWBC: GRANTED

21/03662: Great Hayesden, Lower Haysden Lane.

Construction of a porch, a single storey side extension, a balcony on the side elevation, amendments to the existing fenestration, and the addition of windows in the front and rear elevations to the roof space

Parish Council: No Objections

TWBC: GRANTED

21/04123: 12 Darnley Drive

Demolition of existing conservatory and side/rear extension; erection of single storey side extension and two storey rear extension

Parish Council: No Objections

TWBC: Decision Awaited

5. FINANCE:

i. December/January Accounts:

In view of the cancellation of the meeting and the fact that there were outstanding accounts to pay from December, as well as January ED circulated details of payments required to all members in order that unanimous agreement could be obtain for payment to be actioned.

Npower	Streetlighting Energy (New Supplier)	£172.72
Savills	Glebe Bank Fee	£5.00
Streetlights	Annual Maintenance Fee 20/21	£1094.52
Bidborough Village Hall	Hall Rental	£75.60
Ashdown Garden Services	Lengthsman December/January	£600.00
	High Street Hedge	£200.00
TWBC	Platinum Jubilee Oak	£162.00
PSR Lighting	Replacement Streetlights	£15684.00

All payments approved were for regular services provided for the parish and/or were known and approved at previous meetings. Further outstanding invoices to be held for February meeting.

ii. Replacement Noticeboards: New units sourced for wall at school plus unit in Woodland Way from company providing main PC noticeboard. Homeowner to be contacted in Woodland Way regarding request for PC to replace existing unit.

2 Units to provide 6 x A4 space, glazed doors, accessible via thumb catch (key not required but glazed to protect posters). One unit for wall mounting, one with posts for free standing. Magnetic discs supplied. Total cost for both delivered £833.44 Plus VAT £166.69 - £1000.13. Delivery time to be advised.

iii. Platinum Jubilee Celebrations: As part of the celebrations on 2 June Friends of Bidborough would like to organise a village 'It's a Knockout Competition'. There will be six teams of 10 members per team and must include two children between 11 and 15 years of age. Ideally teams will be mixed and of varying ages. Please contact friendsofbidborough@gmail.com for further information.