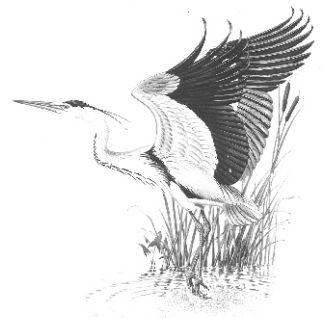




# High Halstow TIMES

Home of the Heron  
*The Newsletter for High Halstow*



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**February 2021**

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High Halstow Environment Group Virtual Meeting  
**TO BE HELD VIA ZOOM**  
Thursday 18th February at 7.00pm

Meeting ID  
91839750741

Please Contact Marilyn for Password Entry or  
if you can help or need more information on agenda items

Agenda Items will include:

- Tree Planting

In addition to accessing free tree packs for our community we are looking at funding ideas that will allow us to purchase more mature trees for Forge Common.

- Recycling

Interested in what happens to all the waste you put out for recycling on Thursday evening? Then go to <https://www.veolia.co.uk/london/wonderdaysouthwarkiwmf>

A non virtual visit will be planned when possible to our Veolia, Material Recovery Facility in Sittingbourne.

- Friends of the Earth have identified 7 benefits of recycling
  1. Conserves natural resources
  2. Protects Eco systems and wildlife
  3. Reduce Demand for Raw Material
  4. Saves Energy
  5. Reduces Carbon Emissions
  6. It's cheaper
  7. Creates New Jobs

Find out more at <https://friendsoftheearth.uk/sustainable-living/7-benefits-recycling>

- How we can all contribute Towards a Plastic Free Medway - Reuse, Reduce, Refuse and Recycle
- Rainham Eco Hub (Potential Administrators for a Face Book High Halstow Eco Hub please contact Marilyn)
- Environment Quiz Night ( Potential Quiz Masters Please Contact Marilyn)

Marilyn's mobile number is 07944 490903.

Alternatively use Marilyn's Parish Councillor email address [marilyn.stone@highhalstow-pc.gov.uk](mailto:marilyn.stone@highhalstow-pc.gov.uk)

### ***Collection for the Refuse Collectors***

Thank you to everyone who gave to the 'bin men' Christmas collection.

The total collected was £234 which was given to them on 29/12/20 with our thanks.



### ***High Halstow Parish Council Monthly Surgeries***

Owing to the current situation, we apologise for the fact that the monthly Parish Council Surgeries will not take place at Kings Kitchen until further notice.

You can of course contact any of your parish councillors if you have an urgent problem. Their telephone numbers are contained in the High Halstow Times.

Cllrs Chris Watson and Gary Jerreat

High Halstow Parish Council

### ***HH Village Websites***

Please visit the Parish Council website for everything about our village. You can see the minutes of your Parish Council or look up local groups in the village, past copies of the High Halstow Times, and pictures of recent events.  
[www.highhalstow-pc.gov.uk](http://www.highhalstow-pc.gov.uk)



## **High Halstow Parish Council**

### **FEBRUARY'S VIRTUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

### **INCLUDING A TALK FROM 'TOWARDS PLASTIC FREE MEDWAY'**

HELD VIA  
**ZOOM**  
MEETING ID  
**98115738453**

### **WEDNESDAY 10<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY, 7.15 PM**

**THE PUBLIC AND PRESS ARE  
CORDIALLY INVITED TO ATTEND.**

**PLEASE CONTACT THE PARISH  
COUNCIL FOR PASSWORD ENTRY AT:**  
**[clerk@highhalstow-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@highhalstow-pc.gov.uk)**



## **HIGH HALSTOW PARISH COUNCIL**

ALLOTMENT VACANCY

PLEASE CONTACT  
Our Clerk on 01634 710 086 if  
you are interested in working an  
allotment.  
Our Clerk can also be contacted  
on [Clerk@HighHalstow-pc.gov.uk](mailto:Clerk@HighHalstow-pc.gov.uk)

## High Halstow Parish Council Meeting Resume

### 13th January 2021

A virtual Parish Council meeting was held on Wednesday 13th January where it was attended by nine (9) Parish Councillors, one (1) Ward Councillor and one (1) member of the public.

During this meeting the members acknowledged receipt of five (5) new planning applications and one new decision.

The members also learnt that Redrow were in their final phase of building and that they would be completing the new rights of way around the Heronden Grange development in due course.

It was established that Medway Council had reviewed the draft High Halstow Neighbourhood Plan where they had compiled a 4-to-5-page report in response with their suggestions.

A further meeting with Redrow and Medway Council had taken place earlier that day where the committee members had received a presentation concerning the HIF bid, the new Peninsula road layout(s) and the proposed railway station. They learnt that the Local Plan consultations would commence in Spring 2021, to be passed to the inspector before the end of 2021, where the Local Plan and HIF bid would take place hand in hand. It was also recognised that the proposed new railway station had been moved to nearer to the Kingsnorth Industrial Estate and that trains would only travel to London and back.

The members agreed to unite with the other local Parish Councils to work together and to share questions.

Cllr R. Collins provided his report as the Chairman of the finance committee, following a meeting held on Monday 11th January. He

advised that an increase of £5 to the annual allotment charges had been proposed where a unanimous vote took place. The members also voted and accepted to apply a 10% discount to the advertising fees for the High Halstow times, encouraging payments to be made by standing order and that the Clerk be awarded a small allowance towards the running costs of her home office.

It was accepted that the non-essential repairs to the skate ramp in the recreation ground would be taking place in late January and that there would be a vacant allotment plot following a tenant tendering his resignation.

Cllr R. Collins confirmed that the Grounds Maintenance team had been instructed to apply bark chippings to the entrance of Forge Common and that Medway Norse had also taken ownership of the pollarding of the trees close next to the Christmas Lane Veterinary Surgery.

Owing to the present lockdown the members acknowledged that the footpaths were being more regularly used and that the condition of the paths would need to be reviewed.

They discussed concerns that the pavement situated next to the 'new' bus shelter at Britannia Road was not wide enough to allow wheelchair users to pass, where it was recognised that the road work equipment was cluttering the pathway.

The members learnt that Medway Council had completed the installation of two new dog waste bins, situated at Wybournes Lane & Sharnal Street.

Internal and external reports from

the High Halstow Road Reps Committee, the Environmental Group and Relief in Need were received.

An emergency COVID-19 Finance Policy was approved and the members also discussed upgrading the webpage to allow for a link to a new blog to be added.

The members discussed a concern raised by a member of the public for the need of signage when volunteers were litter picking on the roads. These comments were shared by the Parish Council who agreed that they would look further into this point.

A volunteer from wHoo Cares spoke to thank the Parish Council for the use of the Village Hall car park on Christmas Day, which aided with the distribution of meals and gift boxes to 30 people in need.

A Ward Councillor report was received, where Cllr R. Sands provided an update on the COVID-19 vaccine, where it was established that the NHS were struggling to find a suitable venue, and that once one had been established the vaccine would be rolled out as soon as possible.

A presentation from 'Towards a plastic free Medway' was approved to take place 15 minutes before the February meeting, where the members also agreed that they would hold an extraordinary meeting in the interim, once the 2021/2022 Precept calculations from Medway Council had been received.

The meeting closed at 9.00pm.

## ***HOO - NEW ROUTES TO GOOD GROWTH CONSULTATION***

Medway Council has produced its long-awaited transport and environmental improvements proposals for the Hoo Peninsula in a brochure “Hoo New Routes to Good Growth. They ask for responses by 7 March 2021 on their website questionnaire, to be found at the links below.

The Brochure provides some of the details of “proposals for infrastructure improvements, funded by the grant of £170 million from the “Housing Infrastructure Fund”. The “focus remains on expanding our urban regeneration successes in waterfront and town centre sites”.

We are then told that the “Hoo Peninsula also has potential for large scale and sustainable growth.” This is Medway Council newspeak for more 12,000 new homes to be sprawled over the green fields of the Peninsula’s high grade agricultural land at Hoo St Werburgh and High Halstow. The main proposals in the Brochure are for roads that are not principally aimed at solving existing problems but will “accommodate future traffic growth associated with any future housing proposals for the Hoo Peninsula” as the Questionnaire tells us.

The Brochure provides information with plans showing the position of a series of new roads and junction “improvements”. A new railway station is proposed for Sharnal Street and you are asked your opinion on a number of options for the station building – do you want it to be rustic in character or inspired by airships or short wave radio?

The previously proposed “Higham curve”, which would be necessary

to have a service to any of the Medway towns, has been abandoned and the service will be just 6 trains in the morning and 6 in the afternoon going to Gravesend and on to Charing Cross. To go to Strood you would need to go to Gravesend, then change trains and get a train back from Gravesend to Strood. Much easier to get in your car where the journey time is less than 10 minutes. No wonder that the Modal shift from road to rail (i.e the proportion of travellers using the railway line) is only predicted to be 9%.

A new linear park along the north bank of the Medway estuary proposed in mitigation of the hundreds of acres of countryside which is proposed to be developed on the Peninsula. It is to be called Cockham Community Parkland. Unfortunately it is just a fraction of the farm land and woodlands to be covered by new housing estates. But there is no mention of that.

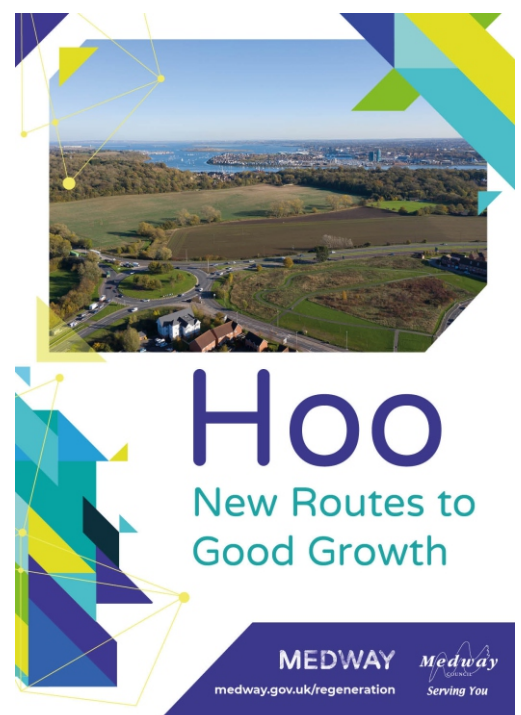
The most remarkable feature of the consultation brochure is what it does not tell us. No information is provided about how the roads, shown in small sections on barely legible backgrounds, will relate to proposed new housing.

Chapter 6 “Managing Environmental Impacts” provides no real environmental information. Although it does recognise that there will be impacts on “important internationally designated nature conservation sites”, we are reassured that “Steps will be taken to minimise impacts” with “careful timing of works to reduce construction disturbance to bird species”. That’s all right then.

There is no traffic information

(despite the Parish Council having expressly asked for this information) and no air quality information (Four Elms Hill is an air quality management area that already exceeds toxic levels of air quality.) No mention is made of where the new schools, medical facilities, community facilities and all the other facilities, needed for the doubling of the population, will be located, or who is going to pay for them. Certainly not the Housing Infrastructure Fund.

The authors of the Brochure seem to have got stuck somewhere in the 1950s. These are not proposals for “Good Growth”. Rather, they are a recipe for urban sprawl, permanent loss of irreplaceable first class farmland, serious damage to beloved local landscape, treasured wildlife; instead delivering a network of new roads and roundabouts to serve the sprawling new housing estates, where residents will have to get in their cars to go to work, to see the doctor, to take the kids to school, to go to the shops. The train service seems destined to be a slow and expensive





disappointment.

The climate change emergency seems to have completely passed the Council by. The commitment to zero carbon by 2050 has escaped them. There are no proposals for improved public transport other than the new station and its one link to Gravesend.

There are no proposals for new employment on the Peninsula. One of the new roads, called the “Spur Link Road” will be carved into the hillside at the southern end of Deangate Golf Course. What the Council does not tell you is that this is to enable the

former Golf Course to be developed with new houses described in a previous brochure as “Parkland Living”.

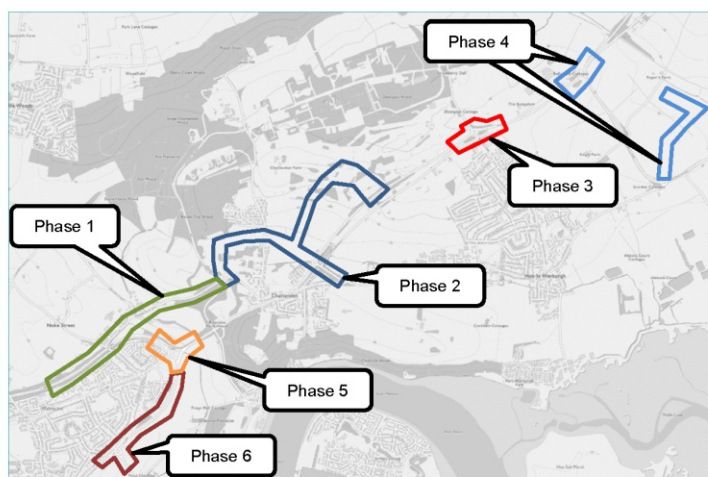
The long awaited alternative main access road onto the Peninsula, by passing the Four Elms Roundabout is the single serious benefit of the entire HIF project. But the Council has refused to release the traffic figures that show how quickly that new additional capacity will be used up. The simple slip road improvements at the Four Elms roundabout that would ease so much of the current misery and congestion is phases 5 and 6 of the programme.

The consultation questionnaire is no better. It is full of questions such as whether you agree or disagree that “improving road links on and off the Hoo Peninsula is important to me”.

It should have a mental health warning. Beware if you answer ! The Parish Council will be submitting a written response in due time.

Parish Council & Neighbourhood Planning Team

Download the brochure  
[https://www.medway.gov.uk/downloads/download/609/housing\\_in\\_frastructure\\_fund\\_consultation\\_documents](https://www.medway.gov.uk/downloads/download/609/housing_in_frastructure_fund_consultation_documents) Link to questionnaire  
[https://surveys.medway.gov.uk/sn\\_apwebhost/s.asp?k=160832863866](https://surveys.medway.gov.uk/sn_apwebhost/s.asp?k=160832863866) Link to preview and explanation  
[https://www.medway.gov.uk/info/200133/planning/525/planning\\_public\\_consultations/3](https://www.medway.gov.uk/info/200133/planning/525/planning_public_consultations/3)



**Figure 2: location of the phases of the highways improvement**

Figure 2 indicates the improvements split into six individual phases.

**Phase 1** (in green) includes a new junction controlled by traffic signals to link the A289 with Islingham Farm Road, plus improvements to Higham Road and Woodfield Way.

**Phase 2** (in dark blue) includes a new relief road, connecting Upchat roundabout to the A228. A new spur link road and roundabout will also be introduced to ease congestion.

**Phase 3** (in red) entails improvements to the existing Bell's Lane roundabout to accommodate traffic growth.

**Phase 4** (in light blue) shows the measures to be implemented at Ropers Lane roundabout to accommodate the new rail station.

**Phase 5** (in orange) consists of improvements to Four Elms roundabout.

**Phase 6** (in brown) involves upgrading the existing A289 Wulfere Way and Sans Pareil roundabout to ease network congestion.

The description of the works in the following sections includes initial suggestions for how provision will be made for walkers, cyclists and horse riders. We are undertaking a walking, cycling and horse-riding assessment and review (WCHAR) for all phases of the highways works. This will inform any further design requirements relating to the provision of walking, cycling and horse-riding facilities.

Interested groups will be consulted on the WCHAR process, including Medway Local Access Forum and others.

**STOP PRESS** As we go to print we are also aware of another consultation called Medwayone released by Barton Willmore seeking Planning permission for addition commercial storage units on the site of the old Kingsnorth Power Station. These will not bring much additional employment but will negatively impact the traffic on and off the Peninsula. Available at <https://www.Medwaytone.co.uk>

### ***High Halstow Relief in Need***

The charity has existed in High Halstow for many years and is an amalgamation of smaller charities/private trusts, the oldest of which dates from 1716 and exists to help the residents of the Parish of High Halstow who are going through a time of need or hardship. This could include not only widows and widowers but also to help people of all ages and from all walks of life. Requests can also be made by organisations or groups in the Parish.

Requests for financial assistance can be made at any time of year, in writing, email or in person to any one of the Trustees. A resident can apply on behalf of someone else in the village—but their permission must be obtained first of all. All requests are dealt with in the strictest confidence. If you are not sure about a request and think it may be rejected, do not be afraid to speak to any of the Trustees listed below about it. These funds are there for villagers who need help.

Rev. Stephen Gwilt	The Rectory	01634 250637
Stuart Bailey	27 Cooling Road	07976 760 844
June Collins	6 Marsh Crescent	01634 250105
John Myatt	Decoy Hill Road	01634 256 185
Chris Peek	2 Willowbank Drive	01634 252 604
Tamsin Stowers		
Natasha Turner	12 Marsh Crescent	
Office email	office.hhrin@gmail.com	



### **Had a new Baby? Small Grants available from Relief in Need**

The High Halstow Relief in Need charity has small grants available to anyone living in the village that has a new baby who is under six months old. All you need to do to qualify is live in the village and have a new born baby. To request a grant email the charity at: [office.hhrin@gmail.com](mailto:office.hhrin@gmail.com)

#### ***Your Parish Councillors***

George Crozer, Chair	07711 432598
e.mail: <a href="mailto:George.crozer@highhalstow-pc.gov.uk">George.crozer@highhalstow-pc.gov.uk</a>	
Christine Watson, Vice Chair	01634 256529
Linda Atkinson	07825 619353
Ray Collins	01634 250105
Gary Jerreat	07880 697657
Tim Munday	07730 477017
Marilyn Stone	07944 490903

Your councillors may also be contacted through the Parish Clerk:

Jenny Allen 01634 710086

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## *Healthy Mind*

### Support with your mental health

Approximately one in four people in the UK will experience a mental health problem each year, and one in six people report experiencing a common mental health problem in any given week.

If you are experiencing difficulties with your mental health, do not suffer in silence. Asking for help shows strength in character and sets the course for change and recovery.

For information relating to mental health conditions such as anxiety and depression, NHS Moodzone can provide practical advice, interactive tools, videos and audio guides to promote mental and emotional wellbeing. Go to NHS Moodzone (<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/stress-anxiety-depression/>)

### Where you can go for help

Asking for help can be a hard step to make – there's many ways though that you can get confidential support. Mental health support can be provided in various forms such as: face-to-face, telephone, and online.

In the first instance, talk to your GP. They should be able to assess your health and support you to make a choice on your next step towards recovery.

### Talking Therapies

Medway Talking Therapies offer short term free counselling services for people over 18 suffering from mild to moderate depression, anxiety and other common causes of mental health issues. You can self-refer or be referred by a health professional by calling 0300 029 3000.

### Mental Health Crisis

If you or someone you know is experiencing a mental health crisis, call Mental Health Single Point of Access for support on 0300 222 0123. Available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Dear HHT,

I would like to thank all the people that sent messages of condolence, and support on the loss of Marty. It is very pleasing to know that she is so well remembered by so many villagers.

Thank you all.

John Pink

To advertise in this publication:

£88 Whole Page,

£44 Half Page,

£22 Quarter Page,

£11 Eighth Page.

[editor@highhalstow.org.uk](mailto:editor@highhalstow.org.uk)

### Inconsiderate Parking

Please be aware of where and how you are parking around the village. It has been brought to the attention of the Parish Council that people are parking on or across pavements, which is forcing pedestrians and children to walk in the road.

Also some parking is creating pinch-points which limits access for emergency vehicles or can cause collisions with oncoming vehicles.



If you would like to play, please set up a standing order into our bank account for £10 (each ticket)

High Halstow Community Lottery

Account No 21507826  
Sort Code 40 43 44

## HIGH HALSTOW COMMUNITY LOTTERY WINNERS

NOVEMBER GAME £3000 ME3 9RR  
DECEMBER GAME £1300 ME3 8ST  
£200 ME3 8TF



## ***Readers Letters & Emails***

Dear HHT,

It is with great sadness and a very heavy heart that I Lee Clark, (Trevor's Son) on behalf of his family, have to inform you of his recent passing, after a short illness with Covid.

Dad was a relatively fit and healthy 72 year old Gentleman, who lived his life only to see his wife, family and friends live well and live happily. He Loved watching his Football, especially his beloved team Arsenal, but he equally loved watching his Motorbike racing, frequently watching them live at Brands, Silverstone or even Donnington Park.

Trevor was a well known and respected man around the village, always courteous to all his fellow villagers, neighbours and friends alike. He enjoyed his long walks out around High Halstow and also around the surrounding Peninsula, with his two dogs Misty and Barney, his two noisy Terriers.

He also often fondly recalled his cherished time spent working at the High Halstow Youth Club, chatting amongst friends and helping out at the clubs events, including summer time Barbeques, Fancy dress occasions, outside games and all the rewarding memories it gave him.

RIP Dad.

Lee Clark.



Please use the website link shown below to access and if you so wish to, make a kind donation to my Dads chosen charity :

[www.dignityfunerals.co.uk/funeral-notices/15-12-2020-trevor-clark/](http://www.dignityfunerals.co.uk/funeral-notices/15-12-2020-trevor-clark/)

Dear HHT,

Trevor Clark's son, Lee, has asked me to write a few lines about Trevor when he was an adult helper at the High Halstow Youth Club.

Firstly, I must say how shocked and very sad I felt when I learned of Trevor's death. He was such a lovely man, a real gentle man, who was kind and caring.

Trevor and I first met at the village Project Day when I suggested that he might like to come and help at the Youth Club. To my surprise and delight he said "Yes" and he

made his first visit to the Youth Club the following Tuesday, 15th September 2009. From that date on, he became a regular and very valued member of the team.

Within a few weeks he had completed his CRB application form and his name was firmly on the Youth Club's rota for adult helpers.

Trevor was very good with the children, very patient and calm. He was always happy to take charge of the Table Tennis room, helping the youngsters and coaching them, keeping score and making sure everyone had their fair chance to have a game. I also remember him being very willing to arrive at the Club early to help get the TT equipment out and also stay at the end to put things away again. He was our chef at the summer barbecues and for the Halloween celebrations he used to make big tubs of porridge with plastic "eyes" and "fingers" in it, which the children loved, as they had to hunt for the eyes and fingers in the tub of goo.

Trevor was very reliable and always gave plenty of notice when he had holidays planned. Even when he decided to retire from the Youth Club in 2016, he gave us plenty of notice, telling us at the AGM in May. His last Youth Club evening was the end of term barbecue on 5th July 2016. We were all very sorry that he decided to retire.

Chris Peek

**Next edition March 2021; Contributions for March should be sent  
by 24th February to:**

**Carl Mitchell, 8 Marsh Crescent, High Halstow ME3 8TJ  
or e.mail to [editor@highhalstow.org.uk](mailto:editor@highhalstow.org.uk)**