



# High Halstow TIMES

Home of the Heron  
*The Newsletter for High Halstow*



April 2021

## New Routes to Good Growth Consultation

# HAVE YOUR SAY

You will have by now seen the Have Your Say consultation that Medway Council are asking you to take part in. They have extended the consultation period to the **6 April 2021** so you now have more time to have your say.

Medway Council need to put the extra Infrastructure, new roads, the railway and ecological mitigations in place to be able to "unlock" the building of 12,000 houses on the Hoo Peninsula. Without this infrastructure the houses are unsustainable.

The Parish Council feel that most of the questions asked within the consultation are leading and do not get to the heart of the question. Do you want The HIF project to "unlock" the potential of the Hoo Peninsula to massive development in Hoo and High Halstow? We strongly urge you to write separately to Medway Council expressing your views about the "unlocking" of the Peninsula instead of filling in the online consultation or as an addition to it. There are some ideas of what to write below.

Please take the opportunity to comment on the proposals by writing directly to:

Mr Sunny Ee  
Assistant Director of Regeneration  
Medway Council.  
Gun Wharf  
Dock Road  
Chatham ME4 4TR  
Email: [Sunny.Ee@Medway.gov.uk](mailto:Sunny.Ee@Medway.gov.uk)



Copy in your response to our Ward Councillors and Kelly Tolhurst contact details below.

If you do not wish to write you can respond by visiting [www.Medway.gov.uk/futurehoo](http://www.Medway.gov.uk/futurehoo) and taking part in the online survey. You are advised to study the consultation documents before completing the online survey.

**Residents in Wainscott** have printed and delivered their own leaflets objecting to the proposals to build a flyover at Higham Road that will give access on and off the bypass. They have organised an online petition which can be viewed/signed on Medway Council's website at <https://tinyurl.com/24u87x35> (short link). There is also a Facebook group "Stop the Wainscott Flyover" if you would like further information.

The Deangate Community Partnership has a petition objecting to proposals to route the HIF relief road though the old golf course and to save the course as a county Park at <https://deangatecommunitypartnership.co.uk/save-deangate-petition/>.

The Save the Hoo Peninsula group have a [change.org](https://change.org) petition running too at <https://tinyurl.com/r8bbaw/> (short link).

The Parish Council will be responding soon, it's response to the consultation will be published on [www.HighHalstow-pc.gov.uk/](http://www.HighHalstow-pc.gov.uk/)

Here are a few points, any of which you may wish to use as part of your response.

- 1 The Council has been successful in obtaining in principle funding of £170 million to provide new transport and environmental infrastructure to serve a massive expansion in house building in two villages on the Hoo Peninsula through the Housing Infrastructure Fund ("HIF").
- 2 Medway Council is now consulting on the proposed infrastructure. You may have seen their consultation document: "**Hoo New Routes to Good Growth.**" Most of the funding is for new roads to and from the Peninsula (£86 million). A new railway station, in a field near High Halstow will reopen the branch line to Sharnal Street for passenger travel with a direct link to Gravesend and London (but not the Medway towns!). A new public park is proposed on un-developable land next to the Medway as an "environmental mitigation" project.
- 3 A proposed "Spur Road" will carve a new carriageway across nightingale breeding territories adjoining the Deangate Golf Club (now closed and occupied by Medway "Norse" Service vehicles). **A roundabout on the Spur Road indicates that New housing Development will take place on the Golf Course.** The Council call this "parkland living".
- 4 It is a condition of the HIF grant that the proposals should be proposed in an adopted up-to- date local plan.
- 5 Medway does not have an up-to-date development plan. It has had previous attempts to produce one. The last attempt failed when it was discovered that the site for major housing in the Plan was one of the most important sites for breeding nightingales in the UK.
- 6 The Parish Council is working on a Neighbourhood Plan for High Halstow ("HHNP"). The Parish Council challenges the allocation of 820 new homes on land adjoining the village just to the east of High Halstow but will also adopt policies to control and improve any housing proposals that come forward from Redrow Homes, who have an option on the site.
- 7 The High Halstow and Hoo Neighbourhood Plans do not consider that the scale of development proposed – to double the size of each of the two villages – is either necessary or desirable. The proposed development is not sustainable - the location of our villages is too remote, relative to jobs and services and there are no proposals to provide the necessary resources to meet the additional demand for services and facilities which a doubling of the population will bring.
- 8 Most services and facilities are either in Hoo St Werburgh or in the Medway towns. There is no viable all weather pedestrian or cycling route to Hoo St Werburgh from High Halstow. The facilities there are inadequate and are under strain already. **12,000 new homes are planned for Hoo St Werburgh.** There are no plans to provide extra capacity in basic local services at the present time. The entire project is based on exponential growth of road traffic. The Peninsula's roads already have problems with serious accidents and air quality.
- 9 Much of the land for development is irreplaceable high grade agricultural land.



- 10 Placing so many new homes in this location will place an additional strain on biodiversity and the internationally protected habitats which surround both settlements.
- 11 There is **no masterplan** for Hoo St Werburgh to indicate where such additional capacity will be provided and how it will relate to existing and proposed housing and employment development on the Peninsula.
- 12 There is **no strategic Environmental Impact Assessment** of the development proposals that will be served by the new roads and station.
- 13 Whether this site in High Halstow and all the sites in Hoo should come forward at all should be determined together through the local plan process which has public consultation and independent review built into the statutory process.
- 14 That statutory process will include identification and consideration of major infrastructure proposals.
- 15 Any determination of individual applications for development on major sites such as the Land East of High Halstow is premature and pre-emptive of the statutory democratic process. The HHNP requires that before approval of any application for development of the Land east of High Halstow takes place, the Medway Local Plan should first be adopted.
- 16 Because of delays with the Medway Local Plan **you are not able to see how the HIF infrastructure sits alongside development proposals on the Peninsula.**
- 17 The HIF consultation "Hoo New Routes to Good Growth" is **fatally flawed. It offers no alternative options** and Medway Council does not appear to have considered any. **No Environmental Impact Assessment has been carried out.** Despite **repeated requests we have not been provided with any transport assessment.** Without these documents being provided - to enable us to assess the harm to the environment and to weigh them against the benefits claimed by the Council, we consider that the **consultation is a sham.**
- 18 If you are against the proposals your Parish Council urges you to write to your local Councillor Filmer, Sands and Prendergast, Jarrett/ Kelly Tolhurst MP and tell them why you do not want development in High Halstow and Hoo and why the you believe the HIF proposals to unlock the development potential should remain firmly locked.

Contact details :-

Medway Councillor [Name]  
Medway Council  
Gun Wharf  
Dock Road  
Chatham  
Kent ME4 4RT

Kelly Tolhurst MP  
Bellerophon House  
Doust Way  
Rochester  
ME1 1FG

Email addresses:-  
[kelly.tolhurst.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:kelly.tolhurst.mp@parliament.uk)  
[alan.jarrett@medway.gov.uk](mailto:alan.jarrett@medway.gov.uk)  
[ron.sands@medway.gov.uk](mailto:ron.sands@medway.gov.uk)  
[phil.filmer@medway.gov.uk](mailto:phil.filmer@medway.gov.uk)  
[mick.pendergast@medway.gov.uk](mailto:mick.pendergast@medway.gov.uk)  
[sunny.ee@medway.gov.uk](mailto:sunny.ee@medway.gov.uk)

**Possible D R A F T using one of the points shown, you could add another of your own or choose from the list above.**

Dear [name]

#### **New Routes to Growth Consultation**

I am writing with reference to the above and my disapproval of the proposed development for the reasons below:

Placing so many new homes in this location will place an additional strain on biodiversity and the internationally protected habitats which surround both settlements.

Yours sincerely

**YOU COULD USE OTHER REASONS FROM THE LIST ABOVE**

## ***High Halstow Parish Council Resume March 10th 2021***

A virtual Parish Council meeting was held on Wednesday 10th March where it was attended by nine (9) Parish Councillors and two (2) members of the public.

During this meeting the members acknowledged receipt of three (3) new decisions, where it was also recognised that there had been no new planning applications submitted.

The Parish Council learnt that properties adjacent to Heronden Grange were suffering from flooding, alongside a separate complaint of flooding at Medway Avenue. It was understood that these complaints had been passed to Medway Council for further investigation.

A report from the Neighbourhood Plan committee confirmed the Neighbourhood Plan had been passed to Urbed (a design and research consultancy working alongside Medway Council) for a full analysis and that the committee members had attended a meeting with Redrow, chaired by Design South East, where Medway Council had pledged a grant to assist with some of the committee's associated costs.

A meeting with the Section 106 Officer at Medway Council was suggested, where the Clerk was instructed to obtain contact to finalise a date.

The members decided to grant wHoo Cares £150, in appreciation of all their hard work and support throughout the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

It was envisaged that following the planned relaxation of the social distancing regulations that the local football team would be able to regroup shortly. Arrangements to remark the

football pitch were assigned to the Clerk, where she was asked to liaise with the green spaces' contractor.

Following receipt of a complaint from a Parishioner, emergency repairs to the toddler slide in the play park had been undertaken.

The members learnt that following an advertisement in the last edition of the High Halstow Times, the vacant allotment plot had been assigned to a new tenant.

A complaint from a benefactor of one of the newly installed commemorative benches at Forge Common was discussed. The Parish Council also agreed to replace a rotten leg on another bench located nearby.

The Councillors were asked to respond to the notice board quotes in preferential order of material, where they also spoke further of the installation a possible digital notice board in addition to the location of two new notice boards, once the proposed new train line for the Peninsula had been constructed.

The Chairman confirmed that he had written to the Footpaths Officer at Medway Council, to advise the RS44 Footpath (located on land between Christmas Lane and Britannia Road) had been ploughed and to ask if markers could be installed. He also chased for the promised works on the RS40 footpath and requested if a new footpath could be registered, extending along the Railway Line and heading towards Deangate Ridge.

A query surrounding the height of the newly installed bus shelter at Britannia Road was discussed, where it was accepted that the relevant enquiries were being

raised.

The members decided to allocate funding to the existing grounds maintenance team to litter pick the village's ditches four (4) times a year. The Clerk was asked to instruct the contractors to carry out their first assignment as soon as possible.

Reports were received from the High Halstow Community Support Committee and the Environmental Group.

The GDPR & Policy Working Party agreed to meet to discuss their new 'Privacy Policies', the Parish Council's 'Standing Orders' and to amend the existing 'Finance Policy' before the next meeting.

A report from the High Halstow Primary Academy confirmed that all of its pupils had returned, following the schools temporarily closure, where they advised that everyone seemed to be pleased to get back to face to face education.

The members agreed to sign the 'Towards Plastic Free Medway' pledge, following a talk provided at the last meeting. They also received a report from 'Relief in Need.

It was established that a new tab for the Environment Committee would be added to the members webpage.

Finally, owing to the detainment of some of the last High Halstow Times publications it was agreed that the members would provide an update on their website if the newsletter was going to be delayed again.

The meeting was closed at 8.45 pm.



## High Halstow Primary Academy is Going Green!

During the craziness of the past year, we have all become more and more aware of the need to be environmentally friendly. The children have been engaging with some really thought provoking lessons on the environment both locally and in the world around us and have shown a huge interest in it. In all year groups there is a real desire to make a difference and look after our planet. The children's voices were heard and to that ends we have started our "Eco-Warriors" Group (Name TBC)

The aim of the group is to have representatives from each year group champion environmental issues and be innovative with ideas and plans to help us make HHPA a greener school.

We will meet frequently and rotas of 'green' jobs will play an important role in day to day school with the hope that the process of being 'eco friendly' becomes second nature to us all. Some of the ideas that we would like to implement include:

- Compost Bins- topped up daily from daily fruit and vegetables. To be used (in time) for gardening.
- Designing a 'nature space' for bug hotels, bee friendly gardens and bird houses and feeders.
- A sensory garden- In memory of Mrs Chick
- A school allotment (to include raised beds and pots) to grow our own fruit and vegetables.
- Fruit tree Corner

So with all these wonderful ideas in our minds we need your help! If you are able to support us in our green ventures in any way?

We are looking for support from local businesses who may be able to help us obtain what we need:

- Raised beds for the allotments  
- We will also need help building this area
- Large colourful plant pots
- Water Butts
- Compost Bins- large and small
- Compost
- Black weed control material
- Fruit Trees
- Seeds of all types- vegetables, fruit, flowers
- Bulbs & Bedding Plants
- Child friendly bark chippings
- Bee Garden Flower Bombs
- Screening for the bee garden to be cordoned off

Please support us to help make a difference! No matter how small a contribution- all are welcome. If you feel you are able to offer your support please contact me at:

[office@highhalstowprimaryacademy.org.uk](mailto:office@highhalstowprimaryacademy.org.uk)

We could use this as an opportunity for you to be our eco-sponsors! This could involve us advertising your business in publications from the school and around school!

We are so grateful for all your support and look forward to making a great school into a great 'green' school with your help!

Mrs [Gemma Stangroom](#)

Principal

### COVID 19 SUPPORT



Who Cares is your local community organisation. We are reducing loneliness & social isolation, strengthening our local community and supporting vulnerable people on the Hoo Peninsula.

As always, we are here to support anyone who lives on the Hoo Peninsula and may need a little extra help during this challenging time (ME3 postcode area & Upnor)



How are WE supporting vulnerable people and those in need?



Telephone Befriending and check in calls



Support with shopping and prescription collections



Transport to essential health appointments

**If you or someone you know is in need of our support, please contact us**

**01634 272138**  
[enquiries@whocares.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@whocares.org.uk)

Company No. 06774799 18 Chapel Road, Isle of Grain, ME3 0RZ  
[www.whocares.org.uk](http://www.whocares.org.uk)

## 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)



# Being a Parish Councillor in High Halstow

I've only lived in the village for 6 years. I've been a Parish Councillor for 5 of those years. I was co-opted initially to fill a vacancy and then was successfully voted onto the Parish Council at our last election.

I didn't know what to expect or what was expected of me! I just wanted to get involved in the village and help my community.



Little did I know when I volunteered to join the **Neighbourhood Plan Working Group** that it would swallow me up in passion in trying to get it right for our village.

Since 2018 the **NPWG** have spent an inordinate amount of time in face to face meetings and then zoom meetings, always doing our **very** best.

We've had many strategy discussions within the group and then many discussions with our Expert. Frank discussions with Medway Council were difficult, followed by equally frank discussion with interested Developers which were interesting.

What upsets us is that Medway Council appear to have no regard for the fact that the Hoo Peninsula is so unique.

Would anyone object to developing 10,000 homes in the New Forest? **Of course they would.** Would anyone object to them developing the Norfolk coast? **Of course they would.** Well what about us?

**No-one wants to stop progress.**

We live in a modern world and we all want to live the very best life that modern technology can offer. But we don't want to throw the baby out with the bath water!

We all want to live in High Halstow because it's a great village with a great community. We like the "village feel" of High Halstow and want to keep it that way. Any development must align with the village feel we have now.

In their proposed **LOCAL PLAN**, Medway Council have earmarked High Halstow for development of over 760 homes.

With such a large parcel of land offered for development and IF we have no choice then we believe it would be beneficial to have more than one developer involved, which would include self build.

In order for more development to be sustainable on the Hoo Peninsula, Medway Council need to provide additional infrastructure. They are proposing a new slip road, a road through Chattenden which has far reaching effects on Deangate and a flyover at Wainscott which will decimate the surrounding area. There is already unease in Wainscott on what the flyover would do to their area – especially the noise and air quality.

As we come out of lockdown there will be more leaflets to read and surveys to complete but we would urge you to read every last word and participate where you can.

We **CAN** make a difference.

If we **HAVE** to have such a large development then we want it to be the very best it can be.

**Linda Atkinson**  
Resident





## Can you help me to help Rosemary to help Medway Food Bank?



Rosemary has sent 293 kgs of recycling to TerraCycle.

That's 293 kgs of packaging that hasn't polluted the planet.

Every bit helps!

For just over 2 years Rosemary, who lives in Strood has been collecting various "hard to recycle items". When she has filled a box, she sends it to the company TerraCycle, who then send a donation to her nominated charity "Medway Food Bank". To date the donations have amounted to £300. Rosemary is pleased to be helping Medway families and contributing to reducing pollution.

It would be great if you can also help by collecting your bread wrappers and placing them in a labelled bin that I intend leaving by my garage driveway entrance. We need soft, not waxy bread and fruit loaf wrappers. My address is 18 Christmas Lane.

If anyone else would like to collect for Rosemary or has queries, please call me.

Marilyn 07944 490 903

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## High Halstow Environmental Group Virtual Meeting

**TO BE HELD VIA ZOOM**

**WEDNESDAY 21 APRIL 2021 AT 7.00pm**

Please Contact Marilyn for meeting ID and password entry or if you can help or need more information on agenda items.

Agenda items will include:

- Tree planting
- High Halstow Primary School's pledge to Go Green
- Recycling
- Rosemary / TerraCycle and Medway Food Bank
- Towards a Plastic Free Medway – Reuse, Reduce, Refuse and Recycle
- Rainham Eco Hub

**Marilyn 07944 490 903 or Marilyn.Stone@HighHalstow-pc.gov.uk**

**High Halstow Parish Councillor and Green Party member**



# Join the High Halstow Community Lottery

Your money goes back into the community

Since it started in 2016 we have given away over **£78,000** in prize money and have provided over **£20,000** towards community projects!!

The cost to play is £10 per ticket per month. Set up a standing order, use YOUR post code and house number as your reference i.e. ME9 9ZZ-99 or if you have a house name ME9 9ZZ-Lucky.

YOUR REFERENCE WILL BE YOUR TICKET NUMBER. Payment must reach our account by the last working day of the month. Players usually pay on or before 25<sup>th</sup> of each month.

High Halstow Community Lottery;

Account Number: 21507826, Sort Code: 40 43 44

Visit us at [www.highhalstowcl.uk](http://www.highhalstowcl.uk)

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High Halstow Parish Council

**VIRTUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

HELD VIA

**ZOOM**

MEETING ID

**91043191776**

ON

**THURSDAY 15<sup>TH</sup>  
APRIL, 7.30 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 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



## Village Theatre Trips

Like many others I have enjoyed the London Theatre Trips that Margaret Church organised until recently with the able help of John Pink. A sincere thank you to Margaret for transporting us by luxury coach from the village to some excellent West End shows usually at less than half the ticket price. John and I are hoping to reinstate the trips as soon as the Theatres reopen. If you would like to be informed as and when we are offered a block booking then please let John know by email at- [johnpink078@gmail.com](mailto:johnpink078@gmail.com)



## Hedges & Bushes

Please trim back any hedges, bushes or trees which are overhanging footpaths as they can cause an obstruction.

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)

# Spring into Action

and raise money for wHoo Cares

*We're dedicating April to raising money to help people in our community!*

Here are some ideas to get you started...



Join us on a KM Sponsored Event. Choose either the BUSTER FIRE WALK or 50k BIKE RIDE!  
<https://www.kmcharityteam.co.uk/booking/>



Organise a fund raising event at your workplace



Have a good clear out and sell your stuff on eBay. (You can nominate Friends of wHoo Cares as your chosen charity.)



Have your own idea? Go for it! We'll help promote it!



Don't have time to organise something? No problem, you can just text a donation! Text 5WHOO to 70085 to give £5.  
Texts cost one standard rate message plus the donation amount and you'll be opting in to hear more about our work and fundraising via telephone and SMS. If you'd like to donate but do not wish to receive marketing communications, text 5WHOOINFO to 70085



Email [community@whoocares.org.uk](mailto:community@whoocares.org.uk) for more information or call us on 01634 272138  
Hoo Peninsula Cares, Registered in England Company No. 9677439

## 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

Stuart Bailey

June Collins

John Myatt

Chris Peek

Tamsin Stowers

Natasha Turner

Office email

The Rectory

27 Cooling Road

6 Marsh Crescent

Decoy Hill Road

2 Willlowbank Drive

12 Marsh Crescent

[office.hhrin@gmail.com](mailto:office.hhrin@gmail.com)

01634 250637

07976 760 844

01634 250105

01634 256 185

01634 252 604

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

### **In Loving Memory of Oonagh**

Oonagh Elliott passed away peacefully at the Medway Maritime Hospital on 6th February 2021. Since that time her husband, Eric, and immediate family have had many messages of condolence via cards, emails and calls and been on the receiving end of many acts of kindness from the residents of High Halstow and the surrounding area.

Oonagh's family would like to extend their sincere thanks to all for your kindness and support at this time. It is appreciated more than words can express.

They also wish to thank you for your kind donations. As a lifelong Arsenal supporter it was an easy decision to chose the Willow Foundation to be beneficiaries of donations in Oonagh's memory.



The Willow Foundation was set up by former Arsenal goalkeeper Bob Wilson and his wife, Megs, following the death of their daughter, Anna, who died from cancer aged 31. It is the only national charity to provide psychological and emotional support to seriously ill 16-40 year olds through provision of special day experiences. Funds are used to give young adults with life

limiting disease "Special Days" with their loved ones to provide a break from the challenges of diagnosis and treatment or to create precious memories.

Anyone wishing to donate can do so via cheque made payable to the "Willow Foundation" and forwarded c/o John Weir Funeral Directors, 25 New Road, Chatham, Kent ME4 4QJ or online via Funeralguide on the following link [www.funeralguide.co.uk/86215](http://www.funeralguide.co.uk/86215)

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### ***AMBITIOUS PLANS FOR THE CHRISTMAS LANE CLUB***

Changes are afoot at the Rayners Meadow club. The 2021 season will see the first roll out of a new structure, selection and coaching ethos for the Christmas Road outfit.

Club Chairman Tim Munday & 1stXI Captain, Christopher Maurice have been at the forefront of this process. Providing the context for change, the Chairman commented, "the number of clubs who are struggling or who have fallen out of league cricket continues to show that in order to survive and prosper, we have to put ourselves on a more sustainable and professional footing." (in terms of structure and systems.)

Continuing, Munday stated that, "Restructuring our playing sides gives us an opportunity to put in place a long-term development plan, which creates a continuous link for our members from Under 10 all the way through to our pinnacle, the adult Saturday 1st XI."

In doing so, the 1st XI will now be supported by a Development XI, which will play in the Reserve 2nd XI league. That Development XI will consist mostly of younger players being targeted for immediate or future 1st XI inclusion. This allows the Club to expand its Saturday offering with a 3rd XI which will add a further tier to support more junior inclusion into their first level of adult cricket.

1st XI and Club Captain Christopher Maurice, commented, "We really are laying down the foundations of a sustainable base, one which we can then choose to add to via a number of options, such as coaching, facilities development and the attraction of other quality local players. Our raison d'être must be to be a Cricket Club first and foremost."

Across the Rubicon we march.



**Next edition May 2021; Contributions for May should be sent  
by 24th April to:**

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



Dear HHT,

As relatively new residents of High Halstow (six years this August) my wife and I quickly fell in love with the peace, the tranquillity, and the natural beauty of not just our village, but of the entire Peninsula. The amazing views of *two* rivers, the huge open expanses of fields and farms, and the bird-rich woodlands and marshland are, undoubtedly, pretty spectacular; so to wake up in the middle of the night and hear owls and nightingales – for the first time – was the most amazing experience ... particularly for an ex “townie” like me.

And then we discovered that Medway Council had plans to turn the village of Hoo into a “rural town” (an *outrageous* social injustice to the existing residents); to build a railway station ... *to take people to Gravesend for the day...* (a ludicrous scheme ... and a *total* waste of money), and, closer to home, the proposed destruction of prime agricultural land for a development of 760 houses in *our* village. (*Why* build houses on farmland?) In effect, *doubling* the size of *our* village.

This was all pretty depressing stuff, especially considering that the plans were drawn up pre-Covid and pre-Brexit; because, as we all know, the world has changed quite significantly since then.

So, Medway Council's determination to press on regardless with their proposed destruction seems all the more bizarre, especially considering that the Minister of State for Housing wrote to me explaining that: “The Government understands the importance of retaining our valued open countryside and greenfield land” And: “to promote the long-term vitality of town centres, by enabling them to grow and diversify in a way that can respond to rapid changes in the retail and leisure industries, and allowing a suitable mix of uses, including housing” Unquote.

In that case, *don't* destroy our Peninsula, *don't* devastate the delicate environment with roads and railways, with 10,000 new houses, with 20,000 additional cars, with however many heavy lorries that will pollute the air – every day – as they make their way in and out of the proposed *massive* Medway One “sustainable energy” site in Hoo.

Instead, adhere to the policies of the Minister of State for Housing: *Don't* build on farmland and green field sites – redevelop our *existing* run-down towns ... that *already* have the necessary and expensive infrastructure in place ... and keep the farmers' fields for their much-needed *intended* use. (And spend the money for the railway on a new hospital)

Simple enough? But it's the overt underhandedness of Medway Council that seems to be the stumbling block: Deangate Ridge golf course – managed into deliberate decline; the reluctance of the Council to share the results of the obligatory environmental and scientific surveys it had to carry out; telling us that the “road improvements” from Four Elms would be a slip road, when what it's *really* intending is a two-lane flyover; refusing planning permission for 800 houses at Capstone Valley ... *on environmental grounds*. What about the environmental impact to the Peninsula re the *10,000* houses proposed for here?

It seems that Mr Jarrett and his fellow councillors are willing to sacrifice this beautiful, nature-rich habitat for the guaranteed votes of the residents of Capstone; to make it the dumping ground for *all* major future development – both industrial and residential, because it won't stop at 760 houses – therefore protecting the rest of Medway.

And once it's concreted over – it's gone. Forever. The skylarks, the nightingales, the clean air, the wonderful silence, the sanctuary. Everything.

Yes, the country needs new houses, but we also need a new fit-for-purpose strategy re the numbers and the *locations* of these houses; not some alchemic algorithm that's anything *but* fit-for purpose.

Is it only the Government that can't see that England actually *does* extend beyond the south east?

John Colleer

## Dramarama

### Hoping to Return to Stage Near You Soon!

It was February 2020 that we last performed in front of an audience with our performance of the Wizard of Oz, since then we have kept in contact via Zoom with weekly quizzes and catch-ups.

With all of our fingers and toes crossed we are hoping that we might be able to start meeting-up in person after the summer and start rehearsals for a pantomime in January 2022.

If you would be interested in joining our group and have a talent for 'showing-off' we meet on Thursday evenings (when able to) from 7:30pm in the Village Hall. Please email at [editor@highhalstow.org.uk](mailto:editor@highhalstow.org.uk)





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Your Parish Councillors  
George Crozer, Chair 07711 432598  
e.mail: [George.crozer@highhalstow-pc.gov.uk](mailto:George.crozer@highhalstow-pc.gov.uk)  
Christine Watson, Vice Chair 01634 256529  
Linda Atkinson 07825 619353  
Marc Buckland 07979 751431  
Ray Collins 01634 250105  
Gary Jerreat 07880 697657  
Cora MacFarlane 07801 892664  
Tim Munday 07730 477017  
Marilyn Stone 07944 490903

Your councillors may also be contacted through the Parish Clerk:

Jenny Allen 01634 710086  
email: [clerk@highhalstow-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@highhalstow-pc.gov.uk)

**High Halstow Community Lottery**  
February Game (March draw)  
£800 ME3 8TF and £200 ME3 8ST  
To enter: £10 monthly  
Account No 21507826 Sort code 40 43 44  
quoting your POST CODE and house number/name



Disclaimer: This lottery has no connection with High Halstow Parish Council

### HH Village Website

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)



### Save Deangate Petition

If you would like to sign the **Save Deangate Petition** and don't have access to the internet please complete the following and send to:-

**Deangate Community Partnership**  
Woodlands  
High Halstow  
Kent ME3 8SX

### SAVE DEANGATE PETITION

I/we the under signed petition Medway Council to reject plans to build a relief road on Deangate Ridge Golf and Sports Complex. We further call on Medway Council to retain Deangate Ridge Golf and Sports Complex as an asset that would further the social wellbeing and social interests of the local community such as a Country Park.

Signed .....

Names.....

Postcode.....

House number/name.....

