

# High Halstow TIMES

Home of the Heron  
*The Newsletter for High Halstow*



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August 2020

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## ***Hoo Peninsula Parishes Engage Solicitors Over Housing Infrastructure Bid.***

By its own admission Medway Council has confirmed that In its present state the Hoo Peninsula cannot sustainably take any more development than is already permitted.

Medway claims the HIF grant will provide the increase in the capacity of transport infrastructure to provide for more than doubling of population and households in Hoo and High Halstow, and to replace and enhance the ecology we already have by at least 110 %. We simply do not believe £170m is nearly enough money to achieve this. Medway is blindly moving forward without proper community involvement. Their plans for the future will damage the Peninsula irrevocably.

**Kelly Tolhurst our MP said** *“When the draft Local Plan is published, it will be entirely dependent on Medway Council's £170m bid from the Housing Infrastructure Fund (HIF) to deliver a new road network, rail links, and preserve the environment. I am not satisfied that the funding is anywhere near enough to deliver what has been proposed and I remain deeply sceptical of the Council's plans. I have consistently asked to see further detail about the proposals, but a very limited amount*

Continued...

*has been shared with me as your Member of Parliament”*

Following on from our negative response from Medway Council Hoo Peninsula Parish Councils have engaged top lawyers Leigh Day to issue a warning to Medway Council over their multimillion road building “HIF” programme.

The £170 million “Housing Infrastructure Fund” grant from the Government is intended to provide the **extra road and rail capacity to allow the building of 12,500 houses** mainly within two parishes on the Peninsula – High Halstow and Hoo St Werburgh. The largest sum £86 million is for **new roads, bringing at least a doubling of road traffic** onto the Peninsula with its internationally recognised ecology and habitats.

Parish Councillors decided to use the top legal team of solicitors and barristers which successfully stopped the Heathrow expansion in its tracks earlier this year.

Leigh Day have written to Medway Council, criticising their refusal to provide any information about the environmental impact of the massive road building proposals or to even tell the local community any of the detail of their proposals.

“Medway Council seem to believe that they are entitled to plan our future in secret by agreeing to concrete over large parts of the Peninsula without telling us how it will affect our communities, our ecology and our living conditions.”

Both High Halstow and Hoo parish councils are concerned that Medway Council will enter into binding agreements with government housing agency Homes England to deliver specific infrastructure projects that will foreclose public debate about less harmful alternatives.

This would be unlawful, says the letter, because of Medway's failure to consult the Hoo Peninsula community, or to assess the environmental impact before entering into the agreement. As a result, both Parish Councils are unable to progress their neighbourhood plans while they are being kept in the dark about Medway's proposals.

The entire reasoning behind the HIF programme is to expand the highway capacity to allow even more vehicle traffic onto local roads, to serve a massive house building programme on poorly located sites in the rural area.

“This cannot be the way forward. Medway are refusing to give the Parish Councils the information they need to understand how they will be affected, in terms of traffic, air quality and the effects of building thousands of new family homes on our treasured greenfield landscapes, with nothing in the HIF programme for providing the local health, education, retail and other services that we need, forcing new residents to use their cars for all their daily needs. Anyone would be suspicious of Medway's motives when they are so desperate that they won't tell us what they are doing, leaving us with no alternative but to resort to the courts!”

We have just received a response from Medway to our Solicitor's letter which give us some of the re-assurance we seek but does not provide the information about environmental impact that we seek. In consultation with Leigh Day we are now considering our next steps. We will update in our next issue of the High Halstow Times.

*George Crozer*  
High Halstow Parish Chairman

# Cockham Community Parkland

**A new public open space on  
the Hoo Peninsula**

**Community Consultation**  
July to September 2020

In the meantime, Medway have issued another what appears to be a non-statutory Consultation about Cockham Community Parkland a 50 hectare open spaces development to the south west of Hoo.

There is no reference to the Local Plan and this project seems to be going ahead regardless of what is proposed to take place around it. There is nothing to indicate how it will relate to the proposed “Rural Town” of Hoo St Werburgh and the 12,500 new dwellings planned. We are unable to see any context, and have asked the council to confirm:-

- What land uses on adjoining sites will be?
- Why the particular open space use proposed is needed and who it is to serve?
- What alternative uses were considered?
- Is there an assessment of biodiversity net gain?
- How does it fit with adjoining uses?
- What is the existing ecology of the site?
- Is there any assessment of the environmental effects of the new “Community Parkland”?

Parkland of this kind can be quite urbanising in its effect we therefore urge you to respond to the consultation perhaps asking some of the questions above.

George Crozer  
High Halstow Parish Council Chairman

## Great News

It's been a long campaign and a lot of hard work but the Friends of St. Margaret's have achieved their Charity Commission Registration. Back in January I was advised by the Charity Commission (CC) to expect a wait of twenty weeks for a decision after the submission of an application and a new Constitution conforming to their rigorous requirements. In February we held an Extraordinary General Meeting where the issues were discussed. We were advised that if we failed to meet the C.C. requirements the process could be extended indefinitely. It was proposed and agreed that we instruct solicitors experienced in the ways of the C.C. to prepare the application. Not only were they successful on our behalf but they managed it in record time.

I offer thanks to Ray Collins who supported me in all meetings with the solicitors both pre-lockdown and later in video and document preparation, and Chris Peek and committee members who proof read reams of documentation.

All committee members are now trustees and our name now concludes with "CIO" standing for "Charitable Incorporated Organisation" as required by the C.C.



### Church Windows

The restoration and weatherproofing of our fourth window has been completed. Having received a very generous anonymous donation we are now able to complete the project.

### Scarecrows

We have a good selection of Scarecrows appearing around the village but there is room for more! I'm so pleased that despite the pandemic we've managed to keep our annual festival intact and that those exercising on our streets have had the entertainment of new additions to the display. I'm grateful for the efforts of Scarecrow makers. They've made High Halstow a better place.

### Other Events

We hope to benefit from the relaxing of government's regulations soon and be able to reinstate our range of events including Concerts, Talks, Knit & Natter and the Christmas Tree Festival.

Mike Meredith  
Chairman.

Friends of St. Margaret's Church High Halstow CIO.



## ***Flying Drones, Unmanned Aerial Aircraft.***

In the past there has been reports of Drones being flown in or close to the parish causing concern to members of the public to their safety and of property. Following the Gatwick Airport mayhem in 2018, our government with assistance from the CAA, BMFA, LMA and other regulatory authorities have produced new regulations to safeguard public and property from the misuse of these craft.

From 30<sup>th</sup> November 2019, it is a legal requirement for the operator to be registered under the **U.K.'s new Drone and Model Aircraft Registration and Education Scheme**, unless he or she is a member of the BMFA and has taken and is certified under their registration and certification scheme.

It is now an offence for anyone to fly a radio controlled craft without being a registered operator, without having insurance, fly higher than 400 ft / 120m. There are a list of other related disciplines but these are the most fundamental for the public to know.

It is therefore advised, if you have a Drone / UAV / Unmanned Aircraft, you should either fly at a local club, or, with the owner's consent in a field at least 150m clear of buildings and/or livestock or members of the public, but you must be registered and insured.

*Within 2 weeks of this law becoming live, there has been a prosecution without there being any injury or damage to property, just ignorance to the existence of this new law and regulations.*

For further information please feel free to contact Syd Brunt on tele # 01634 255366, or Eric Bishop on tele # 01634 255041.

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## **Karen Watson**

### **Personal Trainer and Pilates Instructor**

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## **Off to University?**

The High Halstow Relief in Need charity (Reg. No. 250996) has a limited number of small bursaries available to students going to University for the first time.

Students who started last year and were able to apply for a bursary may also apply.

The scheme is available only to students living in the parish of High Halstow at the time of application.

Closing date is Friday 25th September 2020 and applications received after that date will not be considered. In your letter of application please state your name, address, telephone number and email address, the universities you have applied for and the length of your course. A copy of your placement offer will be required before the bursary can be given. No appeal is available for unsuccessful applicants.

Please apply in writing to any of the Trustees, or to the Clerk:

Mrs Margot Sturt, 32 Willowbank Drive, High Halstow ME3 8TW

**PLEASE mark 'Bursary Application' on the front of the envelope.**

### ***Boundary Hedges***

At this time of the year with the profusion of summer growth many boundary hedges are protruding onto pavements. This makes it difficult for pedestrians and disabled access. Please check your hedge and cut where necessary. Thank you for your co-operation.

**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 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**



### **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)

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### ***High Halstow Allotments***

#### **REMINDER**

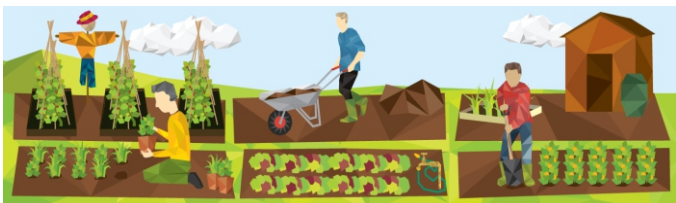
Allotment plots are all in use at the present time but if you have been considering working an allotment plot and would like to place your name on our waiting lists, please let the Parish Council know by contacting [Linda.Atkinson@HighHalstow-pc.gov.uk](mailto:Linda.Atkinson@HighHalstow-pc.gov.uk)

Linda can also be contacted on 07825 619 353.

Thank you.

**Cllr Linda Atkinson**

**High Halstow Parish Council**



## **SiLocks.co.uk**

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

|   |              |
|---|--------------|
| George Crozer, Chair                        | 01634 250286 |
| e.mail: George.crozer@highhalstow-pc.gov.uk |              |
| Christine Watson, Vice Chair                | 01634 256529 |
| Linda Atkinson                              | 07825 619353 |
| Adrian Catchpole                            | 07788 721226 |
| 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 |
|-------------|--------------|



### ***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.

## GUITAR LESSONS

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### ***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       | <a href="mailto:office.hhrin@gmail.com">office.hhrin@gmail.com</a> |               |

## Readers Emails & Letters

(No emails or letters will be published without the name and address being supplied to the Editor, which can be withheld on request)

### Old Village School Pictures

Does anyone have photographs of the old village school that was opposite the Red Dog. Mrs Collins was the school teacher and lived at the school with her husband Bert and son Michael.

Michael is putting a booklet together about his childhood for his grandchildren but cannot find any photos of the school.

If anyone can help him could you please contact me on 250677 and I will make a copy and send it to him.

Very many thanks, Margaret Whitbread.

**The Play Park is now open for the enjoyment of our youngest residents. Please follow the rules and Keep Safe.**



### Village Volunteering Event – 15<sup>th</sup> August

Following such a successful event in July the Parish Council has agreed to hold another one. This will be on Saturday 15th August from 9am meeting outside the Village Hall. Please come and join in.

Again, we plan to do whatever cleaning, sweeping, litter picking or tidying needs to be done; this could also include tree pruning, weed removal and fence mending. Bring some gloves and wear your old clothes.

Hope to see you there. Let's all help to keep our village looking great.

Chris Peek, on behalf of the Parish Council.



Dear HHT,

I just want to say 'Thank You' to all the neighbours for their kindness on the loss of my son Gary. The collection was donated to Mind. Everyone was so kind and thoughtful at a very difficult time.

Thanks again,  
Sandra Stapley  
Leaman Close

### High Halstow Community Lottery

## WINNERS

June Game, July draw 2020

1<sup>st</sup> prize £1,400 ME3 8SH

2<sup>nd</sup> Prize £200 ME3 9SJ

High Halstow Community Lottery continues to support local groups in High Halstow

If you are interested in signing up, please visit [www.highhalstowCL.uk](http://www.highhalstowCL.uk) for details.

Disclaimer: This lottery has a private Medway Council licence and is in no way connected or administered by HIGH HALSTOW PARISH COUNCIL. This lottery is administered by High Halstow residents.

Next edition September 2020; Contributions for September should be sent by 26th August to:

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