



# High Halstow TIMES

Home of the Heron  
*The Newsletter for High Halstow*



November 2020

## *On the Brink of Change?*

Medway Council has still to publish the consultation "Regulation 19" draft of its **Local Plan** and will then seek to have it approved by the Secretary of State following an Examination in Public. At the same time the national planning system is under review by the Government and Coronavirus is making us all think about new ways to live our lives. The fight against unsustainable development in High Halstow continues and is not over yet by a long way. Our **Neighbourhood Plan** if accepted by the community and adopted into the Medway **Local Plan** Medway can achieve significant influence over what is built in High Halstow if development goes ahead.

As our draft **Neighbourhood Plan** is nearing completion and we look forward to presenting it to the community in a Parish referendum for either acceptance or rejection it becomes ever more important to revisit its purpose and for us to be clear about what we are trying to achieve.

Firstly, the Parish Council remains strongly opposed to the principle of mass housing development on the site between High Halstow and Peninsula Way (between Christmas Lane and Britannia Road), where the Medway **Local Plan** is expected to allocate the site for 760 new homes - effectively doubling the size and the population of the village. We believe that building 760 new homes on the fields and woodlands to the east of High Halstow and a further circa 12,000 new homes in Hoo St Werburgh is unsustainable and will cause severe and lasting harm to our fragile environment here on the Hoo Peninsula.



Secondly, we consider that the Infrastructure "improvements" outlined in the Medway Housing Infrastructure Fund £170 million bid (see below) are at the same time insufficient to overcome the difficulties of building huge numbers of new houses in this profoundly rural area while at the same time creating irreversible adverse impacts on our wildlife and our countryside. The vast majority of the grant will be spent on new road improvements to increase the capacity of the road network, to allow for more vehicles on the Hoo Peninsula, causing significant harm to the environment and the living conditions of local residents, as well as further loss of countryside.

Thirdly, we agree with the RSPB statement in their letter to Homes England "The RSPB maintains serious concerns regarding the ability to deliver large numbers of new housing on the Hoo Peninsula while protecting wildlife assets." Only 10% of the HIF fund is identified for environmental enhancement.

So, in the emerging High Halstow **Neighbourhood Plan**, we will continue to oppose unsustainable development while recognising that it may, in the end, be necessary to take a pragmatic approach to the allocations in the emerging **Local Plan** and ensure that if development does go ahead, we will endeavour to get development that reflects the needs of High Halstow and its exceptional rural landscape and biodiversity.

As such, the High Halstow **Neighbourhood Plan** will seek to achieve the very best it can for us all

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High Halstow Environment Group  
Virtual Meeting

TO BE HELD VIA  
ZOOM  
on

Monday 16th November at 7.00pm

Meeting ID  
933 202 657 25

Please Contact Marilyn for Password Entry

After a positive meeting in October we hope to further explore how we can protect and enhance our local environment. Free Trees for our community, Terracycle Boxes in the village and a future visit to a recycling plant are all on the agenda for next time. Please let me know if you have items you would like to put forward. Residents of all ages welcome including and especially our younger residents.

Marilyn's mobile number is 07944490903  
Alternatively use Marilyn's Parish Councillor email address [marilyn.stone@highhalstow-pc.gov.uk](mailto:marilyn.stone@highhalstow-pc.gov.uk)

*Village Volunteering Event*  
*14<sup>th</sup> November*

Following another successful event in October the Parish Council invites you to the next Village Volunteering event on Saturday 14th November starting at 9am.

Meet in the Village Hall car park, making sure not to gather in a group of more than six while we're waiting to get started. Once we've collected a hi-vis vest, a litter picker, a black sack and anything else we might need we will disperse in smaller groups around the village. There were fewer of us at the October event, so it really would be great to have some new faces join in next time, particularly some young adults and teenagers. The event usually lasts for about an hour and a half, but even if you come for a shorter time, your contribution will be appreciated. We look forward to seeing you there. Bring your own gloves.

As well as litter picking we'll probably do the usual fence repairs, pruning overhanging tree branches and whatever else needs our attention.

Please help to keep our lovely village looking tidy.

Chris Peek, on behalf of the Parish Council.

*Thank You*

We would like to thank all the volunteers that helped put up the poppies on the lampposts around the village. They look great.

High Halstow Parish Council



**Have fun and help change the lives of people living in poverty**

**THE BIG QUIZ NIGHT**

**tearfund**

Join your local community on the 14th November at 7pm, from the comfort of your own home, for an online quiz. Raising money for Tearfund, the charity who are passionate about beating poverty worldwide.

To find out more visit [www.tearfund.org](http://www.tearfund.org)

To sign up for the quiz or for further information about the event please email: [louisekennett@yahoo.com](mailto:louisekennett@yahoo.com) or to donate please visit: [www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Louise-Mason24](http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Louise-Mason24)



## *Parish Council Meeting Resume for 14/10/2020*

A virtual Parish Council meeting was held on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> October, where it was attended by seven (7) Parish Councillors, one (1) Ward Councillor and two (2) members of the public. During this meeting the members acknowledged receipt of four (4) new planning applications and discussed an existing application in more detail.

The members spoke of the removal of some longstanding trees at Heronden Grange and the outcome of possible sightings that drainage ditches were being filled in.

Cllr R. Collins updated the members on the outcome of a virtual meeting, held between the Neighbourhood Plan Committee and Chelgate (consultants to Redrow). It was established that Chelgate had provided further information in relation to their 12-year building programme, where the members learnt that Redrow were going to apply for planning permission for their new development, ahead of the Local Plan.

A 'Finance Committee' update was received where the members learnt that, at the 6 months mark, the Parish Council had spent over 57.5% of their budget, with a further 35.5% committed to be spent before the end of the financial year. It was acknowledged that bad debtors were going to be removed from the High Halstow Times and that a review of the Financial Risk Assessments and the Asset Register would be conducted at their next meeting.

The members recognised that the non-urgent repairs to two (2) items of play equipment were underway and that the hedgerows and vegetation at Forge Common had been trimmed back. They established and that a new metal fence had been installed behind the football net and they discussed the possibility of installing two new notice boards, to replace the old ones that were looking worse for wear and were becoming increasingly difficult to open. We are considering purchasing new Noticeboards and one would be placed in the car park.

It was decided that the Clerk would write to Medway Council to notify them of the loss of two trees in Village (situated in the green space between The Street and Eden Road) and to request if replacement saplings could be sought. The members also agreed that a new solid base should be installed to house a new full-size dog waste bin at Sharnal Street.


It was understood that a full GDPR review of the Parish Council website was being conducted, where the Councillors agreed to set up a new 'Policy Working Party', to ensure that all of their policies were kept up to date. They also received details of a proposed, new 'Peninsular Planning Forum', brought forward by Ward Councillor Ron Sands, where it was agreed that High Halstow Parish Council would join as a member, once the group had been formed.

An update from the 'Relief in Need' charity was received, where the members learnt that the charity had paid out their student bursaries, alongside additional vouchers for computer equipment for the 1<sup>st</sup> year students. An update from the Environmental Group was also received, where it was recognised that a Zoom had been arranged to take place on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> October.

The members re-discussed the need for double yellow lines to be installed at the junction of Christmas Lane and The Street. They evaluated the report they had had commission by Medway Council and based on their findings the members voted to proceed.

Finally, the members voted in closed session, to change the supplier of the village grounds maintenance contract to a more central contractor. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to the existing landscapers to stand them down with 6 weeks' notice and to instruct the new suppliers to start work with effect from the 1<sup>st</sup> December.

The next meeting was scheduled to take place on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> November, via Zoom, starting at 7.30pm, where of course everyone is welcome to attend. The meeting lasted one hour and 45 minutes before the Chairman brought it to a close.



**High Halstow Parish Council**

**VIRTUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

HELD VIA  
**ZOOM**

MEETING ID  
**97805889956**

ON  
**WEDNESDAY 11<sup>th</sup>**  
**NOVEMBER, 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**

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and for the long term protection of our countryside. The NP seeks to ensure that if the development goes ahead, it will secure protection of local biodiversity and provide a high quality mixed use development that will bring new facilities for health, education and community services in High Halstow.

### The Housing Infrastructure Fund

For some years now it has been Medway Council's intention to "Unlock the potential of the Peninsula" by solving the air quality and access issues at Four Elms Hill, providing an alternative access route to and from the A289, imposing a modal shift of 8% from road to rail transport and addressing the potential damage to our landscape and ecology that doubling our population will inevitably cause.

To achieve this Medway applied and have been successful in securing a grant from Homes England's Housing Infrastructure Fund (HIF) of £170m. The Grant Determination Agreement sets out the terms and conditions for Medway Council to receive grant funding for the proposed infrastructure, the scope of which is set out in the Homes England response of 18th August to our solicitors' letter:

#### Infrastructure Item 1 - Road

A Relief Road linking the A289 west to the Hoo Peninsula. Capacity improvements at three junctions on the Hoo Peninsula that would service the new developments and link to the Relief Road. Improvements to the A289, including enhancements at three roundabouts to improve traffic capacity. (We believe these to include Four Elms and the Sans Pareil roundabouts.)

#### Infrastructure Item 2 - Rail

A new railway Station (Sharnal Street Station); improvements to the existing Grain railway line; a new Medway Chord and mainline connection; and re-signalling of the existing line.



#### Infrastructure Item 3 - Environmental Improvements

Strategic Environmental Management Scheme ("SEMS") Establishment of blue & green networks protecting landscape & ecology designations, providing active travel links, & maintaining settlement boundaries. 4 SEMS zones across the Hoo Peninsula will deliver:

- 10,000 metres of hedging (habitat, shelter & movement routes)
- 4,000 hedgerow trees
- 1,000 parkland trees
- 10 ha of native woodland/ community orchard
- 150 ha of wetlands
- 365 ha of nationally important habitat protected from residential/recreational pressures and disturbance
- Interpretation facilities

## Infrastructure Item 4 - Project Delivery Resource

An internal project delivery resource to project management the delivery of Road, Rail and Environmental Improvements detailed above.

As part of this Agreement, Medway Council must satisfy certain standard and scheme-specific conditions to ensure that the HIF funded infrastructure can be delivered before it is able to draw down any funding towards the infrastructure set out within the agreement. A number of these conditions relate to town planning, including the adoption of the local plan, as that is a key milestone amongst many in bringing forward the proposed infrastructure and the subsequent housing being unlocked by it."

### The Future

- The conditions of the HIF grant must be in place by 31st March 2024.
- To have our **Neighbourhood Plan** in place as soon as possible due to the government's restriction on referendums before May 2021.
- Medway intend to publish its Regulation 19 consultation draft **Local Plan** in March –May 2021.
- Redrow, who have an option to buy the land East of High Halstow between Christmas Lane and Britannia Road say they will apply for planning permission to build as soon as the draft **Local Plan** has passed inspection, so that if and when the **Local Plan** is passed they will begin their 12 year building programme.



### *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**



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# High Halstow Community Lottery Mega Draw

To celebrate 4 years of the Lottery we are announcing a **Jackpot Draw** to be paid out in the first week of December in time for Christmas.

# £3,000

**There will be no second prize**

If you are not already in the lottery it's not too late to join. The cost to play is £10 per ticket per month. However, more than one ticket can be bought by requesting the bank to set up the standing order for £20 for two tickets or £30 for three tickets etc. You can buy a one off ticket or set up a monthly standing order payment as follows;

High Halstow Community Lottery  
Account Number : 21507826  
Sort Code : 40 43 44

YOUR post code and house number as your reference i.e. ME9 9ZZ-99 or if you have a house name ME9 9ZZ-Lucky. **THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT, YOUR REFERENCE WILL BE YOUR TICKET NUMBER.** Payment must be made by the last working day of the month. Players usually pay on or before 27<sup>th</sup> of each month.

**To be eligible for this mega draw your payment will need to be showing in our bank account by the last banking day in November.**

**In 4 years the lottery has given out over £70,000 in prize money.**

**It has also allocated and funded over £17,000 towards High Halstow Community Projects. These projects include various payments to the Primary School, the Cricket Club, WI, Memorial Hall, Poppies on Lamp posts, new Toddlers group, St Margaret's Church window restoration, an 'after school club', etc.**

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

## Santas Visit 2020



Although even busier than ever this year with making sure that all the elves are fit and healthy for the big day, and ensuring that strict social distancing is adhered to in the toy factory, Santa has offered to visit High Halstow on Christmas Eve with 5 of his helpers to bring some Christmas joy to the village.

Unlike previous years Santa won't be able to stop and give out presents this year but would love to drive around the village, playing his favourite Christmas music and waving to the children in their houses or at the end of their drives, whilst being careful not to mix with more than 6 others.

Santa's helpers will have charity buckets for a local charity if you would like to show your appreciation.

Santa has said that he will of course, stick to government guidance and the above may change if the guidance changes.

Please let us know if you think this is a good idea by sending santa a message at [editor@highhalstow.org.uk](mailto:editor@highhalstow.org.uk)

### ***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

## High Halstow Community Lottery

### WINNERS

September Game, October draw 2020

1<sup>st</sup> prize £1,400 ME3 8TF

2<sup>nd</sup> Prize £200 ME3 8TF

(BOTH IN HARRISON DRIVE BUT DIFFERENT HOUSES)

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 not connected or administered by HIGH HALSTOW PARISH COUNCIL.  
This lottery is administered by High Halstow residents.



## 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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FREE consultation**



## Remembrance Sunday 2020

Like most things this year Remembrance Sunday will be very different to the norm. As the church building is very limited for space it will not be possible to make space for everyone to attend. However we have created a video for you that will enable you to join us. It is the same service that will be used in the church but is prerecorded. This means you can join with us and the rest of the nation as we observe this special occasion. If you start the video at 10:50 your 2 minute silence will take place at 11:00am. During the 2 minute silence the names of those who died in active service from the parish will scroll past as we remember their sacrifice. A big thank you to Ray Collins who has done all the research on person behind the name.

You can access the video by clicking on this link  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kNwmxZh0Y1Y>

Or searching my name on Youtube and clicking on the video for High Halstow. Contact me at [stephengwilt2@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:stephengwilt2@hotmail.co.uk) or Rev Stephen Gwilt on 01634 250637



### Eleven Men

**E**leven men from High Halstow died fighting in World War One.

**L**asting four years three months and two weeks.

**E**leven trees are being planted at the recreation ground in memory of eleven soldiers.

**V**ictoria crosses were awarded to over six hundred soldiers.

**E**xplosions in France could be heard all the way over in England.

**N**ovember 11th was the last day of World War One.

**M**any new weapons were invented or first used in World War One.

**E**very 24 hours in September 1918 saw nearly four million pounds worth of bullets used.

**N**ames for this war: World War One, The Great War, War to end all Wars and War of the Nations.

*By Cameron Robins (written whilst in year 6)*

*Dear HHT,*

It is with sadness that I let you know that Honor Norris passed away recently, some of you may have called her the 'Plant Lady' of Eden Road.

Sadly missed by her husband and family.

B. Norris

Eden Road

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

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