



WHITFIELD PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

www.whitfieldpc.kentparishes.gov.uk

APRIL 2020

This edition of the Whitfield Parish Council Newsletter has been prepared in March without any certainty of what the situation will be when you read it, due to the Coronavirus outbreak.

We do not even know whether delivery of the Newsletter will be possible as the majority of our volunteer distributors are in the 'At Risk' Categories due to either their age or an underlying chronic health condition, or both! They are a hardy bunch who normally brave all weathers to deliver this Newsletter, but many may be self isolating or at the very least be practicing social distancing and will be unable to deliver to homes.

Newsletters that cannot be delivered will be left at locations throughout the Village; The Doctor's Surgery, The One Stop, Whitefields, The Beeches and other locations around the Village.

If you haven't had a Newsletter delivered in your area, why not take a few extra and deliver them in your neighbourhood to people who may be at home and without access to other sources of information?

Not everyone has access to the internet, so please consider if you can pass on any information to any elderly or vulnerable relatives, friends or neighbours.

Whitfield Parish Council contingency arrangements

The Parish Council has cancelled all planned Parish and Committee meetings, with alternative arrangements being put in place to conduct necessary business, and will endeavor to continue to fulfill its obligations.

Council Staff will not be based at the Parish Office, so any inquiries or communication should be made to the Parish Clerk via our normal email address.

Updates received by the Parish Council will be posted on the website along with links to Official information and advice from various Government agencies and NHS.

Can You Help Out?

If you're feeling well, why not offer to pick up shopping for an older neighbour or relative who might not be able to or is too worried to go to the shops?

Please remember to make sure you stay at a safe distance from them (2 metres) and make sure you leave the shopping on their front doorstep, knock on their door and step back while you ensure they safely receive it.

From Age UK

Don't feel pressured to accept help from a stranger and never hand-over money or bank details to someone you don't know who is offering to help you. If possible, call a friend or family member to discuss the help you've been offered.

It can be helpful to know who you can call, especially if someone's feeling isolated. For more information on how to keep yourself safe Please go to:

www.ageuk.org.uk/safe

If you need information, call Age UK's free advice line on 8am to 7pm, 365 days a year.

Age UK Advice: 0800 169 65 65

Or For a cheerful chat, call the Silver line, a free confidential helpline providing information and friendship to older people, open 24 hours a day,

Silver Line: 0800 470 80 90

Restricted use of Waste and Dog Bins on the Recreation Ground

As the situation is likely to continue for some time, we do not know if we are going to have either the staff or facilities available to continue emptying and disposing of the waste and dog bins on the Recreation Ground.

We could find ourselves in the position of not being able to empty bins and have them overflowing with waste piled on top and around the bin.

We would appeal to all users of the Recreation Ground to take their litter and dog-poo bags home with them to dispose of through their household waste.

Keep in Touch

During this period of social distancing, it's vital to keep in mind those who need us the most. This includes older and vulnerable people, who may be feeling uncertain and in need of help from others.

Please consider ways you can help your relatives, friends and neighbours, whether with practical stuff like their shopping, or keeping their spirits up at a time things feel challenging and unsettled.

Keep in touch and phone your older relatives and friends. Ask if they need anything and tell them that you can help out.

Maybe, all they need is a chat!

Share positive news and acts of kindness with your community

There are so many examples out there of people helping one another. Share those. Talk about those. Together we can prevent getting caught in a bad news hopelessness spiral. Spread the word about how you're making a difference.

... And remember, wash your hands, wash your hands, wash your hands. It protects you and everyone around you. It only takes 20 seconds.

Simple hygiene and social distancing can save lives and flatten the Coronavirus pandemic curve

WHAT'S ON IN APRIL - MEETINGS OF CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES

Information and advice on Coronavirus and the associated actions which are being put in place are constantly being updated, so we are not giving the usual list of clubs and events being held in the Village. At the time of the preparation of this Newsletter, Whitfield Village Hall is closed to all events apart from the Farmer's Market, which will be open to offer food products only.

DDC has closed all of its premises for events and meetings and all the Sports and Leisure Centres in the District have also been closed. The Whitfield Social Club is making arrangements in accordance with Government Guidelines.

Whitfield and Aspen School has been closed for activities and club meetings and is making arrangements to continue to support vulnerable children and children of critical workers in line with Government Guidelines.

It may be that individual groups may be making alternative arrangements or holding on-line meetings and events.

You should check with your Group organiser / responsible person to confirm if any event or activity will still be taking place.

9 th	Farmers & Craft Market	8.30am to 12noon, Village Hall
16 th	Farmers & Craft Market	8.30am to 12noon, Village Hall
23 rd	Farmers & Craft Market	8.30am to 12noon, Village Hall
30 th	Farmers & Craft Market	8.30am to 12noon, Village Hall

After the current Crisis is over... Volunteer required to deliver the Parish Newsletter and Whitfield News to all properties in Aspen Drive.....

Mr Palmer, who has made the deliveries to the properties in Aspen Drive for some years, is now no longer able to do so. We thank him sincerely and wish him well for the future. We also thank Mr Gleeson for covering Aspen Drive for this month's issue (in addition to the deliveries that he already does). It is the public spiritedness of all the volunteers in the distribution network that makes producing these publications which 'keep you informed' viable.

SO....we are now looking for a volunteer to deliver the Parish News and Whitfield News to all the properties in Aspen Drive.

If you are willing to volunteer, please phone either myself, Philip Farr on 01304 821099 or Jo Matcham, the Parish Clerk on 01304 827416.

Regrettably, if no volunteer is forthcoming, deliveries to Aspen Drive will have to cease.

Public Worship and Church Services St Peters' Church Whitfield.

Due to the Coronavirus, all public worship has been paused for the time being. Therefore, no services at St Peters' until further notice.

This does not affect weddings or funerals at the present time.

Facebook post from Whitfield Village Hall Coronavirus Update 19-03-2020.

Regular groups and Meetings have all been postponed until further notice following the government guidelines of 'Social Distancing'.

FRESHFIELDS Pre-School closes its door on the 20th March.

The Farmers Market is OPEN and offering food products only.

Thank you

Community Networks

Whitfield's Parish Councillors and most other Community and Community group leaders are in the over 70's or Persons with underlying Chronic Health Problems categories, so will be self isolating and not able to take an active role in any Community initiatives.

So, if you know of any Self-help Groups or Community Networks being set up, please pass the information on to Elderly and Vulnerable Relatives, Friends and Neighbours and also advertise them to the wider Community through Social Media.

We have some very good Facebook Groups in the Village and many of you have your own WhatsApp Groups that you can use to pass on Information.

It is vital that any help that is out there gets to those who need it!

Useful Contacts and Information

Parish Council: whitfieldpc.kentparishes.gov.uk

Contact Dover District Council:

Phone: 01304 821199 - Website: dover.gov.uk
facebook.com/doverdc - twitter.com/DoverDC

Visit the Kent County Council information page:
kent.gov.uk/social-care-and-health/health/coronavirus

Government Advice and daily updates:
gov.uk/coronavirus

Official NHS information page:
nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19
[Only telephone 111 if you cannot get help online]

Do the online NHS questionnaire:
111.nhs.uk/covid-19

For all the latest information you can subscribe to Government, Public Health England and NHS updates.

People should rely on information from credible sources such as the National and Local news providers on Television and Radio.

There has been a lot of reports of mis-information in the public realm. Whilst these examples are probably intended to be helpful, they can cause undue stress and concern. They could cause harm

Whitfield Parish Council

In line with current Government advice, Whitfield Parish Council's organised events and activities are suspended until further notice.

The Children's Easter Egg Hunt, scheduled to take place on Friday 10th April is cancelled.

The next Meeting of the Parish Council, scheduled to take place on Tuesday 14th April, 7.30pm is cancelled.

The Annual Parish Meeting

scheduled to take place on Wednesday 15th April, 7.30pm is postponed.

The Village Litter Pick, scheduled to take place on Sunday 19th April, 10.30am (and every 3rd Sunday in the month) is cancelled until further notice.

For more information please contact the Parish Clerk, Jo Matcham, on 01304 827416 or by email at whitfieldpc@btconnect.com

ST PETERS' CHURCH – ROOF REPAIRS

The eagle eyed amongst you may have spotted blue polythene covering part of the church roof.

Last Autumn the Church's Architect carried out her five-yearly inspection of the Church and noted that part of the church roof was in disrepair. The polythene covers the worst affected area as a temporary protection against rain damage until permanent measures are put in place.

A quotation of approximately £9,000.00 for the necessary repair works has been obtained and permissions from the diocese are being sought to carry out the works. We are hoping that the works can be undertaken as soon as possible. Our Architect has advised that we allow a further £1,500.00 for additional work which might be discovered.

This ancient village Church is here for you; for worship, weddings, baptisms and funerals.

If you feel able to contribute towards the cost of this repair, we would be most grateful.

Please contact the Church Wardens if you would like to help - Tina Parsons – 01304 823312 or Richard Bates – 01304 826833.

WHITFIELD PCSO – CONNOR FENNESSY

There is a new PCSO on duty in Whitfield. PCSO Connor Fennessy can be contacted by using the Police non-emergency 101 telephone number and asking for him by name. If he is not currently on duty, a message may be left for him.

In an emergency always call 999.

PCSO Fennessy will be holding surgery dates at the Farmers' Market, Whitfield Village Hall.

He will be at the Farmers' Market in the Village Hall on Thursday 9th April between 11am and 12noon.

PCSO REPORT FOR MARCH

The following Incidents and Crimes took place recently in the Whitfield area. If you have any information about the following matters, please contact PCSO Fennessy by calling Kent Police using the 101 number.

03/02/2020 – Downside Road – Residents are beginning to have more and more issues with nuisance youths banging on doors / windows and then running away. The issue is now spreading across Whitfield and residents are looking into CCTV. Enquiries to identify the youths are on-going.

03/02/2020 – Honeywood Parkway – Report of bad driving at Tesco. Two vehicles were speeding in the car park and almost hit a pedestrian.

05/02/2020 – Old Park Close – People are continuously trying to break into the empty houses and damage the MOD properties. Things have now been put in place to prevent individuals from getting into the properties.

15/02/2020 – Downside Road – Again, youths were causing issues at properties on this road, some banging on doors / windows and then running away. Residents are reminded to report any of these incidents.

Whitfield area – As stated before in the above, youths are beginning to cause a lot of problems to the residents of Whitfield. The youths are banging on doors / windows of properties and running off, presumably to gain some sort of reaction. Enquiries to find out who these youths are and why they are doing this are on-going, however residents are asked to perhaps install some form of CCTV if they are continuously having issues with this. Installing CCTV will help identify the youths and prevent these sorts of things happening to the residents.

Scammers and Fraudsters prey on the Vulnerable during Crisis

Recent reports received from Kent Police say they have been made aware of two scams, both relating to Coronavirus, where persons have tried to gain entry to people's homes.

If you get any unexpected callers to your door in such circumstances, please do not allow them entry. The Health service will not cold call like this.

Additionally, call the Police to report the incident and let them know your concerns. **Please make family, in particular elderly relatives aware of these two types of scams.**

Scam 1.

Criminals have tried to enter the home of an elderly vulnerable lady by knocking on her door, telling her that they were from the Health Authority and had to test her for the Covid 19 virus. Fortunately she did not let them in but some might be fooled by this con.

Scam 2.

Reports coming in of people knocking on doors in Tenterden and offering to take temperatures of elderly people. Please do not let unknown people into your house. Please tell your elderly relatives and Neighbours not to let unknown people into their house.

Summary of March 2020

Parish Council Meeting

(Full minutes available on the Website)

www.whitfieldpc.kentparishes.gov.uk

Finance:

- The Finance Report and Bank Reconciliation for February was accepted

Committees:

- Council noted the minutes of the Recreation and Amenities meeting and resolved to accept the quotation for Gang Mowing at a cost of £4,572.67.

Matters Arising (Report):

- Mole control for the Recreation Ground on-going.
- New benches for outside of the play area on order,
- New basketball hoop chains installed .
- Quotations for acoustic noise reduction measures for the Pavilion hall received.
- The new provider of the Parish Council website has been instructed.
- ID cards for Staff and Councillors on order.
- Quote for LED lighting received.
- Quotes for removing the youth shelter being sought.
- Recycling notices to be placed on the Recreation Ground.
- Removing two trees from the Recreation Ground and stump grinding to take place once weather permits.

Correspondence received regarding:

- A letter of thanks from Pegasus Play Scheme.
- Report of faulty streetlight between the Village Hall and School.
- Village Hall directional sign has come down.
- Report of smell of sewage at the Pavilion.
- Report of damage to a tree on the Recreation Ground by a group of youths.
- An enquiry regarding whether the Village Fayre will be taking place.
- Changes to Performing Rights Licensing tariff for Parish Councils.
- New badminton club meeting at Christ Church.

PCSO Update:

- The Council noted the update provided by PCSO Connor Fennessy for January.
- Regular liaison between the PCSO and the Parish Clerk, is greatly appreciated by the Council.

Public Participation:

- No issues raised by members of the public

Reports from Representatives on the following

- Verbal update on School Travel Committee Meeting.
- Verbal report from Village Hall Management Committee.
- Report from DDC Local Plan meeting.

Highways & Transportation Issues:

- Further enquiries will be made regarding replacing the 'Whitfield' sign on Whitfield Hill, re-erecting the Village Hall Sign and repair of Streetlight between Village Hall and School.

McDonald's Community Project

- The Council were updated regarding the proposed Community Project, led by McDonald's to give the underpass an update and to support Village events. Liaison is underway with Highway's England. Further information will be shared as it is known.

Whitfield Juniors Football Club:

- Ongoing issues; Further correspondence is awaited.

Newsletter Inclusions:

- Council resolved only items directly connected to the Parish will be included in the Newsletter.

Coronavirus:

- The Parish Council noted the information issued by the Parish Clerk regarding Coronavirus. The matter will be closely monitored and a contingency plan will be created, taking advice and guidance from NALC and other Stakeholders. Notices will be placed in the Pavilion for increased hygiene awareness.

Grants and Subscriptions:

- Parish Clerks membership to SLCC to be renewed at a cost of £161.00.
- More information to be requested from Whitfield Village Hall Committee for Grant.
- A £100.00 donation to Citizens Advice.
- A donation to a maximum of £10,000.00 shall be made available to St Peter's Church for the repairs to the church roof. The sum shall be reduced by any sum that can be obtained from other funding sources.
- A £100.00 donation to Kent, Surrey Air Ambulance.

Village Events:

- The Parish Council will adhere to any Guidance issued by the Government or Stakeholders when considering whether to continue with Village Events.

Development in Whitfield:

- The Parish Council noted the Planning Application comments submitted using delegated powers.
- 'Prohibition of Turning' proposals in respect of Singledge Lane discussed.

Use of Parish Clerk's Time:

- It was confirmed that Councilors and Residents should report problems and issues directly to the correct organization or agency and that it is not the Clerk's responsibility to do so on their behalf. Links to DDC and KCC departments are on the website and Items have been placed in the Parish Newsletter at various times to ensure that Residents are aware of this.

Any Other Business:

- A report was received on the visit to Bewsborough Parish by the Bishop of Dover, Rose Hudson-Wilkin. The event was enjoyable and well attended.

KCC Cllr Geoff Lymer Waste Carrier Licensing... *[Full report on website]*

KCC is calling on advertisers to insist waste carriers include their licence number in advertisements, especially on Social Media, where anyone can advertise for free.

The cost to remove the waste hits farmers hard in the pocket, not to mention the environmental impact on rivers, soil, grazing animals and wildlife.

Rogue traders often target householders with cheap rates to take their rubbish away and then dump the waste.

If the waste is traced back to its original source, it can leave the householder with a fine of up to £400.00.

KCC has funded a £250,000 anti fly-tipping campaign, working with Kent Police and the District.

Residents are advised to check the waste management operator they use is a registered waste carrier.

You can report suspected waste crime to:
Environment Agency incident hotline on 0800 807060,
or anonymously to Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.