



Whitfield Parish Council Newsletter

June 2021

www.whitfieldparishcouncil.org -- email: whitfieldpc@btconnect.com
Telephone 01304 827416 (answer phone)

Welcome back to the Whitfield Parish Council Newsletter!

As the country progresses along the 4 Step Plan for relaxing the COVID-19 Restrictions, the various groups and organisations in the Parish are looking forward to re-starting their activities and so we are resuming publication of the Newsletter to advertise them.

This edition will be delivered to every letterbox in the Parish by a leaflet distributor to get things started and ensure full coverage to all Residents, including the New Developments, but we hope to remobilise the volunteer network for future editions.

Newsletter Delivery Volunteers Needed

To deliver the Newsletter to all homes in the Parish we need more volunteers to come forward. If you can spare an hour or two to deliver the Newsletter, please contact the Parish Clerk.

The Newsletter is an important way to let everyone know about any events and activities in the community, especially for those not on social media or the internet.

The Newsletter is delivered at the end of every month, apart from August and December, with details of next month's events and meetings, along with news and reports from the Parish Council.

Existing volunteers will be contacted by the Parish Clerk to see if they wish to continue delivering, but we do need more volunteers to replace retired members of the Group and also to deliver to the newly built houses in the Parish.

We have a debt of gratitude for the years and years of service from the Distributor network, especially to Philip Farr and Sue Hunnisett who are retiring after many years of organising and running the network. We have relied on Sue and Philip, along with the army of volunteers, to deliver the Newsletter since we started it in 2012 and, of course, the Whitfield

News which has been delivered round the Parish for at least 30 years.

In March 2020 there were over 43 Volunteer Distributors and over the years, many, many more have 'done their bit'.

Thank you all for your Years of Service !

If you wish to Volunteer to deliver or want to advertise your Event or Group in future Newsletters, contact the Parish Clerk.

c/o 13 Joyes Close, Whitfield CT16 3LS

Phone: 01304 827416 (answer phone)

email: whitfieldpc@btconnect.com

Advertise your Event !

If you would like your event, meeting or community group included in future Newsletters, please supply details by the third Sunday of the month to the Parish Clerk. (Contact details above)

We have a new Website

www.whitfieldparishcouncil.org

The new Parish Council website has all the local news and information and is now compliant with Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.1, for making Web content more accessible.

Parish Councillor Vacancies

We have 6 vacancies on the Parish Council. No specialist skills are required apart from an interest in Local issues, a desire to contribute to the community and a few spare hours a week.

We are not going to change the world, but we can make a difference to the important day to day issues that add to the community and quality of life in Whitfield

If you are interested, look on the Parish website: you will find guidance on the roles of Parish Councils, what it means to become a Councillor and the contact details so that you may register an interest.

You are also very welcome to come along to a Parish Council Meeting, talk to some of our serving Councillors and get a feel for what is involved. We will be pleased to see you.

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Residents' Litter Picking Group

The Litter Picking Group usually meet on the third Sunday of every month 10.30 to 12 noon on the Recreation Ground.

The Leaders and Organisers of the group are Stefanie and Richard Smith.

email – kiwi.smith@hotmail.co.uk

or phone – 07798 538580

Stefanie and Richard have also started an Adopt a Street scheme for those who cannot do the regular pick, but periodically do their own local area.

More Details on the Parish Website

whitfieldparishcouncil.org/litter-picking-group/



Residents Wildlife Group (Whitfield)

A group of local residents dedicated to providing at least 10% of their own outdoor space to encourage wildlife.

The Group wishes to make the best of the outdoor spaces we all have regardless of their size, so that Whitfield is a wildlife friendly village.

Whether you have a back garden, a front garden or a window box, the Group aim is to help, encourage and inspire others.

The organisers of the Group are Stefanie and Richard Smith , Contact them on:-

email – rwg.whitfield@gmail.com

or phone – 07798 538580

The Group is active through a FaceBook Group, where latest news and ideas are shared and discussions are held.

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Your KCC Councillor for Dover West



David Beaney is our newly elected KCC Councillor. We hope that he will be able to give regular updates on various issues and the work he is doing that affect Whitfield and the wider community at the monthly Parish Meetings.

Our thanks go to our previous KCC Councillor, Geoff Lymer, for all his hard work and effort on a range of local issues, on behalf of Whitfield and we all wish him well in the future.

Children's Play Areas and Gym Equipment All Open

All these areas are currently open in line with the latest Government Guidelines for COVID-19, the Parish Council Risk Assessments and Safety requirements.

Please use the facilities responsibly, give consideration to other users, and follow the advice on the signs.

The Parish Council does not have the Staff or Resources to regularly clean the equipment, so it is very much a case of users taking their own COVID-19 precautions and bringing a pack of anti-viral disinfecting wipes and bottle of hand sanitising gel with them.

Parents and Carers are responsible for the Health and Safety of Children in their care and use of playground equipment is at their own risk

The waste bins in and around the play areas are regularly emptied. Inspections and Safety checks are carried out by our Grounds Staff.



**Kent
Police**

New PCSO for Whitfield

A New PCSO, Tyler Harris, has recently been appointed for the Whitfield area, and is in contact with the Parish Clerk.

Tyler is keen to carry on the good work of our previous PCSOs and is rapidly learning about the problems and issues in the Parish.

As always, our PCSO is not always on duty, so problems can be reported by Email: csu.dover@kent.pnn.police.uk

Police non-emergency number: 101 (asking for the Whitfield PCSO). If not currently on duty, a message may be left.

In an emergency, always call 999

Public Space Protection Order for Dogs on the Recreation Ground

In response to the ongoing problem with dog fouling and uncontrolled dogs on the Recreation Ground, the Parish Council have considered all options for extending the Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO).

At the January Parish meeting it was decided to request that Dover District Council amend the existing PSPO to impose that all dogs must be kept on a lead when on the Recreation Ground and that the existing exclusion of dogs from enclosed play areas shall continue.

This request has been sent to Dover District Council, who will include it in their consultation on the renewal of the PSPO throughout the District.

The Public will be given the opportunity to send in comments of support or objection during the consultation period. Dover District Council will make the final decision on the provisions of the PSPO, which is due to be renewed in July 2021.

To cater for dog owners who wish to let their dogs run off the lead, the Parish Council have allocated funding to erect a Dog Exercise area on the Recreation Ground.

This area will be similar in size and design as the one at Radnor Park in Folkestone, approximately 100m x 15m enclosed by a 1.2m high fence with gates at both ends, with dispenser and dog bin.

This was a particularly difficult decision as we recognise that most users are responsible and do clean up after their pets, but the Council do have to comply with the requirements of the legal obligations under the Environmental Protection Act, Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act, etc while providing an area for the off-lead exercise of dogs for the owners' obligations under the Animal Welfare Act.

Whitfield Juniors FC



Although Government Guidelines have prohibited training and matches at times, the Parish Council have worked closely with the WJFC Organisers to ensure that the club have been able to safely use our facilities whenever permitted.

They are currently able to carry out most of their activities, although use of the indoor facilities and changing rooms are still subject to some restrictions.

The club is very well run and all the members are a credit to Whitfield. We recommend that you go along to see them in action and maybe enrol your little ones into one of the teams.

We wish them every success next season

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Changing room refurbishment

Following on from the Garage extension to increase storage space, the Parish Council have refurbished the changing rooms to FA Grass Roots Standards to enable their continued use by anyone wishing to hire them. The old showers have been removed as their lack of regular use raised an unacceptably high risk to health of Legionella bacteria contamination of the water system.

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Vandalism on The Recreation Ground

Following reports of the footballers having to clear up glass from a broken vodka bottle and other litter outside the changing rooms on 15 April, CCTV had recorded the group of 8 teenagers on the previous night at 11 o'clock responsible for this. A crime report was made. CCTV has been forwarded to the Police for consideration of taking further action on this dangerous and anti social behaviour.

Round Up of Parish Council Activity

The Parish Council initiated contingency arrangements for the duration of the current Coronavirus pandemic.

The Parish Council will resume face to face meetings as remote meetings are no longer permitted. Meetings will only be held if a Safety Risk Assessment shows that all Government Guidelines can be safely put in place. It may be necessary to re-locate to larger venues.

Parish Council Staff continue to work, in accordance with all Government Guidelines, to ensure statutory obligations are met and have continued to carry out regular Health and Safety checks and Maintenance of the Recreation Ground and its buildings.

We are grateful to all the Staff for their hard work and effort over the past Year.

The 2021/22 Precept was set at £56.52 for a Band D property, which represents a 1.5% reduction.

The Annual RoSPA safety inspection of the play equipment was carried out with appropriate renovation being carried out.

A collapsed drain by the Pavilion entrance has been repaired and the opportunity was taken to improve the levels and slope of the concrete pathway.

The grass-cutting contract has been extended to include regular trimming of the hedge by properties on Greenfields.

The Events Committee are making plans for possibly resuming the popular Children's events later on this year if circumstances permit.

The Council have received regular reports from our District and County Councillors and we have been working with them on issues including; litter clearance along main roads; rubbish collection; planning applications; traffic and highways; community safety; etc.

Our thanks to DDC Councillors, Jim and Nigel for their continued support.