



Shadoxhurst Parish Council

Protecting the Woodland Gateway to the Countryside

WORKING FOR THE COMMUNITY OF SHADOXHURST

Shadoxhurst Newsletter JUNE 2018

STAY IN TOUCH

Summer Edition

Welcome to our bright Summer edition. A very warm welcome to those that have moved into the village in the last few months, we hope you really enjoy living in Shadoxhurst.

Another packed Newsletter. The closing date for information and inclusions for the August edition is **the 25th July**. If you would like something included, please email it to David at amberherne@btinternet.com

Yet More Houses?

You may well be aware by now that a Planning Application was lodged for **60 more houses** at land to north of Five Bars on Tally Ho Road. The deadline to make comments is extended to the 19th July. The application is **18/00483/AS**.

The developers aim to build these 60 houses in the field adjacent to the land behind Delcroft, which itself has a Planning Application for 14 houses. The Delcroft development will be clearly visible to everyone entering the village on Tally Ho Road as it is right behind Lonefield, Woodchurch Road, Eastwell Close and Park Farm Close. It will affect everyone facing this field.

To enable yet another junction, and close to Eastwell Close, the bungalow will be demolished. The application is **18/00572/AS** and the deadline for comments is extended to 12th July.

The Parish Council is formally objecting to both proposals, as together these developments, totalling **74 houses** will join Shadoxhurst to Chilmington Green and suburban Ashford. This is a watershed for the village, we have never before had such a threat from being turned from a quiet village into a suburb.

Many residents affected have already submitted objections. Given that it affects us all, you may well choose to do so too. Don't be afraid to write more than once if additional things need to be said.

We know that if granted, more houses will follow on the next field. Your opinion matters. The Parish Council has one voice, but we need help. We urge you to have your say. Please write and lobby ABC.

We believe that the application for 21 houses at Farley Close will be going for decision at the Planning Committee on the 20th June.

Also, there is a new application with ABC for 7 more houses behind 107 Tally Ho Road. In total this is potentially **102 more houses** when we only have 508 in the whole village now. No wonder people are unhappy. The cumulative effects of these different applications is not being considered.

We are deeply concerned about this reckless approach to housing development in the village as well as the loss of valuable green spaces.

There have been two well attended community led public meetings about the threats of development, with a lot of

worried residents. The first meeting was hosted by the Forum and 'Rural Means Rural'. Page 3 features the most recent meeting in the Hall.

We face the largest ever growth in the village and will do all we can to support resident led activity such as this and we urge you to do the same.

New Community Exercise Equipment



We recently had some new equipment fitted at the Recreation Ground and although not a good photo, Members of the Tuesday Coffee Club were very keen to try it out. Quite a lot of people have already been using it, so it is already proving to be a success.

It is picnic season, and we do ask for visitors to the 'Rec' to take their litter home if you can. Our bins are a bit poor and ABC promised us new litter bins and we still await delivery. In the meantime please use the bins. Dog walkers can we ask you to clean up after your dog fouls please? We are seeing more dog mess being left. This is unfair to the other users, particularly footballers and the little ones that play as they can't spot the danger.

Village Fete September 2018 Please Help

Once again, we are asking for some support. The Fete Committee are not looking for people to come to the interim organising meetings, simply to give a hand on the Saturday or Sunday, hopefully both.

Help is needed to erect the marquees, serving food and drink, directing parking, running games as well as clearing down after. We aim to provide cover for all activities without it becoming onerous for people, giving all helpers time to enjoy the Fete. We also need people to bake cakes.

The Shadoxhurst Art and Photography Competition will again take place and all entries will be displayed and judged at the Fete, please look out for the fliers. So it is time to get creating, the theme is 'Shadoxhurst'. Entries to Carol at 7 Park Farm Close by 22nd September 2018.

So if you have a few hours available on the 29th (Saturday for set-up) and/or the 30th (event itself) and would like to help please get in touch and let me know.

Peter PeterLisWebb@Hotmail.com

Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) Update

At the recent Village Forum, I presented some Police statistics for crime in the Shadoxhurst Village area. The full details are now found on the Village Website; however, the annual totals are as follows:

2014 - 17
2015 - 41
2016 - 43
2017 - 57
2018 - 14 (3 months)

Observations

Criminal activity is (thankfully) low. There is a spread of crime by type which is broken down on the web page.

Violent crime appears, but I suspect it may be domestic as there is little anecdotal evidence to support activity in the neighbourhood. Additionally, few cases ever progress to a prosecution.

Hot Topics

Scams – there continue to be a number of approaches being made from people attempting to gain bank account information by offering refunds advising monies are due – these may purport to be from banks or other entities e.g. the DVLA. Protect yourself and do not respond to such requests – remember if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.

With the summer finally starting to appear be mindful of your possessions and property – it may be hot but don't leave your property with windows or doors open and if using tools and equipment in the garden remember to lock them away again overnight or when finished. Be particularly mindful of what can be seen from the road or where there is access to the rear of your property – don't advertise a "tempting" item.

For those with access to the internet, regular updates and current items are published on both Nextdoor https://nextdoor.co.uk/neighborhood_feed/ and the village Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1721139798106705/>. Additionally, a dedicated page is now on the Parish Council website which will include current and past reports, so check <http://www.shadoxhurstpc.kentparishes.gov.uk/parish/neighborhood-watch/> which features the full report.

**Peter Webb Neighbourhood Watch
Co-ordinator Shadoxhurst**

Broadband and Phone Signals "SWAT" Initiative

Introduction Long overdue for action and prompted by the outrageous claims made by Greedvolt in its Planning Application for Tally Ho road, I have initiated **Shadoxhurst Wants Action on Telecoms (SWAT)**.

A limited survey covering most areas of the village has already collected key data on actual Broadband and Mobile Telephone experience; *it isn't good folks*, as most of you already know. Preliminary data has also been collected from service providers and independent

network coverage checkers to give their picture of expected and actual performance.

Many of you may not be aware that, since 23rd May, the Advertising Standards Authority has introduced a new standard for broadband speeds in ads, moving away from the meaningless "up to speeds". Consumers are encouraged to use the available speed checkers and complain to their ISP if service falls below par.

Where do we stand on Shadoxhurst Broadband? Fibre cables and 4 new fibre-enabled cabinets are now with us; connection updating work is ongoing.

Few existing residents will have seen, or will see, change without intervention; average download speeds across the community are currently from below 1 to 5 Mbps and the peak is currently around 9 Mbps for a few. The new estates currently under construction will get fibre to the door.

Why is this? Almost all connections are old-style copper wire from cabinet to residence. Even where a user has a contract for fibre, the fibre part is exchange-to-cabinet; the length of the final old wire dictates the level of signal received. On average, fibre+copper in our village could be expected to give up to 12 Mbps, rarely more.

What can we expect? Moving from "basic broadband" to a form of "fibre" contract should generate improvements, within the limitations above. BT, who owns and runs the infrastructure isn't going to run fibre to each property for free (as we understand it).

What do we plan? Assuming there is support from Parish council, Village Forum and residents, we will open dialogue with BT and KCC Broadband Team to look at several technical and commercial solutions.

Wireless Signals for BB & Mobile telephones. Coverage across all suppliers is generally poor with many streets getting "outdoors-only" coverage; 2G signals are best, with 4G almost non-existent. Finding focal points for contact will take some time. As with the Broadband we need to get support to find and implement technical & commercial solutions.

And finally, does anyone have a **Smart-Meter** that does what it says on the box? As they rely on the existing mobile phone network some can't get a signal, i.e. most in Shadoxhurst? **Peter Finnis**

Fish and Chip Van

Shelley and Paul have been coming to Shadoxhurst for **25 years** and serve **Fish and Chips** to five villages each week and have a very good reputation for great food. They park their van at the Village Hall from 4.45-6.15 every Friday.

Shelley, who lives in Sellenge, said "We thoroughly enjoy coming to Shadoxhurst, our customers are wonderful and it's so lovely to hear them all chatting and laughing week after week and sharing some wonderful stories! We'd like to thank everyone for their continued support".

They also provided the fish and chip supper for our very popular Murder Mystery Night in April. On behalf of the village, thank you both for the service you have given to us in Shadoxhurst for the last 25 years.

Shadoxhurst Methodist Chapel

Saturday 7th July 10am-4pm
'Anniversary Open Day'

In celebration of the **150th Anniversary** of our current building we are holding an open day with a display of information, photos and articles reflecting the life of the church over the years.

Free drinks and cakes will be available all day and we would be delighted to see both old friends and new faces. The Parish Church, just over the road from us, will also be open for visitors on this day. We would also be delighted if any visitors wish to join us for our special anniversary service on Sunday 8th at 10.30am.

If anyone has anything we could use for our display please contact Lisa cooperplace@btinternet.com (01233 732178) or contact Phyllis faggphyllis@gmail.com (01233 638820)

Do you want to live in a village or a suburb of Ashford?

This is the question posed by two Village Residents Ian and Carol at a public meeting they convened. Organised in just a few days in response to the Tally Ho Road 60 house proposal, over 100 people attended and there was strong feeling about the threats from all the additional housing for Shadoxhurst.



Advice about what and to whom to write was given. Ian said "The threat from these developments affects everybody as together they are a significant step toward the end of Shadoxhurst as a village. I have invited Damian green MP to attend a public meeting in our Village Hall, please look out for information on this and other activities".

A Memorial to those that served and died in the First World War

Do You Remember?

This year marks the centenary of the end of WW1. A group of us have got together because we would like to honour those who came from Shadoxhurst who fought in the Great War 1914 - 1918.

The War Memorials Trust lists these people as **George Henry Bingham, William Thomas Bingham, Percy Herbert Hare, Sydney Charles Hart, Arthur Percy Lusted and James Robert Wallace.**

We are currently researching the accuracy of this document. In the meantime, if you have any information, or if you can tell us how we can contact any descendants of the fallen, please phone Carol on 732084 or email on carolprocter@hotmail.co.uk Thank you for your help.

Club Contacts

1st Shadoxhurst Scouts, Cubs and Beavers ring Simon 07704 789155
African Drumming ring Lesley 733387
Ark Drama 2000 ring Lis 732901
Courtside FC ring Vanessa 07526 431687 for details.
Flower Club ring Gaye 732212
History Club ring Carol 732084
Line Dancing ring Kate 733015
Pilates ring Alex 861456
Poetry and Expression ring Ian 732084
Sewing and Craft Club ring Sheila 733540
Weekend Walking ring Jim 07788 245022
WI ring Mandy Spencer 501774
Wine and Home Brew Club ring Colin 732784

Ashford Courtside Football Club

The U11's had a good season in the league and with a 4-0 win, won the U11 Cup Final. Well done to them all.

The U12's also had a good season and got to their Cup Final, as well, sadly losing, but a great achievement to play in the Final.

The U14's (see photo below) played a consistently high standard all season and missed the league title by just two points.



A Great New Opportunity for 5 year old's as the Club has a free taster session on the **30th June 9.00-10.00 am** at the Bill Hollands' Recreation Ground with a qualified FA Coach. Ring Dave on 07860 954934 for details.

The Club is always needing new players of all ages. For all club information please ring Vanessa on **07526 431687** or email her on grimmond105@gmail.com

Parish Council News

The Parish Council meetings are on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at the **new start time of 7.00 pm**.

If you need to contact the Parish Council, please do so by contacting: Judith Batt on 733994 or email judith.batt@btinternet.com

Our Bus Service

Although both the Parish Council and The Village Forum have written formally to object to the reduction of our 2a bus service, Stagecoach have not replied and continued to down grade the weekday service to a two hourly one as of 3rd June. This is very disappointing and has serious consequences for those Villagers that rely on the hourly service.

For details and times ring Customer Services on 0345 6002299 or visit <https://www.stagecoachbus.com/timetables/>

History Club recently had a tour of the Church, see photo below. Our thanks go to Helen for all the information and help. Contact Carol on 732084 for details of the forthcoming meetings.



Future Scholars Nursery is available Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays in term time in the Village Hall. Ring the Nursery on 07821 143249 or Sarah on 07921 969998 for details.

The Flower Arrangers meet first Wednesday of the month in the Village Hall ring Gaye 732212.

Village Forum News

With the impending housing developments, it's encouraging that so many people supported the latest 'call to arms' at short notice. Ian and Carol Procter (732084) continue to spearhead this initiative and I am sure would be delighted to hear from you, if you have not already been in touch.

For the broader campaign, we continue to support the Rural Means Rural campaign and now have Shadoxhurst residents on the main committee. Letters to our MP are always welcomed by his office so continue to write, letting him know how concerned we are.

Socially, we continue to offer all residents, young and old, the opportunity to come along on Tuesdays 2-4 for a coffee/tea and cake, and a good old-fashioned natter, so don't stay indoors now the weather is good, and contact Cheryl on 421746 or David on 733540 if you need a lift to the afternoon.

Val and Colin will soon be providing their wonderful Strawberry Tea later in June, so drop in and see us. If you come along, perhaps you can give us some other ideas of how to be a more inclusive

community for all ages, all suggestions welcomed.

We hope to have another Quiz Night this year, building on the huge success of our first one, date to be advised. What we would really appreciate is more of our residents coming forward with some ideas for social events and/or fundraising.

Finally, the Forum Annual General Meeting on Saturday 12 May in the Pavilion was very helpful in making decisions as to what the Forum should be, going forward (particularly important for the financial oversight), and it was decided overwhelmingly that it will remain affiliated to the Parish Council.

To that end your Forum Chairman and Chairman of the PC have drafted the Terms of Reference which will be available for brief discussion at our next Forum meeting on **Thursday 21 June 2018 at 7.00 p.m. (Pavilion)**. I hope to see you all there. **Cheryl Vander**

Shadoxhurst.forum@gmail.com

The Final Word... Drains!!

Our sewerage system in the village is not the best and there are weak spots prone to blocking. There is UK evidence that the use of toilet tissue wipes is increasing and some labels do say that they are flushable, but they don't biodegrade (many contain plastic) and importantly they contribute significantly to sewer blockages. So can we ask that you put the wipes you use in the bin and not flush them down the toilet please?

Dates for your Diary

Every Tuesday Chatterbox Coffee Club 2 – 4pm in the Pavilion
Every last Sunday of the month at 7.00pm Charity Quiz in the King's Head

June: 13th Parish Council Meeting **7.00 pm** in the Pavilion
 14th History Club 10.30 am in the Pavilion
 14th Sewing Club 7.00 pm in the Pavilion (then fortnightly)
 21st History Club 10.30 in the Pavilion
 21st Village Forum 7.00 pm in the Pavilion

July: 7th Methodist Chapel's 150th Anniversary 10.00 am to 4.00 pm
 11th Parish Council Meeting **7.00 pm** in the Pavilion
 12th History Club 10.30 in the Pavilion

September: 30th Village Fete