The Borden Broadside

Vol 16 - Spring 2025

Dear All

Welcome to the latest issue of The Borden Broadside,

As you can see, there's lots of events coming up over the next few months, and the Parish Council have been working hard across a range of issues.

There is still a vacancy on the Council, so please contact the clerk if you are interested.

Yours Truly
Cllr Mike Baldock
Editor

Tackling loneliness and social isolation.

Loneliness and social isolation are serious issues that affect many people of all ages and backgrounds, in both rural and urban environments.

That is why I have started a new project to support people facing these issues, starting with a website that advertises events across the west of Swale - but which provides contact details so that people can get in touch beforehand and be assured of a welcome and introductions to people.

There are many events that happen every week across our villages and communities and sometimes it only takes a bit of reassurance to help more people get involved and enjoy them.

Future projects will include trying to set up chat-benches where people who are happy to have a chat can sit and engage with other people who feel the same way.

If you would like to advertise an event please contact me on cllrmikebaldock@yahoo.co.uk

www.swalewestcommunityhub.org.uk

Borden Parish Council

Remembering 80 Years since VE Day

Thursday 8th May 2025

Service of Thanksgiving at the Church 7pm

Main Event @ The Playstool 8pm until 10pm

- Great British Fish and Chips available
- Music from the period
- Music By the Minstrel's
- Beacon Lighting by the Mayor of SBC
- Military Veteran Standard Bearers

CONTACT DETAILS

Editor - Cllr Mike Baldock
cllrmikebaldock@yahoo.co.uk

Borden Parish Clerk -
clerk@bordenparishcouncil.gov.uk

Borden Parish Hall – https://bordenparishhall.com/, General enquiries bookings andinfo@bordenparishhall.com,

Borden United Charities is a local charity that can make grants for people in need of a bit of help or for educational purposes etc. Please contact the clerk Lynda Fisher at bordenunitedcharities@virginmedia.com Tel: 01795477015

Potholes, Damaged Signs, Blocked Drains, Overgrown Verges - any highway faults can be reported on 03000 418181, or you can report and track them online using the KCC Fault reporter at http://www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/report-a-problem

Borden Parish Council -
Third Thursday of each month - 7:00 pm - Borden Sports Pavilion or visit our website www.bordenparishcouncil.gov.uk/.

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Trees and Hedges.

A reminder that we have now that time of year when birds are beginning to nest and disturbing or harming them can result in a costly prosecution

There should be no further hedge trimming on farmland and areas adjoining farmland until late September, and great care should be taken in domestic gardens to ensure that no birds nests are disturbed.

The Parish Council has completed all its planned work on trees and hedges until the Autumn, and unfortunately had to take on more removal of unsound trees and ivy affecting their and visitors safety than we had foreseen.

More damage and decay is happening as our trees age and the weather becomes windier and wetter. We have allowed a few areas to develop new growth, planted some young saplings and a couple of ceremonial trees in the hope that this will help mitigate the loss and hope that everyone can enjoy the nature they support.

Fashion Show

New or Nearly New Clothes, Shoes and Accessories
Various Sizes to Purchase at unbeatable prices
Cash or cards accepted
All proceeds go to the
Stroke association

Saturday 5th April 2025
Borden Parish Hall, School Lane
Borden, ME9 8 JS
Parking and Disabled Access Available
Doors Open 7pm for a 7:30pm start
Raffle and Refreshments
Tickets £2 available from 07 456 465 903

240 people wake up to the catastrophic impact of a stroke every day. Please attend this event to help more stroke survivors and their families find strength through support.

Dawn Chorus Day

Why not join us for a walk round the Nature Reserve this Dawn Chorus Day on Sunday May 4th.

The Borden Wildlife Group meet at 4:45am by the Cryalls Lane gate into the Nature Reserve and have a wander round listening to the early dawn chorus before retiring to The Forge for breakfast.

When using rural roads without a pavement always walk on the right-hand side of the road - FACING ONCOMING TRAFFIC!

PLAYSTOOL NEW TOILET BUILDING

The brand new Playstool public convenience is now open and in full operation. As promised the Parish Council has responded to public requests as the old portaloo became redundant through age and constant use. It had been in place for many years and had become tired and difficult to maintain.

A number of surveys as well as social media posts were carried out involving parishioners and people using the park whom without exception stated they wished a toilet to remain.

The park is used by a large number of people including families using the children's park, adults using the exercise equipment, dog walkers, walking groups and simply those seeking solace in the Centenary Garden.

A small committee was formed to complete the project of Cllrs Jeremy Bolas, Nicola Butlin, James Tumber, Clive Sims, local resident Nigel Sands and former councillor Julie Evans.

Cllr Clive Sims, the committee chair said, "So many public conveniences have been closed which is not what the general public want or need. We listened to our parishioners and those using the park and all asked for a facility to remain."

The new toilet is a multi-sex convenience with disabled access and baby change. It also has heating with hand washing and drying facilties.

It is connected to the main drainage. This negates the need for a company to repeatedly attend to empty the tank which posed regular problems with the old toilet in wet and cold weather when the lorry would get bogged down on the grass or the toilet would freeze.

CCTV has been put in place that covers the toilet and is monitored 24/7 by Swale Borough Council control room. Any persons committing anti-social behaviour are recorded with the local Police being informed immediately.

The building also has a time locked door so is only accessible during daylight hours in an obvious attempt to prevent anti-social behaviour.

The whole project of the toilet block and full CCTV has been solely financed through grants obtained from the Government Community Ownership Fund, Swale Borough Council and Section 106 monies through a local development. No money from Borden Parish Council funds was used in the build of this project. It was a condition of the grants that they could only be used to build the new toilet and CCTV installation. If this was not the case the money would have needed to have been returned

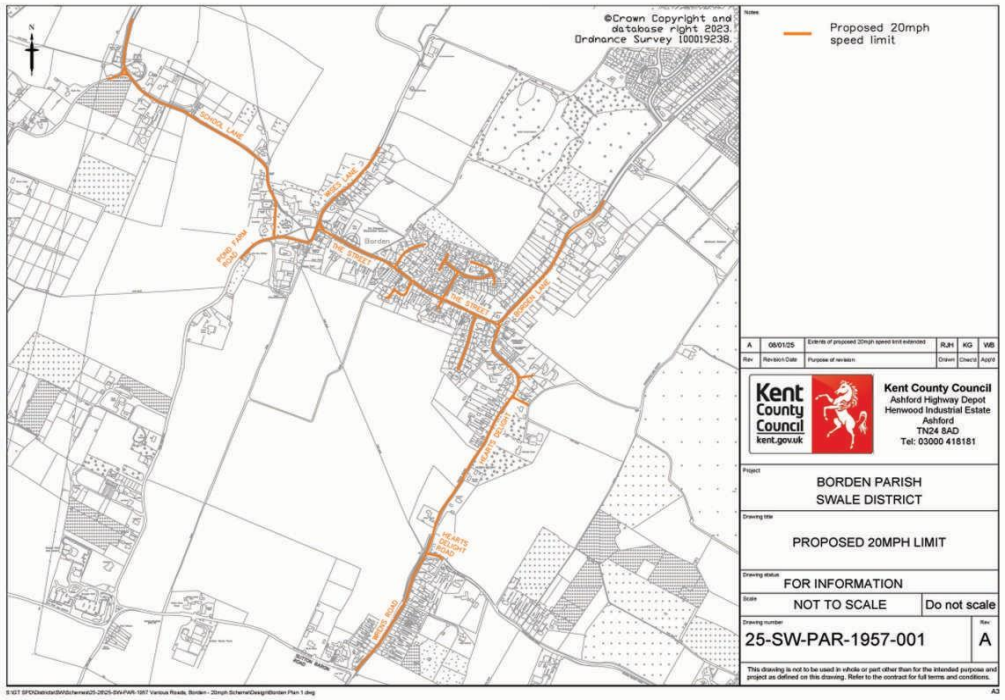
Cllr Sims continued, "This project has taken a great deal of time and effort to complete. I sincerely hope that this excellent new facility is treated with respect as so many people depend on the simple availability of such a facility".

Highways Update.

Following many concerns raised about speeding in Borden, several speed surveys and a survey of parishioners, we are making slow but steady progress towards a 20mph limit in the centre of the main village and surrounding lanes, a 40 mph limit in Danaway and a 40mph limit from j5, towards Whipstakes hill and on towards Oad street. The last one follows complaints raised about the poor sight lines near where Maidstone road joins Oad street, the sudden change between 60mph near Applegate farm and the 30 mph limit in Oad Street hamlet, and the increased volume of fast traffic now that J5 is fully open.

Each area requires speed surveys, consultation, a Traffic regulation order (TRO), a design plan and installation by KCC who will only contribute towards the cost of the TRO's. Once across the M2 bridge, things are further complicated because that part of Oad street is in Stockbury parish and within Maidstone Borough Councils area.

KCC have recently sent a questionnaire to all interested parties about the proposed 20 mph area so hopefully the TRO for Borden and the surrounding lanes will be done very soon. This should lead to a safer, quieter village for pedestrians, children walking to school and near the Playstool, cyclists, equestrians and drivers and we hope that you are able to support the changes.



Borden Parish Council are excited to share that they have secured £15,000 of National Lottery funding for a new inclusive roundabout at the Playstool Play Park

Borden Parish Council is thrilled to announce it has been awarded £15,000 in National Lottery funding to install a new, inclusive roundabout at their Playstool Play Park.

The funding provided by The National Lottery Community Fund, which distributes money raised by the National Lottery players for good causes and is the largest community funder in the UK, alongside the £1,716.00 KCC Members Grant from Cllr Baldock, will replace the existing roundabout, currently no longer functioning properly, with a modern, accessible play feature that welcomes children of all abilities.

The Parish Council are delighted that the National Lottery Community Fund has recognised the need to support the enhancement of their play park. This is a fantastic opportunity to enhance the park and ensure it remains a safe and inclusive space for children, regardless of ability, to enjoy an exciting, fun experience in the park.

The National Lottery Community Fund recently launched its strategy, 'It starts with community', which will underpin its efforts to distribute at least £4 billion of National Lottery funding by 2030.
As part of this, the funder has four key missions, which are to support communities to come together, be environmentally sustainable, help children and young people thrive and enable people to live healthier lives.
National Lottery players raise over £30 million a week for good causes across the UK. Thanks to them, last year (2023/24) The National Lottery Community Fund awarded over half a billion pounds (£686.3 million) of life-changing funding to communities across the UK, supporting over 13,700 projects to turn their great ideas into reality.
To find out more visit www.TNLCommunityFund.org.uk

The Parish Council approached Borden Primary school and it was their 'School Council' that has chosen the actual design. The school council is made up of a number of the children representing various classes within the school itself, and they chose the 'Accessible Whirl' roundabout!

Borden Parish Council