Kennington Community Forum Newsletter AUTUMN 2008

Message from the Chair

I am pleased to begin this brief report with two items of positive news:
In response to Cllr. Tweed's continuous lobbying, the KCC Local Board, at its meeting in Kennington in mid September, allocated £6000 towards the cost of providing a pedestrian crossing on the Faversham Road outside the Towers School. Similarly, in response to the efforts of Mr. Chris Morley and others, £2000 was awarded to allow work to start on the renovation of the War Memorial Garden and Shelter at the junction of Upper Vicarage Road and Ulley Road.
We are grateful for everyone's efforts, but recognise we have the task of finding other sources of funding to complete the work and this only emphasises our need to find a new Treasurer to monitor our progress.

Another hopeful sign relates to the proposed site for a new primary school at Goat Lees. The embargo until the redevelopment of Grosvenor Hall has been lifted and consultation is to go ahead.

Although Ashford Borough Council recently has been relatively dormant on the question of Parishing. New Governmental guidance aimed at simplifying the process may provide an opportunity for consultation with other Ashford Forums.

Summer seems to have passed us and each day brings plenty to do in gardens before the main leaf fall. I wish you a quiet Autumn and a peaceful Happy Christmas.

Pat Boorman

STOP PRESS

Kennington Sub Post Office:
In a statement Post Office Ltd state that the office had to close temporarily due to the resignation of the sub Postmaster. "This provision in the local community is important to us and we will continue to work hard to restore a facility as soon as possible." Applications for the post should be made to Agency Recruitment, Freepost NWW 1675A, Salford, Manchester M59JB.

St Mary's Church, Kennington:
Rev. Yvonne Murphy has announced "It is with some sadness that I have decided to move from Kennington next year. I feel that after five years the time is right for me to move on, however painful that decision may be."

Influenza Vacination

It is that time of year again when we encourage certain groups of people to have an influenza vaccination, namely –

* those aged over 65,
* at any age with – chronic respiratory, heart, kidney or liver disease, diabetes on tablet or insulin treatment,
* taking drugs to suppress the immune system
* the main carer for an elderly or disabled person where their welfare is at risk if the carer is poorly.

Influenza hasn't gone away and we do see plenty of cases each year of this preventable illness and some very ill patients with it. We would encourage anybody in the above groups to make an appointment for an influenza jab: we are ready and waiting for you!

Dr. J. F. Sharp

New Hayesbank Surgery, Bybrook, Kennington, Ashford, Kent TN24 9JZ

LETTER FROM KCC COUNCILLOR ELIZABETH TWEED

Now that Kent Highways have new offices, depot and salt store in Ashford, they are keen to improve their services. You can help by making sure that if you have something to report, you telephone Kent Highways Contact Centre on 08458 247 800. You can also e-mail them at www.kent.gov.uk/highways. These calls will be logged and a reference number issued. This will help everyone involved to keep track of what is happening to resolve the problem. Kent Highway Services deals with most of the roads in Kent. However, the motorways and trunk roads, such as the A2070, are managed by the Highways Agency, who you can contact on 08457 50 40 30. I will give these contact details again later.

If you follow this procedure but you still feel you are not satisfied with your reply, please contact me, your local KCC Member, and give me the reference number you were given by the KHS Contact Centre and I will follow it up on your behalf. Things are starting to improve, and this system should make the resolution of problems more efficient.

Many of you are aware that Bockhanger Square needs a facelift and I thought I would talk to your PCSO's and the Manager of the team of Rapid Response Community Wardens based in the Library to see if they had some ideas to solve some of the problems we have all been aware of. We all agreed that footballs keep ending up on the Library roof and banging against the windows of the Community Centre. They got some designs for a Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) and we also thought it is time the low brick wall, you all know as "the maze" is taken down. Your Chairman helped with grant applications, and youngsters from the Towers School are busy making some bench seating. I am giving half my Member Grant towards the cost of the MUGA and your PCSO's and Warden Team have raised an amazing amount of money including donations from companies and a local resident towards the rest. The total stands at around £12,000 and this is a wonderful example of everyone pulling together to make their local area a nicer place to be. It should not be long before the improvements start.

The children have moved into the new Phoenix Primary School, and they think it's great. It is a bright and cheerful place - a stimulating learning environment with lots of space outside for play. The snagging still has to be completed and then we can look forward to an official opening which will probably be after the winter.

At KCC some of my work involves contributing to the Select Committees on Activities for Young People and also the High Speed Train Link.
We are keen to see that young people are aware of "what's on" for them and also to find out what difficulties they have in accessing the things they would like to do. The High Speed train service starts in December 2009, making the journey time from Ashford to St. Pancras only 37 minutes. The onward connections from St. Pancras will also make travelling north a lot quicker, for example Ashford to York will be just 3 hours! We are, however, keen to see that there will still be realistic options for passengers wishing to use other trains. The results of all these discussions will be contained in reports which will be made available in the next few months.

Useful Telephone Numbers:
Local Member Elizabeth Tweed 01233-714689
Kent Highway Services 08458 247 800
Highways Agency 08457 50 40 30

Kennington Summer Fayre '09.

I see that the shops are already starting to fill up with Christmas goods, so I think it must be time to also think about next year's Summer Fayre.

After an excellent Fayre last year, the Committee were in the happy position of having a £400-00 surplus, for donation to a local good cause. At the last meeting of the '08 Fayre Committee it was unanimously agreed to donate this sum to the Kennington Scouts new building appeal.

On a sadder note we were very sorry to learn that last year's Committee Chairperson - Jeff Longman - could not continue in the role for this year. So there is an opportunity for willing volunteers to contact us and fill both Jeff's place, and also the position of Vice Chairperson. Please do not be put of volunteering, thinking it will be too onerous. The Committee and others involved from the local charities are all very adaptable and willing to share the tasks around. Anyone interested in finding out what the role could involve, can **contact me on 01233 627603**

Philip Sims
Summer Fayre Committee Secretary.

Neighbourhood Watch

In the last edition of our newsletter Paul Brosnan, the Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) Liaison Officer, gave an outline of the purpose and benefits of setting up a NHW group in your locality.

So what is involved if you should decide to set up a new watch and become the coordinator for your street or locality? Hopefully you will do it soon and not wait until crimes are being committed close to your home!

The first step is to talk to your neighbours and decide how many houses you would like your scheme to cover. Paul Brosnan will give you advice & free literature explaining NHW which you can deliver to all these houses with a covering letter to say you would like to set up a watch group and ask them to join you.. Perhaps arrange a meeting if you think this would be a good idea

If the area covered is more than a few houses then consider getting some "Link Coordinators" to help you by being your link to members who live nearest to them

Once you have a record of members that is the hard part done and now you can get Paul to put you on the Police/NHW Ringmaster Messaging System which will automatically send you details of problems in your area either as a recorded voice message or, if you have a computer, via an email. If you can get members to give you their email addresses you can forward these messages on to them, if not then the important messages could be circulated to keep everyone informed.

So that's about it, why not give Paul a ring on **01233 896126** or email paul.brosnan@kent.pnn.police.uk

As this time of year opportunist thieves are waiting to make it a profitable Christmas so don't let it be at your expense.

When you are away and the house is empty, do you leave the curtains open to show how pretty your Christmas tree and lights look? Unfortunately it also shows the burglar the presents that surround the tree so always leave the house looking as if there is someone at home.

When shopping and in a rush it is easy to leave items on view in your parked car and this is what an opportunist is looking for. How long does it take to break a car window and reach in to steal them? Only a matter of seconds.

Bill Clark, NHW Coordinator

Kennington's Memorial Exhibition

Stories behind the names of all those on Kennington War Memorial will be told at an exhibition on Remembrance Sunday (9 November) in St Mary's Church Hall.

Photographs, letters, newspaper reports and eye-witness accounts will recall their lives and the events surrounding their deaths.

Pilot Officer James Allchin of Church Road died on his first bombing mission when his plane ran out of fuel and crashed in the North Sea in November 1941. A week earlier he had been at home celebrating his 21st birthday.

Daisy Mercer, an art teacher and a prominent member of Kennington WI, died alongside many children when a bomb hit the building in which she was teaching.

One of the most tragic deaths was that of 14-year-old John Newington. He was killed a few months after leaving school when German planes attacked Ashford in March 1943 killing 50 and injuring 156. One of his work colleagues, now aged 80, has written a graphic account of the terrible event.

Robin Britcher, of 169 Faversham Road, who researched the names with his wife Jill, said: "There has been an excellent response to our appeal for information. Many people I've spoken to have vivid memories of war-time Kennington and have been able to provide fascination details about the lives of those who died.

"There is only one person we have been unable to trace — E Vickery, who was in the Army. Does anyone remember him?

"We will also be displaying stories and pictures of the 25 men named on the Memorial who died in the First World War. We hope the event will help keep the memory of all of them alive in the community."

The exhibition will be open from 10am-4pm.

ROAD ADOPTIONS

At a public meeting of the Ashford Local Board of Kent County Councillors held at the Towers School on 17th September Mr. Keith Ferrin, Head of Kent Highways Services, spoke and took questions on **Road Adoptions**, a subject of particular interest to residents on the new housing areas of Kennington and neighbouring parishes.

Section 38 of the Highways Act 1980 allows for a developer to enter an Agreement for the roads he builds to be adopted by the Highway Authority (HA) subject to the developer fulfilling a number of obligations.

When the developer submits his Building Regulations application to the District Council for the properties, the HA issues a notice under section 220 of the Act requiring a financial bond to be lodged with the HA until all the conditions of a sec.38 agreement are completed. When a formal agreement is entered into by the developer the APC bond is replaced by a new bond under sec.38. The sec.38 agreement allows the HA to adopt the roads if the developer has:

- Constructed the roads and ancillary work to correct standards.
- Maintained the roads for a set period after their completion.
- Transferred the land to the H.A.
- Obtained easements for the right to drain and maintain the new highway drainage system.
- Completed all remedial works.
- Paid all necessary costs.

There are three stages of completion of the road works and the HA issues a certificate for each one.

The First Certificate is issued when the basic works are finished including facilities for pedestrians to access their new properties. Under the terms of the agreement the developer is not supposed to allow residents to move into their new properties until this stage is reached and certified.

The Second certificate is issued when the roads and ancillary works are complete. At this point the land transfer can be started. The roads become Highway useable by the public at this stage but the developer is still responsible for the roads including all maintenance issues and other problems that arise.

The third certificate is issued at the end of the maintenance period
(nominally 12 months) providing the land transfer and easements are complete and all remedial work and other issues are resolved. At this point the roads that are adopted as public highways maintained at public expense and a notice to this effect will be erected on site.

In course of answering questions Mr. Ferrins, together with two of his engineers, outlined the actions they were taking to deal with a large backlog in Ashford that reflects recent expansion in the housing stock. Between tham they dealt with or took note of specific problems, but the contact number for Kent Highway Services is: 08458 247 800.

COUNCILLOR DETAILS

Charles Findlay– County Councillor
☏ 01233 812342

Elizabeth Tweed – County Councillor
☏ 01233 714689

Norman Ayres – Little Burton Farm
☏ 01233 620767

John F Kemp MBE – Kennington
☏ 01233 624162

Michael Claughton – Bockhanger
☏ 01233 635969

Rita Hawes – Boughton Aluph & Eastwell
☏ 01233 627117

Marion Martin – Bybrook
☏ 01233 628811

To find out more about Kennington Community Forum, please email us at kencf@ashford.gov.uk, visit our page on the Ashford Borough Council Website or pop along to one of our meetings. We meet at 7pm on the last Tuesday of every month (except December) at St Mary's Church Hall, Church Rd, Kennington.