

## **Reports for Full Council Meeting on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December**

### **6) PC Mayers**

From 17<sup>th</sup> November – 16<sup>th</sup> December there have been 40 calls made to Kent Police for the East Peckham area. Of these are the usual broken down vehicles and collisions, as well as nuisance vehicles, burglary, fraud and vehicle damage.

I am happy to report that the last of these two were isolated incidents, with the vehicle damage seemingly a targeted attack. The fraud relates to fake bank notes being used and so I would just like to raise awareness for local businesses to be on the look out where large sums of cash are being used. One of the burglaries seemed to be fairly opportunistic and so as last month I would just encourage everyone to lock away any valuable items out of view as best they can. The other burglary was very, very rural and I have been liaising with the victims of this and giving advice.

The nuisance vehicles are in relation to our friends who gather on the A228 of a Saturday evening. I am liaising with our Roads Policing Inspector to see if an Op can be placed on. There are difficulties with this in that we may pick an evening when they do not show. If anyone has any useful information on this matter please do let me know!

There has been an unconfirmed report of drink spiking at a local premises. As such, I would like to ensure that over the festive period where many beverages will be enjoyed that people are aware of the risks of leaving drinks unattended, make sure to look after each other and I will go and speak to local premises to ensure they are doing everything on their end to ensure this kind of behaviour is discouraged.

As always, if anyone has anything they would like to speak to me about you have my details!

I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a happy new year!

### **Community Warden Diane Wakeling**

As we hurtle towards Christmas, I have been supporting the local groups with their individual Christmas celebrations. I continue to support our local vulnerable residents as and when they need my help. Also, continue to carry out welfare visits to my regular residents. On a personal note I am volunteering at the St Andrews Church Christmas Day lunch in Paddock Wood, this is for the homeless or people that will be on their own this Christmas, I am looking forward to a different Christmas day for myself.

Looking forward to a fresh new year of warden work, if there is anything or anyone you are concerned about please call me on 07813713740.

## **7.2) Correspondence from Residents**

The office has received several emails regarding streetlights and Christmas Lights that are not working. These have all been reported to our contractor who is scheduled to repair / replace where able on Christmas Eve. We have received some lovely feedback on the Christmas Lights around the village, including a couple of requests for more of them to go the end of Pound Road / Hale Street etc.

There has been a request for a Speedwatch group to be set up to monitor the speed of traffic around the village. An article was placed in this month's village magazine and Mark has posted it online. Posters will be on the noticeboards as well, with the emphasis on it being a Community Initiative that is managed by Kent police, not EPPC.

The office also received an email regarding emergency food provision over the Christmas period, following a couple of requests last year. Councillor Seal has since reassured them that there were measures in place should anyone need some support, namely from the Rapid Relief Team.

## **8) Clerk's Report**

It has been a busy month in the lead up to Christmas. The Christmas Lights Switch On was a big success despite the imminent weather approaching. Jackie did a fantastic job preparing behind the scenes and had every potential issue covered.

We have dealt with many reports / complaints regarding some of the streetlights not working, and where it wasn't possible to immediately fix them, our contractor has worked hard to do what they can as soon as they can, even bringing forward their next visit as soon as they had a cancellation.

Due to the recent bad weather several football fixtures and weekday training sessions have been cancelled to protect the pitches as they have become so soft and muddy. Hopefully the weather will improve in the new year and the matches rescheduled.

Paddock Wood Elm Tree pitches have been deemed unplayable due to damage by the mower, so we have been contacted by 2 teams looking for alternative grounds, as ours have a good reputation locally. They have been informed that we do not have regular capacity but would be happy for them to book the pitches on an ad-hoc basis.

A big thank you to David Seal and Aimie Joannes who kindly replanted all the planters around the Pound area and the flower beds outside the Methodist with winter flowers and spring bulbs. We also had another resident kindly volunteer to help with the flower beds.

A new Fire Alarm panel was recently installed at the Jubilee Hall and we have been working with the installation company to ensure we remain compliant with all of the latest legislation.

**13. Updates regarding S106 Application, Land Purchase and BOAT Application (Westwood Road)**

S106 Application – the final costings for the 2 named projects are being completed and then the applications will be submitted in early January 2025.

Land Purchase – as previously notified this was successfully completed on Friday 13th December and an announcement has gone out on Facebook with a very positive reaction received so far from residents.

The Byway Open to All Traffic application we submitted for the land rear of the garages in Westwood Road has been refused but Kent PROW has recommended that a Public Right of Way be officially established, assuming Council wish to accept that recommendation and not appeal against the decision.

**15. KALC Awards 2025**

As per the email previously circulated, please confirm if wish to adopt the scheme. Nominations do not have to be submitted until early February 2025 so no rush for nominations at this point.