

## **A few of Herne and Broomfield Parish Council Achievements and Activities**

Herne and Broomfield Parish Council is the newest and largest in the Canterbury District. It has been active since its inception in 1996. Functions, activities and achievements have included:

### **Environment**

- Bulbs have been planted throughout the Parish by Councillors and other volunteers, including Broomfield Girl Guides. A local farmer donated more bulbs at a later date, which were planted by local residents. A Green Bursary Grant enabled funding of further planting by a contractor.
- We arranged for the City Council to extend their litter rota and increase the number of dog bins, which has improved the environment.
- The Parish council sponsors Poop Scoop bags, which are given out to dog owners in the parish, free of charge.
- The Parish Council is in negotiation to take over a small area of former wasteland, from developers, to create a Wildlife area in the centre of Herne.
- A Community park has been created from the old Broomfield land-fill site, in Ford Road, with hundreds of trees and a wildflower meadow being planted.
- The Parish council arranged for a public presentation The Kent Energy Centre presentation was organised by the Parish Council.

### **Highways**

- The Parish Council installed a parking area at Lower Herne, an area of older homes with no garages or frontages to park cars. Residents were parking on the green which was unsightly and was being churned up. The Green was later planted with new trees and bulbs.
- We work with Kent Highways to highlight areas that need parking restrictions like yellow lines and speed limits.
- Some footpaths are cleared by the Parish Council to enhance the Kent County Council's contractors work, particularly near the schools and playing field.
- Wooden posts have been installed by the Parish Council to protect several green areas from damage by vehicles.
- The Parish Council arranged for the seat and footway to be re-instated by the bus shelter at Herne Common, outside the former Herne Hospital 'Canterbury Fields' development.
- With the help of grant aid the Parish Council has provided a bus shelter in Canterbury Road, near Strode Park. The maintenance of this shelter has since being handed over to the district council.
- Extra salt bins have been provided by the Parish Council, for icy conditions.
- The Parish Council liaised between the water company's contractors and Kent Highways to have a new footpath installed in Mill Lane.
- Bike racks have been installed in School Lane Car Park in Herne and at Herne Mill, at the request of the Parish Council.
- The Parish Council working in partnership with Kent Highways has successfully achieved traffic calming in Herne.
- The parish clerk regularly reports potholes and road damage, street lights that are faulty and problems with street signs. Water leaks are also regularly reported and she deals with issues on public right of way. Councillors also pass on information.

### **Information**

- Six notice boards, sited throughout the Parish, have been provided to keep residents up to date with what is happening in the Parish and surrounding area.
- A Parish web site has been set up, which includes Council Minutes and forthcoming meetings, community events as well as contacts for local organisations and clubs.
- The parish office is open every day from 9am to 2pm and the clerk is contactable via the phone (answer phone out of hours), by email and via the website.
- Parish Meetings are arranged each year. The Parish Council chairman gives his or her annual report and local organisations report on their activities through the year. Speakers have also included: Highways department, Police, Neighbourhood Watch, Strode Park Foundation for the Disabled and Kent Wildlife Trust.

### **Partnership**

- A Parish office, meeting room and toilets were built at Herne Mill in the centre of the Parish, in partnership with the Kent County Council (KCC) and Friends of Herne Mill.
- Floodlighting was installed for the Millennium on Herne Mill, with the aid of a grant applied for by the Parish Council who also pays for the electricity for it to be lit at weekends and on special occasions like the Queen's Golden Jubilee celebrations.
- The Parish Council arranged for the war memorial in St Martin's Churchyard to be cleaned and renovated as part of the Millennium celebrations.
- With the permission of St Martin's Parochial Church Council, the Parish Council cleared and re-planted a small garden adjacent to Herne Church Institute Hall and helped to get a safety barrier erected to prevent young children running into the road when coming out of the hall.
- The Parish Council helped persuade the District Council to repair, strengthen and re-open the only public toilets in the Parish.
- We organised a picnic and walk in Curtis Wood Nature Reserve guided by the City Councils Countryside Manager.

### **Improving Facilities**

- The Parish Council signed a fifty year lease with Kent County Council to create a new community park and BMX track on a former land fill site at Broomfield. The BMX track was opened by TV weather presenter Kaddy Lee Preston on 25 May 2008. The whole project has been funded by soil deposit fees and grants.
- Fitness equipment for all ages has been installed in Cherry Orchard Playing Field.
- The parish council in conjunction with CCC set up the Youth Club
- The parish council helped both Local History Group and the Over 50's Club to get started by providing a grant to cover their start up costs
- The latest project under way is to provide allotments in Broomfield and an Allotment Association has recently been formed, with the aid of the council.

### **Parish Events**

- Garden Safaris are organised annually in June, with between thirteen and nineteen resident's gardens being opened. Proceeds are shared with a local or national charity. A social event or barbeque is arranged afterwards to thank all the people who open their gardens.
- Fundraising events have been organised to raise funds for the Multi-Use Games Area and Youth Shelter including Wine & Wisdom evenings, Book Fairs, Boot Fairs and Family Fun Days. The project was completed and officially opened at the end of January 2007. It was mainly funded by grants.
- A Christmas social is arranged each year for people who have helped with Parish projects and events or delivered the quarterly newsletter. Refreshments are provided and paid for by the Clerk and Councillors.
- Wine & Wisdom evenings are held to raise funds for community projects like the children's Christmas party.
- Meetings for young people were arranged in partnership with the local Youth Worker and the City Council's Rural Youth Community Officer. This resulted in the Streetworker vehicle (mobile youth club) visiting the Parish twice a month. Since 2004 the youth club has developed and meet in a local hall. The sessions are run by youth workers, parish councillors and volunteers. All personnel are CRB checked.
- The Parish Council organise a hanging basket competition, each year to help make the Parish more attractive. Cash prizes are awarded from local business sponsors.
- A 'Picnic in the Park' was organised in conjunction with Strode Park Foundation for the Disabled to celebrate the Queen's Golden Jubilee. There were stalls, games and attractions, manned mainly by Parish Councillors, their partners and other residents. Bands performed during the day and evening. The district and county councils supported the event with grants.
- A Christmas party is arranged for local children aged between 4 and 8 years old, every year and Santa attends on his Christmas Sleigh before touring around Herne & Broomfield

### **Planning**

- Planning applications are available to view at the Parish Council office and residents may attend and speak at the Planning & Highway committee meetings.
- Some Parish Councillors helped to produce a Parish Plan with members of the community. A questionnaire was delivered to all households by Councillors and other volunteers. A

successful 'Planning for Real' day was held at Herne Junior School at the beginning of December 2002. Members of the public, including children, were able to give their views and suggestions on how the Parish should develop. The information was added to that already gathered and priorities were incorporated into the Parish Plan.

- The Parish Plan is currently (2009/10) under review and further consultations will be held
- The Parish Council responds to the Local District Plan, now the Local Development Framework and Consultations from other local and national authorities, as well as planning applications in and surrounding the Parish.
- The Parish Council arranges public meetings to discuss major planning applications to give residents an opportunity to raise their concerns with developers and planners. All planning applications are available to be viewed at the Parish office.
- The Parish Council supported the application for a Doctors Surgery, which has now replaced the one that was under threat.
- We spoke at a hearing to support the opening of our much needed Pharmacy in the Parish.
- We spoke successfully in favour of the planning application for Little Acorns Playgroup at the site meeting.

### **Training**

- The Clerk and Councillors regularly attend Training Days and Seminars to enhance their abilities and keep themselves informed.
- The Parish Council funded the Clerks training and she is now a qualified clerk having gained her Certificate of Higher Education in Local Policy.
- The Parish Council in partnership with the County Council organised two free beginner computer courses for local residents lasting several weeks.

### **Safety**

- Following a request from the Head Teacher of Herne Infant School, the Parish Council sponsored a 'Child Protection and the Internet' evening meeting for parents and families at the School, which was well attended.
- Following consultation and in the spirit of 'the Crime and Disorder Act', the Parish Council agreed to budget for two part-time Community Wardens in partnership with the District Council. The wardens worked from May 2003 until January 2005. Since then Neighbourhood Wardens have been appointed in partnership with the County Council.

### **Grant funding**

- We have supported Friends of Broomfield & Herne Ponds with grants to help pay for silt clearance and for public liability insurance.
- We grant supported Herne Junior School to help them build their music room.
- We gave a grant to the local Girl Guide group to enable them to buy camping equipment.
- We made a grant of £500 to Kent Wildlife Trust to help them buy West Blean & Thornden Woods.
- A grant was given to Broomfield Ducklings pre-school playgroup.
- The parish council contributes towards the cost of the Christmas lights on the yew tree in the churchyard.
- The Parish Clerk with the assistance of councillors actively seeks grant funding or sponsorship for projects and events within the parish.

*Updated January 2010*