

News from the Parish Council

We have been approached by The Community Safety Unit of Kent Police to become the first Smartwater village in Kent so preventing crime and protecting our property.



Are we worried about crime?

We don't have much crime in the village, however the fear of crime is real and if it does happen to you the repercussions are profound!



How does Smartwater work?

Smartwater comes in small container with an applicator brush. Only a small amount of clear liquid needs to be applied to an item and left to dry and then the property is marked. Each bottle of Smartwater is unique which enables the police/ Smartwater to identify the owner of property and therefore return it if stolen, link it to any associated crime and prosecute offenders.

What is it exactly?

- Water based solution - Code + Fluorescence + Polymer
- Unique forensic code made of up to 31 Rare Metal Compounds
- Invisible to naked eye – green/yellow under UV light
- Can be analysed down to a billionth part, (Pin Head)

How effective is it?

- They quote a potential reduction in burglary by up to 80% - Huge deterrent effect – They say it is better than CCTV, neighbourhood watch or even a bobby on the beat.
- Surveys sent to residents after distribution are highly favourable
- Insurance companies like it - Will you get a cheaper premium?

How would we do it?

- Residents, with the support of us, the local Parish Council and the police decide to become a Smartwater Village.
- Smartwater home security kits are distributed and registered to each property. (We need to think how to do this).
- Residents are shown how to mark their property and encouraged to display Smartwater deterrent stickers in their windows. (We need to work out who will do this).
- Street signage is displayed at the entry/exit points of the Village. There is a launch date and the local media are invited.

The whole process has some real community advantages as neighbours engage with neighbours and the community interact with the police and Council in a positive and constructive way.

- There is more information on our own website: www.stmargaretspc.co.uk
- More information on the Smartwater website: www.smartwater.com

We have an indicative subsidised cost of £10 / household. The Parish Council are looking at potentially subsidizing this further, finding grants etc. We are also investigating how much the police and community warden will be able to help and what take up we need.

We would like to hear from our residents what they think:

- Email parish.clerk@stmargaretspc.co.uk
- Pop down to the office at the village hall - office on a Monday morning 9.30-11am or Thursday afternoon 1– 3pm and talk to our clerk.
- Ring the parish council number 01304 892535 and don't be afraid to leave a message
- Drop a note in the letter box at the village hall.
- Find & talk to a Parish Councilor.

Smartwater could be very beneficial to the village, however it won't be an easy process. Organisation, distribution, ensuring everyone knows what to do and of course the cost. St Margaret's residents are good at looking after each other. This could be playing to our strengths, but it will need a lot of support. If you want the Parish Council to progress this, we need a real will and commitment to do so.

Other news

Community Warden: We have been informed that we will be getting a new Community warden. The post is being advertised, interviews are scheduled and hopefully someone shall be in place by the Summer. Our new ward does include Guston and Kingsdown however we are very hopeful that He/she will be a visible and real asset to our St Margaret's community.

CPR Training: Thank you to Clive Harding for demonstrating how to use the village defibrillator yesterday. It was a brilliant training session and Clive even went next door afterwards to help the Brownies with their first aid badge! I for one will be much more prepared if I ever had to use a de-fib in anger. Do we need more session? Do we invest in more de-fibs? How can we afford to maintain the one we have? - watch this space!

Antisocial behaviour: Please report it! There is a link off our website. If we don't report it – it doesn't exist – and it won't be sorted.

Footpath Walk: Finally, don't forget our footpath walk! Work up an appetite for Jennie's & Brenda's homemade scones.

Councilor Rebecca Simcox (Chair)

Annual Footpath Walk
Sunday 28th April
1pm Channel Rooms