

News from the Parish Council

The First council met on Monday 13th May. Five familiar faces – myself, Chris Smith, Anna Newton, Tony Fielding, Jennie Harris and one new one - Peter Blake. It was slightly unsettling not having Brenda Paul and Rob Wilkie around the table, but I can assure you they are still helping in the background. Peter has hit the road running and is having a fresh look at the Reach road pond. It's a runoff for the rainwater from the Road which I understand means the water is a hazardous waste – so this won't be an easy task. Welcome also to Martin Hunt who is now the village Tree warden.



The Parish Council meet every second Monday of the month (except August) and residents are always welcome to come and listen. Public questions start at 6:45 before the official meeting starts. We don't necessarily have the answers, but we do try and find out. Big questions this week were about the disruption on Upper Road/ Reach road on Bank holidays when the white Cliffs carpark is full and the problem of the tourist coaches at the top of bay hill blocking the bus turning area.

The village footpath walk was a success on Sunday 28th May and not just in terms of a good exercise, fresh air, beautiful countryside and Anna's and Brenda's homemade scones. This year all the footpaths were walked, and good feedback was collected. The icing on the cake were the two volunteers, Liz McNaughton and John Kirby, who stepped forward to update

and consolidate our rather antiquated and ancient clipboard's maps and instructions and so ensuring that our bounds will remain well and truly beaten.

Smart Water?

We have not had much response regarding the Smartwater initiative I presented in the April edition of the mag so I will be creating a survey on the parish website for people to show their interest on-line.

To become a Smartwater village a good proportion of households must sign up, so we are eligible for the low price and the help of the Police, community wardens and PCSO to roll it out. The home security kits will need to be distributed, applied and registered to each property. More details on the website.



The Council

We are still 3 councillor short! I won't deny there is a lot of inertia and bureaucracy in any form of local government however it is also rewarding. Councillors tend to choose Issues close to their heart and try and progress them. Anna is passionate about our South Foreland valley and has now added liaison with our Tree warden to improve all our public spaces. Tony is working with the GridLock Group to try and improve the traffic flow in the village while Chris is looking at village maintenance issues and how we can replace our

current contractor Ian Miller as Ian heads towards well-earned retirement. Jennie has many roles, including our training officer and is responsible for our civic cemetery.

I have been working on the shelter for the bus stop in Nelson park direction Deal. It has been a very long and arduous process – frustratingly so – however, I am beginning to believe it is actually happening and potentially could even be going up whilst you are reading this article at the beginning of June (or maybe not!) A big thank you to Tracy Evans for having the original vision and obtaining a grant towards the cost.

Please have a thing about joining us. Jane Cook, our component Clerk, keeps us on the straight and narrow, keeps the bureaucracy to a minimum and lets us know what battles we can fight. It would be wonderful if we could have a more diverse spectrum of councillors – perhaps even someone under 50 – but we would welcome anyone who loves our village and wants to make it even better.

Safari

I need to sign off now and get back to gardening. It seemed such a good idea to agree to open our garden when Graham Wilson was at his most persuasive in the distant past. After all I love the safari, trekking from garden to garden, coffees, cakes, banter and ideas. I remember my youngest racing on his balance bike motivated by ice cream! It's slightly different when you are hosting. Now what chance have those bulbs got of being in full bloom and glory in just six weeks. Infinitely better, I suppose, if I get them into the ground first. 29th -30th June – save the date.