

## **Bobbing Parish Council – Annual Parish Meeting Wednesday 1st May 2013**

### **Parish Council Chairmans report**

Bobbing Parish Council serves the communities of Bobbing Village, Bobbing Hill, Howt Green, Keycol Hill, Rooks View and parts of The Grove, The Meads, and the surrounding rural areas. During the past year the parish council held 12 regular meetings plus the Parish Council AGM. All the meetings were held in the Village Hall usually on the first Wednesday of the month.

The past year has been a little less hectic than the previous 24 months or so. However the parish council tried to embrace and apply the new planning initiatives coming central government. That is to say Localism, the National Planning Policy Framework (known as the NPPF) and neighbourhood plans. Also during the past 12 months the Parish Council appeared to receive lots of newsletters, information bulletins and circulars from public organisations such as Southern Water, the Police, KCC, SBC and Kent Highways. Also just as we get used to our neighbourhood police officer, they appear to be replaced.

On top of this the Borough Council updated us on progress with local initiatives such as, Swale West Parishes Forum, Engagement Forums, Rural Forums and Transportation boards. However the Borough Council website has improved during the year.

During the year, after many years of service, two councillors decided to retire. However, we were fortunate in that Ross Richardson and Keith Johnson came forward to take their place.

The Parish Council planted a tree to commemorate the Queens Diamond Jubilee, we tried hard to improve the sightlines at Key Street roundabout, but Highways failed to respond to our requests, maybe next year. Yellow lines finally arrived in the bus lay by next to the garage in Key Street. We helped the village hall to purchase new chairs, We also commented on a number of planning applications and we managed to get Kent Fire and Rescue to check access to some areas of the parish where residents thought parking issues caused obstructions. Kent Highways reduced the speed limit outside the Bobbing Corner Services. We appear to have 'rubbish black spots' where we have a constant fight to keep the parish clear of unwanted rubbish and litter, mostly packaging from nearby retail stores.

Planning issues were generally limited to householder developments (Conservatories, extensions and porches etc.). There were a few 'change of use' applications or small extensions/upgrades to small businesses. However one such planning application, adjacent to Rooks View did generate some debate. Also, the final parcels of the Watermark business park, now with residential permission, remains undeveloped; we are also still waiting for the long promised medical centre on the Meads.

Looking forward the next 12 months it would be good if central and local government paused to allow parish councils to digest the mountain of bureaucratic officialdom that has come their way and how that impacts on parishes. However I hope the parish council will continue to support the village hall and endeavour to keep the Parish a presentable and pleasant place to live. Regrettably this is set against a background of diminishing resources. Unfortunately the

wheels of local government move very slowly, many local issues will rumble on, especially if it comes to action on planning and transport issues.

However, one thing is certain, residents will always take an interest in their immediate neighbourhood and make contact if they want to know what is going on, especially if it is impacting on their lives. The Parish Council endeavours to listen and take much care resolving parish matters as resources, bureaucracy and time will allow. Ideally this should be a two way process where neighbourhoods within the community build a partnership with the Parish Council, neither should work in isolation.

Residents can always look at the parish web site ([www.bobbingpc.kentparishes.gov.uk](http://www.bobbingpc.kentparishes.gov.uk)) or pick up the phone and talk and inform the Parish Council or Parish Clerk of issues or concerns. If we are not aware we cannot help.

### **Planning**

During the year the Parish Council considered 27 planning applications, the highest number for 5 years. The majority were for householder permissions. However an application on the Water works site next to Rooks View did attract some discussion.

#### **Year**

2012/13	27 appns
2011/12	21 appns
2010/11	21 appns
2009/10	19 appns
2008/9	24 appns
2007/8	28 appns
2006/7	24 appns
2005/6	20 appns
2004/5	39 appns
2003/4	31 appns
2002/3	24 appns

### **Regular issues (not an order of priority):**

1. Key Street roundabout, pedestrian safety, traffic speed, litter
2. Keycol Hill, Traffic calming and parking (pedestrian safety signs)
3. Bobbing Hill, parking issues.
4. Bobbing Hill move speed limit signs to end of houses.
5. Bobbing Village, reduce speed limit past village school/village hall/church.
6. Car parking Hilton Drive (Grove Park School run times).
7. Everywhere, Litter, fly tipping, and wrappers by food shops.
8. Everywhere, Overgrown hedgerows etc especially where public footpaths are concerned.
9. The Meads, Litter
10. The Meads, traffic and parking issues.

### **Attendance at Council Meetings (May 2012 to April 2013)**

<b>Bobbing Parish Council (9 Councillors)</b>	<b>Attendance (max 12 meetings)</b>	<b>Expenses £.p</b>
Ken Bullen**	1/7	Nil
Robert Ball (Vice chairman)	11/12	Nil
Duncan Dewar-Whalley* (Ward councillor)	7/12	Nil
Gill Edwards**	1/7	Nil
Graham Herbert (Chairman)	9/12	Nil
Elaine Nappey (Planning)	11/12	Nil
Larry Major (Keycol residents association)	12/12	Nil
Kairen Stammers	6/12	Nil
Tracey Wright	9/12	Nil

\* Cllr Dewar-Whalley (Ward councillor) also attends SBC meetings which sometimes clash with BPC meetings.

\*\* Resigned during 2012 and we have recruited Ross Richardson and Keith Johnson

### **Ward Councillors attending Parish Council meetings during 2012/13**

Cllr G Randall (Conservative) attended meetings

Cllr D Dewar-Whalley (Conservative) attended meetings

### **Bobbing Parish Precept**

There are 35 parishes in Swale.

(There are about 760 homes in Bobbing parish, of which 684 pay council tax).

<b>Year</b>	<b>Parish Precept £</b>	<b>£ Band D property (Annual per household)</b>
1997/98	4,777	8.72
1998/99	4,833	8.73
1999/00	3,888	7.03
2000/01	2,944	7.03
2001/02	4,500	7.82
2002/03	4,500	6.61
2003/04	3,500	4.99
2004/05	3,900	5.56 (Lowest in Swale District)
2005/06	5,000	7.12 (2 <sup>nd</sup> lowest in Swale District)
2006/07	5,750	8.05 (3 <sup>rd</sup> lowest in Swale District)
2007/08	9,420	12.60 (5 <sup>th</sup> lowest in Swale District)
2008/09	10,550	14.07 (5 <sup>th</sup> lowest in Swale District)
2009/10	10,300	13.60 (6 <sup>th</sup> lowest in Swale District)
2010/11	10,300	13.56 (3 <sup>rd</sup> lowest in Swale District)
2011/12	10,500	13.85 (4 <sup>th</sup> lowest in Swale District)
2012/13	10,500	13.81 (4 <sup>th</sup> lowest in Swale District)
2013/14	11,250	16.45 (4 <sup>th</sup> lowest in Swale District)

**Finally**

On behalf of the Parish Council and myself in particular I would like to express our thanks to Sue our Parish Clerk for all the work she has undertaken throughout the past year. However, without her enthusiasm, determination, dedication and attendance at meetings, I am sure very little progress would ever have been made. As usual she has chased up not only Swale Borough Council and KCC, but just about everyone else you could possibly think of in order to get things done. We really do appreciate our parish clerk even if we do not always say so.