

## **Bobbing Parish Council – Annual Parish Meeting Wednesday 7th May 2008**

### **Parish Council Chairmans report**

Bobbing Parish council serves the communities of Bobbing Village, Bobbing Hill, The Grove, The Meads, Howt Green and Keycol Hill plus the surrounding rural areas. During the past year the parish council held 13 regular meetings plus the Parish Council AGM. The meetings were held in the Village Hall on the first Wednesday of the month. Except for the 'Marshgate' (Meads local centre) meeting which was held on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> January.

Residents are always interested and enthusiastic about their neighbourhood and frequently contact the Parish Clerk to know what is happening and impacting on their lives. Being one of the few parishes within the Thames Gateway area and on the edge of Sittingbourne there is always something going on that is affecting our lives. The Parish Council endeavours to listen and take much care resolving parish matters as resources, bureaucracy and time allow. However, ideally, this should be a two way process where the community builds a bond, a partnership with the Parish Council, neither should work in isolation.

Looking back over the past year the parish council became involved with:

Blitzing potholes – A Kent Highways initiative involving parishes to identify all pot holes.

Revamping the website – The PC is progressing with its independent website that will allow more interaction with the community and community news.

Revamping the village sign – The weather has taken its toll and we are refreshing the paintwork.

Organising a garden competition – Very successful last summer another one will be organised this year. We are also hoping to organise a photographic competition, watch the website for details.

Resolving the ongoing traveller problem – Once the red tape had been overcome and after it appeared in the national press, we hope the issues are now resolved.

Creating a footpath between Keycol and Bobbing Hill along the desired line (to match Bobbing Hill Sheppey Way footpath. Also involving minor landscaping to allow bulb planting.

Discussing with KCC the sale of surplus KCC land – 2 plots at Bobbing Hill.

Trying to establish a heritage trail based around local landmarks, the environment and community interests – however without pledges and the support local businesses this is unlikely to happen.

SBC reducing financial support to parish councils, resulting in a few more pennies on the parish precept.

Consultation with the Meads developers regarding the Local Centre site. The layout and design of which appears to change frequently.

Planning issues at Howt Green (Large cold store) and Keycol reservoir (Affordable housing) sites.

Residents can always look at the parish web site or pick up the phone and talk and inform us of issues or concerns. If we don't know we cannot help.

Finally Councillor Bob Wileman resigned in December and moved out of the area. We thank him for his time, commitment and contribution at meetings during the years he has spent on the council. In February we held interviews for a replacement Councillor and Shirlee Bennett who lives in Rooks View was co-opted to the council. Parish Council meetings have been very well supported by Mike Baldock (prospective Labour Ward councillor) and Gareth Randall (Conservative Ward councillor).

### **Planning**

During the year the Parish council considered 28 planning applications, 4 more than last year.

Year	2007/8	2006/7	2005/6	2004/5	2003/4	2002/3
Appns	28 appns	24 appns	20 appns	39 appns	31 appns	24 appns

Most were for small householder alterations and extensions. However the final parcels of land on the Meads (N of Staplehurst Rd) continue to be redesigned (shops, community services & residential) as does the business park south of Staplehurst Rd. There was a large cold store at Howt Green opposite the 'Dancing Dog Saloon'

### **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 on behalf of the parish council. Without her enthusiasm, determination and dedication I am sure very little progress would ever have been made. As usual she has written, phoned, harried, text, emailed and chased not only Swale Borough Council and KCC, but just about everyone else you could possibly think of in order to get things done, once again thank you for all your endeavours, we really do appreciate our parish clerk even if we do not say so.

### **Regular issues :**

1. Key Street roundabout, pedestrian safety/traffic speed.
2. Bobbing Hill, parking issues.
3. Bobbing Hill move speed limit signs to end of houses.
4. Bobbing Village, reduce speed limit past village school.
5. Bobbing Village, grass cutting opposite Bobbing Apple.
6. Keycol Hill, Traffic calming (Including white lining)
7. Car parking (Non residents) Bobbing Hill, Key Street, Keycol Hill.
8. Car parking Hilton Drive (Grove Park School pickup).
9. Everywhere, Litter, fly tipping, and wrappers by food shops.
10. Everywhere, Overgrown hedgerows especially where footpaths and roads are concerned
11. The Meads, Dog Fouling and litter
12. The Meads, Damage to bollards and roundabouts.

**Attendance at Council Meetings (May 2007 to April 2008)**

<b>Bobbing Parish Council (9 Councillors)</b>	<b>Attendance (max 13 meetings)</b>	<b>Expenses £.p</b>
Ken Bullen	8/13	Nil
Robert Ball	13/13	Nil
Duncan Dewar-Whalley	8/13	Nil
Gill Edwards	9/13	Nil
Shirlee Bennett (New cllr)	2/2	Nil
Graham Herbert (Chairman)	12/13	Nil
Elaine Nappey (Planning)	12/13	Nil
Larry Major	9/13	Nil
Bob Wileman (Now retired)	6/8	Nil
Nick Stowe (Vice Chair)	8/13	Nil

**Ward Councillors attending Parish Council meetings during 2007/08**

Cllr G Randall (Conservative) attended meetings

Cllr D Dewar-Whalley (Conservative) attended meetings

**Bobbing Parish Precept**

(10<sup>th</sup> largest of Swales 35 parished areas with 749 homes)

<b>Year</b>	<b>Parish Precept £</b>	<b>£ Band D property</b> (Annual per household)
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)
2005/06	5,750	8.05 (3 <sup>rd</sup> lowest in Swale District)
2006-07	9,420	12.60 (5 <sup>th</sup> lowest in Swale District)
2007/08	10,550	14.07 (5 <sup>th</sup> lowest in Swale District)

## **Bobbing WI report - Annual Parish Meeting Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2007**

### **Bobbing Women's Institute - East Kent Federation.**

Meeting at Bobbing Village Hall, Sheppey Way, Bobbing, Kent.

Yet another successful year for the Bobbing WI. This year we celebrated our 60<sup>th</sup> birthday and held a party in March. One of our guests of honour was Mrs Dadson who was one of our founder members and still lives in the Parish. There were many stories to be told of the past events in the Bobbing WI history. Members and guests enjoyed the usual sumptuous home made buffet, provided by the WI ladies.

The members again enjoyed a full year of activities including country walks, a garden party, talks, a car rally and treasure hunt. We also entered the WI quiz and gained second place in the local East Kent Federation group.

Bobbing Women's Institute was founded in 1947 and has a steady membership of all ages and would be delighted to welcome any new members to join us, have a an enjoyable evening and make new friends. We continue to meet every second Wednesday of the month at Bobbing Village Hall at 7.15pm. for further information contact Mrs Kath Hills President. Tel 01795 431663.