

## **Bobbing Parish Council – Annual Parish Meeting Wednesday 3rd May 2017**

### **Parish Council Chairmans report**

Thank you and welcome for attending, many of you are now regular and familiar faces to parish meetings.

Bobbing Parish Council serves the communities of Bobbing Village, Howt Green, Rooks View, Watermark, Key Street, Keycol and Bobbing Hill plus parts of Grove Park and the Meads. Plus the rural areas on the Western side of the Parish. An area with neighbourhoods but without a 'traditional' village centre.

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. It has been a busy year and I am pleased to say we are now a full council with 2 new councillors.

Much of the discussion at BPC meetings this year has been centred around traffic, parking and contentious planning issues. As you are aware Bobbing is divided by 3 'classified roads' one of which is a trunk road (A249) with two multi-level interchanges, it is also under pressure from developers to develop houses, which in turn brings further traffic related issues. The Parish Council is doing what it can to resolve some of these issues and it contacts SBC, KCC, Kent Highways and Highways England to resolve others. The main issues are inconsiderate parking, parking and driving on footpaths, litter being dropped, fly tipping, lorry parking, speeding and verges being eroded. Almost every road has a different problem often caused in the first place by lack of foresight when obtaining planning permission. However, I could go on all night, but I won't.

Away from traffic, other more local events have been going on often with happier outcomes.

Southern Water have finally resolved their mains water leaks in the Grove Park area.

We have supported the popular Rosemount archology digs at Rosemount in Grove Park.

We have successfully objected to new housing development of 100 housing west of the A249.

We have produced some newsletters, albeit irregularly, is anyone interested in helping with this ?

We have made responses on consultations regarding the Lower Thames Crossing, Kent Highways Freight Action Plan and the Housing White Paper.

We are attempting to install 2 new parish notice boards, one at Grove Park and the other at the Shops on the Meads.

Bollards have been installed in Hilton Drive to deter driving on the footpath.

We have also made representation to BT regarding Broadband speeds.

Bobbing Church has received support with events it has organised.

Also the Bobbing PC has revamped its website which I urge you to use.

Finally I want to thank the local PCSO and Community Wardens for their information and support they give the Parish Council. They may not always make meetings but they do send reports and are available on the end of a phone.

Looking forward, if we survive the two elections in the next few weeks I hope the parish council will serve the residents as best as time and resources will allow. The parish council will endeavour to keep the Parish a presentable and pleasant place to live. However, one thing can be guaranteed, residents may sometimes disinterested in local issues but 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. Finally it is good to see more members of the public attending and interacting at meetings.

**Regular ongoing concerns (not an order of priority):**

Key Street roundabout, pedestrian safety, traffic speed, traffic gridlock.  
Keycol Hill, pavement parking.  
Bobbing Hill, cars, parking and speeding signs.  
Bobbing Village, speed reduction past village school/village hall/church.  
Gadby Drive, cars parking on dangerous hill/bend.  
Hilton Drive, cars parking (Grove Park School run times).  
Everywhere, Litter, fly tipping, and wrappers by food shops.  
The Meads roadside parking issues

**Attendance at Council Meetings (May 2016 to April 2017)**

<b>Bobbing Parish Council (9 Councillors)</b>	<b>Attendance (max 12 meetings)</b>	<b>Expenses claimed £.p</b>
Robert Ball (Vice chairman)	10/12	Nil
Nikki Clare***	1/1	Nil
Duncan Dewar-Whally* (Ward councillor)	5/12	Nil
Graham Herbert (Chairman)	11/12	Nil
Larry Major	10/12	Nil
Peter England	11/12	Nil
Elizabeth England***	1/1	Nil
Rebecca Bartlett	3/12	Nil
Gareth Randall	10/12	Nil
Peter Page**	5/10	Nil

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

\*\* Resigned during the year

\*\*\* Joined BPC following a vacancy in April 2017

**Ward and County Councillors attending Parish Council meetings during 2016/17**

Cllr Duncan Dewar-Whally (Conservative) SBC Bobbing, Iwade & Lower Halstow  
Cllr James Hunt (Conservative) SBC The Meads  
Cllr Nicholas Hampshire (Conservative) SBC Borden & Grove Park  
Cllr Mike Whiting (Conservative) SBC Cllr Teynham & Lynsted  
Cllr Mike Baldock (UKIP) Kent County Councillor and SBC Borden & Grove Park  
Cllr Ben Stokes (Conservative) SBC Bobbing, Iwade & Lower Halstow

**Planning**

Up on previous year, but about an average year.

Year

2016/17	26 appns
2015/16	21 appns
2014/15	36 appns
2013/14	32 appns
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

### **Bobbing Parish Precept**

There are 36 parishes in Swale, only 1 does not set a precept).

There are 8,800 parishes nationally.

(There are about 825 homes in Bobbing parish).

<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)
2014/15	13,500	19.61 (4 <sup>th</sup> lowest in Swale District)
2015/16	13,600	19.80 (3 <sup>rd</sup> lowest in Swale District)
2016/17	16,361	19.80 (3 <sup>rd</sup> lowest in Swale District)
2017/18	18,000	19.95 (2 <sup>nd</sup> lowest in Swale District)

In 2014/15 Swale BC was one of two Kent LA's not passing on any of the money provided to mitigate the impact of localised Council Tax support schemes. This resulted in a parish precept rise for most councils.

### **Finally**

On behalf of the Parish Council and myself in particular I would like to express our thanks to Lynda our Parish Clerk for all the work she has undertaken throughout the past year. I know there have been times during the year when it has not been easy. In fact at various times she has probably felt overrun with tasks, attempting to contact people, not knowing which to do first and with little time in which to do it. But without her experience, dedication and attendance at various outside meetings I am sure many issues would have taken even longer. We really do appreciate our Parish clerk even if we do not always say so.