

Bobbing Parish Council – Annual Parish Meeting Wednesday 4th May 2011

Parish Council Chairmans report

Bobbing Parish council serves the communities of Bobbing Village, Bobbing Hill, The Grove, The Meads, Howt Green, Keycol Hill and the surrounding rural areas. During the past year the parish council held 13 regular meetings plus the Parish Council AGM. All the meetings were held in the Village Hall usually on the first Wednesday of the month.

As I looked back over the activities of the Parish Council, in the past year, with a view to writing this report, I was struck by the similarity of what has gone on from year to year. This is possibly my 10th annual report. Those of you who have heard or read my previous reports will also wonder if anything changes in the Parish from year to year.

However, during the past year there have been many issues that have been discussed at council meetings.

Watermark, in the wake of slow economic conditions, they are trying to redesign their business park to change the remaining land to residential. The Meads Community centre finally settling for a smaller hall on the north side of Staplehurst Road, just outside the parish, rather than a larger hall inside the parish. Howt Green Farm planning application for 16 caravans. Many highway issues which inevitably came down to parking, HGV's and speeding. There were some social issues such as knotweed, litter and noise. There was also the regular clutch of consultations, from various authorities including the Forestry Commission and Swale Borough Council, (with its 4 pick your own options).

Not forgetting Local initiatives such as, Swale West Parishes Forum, Engagement Forums, Rural Forums and Transportation boards. Some of these issues are still ongoing.

Looking forward the next 12 months will inevitably see the localism bill and what the implications are for parishes remains to be seen. However, tomorrow is election day (and referendum) and as a result there may be changes. Some of the above issues will rumble on for the next 12 months (or more) as the wheels of local government move very slowly, especially when it comes to planning and transport issues.

However, one thing is inevitable, residents will always take an interest about 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) or pick up the phone and talk and inform the Parish Council of issues or concerns. If we don't know we cannot help.

Planning

During the year the Parish council considered 21 planning applications, 2 more than last year.

Year	
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

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.

Regular issues (not an order of priority) :

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/village hall/church.
5. Keycol Hill, Traffic calming and parking (White lining and safety information signs)
6. Car parking (Non residents) Bobbing Hill, Key Street, Keycol Hill.
7. Car parking Hilton Drive (Grove Park School run times).
8. Everywhere, Litter, fly tipping, and wrappers by food shops.
9. Everywhere, Overgrown hedgerows etc especially where public footpaths are concerned.
10. The Meads, Litter and speeding

Attendance at Council Meetings (May 2010 to April 2011)

Bobbing Parish Council (9 Councillors)	Attendance (max 13 meetings)	Expenses £.p
Ken Bullen	6/13	Nil
Robert Ball (Vice chairman)	11/13	Nil
Duncan Dewar-Whally* (Ward councillor)	7/13	Nil
Gill Edwards	5/13	Nil
Shirlee Bennett	6/13	Nil
Graham Herbert (Chairman)	11/13	Nil
Elaine Nappey (Planning)	13/13	Nil
Larry Major (Keycol residents association)	12/13	Nil
Nick Stowe	8/13	Nil

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

Ward Councillors attending Parish Council meetings during 2009/10

Cllr G Randall (Conservative) attended meetings

Cllr D Dewar-Whally (Conservative) attended meetings

Bobbing Parish Precept

(10th largest of Swales 35 parishes with approx 760 homes)

Year	Parish Precept £	£ Band D property (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 nd lowest in Swale District)
2005/06	5,750	8.05 (3 rd lowest in Swale District)
2006/07	9,420	12.60 (5 th lowest in Swale District)
2007/08	10,550	14.07 (5 th lowest in Swale District)
2008/09	10,300	13.60 (6 th lowest in Swale District)
2009/10	10,300	13.56 (3 rd lowest in Swale District)
2010/11	10,500	13.85 (4 th 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, much of it over and above the call of parish council duties. However, without her enthusiasm, determination and dedication, which appears to be never ending, 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.

Bobbing WI report - Annual Parish Meeting Wednesday 4th May 2011

Bobbing Women's Institute - East Kent Federation.

Meets every 2nd Wednesday of every month (Except August) at 7.15 pm,
at Bobbing Village Hall, Sheppey Way, Bobbing, Kent.

Over the past year Bobbing WI has gone from strength to strength. We have lost some of our older members but gained some new ones. We have enjoyed many interesting evenings from the history of toys and play to making our own Christmas crackers and decorations for our Christmas meal.

Members also had a very successful family quiz night to help raise funds and showcase what we do. But moreover it is all about friendship, fun and a little bit of making and tasting the cooking !!

We aim to try new experiences as often as we can, and in July we had a riverboat trip, and an exciting car treasure hunt.

The phrase we are not all jam and Jerusalem is true and we would welcome any new members to share the WI experience with us.

Yvonne Herbert

President Bobbing WI.

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 enjoyable evening and make new friends.