

Edenbridge Reports

Summer 2012



Reviewing first year of the new council

Town Council chairman Clive Pearman at the 2012 Annual Town Meeting hailed the “commitment and dedication” of the majority of people in the parish who create a feeling of community and friendliness.

With a history of resilience and self-reliance, and more than 80 voluntary organizations covering nearly all aspects of local life, the town was well placed to take on any new responsibilities which may lie ahead in the move towards “localism”, he said.

The 2011 election had seen the arrival of six new faces as councillors, bringing knowledge and skills from the business world in particular, and representation

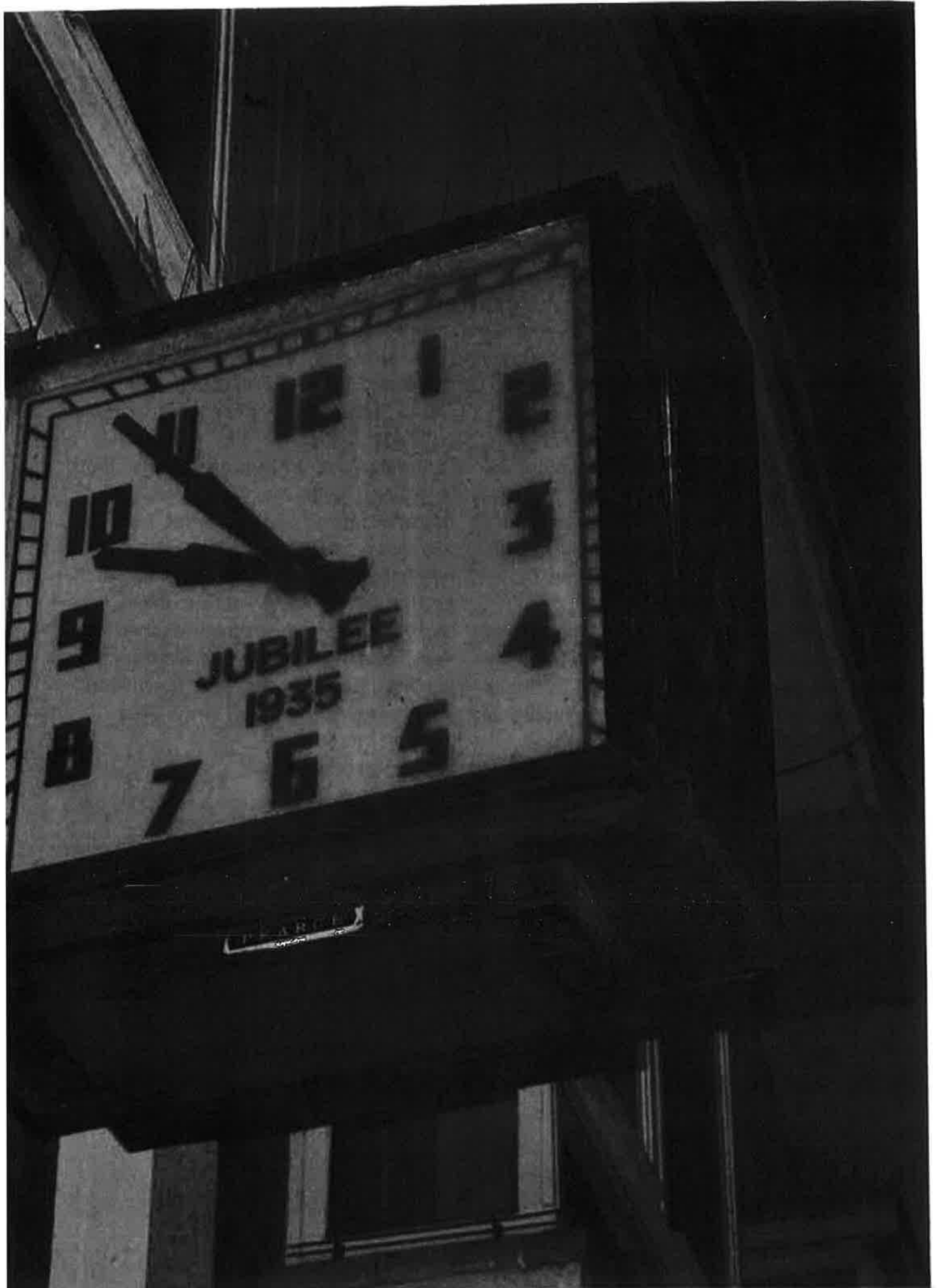
from Marsh Green for the first time in many years. The election also marked the retirement of former members Peter Deans, Liz Gray, Liz Plant, Lennox Cato, and Barry Neville-Robinson, who were thanked for their contributions over past years.

A number of Council projects had come to fruition over the year— some, such as redecoration of the Market Yard toilets, were swift to finish, others had been longer-term achievements, such as the safe walking route from Market Yard to the primary school opened last year, and the three new historic trail leaflets launched this year for visitors, to help develop tourism in the area.

Time for a summer of fun and celebrations...

Rounding off the Diamond Jubilee month the Town Council unveiled a new clock in the High Street on NatWest bank. It replaced the existing clock for King George V Silver Jubilee which was beyond economical repair, and was a project part funded by a £2,000 grant from the Big Community Fund at Sevenoaks DC. The new clock records the 2012 Diamond Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II on one face, and the original 1935 Jubilee on the other, and was commissioned from specialist makers Gillett and Johnston based at Bletchingley. *(Pic right:.) Time to celebrate with a new High St Jubilee clock*





JUBILEE
1935

PEARCE



EHR

2012

Diamond
Jubilee

WESTERHAM TOWN COUNCIL

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Simon Davies,
Partnership & Project Officer,
Community Development Department,
Sevenoaks District Council, Argyle Road,
Sevenoaks, Kent TN13 1HG

25th September 2012

Dear Simon,

King George's Field, installation of bollards

I confirm that the work to install the bollards along the bank of the Bowling Club on King George's Field was completed during July. I enclose the invoice for the work, a letter of appreciation from the Treasurer of the Bowling Club, and two photographs. One of these shows the site before this work was carried out, the other once it was complete.

I am also sending you the Grant Claim Form for the Big Community Fund. Please note that although we have made the transition from being a Parish to being a Town our bank account is still called Westerham Parish Council! Please do contact me if you should need any further information.

On behalf of the Councillors here please accept our thanks for Sevenoaks District Council's contribution to this project.

With kind regards,



Christina Wilton
Assistant Clerk

Enc.

27.07.12

WESTERHAM BOWLING CLUB

Derek Edwards
Hon. Treasurer
5 Quebec Avenue
Westerham
Kent
TN16 1BJ

Telephone 01959 564482

Mrs. Christina Wilton
Assistant Clerk
Westerham Parish Council.

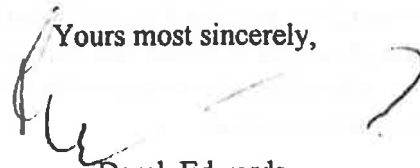
Dear Christina

King George Playing Field

The Officers, Committee Members and Playing Members would like express their appreciation and thanks to Westerham Parish Council for installing the posts along the driveway to the playing field at the bottom of the bank up to the bowling green. As you were aware the Bowling Club were very concerned about the damage being done to the bank by the parking of cars and vans in particular in the winter. The club were worried that if this practice was allowed to continue there could be severe damage to the bowling green in the course of time. If this did happen the cost to repair the green would be considerable. Major damage could involve a cost of £40,000. We are sure neither the Parish Council or the Bowling Club would desire to be involved in such expenditure.

Once again the Bowling Club would like to say how very much your support in taking the action you have is very much appreciated, and hopefully will help maintain the very good relationship that we enjoy between our two organisations.

Yours most sincerely,



Derek Edwards
Hon. Treasurer.





Eynsford Parish Council – New Allotments Project 2012



This is how the plots looked after Community Payback had cleared them.



New trench for the water pipe.



New allotment area during digging



Newly installed water trough donated by local farmer.

Eynsford Parish Council – New Allotments Project 2012



New Allotment Plots being well cultivated.

Meanwhile in Halstead and Badgers Mount...

Sunday 13th May

Royal Scarecrows went on show in individual gardens around the village which was also decorated with over 2,500 metres of bunting made by local people.

Saturday 2nd June

2.00pm Badgers Mount Residents Association held a 1950s themed event.

7.00 for 7.30pm

Tiaras & Tuxedos – and three-course meal with wine was held in a marquee at the rear of Halstead Village Hall followed by a disco. Tickets were £2.5 each.

Sunday 3rd June

10.30am

A Diamond Jubilee Service in the marquee was followed by a Hog Roast (tickets were £5 each) and Bring & Share lunch. Then on a Big Screen villagers watched The Thames Diamond Jubilee Pageant.

Monday 4th June

12 noon–4.00pm

Family Funday at Halstead Community Primary School with all Royal scarecrows on display.

7.30pm

‘A Right Royal Review’ by Halstead Players was held at Halstead Village Hall.

10.00pm

Lighting of the Halstead Beacon at Southdene.

Sunday 1st July

A time capsule was buried in St. Margaret’s churchyard containing a copy of this booklet and other items.

Also in 2012...

27th July–12th August London 2012 Olympics.

28th October

The Bishop of Rochester to conduct Confirmation Service at St. Margaret’s Church.

HALSTEAD JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS – IN PICTURES

The following photographs capture the spirit of a special weekend in the history of Halstead, where our village joined the rest of the country and the Commonwealth in celebration.

Preparing to party!

To host a successful party, preparation is key. A Royal Scarecrow and Bunting-making Workshop was held in Halstead Village Hall in March and run by Dot Woolder (scarecrows) and Val Dennett (bunting).



Parliament background: © Figaro – Fotolia.com

The Scarecrows

In the two or three weeks before the Jubilee weekend the over 40 scarecrows could be seen all around the village at the houses of the people who created them. On Monday 4th June they all came together to be displayed at the village Fun Day where they were judged.



Queen Elizabeth I won Joy-Ann Hemmings of Oxford Lane a Highly Commended prize.



Members of the Herbert family of Knockholt Road and friends celebrating First Prize (Juniors) for their King Harold scarecrow.



Christie Blundell of Church Road won First Prize (Adults) for her Pearly Queen which she made from scratch. All the embellishments were hand-sewn - it must have taken ages!



The Spurrer Family of Station Road were awarded Highly Commended for Jim Royle of BBC's The Royle Family.



'The Queen' presenting Edna Parker (centre) and Anita Wilkins (right) with a Highly Commended for Queen Victoria who was displayed in Meadway.



Fun Day

On Monday 4th June a Village Fun Day was held on the playing field of Halstead Community Primary School. The programme included tug of war, egg and spoon races, face painting and a 'Name the Bear' contest. Crowds were entertained with children from Primary School singing 'God Bless The Queen'. Jean Peel was made a Honorary Dame by 'The Queen' (Barbara Jones) for her services to Halstead in organising the Jubilee weekend events.





Big Community Fund is a hit with residents

Kemsing Boxing Club looks to be going the distance since it opened its doors last May thanks in part to a grant from our Big Community Fund.

The Club was the brainchild of life-long boxing fan Kenny Libretto. His vision was to set up a club that was accessible to young people from every background.

Kenny contacted one of his local District Councillors, Lorraine Stack, and last April she secured £3,000 from Sevenoaks District Council's Big Community Fund to pay for equipment, including head guards, gloves and punch bags.

The Club meets three times a week at St Edith Hall and has 25 regulars aged eight to 26 charging just £2 a session, making it affordable for most people. Sessions are run by qualified boxing trainers, including Kenny and his fitness trainer Simon Kingy.

Kenny Libretto told In Shape why he set up the club, and why it's proving so popular: "Being local I could see there was a need for extra activities for youngsters and, with my love of boxing, this seemed the ideal thing.

"We offer youngsters a fun, safe environment where they can channel their energy in a positive and constructive way. Thanks to the two councils' funding, the young people do not need their own expensive specialist equipment - they can just turn up and train.



"I've been overwhelmed by the community's support. Many locals are giving up their time and raising money and without them, the club would not be possible.

"We're now running at full capacity so we're looking at options to expand to keep up with demand. In less than a year we've already produced winners and in January we held our first ever boxing tournament for clubs in the area."

Cllr Lorraine Stack adds: "This has been one of my most proud achievements since I was elected in 2005. The Club appeals to many and is affordable and accessible to most children, whatever their parents' income or background."

The club is also popular with the community, including the local PCSO, and since it began there's been a reduction in anti-social behaviour in the village.

The Big Community Fund was launched in 2011 to offer local people, groups and town and parish councils funds for local improvements.

Since its beginnings, we've made nearly £100,000 available to 53 local projects. Applications are made via a local District Councillor and grants worth up to £3,000 for individual projects are available. Neighbouring Councillors bid for up to £6,000 for joint projects.

To be successful, applications should demonstrate the benefits to the community, value for money, how locals have been involved and long-term sustainability.

For details of the Big Community Fund visit www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/bcf. To contact your local District Councillor go to www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/councillors or call us on 01732 227000.

Cash grant to fund repairs for centre

A YOUTH centre, which has 700 people pass through its doors each week, will receive £2,500 for urgent structural repairs.

Money from the Big Community Fund will be used to make essential improvements to the roof, doors and windows of the hall in New Ash Green.

Carol Clark, councillor for Ash and New Ash Green, put in a successful bid for the sum and thinks the youth centre is very deserving.

"It is at the heart of the community and we need to make sure that it stays open," she said.

"Members of the community recognised the need for the community centre about 30 years ago and that was the reason it was built. This money will keep it going."

The Big Community Fund is a scheme led by Sevenoaks District Council, and it makes grants worth up to £3,000 available to help fund community projects and improvements.

Organised

The venue in Ash Road is home to many organisations such as a pre school, dance clubs, an elderly lunch club organised by the parish council and also HAWK (Harley, Ash and West Kingsdown youth project).

HAWK provides services for those aged between 11 and 25 and leader Matthew Butt said: "It's a massive amount of money to be given to us and it's really needed because the centre has been in need of financial support for a long time. It's the hub of the community."

The money will be used to fix a leak in the roof causing damage and damp, and to replace rotted windows and doors, some of which can no longer be opened.

Dawn Hunt, manager of the pre-school which uses the facility, said: "We are really pleased - the place has needed money spent on it for a long time. It has been a part of the community since 1976, and everybody in New Ash Green paid for a brick back in the 70s."

For more information about the Big Community Fund visit www.sevenoaks.gov.uk



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Press release.

Residents worried housing plan unsuitable for village

Application is lodged to build four homes on site of Georgian pub

By Ben Tritton
ben.tritton@sevenoaks-chronicle.co.uk

PLANS to build four houses on a car park in Main Road, Sundridge, has caused concern among villagers.

Originally a Georgian pub called the Lamb Inn, Sundridge House has also been used as an office building and most recently, in 1996, it was converted to a Chinese restaurant.

Permission has already been granted to change the building to residential use, but it is the ap-



BUILT ON: Sundridge House

path," she said.

Sundridge Parish Councillor Michael Stokes said that while Mr Joseph Kong, the applicant, had

outlined his proposals to the council, no formal application had been received and so he could not comment on their behalf.

Regret

However, Mr Stokes did say: "One expresses regret that the pub closed initially and that the restaurant could not survive financially. It was an asset and also brings losses of employment."

"The public footpath is also an important aspect as it is well used and provides one of the best views in the village."

The theme of retaining the village's character was again repeated by former Sundridge Parish Council chairman Nick White, a Main Road homeowner.

Mr White said: "Although it's not a beautiful or listed building, we ought to make sure everything is in keeping with the aesthetics and character of the village and it looks as though this latest proposal has gone way beyond that."

The application can be viewed on Sevenoaks District Council's website, where comments in objection or support can be made.

7 October 2011

Grant cash windfall will aid hall repairs

HEVER Village Hall has received a boost with the news it is in line for a cash windfall.

The hall is to receive a £3,000 grant under Sevenoaks District Council's Big Community Fund after it was put forward by the council's member for Hever and Cowden, Gerry Ryan.

The money will pay for replacing double-glazed windows because the current frames are rotting away.

The fund makes grants worth up to £3,000 available to help fund community projects and improvements.

Councillor Pat Bosley said: "The Big Community Fund has got off to a good start.

"We look forward to receiving further applications."

Applications for awards are made by Sevenoaks district councillors.

Anyone with ideas for worthy

causes should contact their councillor by visiting www.sevenoaks.gov.uk or calling the council on 01732 227000.

Councillors then bid for fund grants on behalf of residents, community groups and parish councils.

A panel evaluates the applications once month.

The next deadline for nominations is November 7.



'GOOD START': Councillor Pat Bosley

Press release

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TEAM EFFORT: Traders hope to launch the loyalty card this month

The non profit-making project, backed by the Courier and supported by Sevenoaks District Council, is modelled on a similar scheme in Sevenoaks.

Traders pay £40 a year to be part of the scheme. They will receive a start-up pack with professionally-designed loyalty cards, a stamp and a window sticker saying they are a participant.

The Eden Valley scheme will launch this month and the first prize draw will take place at the start of December.

The intention is to expand soon after to Westerham, and encompass corner shops and stores in other villages in the Eden Valley.

To find out more contact edenvalleychamber@gmail.com

Front Page

Youth clubs in need of your voice

TIME is running out to get involved in a public consultation on changes to youth services.

Under plans put forward by Kent County Council, the number of employees working in youth services could be cut from 234 to 169.

The plans also propose cutting the number of youth centres across the county and replacing them with a new "youth hub" in each district.

The new youth hub in Tonbridge and Malling is being proposed for Avebury Avenue Adult Education Centre.

The Sevenoaks district youth hub is being planned for The Junction in Swanley, and the location of Tunbridge Wells' youth hub has not yet been identified.

The consultation will close on October 29. To participate, visit www.kent.gov.uk

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Traders to reward the loyalty of customers

A LOYALTY card scheme for Edenbridge shoppers is set to start this month.

The Eden Valley Chamber of Commerce has revealed details of the scheme, which aims to boost local trade by rewarding shoppers for spending money in the town.

Shoppers can get a card stamped whenever they spend above £10 at participating businesses, to a maximum of three stamps in any purchase. When all six boxes are filled, the cards can be dropped in to collection points at Magnolias or Edenbridge Florist.

Each month, a draw will be held and the winner will receive £50 of local shopping vouchers.

Front Page

Move to let toilet block go down the pan

EDENBRIDGE: Permission is being sought to convert an unused public toilet into an office.

The toilet building, which was decommissioned some years ago, would become a single lock-up office if permission is granted.

The toilet block is next to the main road roundabout beside the River Eden.

Sevenoaks District Council aims to make a decision by November 10.

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12 October 2011

Speak out on open spaces in need of protection

SWANLEY residents are being asked to comment on open spaces which they feel need protecting.

The information is being collected as part of an open space allocations consultation run by Sevenoaks District Council.

The consultation is looking at areas greater than 0,2 hectares in

size which are not protected by the green belt or green belt planning policy.

Included on the list is the Swanley recreation ground play area and Bartholomew Way Park.

Other examples include churchyards, allotments and community gardens.

Protecting and retaining open spaces in areas not covered by green belt is seen as high priority for many.

The consultation is open from September 22 to November 3 and can be viewed at sevenoaks.gov.uk/ldfconsultations or in any of the districts libraries.

Press
release

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Solar plan for farm

SOLAR panels could be installed at a farm with a play area to help encourage children to be greener.

Guardtop Ltd, which owns Johnsons Farm in New Ash Green, has applied for permission to put 15 photovoltaic panels on the roof of its playbarn.

Sevenoaks Council is due to decide whether to allow the application in November.

Visit the planning pages at sevenoaks.gov.uk and search 11/02455/FUL to see the plans in full.



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Cash on offer to groups

COMMUNITY groups are celebrating after receiving cash from Sevenoaks District Council.

The council's Big Community Fund makes up to £10,000 a month available for projects. District councillors bid for the cash on behalf of residents, groups, and parishes.

Hextable will be a brighter place thanks to a successful bid for £2,000 from Councillor Dee Morris. The cash will go toward a permanent electricity supply to the village green to power Christmas lights.

Councillor Carol Clark, who represents Ash and New Ash Green, also successfully bid for £2,500 for urgent repairs to the New Ash Green Youth Centre.

The next deadline for applications is November 7. For information, visit sevenoaks.gov.uk/councillors or call 01732 227000.

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Press
release

Households which have not returned electoral registration forms face losing right to vote

SWANLEY residents can expect a knock at the door from the council if they have not returned their electoral registration forms.

The documents were sent out in early September and if they are not returned, people could lose their right to vote.

From October 14 Sevenoaks District Council will send out electoral canvassers who will collect forms

and answer any questions from people who have yet to respond.

Those whose details have not changed since they last registered can reply online, by text or free phone. Details are on the forms.

If you have not received the form, e-mail elreg@sevenoaks.gov.uk or call 01732 227000.

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Press
release

Disco will improve security

From page 1

Former district councillor Rachel Chard, who has children at the school, branded the incident as "disgusting". She added: "I have no concerns about the safety of my children under the school's care but people need to be aware this sort of thing goes on, even in Sevenoaks."

Warning

RocknRoller Disco refused to speak directly to the Chronicle but put a message on their Facebook page warning their clients about the incident.

It said: "A Word Of Caution. One of our staff's children was approached

within the centre at Sevenoaks.

"She was smart enough to get away but please be aware.

"With immediate effect there will be more security on hand at all RocknRoller events.

"It's an isolated incident, but one which we feel you should all be made aware of.

"Rest assured, all skaters' safety, both on and off the rink is paramount to us, and anyone crossing that line will be dealt with accordingly."

A spokesman for Sencio said: "We are working with the police to ensure all necessary measures are being taken to help this investigation."

Lake oil leak

SEVENOAKS: Residents around Bradbournne Lakes reported an oil leak in the water yesterday (Wednesday) and Tuesday.

The water is fed by a combination of rainfall, ground water springs and a culvert by Lake View Road. Sevenoaks District Council pumps more in dry weather.

Council officials told the Chronicle they are aware of the situation and have reported it to the Environment Agency.

Media enquiry

page 3

Dunton Green

SPD consultation

SEVENOAKS District Council is conducting a consultation on the

Draft Residential Character Area Assessment SPD.

This document sets out to define the character of local residential areas and provide design guidance for areas including Dunton Green. It is important that residents view and comment on this assessment.

The Dunton Green portion of the document is on the Parish Council website, www.dgpc.org.uk, for residents to view and comment on. The closing date for comments is Thursday February 16.

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press release

IT seems district councillor Ian Bosley should have gone to Specsavers - at a Sevenoaks District Council meeting last weekend, he invited a female colleague to speak, addressing her more than once as "sir".

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£5k boost for projects from fund

MORE details have emerged about the latest round of Sevenoaks District Council's local grants.

Last month's Big Community Fund decisions include £3,000 for a Thumper Tower addition to the recreation ground in West Kingsdown.

The idea for the multi-level apparatus, which includes classic playground features like swings and monkey bars, came from a young district councillor Faye I... n held recently with local schoolchildren and the parish council.

In addition, Seal and Weald district councillor Julia Thornton has been awarded £1,800 to help celebrate the Olympic Torch passing through to Seal on July 20.

SDC leader Peter Fleming said: "We've received a record number of applications for a wide range of community improvements and activities. I am very pleased that we've been able to provide funding for these exciting proposals."

For more information about the Big Community Fund visit www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/bcf

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press release

Mayor has your cash

LAST week's Sevenoaks Town Council budget meeting exposed the fraud at the heart of local government finance. Tory town councillors who are also county and district councillors, stood up and boasted about how Kent and Sevenoaks District had frozen their council tax for 2012. What they failed to mention was the central government money they are given to do it!

So for example, Kent is getting £14 million from the Treasury to freeze its tax level. But we residents of Kent are paying for it through higher VAT and extra government borrowing. Just remember that when the council tax bill falls through the letter box!

Sevenoaks Town Council has no such cosy deal available. So to freeze council tax, the Conservative leadership has decreed that grants to voluntary and community bodies must be cut. Support to volunteers next year will be down by 15 per cent.

In real terms, allowing for inflation since 2006, community grants have been cut by 30 per cent.

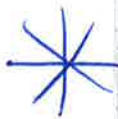
But they still found money to raise the mayor's funding. This has gone up by 69 per cent since 2006, to almost £7,000.

So the message to volunteer groups in 2012 is clear. If you invite the mayor to an event, ask for a £100 entry fee.

He's got the money you are missing.

Tony Clayton
Bayham Road
Sevenoaks

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New playground wins £3k grant from district council

Groups and projects encouraged to apply for share of special fund

By **Harriet Cooke**
harriet.cooke@sevenoaks-chronicle.co.uk

OTFORD village has been given a grant of £3,000 towards a new playground.

The funding from Sevenoaks District Council's Big Community Fund was set up last year to help worthy projects across the area.

District councillor Michelle Lowe successfully secured £3,000 from the pot for a play facility intended for two to eight-year-olds.

The planned new £36,000 project, in Hale Lane Recreation Ground, will also cater for the needs of disabled and visually impaired users.

It has been designed with the input of residents and will meet the need of a junior play area within easy walking distance of the village.

The project, led by the parish council, has already secured funding from the Otford Society and fundraising continues.

Richard Knight, chairman of the recreation committee, said: "We had to raise 11 per cent of the total amount before we could make a big application, and now we have exceeded that."

The Kippington area is also soon to benefit from the fund after

a successful bid by Avril Hunter for new salt bins.

Costing £750, the bins mean residents can help themselves during icy conditions.

They will be located by nine steep roadsides and will each have designated "road representatives".

The community will contribute to the total cost of the bins and buy their own salt.

The project is being managed by the Redlands Residents' Association.

Cllr Pat Bosley, cabinet member for community grants, said: "We are delighted at the response we have received and are looking forward to seeing these worthwhile projects being put into action."

Ideas

Residents, groups, and local people with ideas for the Big Community Fund can find out how to make an application by getting in touch with their district councillor.

Their contact details are available at www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/councillors or by calling 01732 227000.

For more information about the Big Community Fund visit www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/bcf

The deadline for the next applications is April 2.



DELIGHTED: Pupils from Otford School at the Hale Lane recreation ground where the new play area will be built

press release



Projects benefit from community fund cash windfalls

MORE villages have benefited from Sevenoaks District Council's (SDC) Big Community Fund cash windfalls.

The authority's initiative makes available pots of money for local projects.

District councillors, on behalf of their wards, must apply to SDC with details of how the money would be used.

The latest round of grants are largely Diamond Jubilee and Olympic-themed.

Dunton Green received £1,500 to help stage a free Jubilee community entertainment event, with the remaining £1,150 going towards the purchase of street decorations, facilities and a memorial plaque to commemorate the Olympic Torch passing through Riverhead on July 20.

Meanwhile, councillor John Edwards-Winsor has been granted £700 to help commemorate the joining of Oford with its town Neufchatel-Hardelot in France.



COMMEMORATION: Julia Thornton on Underriver's new Jubilee bench

The money awarded from May's round of grants will be put towards new gateway signs and framed certificates declaring the twinning of the towns.

And Cllr Gary Williamson successfully secured £600 to help towards Knockholt's Jubilee celebrations.

Looking further ahead is Kemsing's dis-

trict councillor Mark Butler, who has secured £125 to go towards the Noah's Ark Resident Association's Christmas community event.

The money granted from May's Big Community Fund will help pay for insurance and the cost of an electrician, allowing this year's event to take place as planned.

Lastly, Farningham, Horton Kirby and South Darenth's councillor Philip McGarvey was granted £500 from May's Big Community Fund for Farningham's Jubilee celebrations.

Residents, groups and local people who would like to bid for a share of the Big Community Fund can find out how by getting in touch with their local district councillor.

Councillors' contact details are available at www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/councillors or by calling 01732 227000.

Press
release

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Sky ride for all cyclists

RESIDENTS of Sevenoaks are invited to get on their bikes to join in a celebration of cycling.

Sky Ride, a national campaign from Sky and British Cycling, is being run in the area and aims to inspire and help everyone, regardless of their age or ability to cycle.

A programme of free rides with routes throughout Sevenoaks district is available and rides fall into four categories of difficulty: Ride Easy, Ride Steady, Ride Well and Ride Strong.

Sky Rides in the Sevenoaks area are co-ordinated by Sevenoaks District Council as part of the Paralympic Games road cycling event being held in the district in September.

Cllr Pat Bosley, the council's cabinet member for community wellbeing, said: "This is a bril-

liant opportunity for local residents to take advantage of a national scheme and embrace cycling in the year of the Paralympic Games coming to the District."

Places are limited to approximately 30 people per ride and are expected to fill up quickly, so interested residents are advised to book places as quickly as possible.

The next rides in the Sevenoaks area are Ride Easy – a spin around Knole Park and Ride Steady – a ride from New Ash Green to Stanstead, both on August 12.

For more details or to book a place on a ride, visit www.goskyride.com and search for Darent Valley on the Ride Finder or go to the Sevenoaks Cycle Forum website.

Alternatively, call the district council on 01732 227000.

Press
release

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8 June 2012

Jubilee clock to be replaced

EDENBRIDGE: The town's historic clock will be replaced after two councillors managed to get funding from Sevenoaks District Council.

District councillors John Scholey and Jill Davison received £2,000 from the Big Community Fund to replace the broken clock which has hung from the Natwest Bank building in the High Street since 1935.

The clock was put there initially to celebrate King George V's Silver Jubilee. The new clock will be revealed as part of the upcoming summer festival and will celebrate both that Silver Jubilee and the current Diamond Jubilee.



press release.

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25 July 2012



Councillors' successful bid for park funds

TWO Sevenoaks District councillors have secured a grant of £2,700 for improvements to Bartholomew Park in Swanley.

Swanley White Oak ward councillor Janet Sargeant and Swanley St Mary's ward councillor Mark Fittock applied for the grant from the council's Big Community Fund.

It will be spent on a new bench and a bollard at the entrance to improve security with the remainder being put towards the cost of trimming the shrubs.

Cabinet member for community grants Councillor Pat Bosley said: "This month's applications continue to show how people are working with their district

councillors on projects which will benefit their communities."

The deadlines for the next applications are August 6 and September 3.

To bid for a share of the Big Community Fund, call your district councillor on 01732 227000 or visit the website at sevenoaks.gov.uk/councillors



Cllr Mark Fittock

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Press release



Speed gear catching dangerous motorists

Volunteers in Otford on the streets to monitor traffic

By Kirsty Grimes

kirsty.grimes@sevenoaks-chronicle.co.uk

NEW fears have been highlighted over dangerous traffic in Otford after a neighbourhood group took the streets with a speed mon-

Volunteers from Otford Parish Council carried out checks on passing cars by the village station last Thursday.

Between 6.30 and 7.30pm, they recorded more than 60 vehicles travelling above the 30mph limit.

District councillor and parish council chairman John Edwards-Winser said: "That evening we caught 60-plus offenders speeding at over 36mph, which is the reportable speed to the police.

"A fair number of them were driving at more than 45mph, and police send notices to offenders that break the limit like that.

Safety

"All of this was recorded in a 30mph zone and all within one hour.

"This shows how important it is to carry out speed watch, it is for the safety of the community.

"We now have 12 police-voiced sites in Otford and once the word gets around I'm sure traffic will slow down."

He added the equipment was bought thanks to Sevenoaks District Council's Big Community Fund, which gave the group £2,000 to buy portable signs that monitor the speed of passing motorists.

Otford Parish Council, The



SPEED WATCHERS Cliff Ward, John Edwards-Winser and Sue Stephenson

TWLD20120731A-002_C

Otford Society and the Historical Society also contributed towards the equipment.

The figures were revealed just a week after a horror crash in nearby Otford Road at lunchtime on July 21, which gridlocked traffic in the village for hours.

The Speedwatch group are also concerned about traffic on Sev-

enoaks Road, near to where the accident happened, and intend to investigate speed on this stretch.

A 51-year-old man from West-erham died in the collision.

Police are still investigating the incident, although there is no suggestion the accident was caused by excessive speed.

Brian Brauns, of The Old Walk,

Otford, suffered a punctured lung and shock in the crash.

His Sevenoaks Rotary Club colleague John Carrie, of Pilgrims Way East, Otford, said: "He is still in hospital but is progressing satisfactorily."

■ **What do you think of traffic in Otford?** Write to reporters @sevenoaks-chronicle.co.uk

20 September 2012

Grants for community will bring cycle boost



POTS of cash have been handed out to village projects.

Sevenoaks District Council's (SDC) Big Community Fund aims to make surplus money available to benefit residents and delegates amounts to communities looking for a windfall every few months.

Applicants must have the support for their local district councillor before entering.

The latest winners include the eastern ward of Sevenoaks, where £2,600 has been awarded to councillor Elizabeth Purves and the Hollybush Residents Association for eight bike racks.

The new racks will be at Hollybush Recreation Centre and aim to boost cycling in the area after hosting the Paralympic Games Road Cycling event.

Increasing the number of bike facilities is also in line with the Sevenoaks District Cycle Strategy.

Legacy

In addition, to further commemorate the legacy of the Paralympic Road Cycling event held in West Kingsdown, Cllr Pat Bosley has been awarded £300 to enable the parish council to buy a plaque to mark the occasion.

The plaque will be made by a local wood-turner and will be positioned in the entrance of the new village hall to be built on part of Gamecock Meadow.

The plaque will commemorate the Paralympic Games and cycling, with local primary school children involved in the design.

Swanley White Oak and Hextable also received handouts in the latest draw.

Peter Fleming, the leader of the council said: "All of these applications have had input from local communities and it's inspiring to see them applying for funds to improve their areas."

Residents, groups and local people who would like to bid for a share of the Big Community Fund should contact their local district councillor.

■ Their contact details are available online at www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/ councillors or by calling 01732 227000.

Press
release

1 November 2012



GRANTED: The under 13s team at Chipstead Football Club

Recreation site receives a cash grant

A BELEAGUERED recreation ground will receive a much-needed makeover courtesy of a local grant.

Young footballers at Chipstead can now look forward to playing on new small-sized pitches following the £2,750 boost.

The grounds in Sundridge Rec have been vandalised countless times over the past year, and young footballers were being intimidated by older children.

Chipstead FC now plans to set up new under 7s and under 9s teams as a way of introducing more young people to the sport and it is hoped the new pitches will offer a safer environment for the young players.

Club chairman Alan Black said: "We're all very pleased about the grant - the parish council has been through some really tough times with the rec and we appreciate their help.

Intimidation

"Obviously, I'm hoping the new pitches will put an end to any intimidation to the younger players.

"We can't say for sure this will help, but we are looking at it very positively."

The total cost of the makeover is expected to be £5,750. The grant of £2,750 came following a bid to the Sevenoaks District Council Big Community Fund by Robert Piper, who represents Brasted, Chevening and Sundridge.

This money will be used to clear and level a derelict play area, so that the site can be seeded for the new pitches.

Additional security measures will also be installed to monitor the entire area.

■ Residents or groups who would like to bid for a share of the Big Community Fund should contact their local district councillor.

Individuals' contact details are available at www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/ councillors or by calling 01732 227000.

Extension to primary questioned by council

A PROPOSED extension to a Sevenoaks school has been thrown into doubt by the town council.

Members of the authority expressed concern over traffic congestion near Lady Boswell's Primary School.

The school in Plymouth Drive, Sevenoaks, is one of four in the district selected by Kent County Council to consider taking more pupils on a permanent basis.

It has been determined there is not enough educational availability to meet the number of school-age children in the district.

Numbers for Lady Boswell's could soar from 210 to 420 within seven years.

Councillors objected during the public consultation over the future of both Lady Boswell's and Sevenoaks Primary School, noting "the current road network" around the former "lacks the capacity to meet the increase in traffic movements which would result from the expansion", according to town clerk Ann White.

Councillors suggested that negotiations be entered into with Sevenoaks District Council to permit parents and guardians to park in the nearby SDC-owned car park, which has a direct access route through to the school, during drop-off and pick-up times, thus bypassing Plymouth Drive entirely.

However, they supported the expansion of Sevenoaks Primary School subject to the provision of an on-site turning area to alleviate the current congestion in Bradbourne Park Road during peak drop-off and pick-up times.

Cycle commuters totally disregarded

ONE item looked forward to each week in the Chronicle, is discovering which item of local absurdity Christine Mackinnon has turned her acerbic journalistic skill to in the current issue. This week was a delight, where she contrasted the concert hall-like atrium at Sevenoaks station, with the removal and almost hiding of functional items like ATMs.

If Christine were to join the growing number of those who cycle to the station, she would in addition become aware of what amounts to utter disregard for the needs of cycle commuters in the station refurbishment.

Prior to the station revamp, the Sevenoaks Cycle Forum on a number of occasions asked that the cycle parking capacity be drastically increased.

This was in recognition that the facilities were inadequate and cyclists were dependent on the railings by the station to secure cycles.

It became all the more poignant when it looked as if Sevenoaks District Council (SDC) was going to remove most of the railings.

We rejoiced when it was announced that the storage space at the station was going to be increased to 300 cycles, and awaited the arrival of high quality, well designed and built, twin tier cycle racks on a par with those installed at many London stations.

The rejoicing soon ended though when the racks arrived and were installed.

They were not of the high quality seen in London, but a rather shoddy copy with a number of basic design flaws.

We succeeded in getting minor modifications to overcome the worst of the defects, but in essence Sevenoaks cyclists have been short-changed by the quality of cycle parking installed.

Further, the cycle forum has received a number of reports of how the upper racks descend without warning when loaded with a bike.

It is a considerable danger for anyone nearby.

It would seem that Network Rail are not prepared to discuss this dire situation any further.

Meanwhile, I would like to express on behalf of many cyclists our appreciation to SDC for not removing the expanse of railings around the station, as they are providing a much valued cycle securing facility, far superior to that supplied in the station refurbishment.

Reg Oakley
Nightingale Road
Kemsing

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1 November 2012



Recreation ground given revamp grant

Parish council secures £2,750 for football pitch

By Alice Hemmings

alice.hemmings@sevenoaks-chronicle.co.uk

A BELEAGUERED recreation ground is to receive a much-needed makeover courtesy of a local grant.

Sundridge Parish Council has successfully applied for a cash injection of £2,750 to spruce up Sundridge rec following months of antisocial behaviour from local youths.

The grounds have been vandalised countless times over the past year, with young footballers being intimidated by older children.

But thanks to Sevenoaks District Council's (SDC) Big Community Fund, new football facilities at the ground will be put in place.

Secured

District councillor Robert Piper, who represents Brasted, Chevening and Sundridge, secured the funding, which is proposed to be used for creating a new dedicated playing area for younger boy and girl footballers at a total cost of £5,750.

Chipstead FC plans now to set up new under 7s and under 9s teams as a way of introducing more young people to the sport.

Club chairman Alan Black said: "We're all very pleased about the grant – the parish council over there have been through some really tough times with the rec and we appreciate their help.

"Obviously, I'm hoping it will put an end to any intimidation to the younger players. The problem really comes in the evening when there are 20 or so youngsters with just one manager.

"At the weekend, when there are parents there, it is easier to manage.



READY TO PLAY: The under 13s team who train at Sundridge recreation ground

"We can't say for sure this will help, but we are looking at it very positively."

Although Sundridge Recreation Ground has two full-sized football pitches used frequently by older junior, senior and veteran teams, young children under the age of 10 have previously been unable to partake in the sport due to regulations stating that younger players must play on smaller pitches.

The funding granted by the District Council along with funding from the Par-

ish Council, will be used to clear and level a derelict play area, so that they can then seed the site for the new ground. Additional security measures will also be added to the area.

Residents, groups and local people who would like to bid for a share of the Big Community Fund should contact their local district councillor.

■ Their contact details are available at www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/councillors or by calling 01732 227000.

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Press
release

Parking not the big issue we thought?

■ Comment on Mixed fortunes for pre-Christmas trade from page 3

THERE was a mixed reaction from traders to the great Christmas rush.

With free parking on offer, the much-anticipated shopfest did not materialise for some store owners. Others in Sevenoaks say it brought many to the party and they were rushed off their feet.

It seems the great Sevenoaks issue - town centre parking - might not be the sole solution to traders' woes.

Page 2

Business owners' free conference

WEST KENT: A free conference is being held for the county's business owners.

The intention is to provide a forum for people to meet, hear from and question people working in economic development at a national, regional and local government level.

Sevenoaks MP Michael Fallon will be the keynote speaker at the event, called Stimulating Economic Growth, while Sevenoaks District Council leader Peter Fleming is chairman.

It will be held at the East Malling Conference Centre, from 9.30am to 1pm on January 18, and there will be numerous other speakers.

Anyone who wishes to attend the event can register their interest at www.eventzilla.net

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Local projects receive total of £5,000

COMMUNITIES in Sevenoaks have received a share of £5,000 in grants for local projects.

The money has been dished out by Sevenoaks District Council in the latest round of the Big Community Fund.

Hartley and Hodsoll Street ward has been awarded £3,000 for new play equipment at the Woodland Avenue Recreational Ground for young children.

Pupils from Hartley Primary School said they wanted a new play area and used the project as part of their citizenship curriculum.

Hartley Parish Council and Hartley Community Group hope to provide equipment for under eights and children with special needs, and will be organising fundraisers.

The play area will include a climbing frame with slide, swings, a roundabout, a rocker and spinner,

and an adventure trail.

Otford and Shoreham ward has bagged £200 towards a project to provide and install hearing loops and train staff in their use.

The money will be used to buy equipment for the reception desk and the meeting room at Otford council offices to improve access for residents with hearing disabilities.

Pat Bosley, the council's member for the Big Community Fund, said:

"All of these applications will benefit their local communities and it is motivating to see so many local groups keen to improve services and facilities in their local areas."

Westerham got £1,000 for a notice board and Hextable was handed £638 to improve the stage at the Five Wents hall.

■ Any residents or groups who would like a slice of the fund should contact their local councillor.

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BIN men are working over the busy festive period meaning minimum disruption for residents in Sevenoaks.

The district council's refuse crews are working between Christmas Day and New Year to keep the town clean and avoid a backlog of collections.

In most cases the collections will be one day later than usual with one collection, December 25, delayed for a week.

■ December 24 collection will not be changed.

■ December 25 collection delayed until January 2

■ December 26, 27, 28 collections will be a day later

■ December 31 collection will not be changed

■ January 1, 2, 3, 4 collections will be a day later.

■ Residents should put out rubbish sacks by 7am on the revised collection days. For more information call 01732 227000 or go to www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/refuse

MY OLD MAN'S A SANTA: Refuse collectors Tony Miles and Paul Constable



Press release

Press release