

Riverhead Parish Council

April 2017

Dear Riverhead Residents,

This year I am pleased to start this letter with a big thank you! Thank you to those who participated in our traffic improvement survey; thank you to those who gave us feedback on our Facebook page and even a bigger thank you to those who helped at our Riverhead Great British Spring Clean morning last March.

Unfortunately, we have not been allowed to implement many of the suggestions we received in the survey for a range of reasons from money restrictions to Kent Highways Policy. However, we are keeping them in mind and we already have installed a new bus shelter in front of River Court and are in the process of installing entry gates at one entrance of the village.

Our attention however has been drawn by the rising parking issues due to the new restrictions on the Harvester carpark. Sevenoaks District Council has promised to review the parking scheme throughout the village this year. As a result, I can only urge you to get together street by street and achieve a consensus on any measures that you wish to see implemented. This is the best – and maybe the only – way for any change to take place.

I also would like to point out that although no land has been marked for future development in Riverhead, lands on the very edge of the village are at risk: on Brittain's Lane, 20 acres between Montreal Park and Brittain's Farm are subject to enquiries despite being in the Green Belt as well as 6 acres on Bradbourne Vale Road (A25) between the Scout ground and the allotments. It is also worthwhile mentioning the Northern Sevenoaks Masterplan that concerns the redevelopment over 20 years of a very large area comprising Bat & Ball, the Nature reserve, the old quarries and Greatness Park.

On a more encouraging note, our list of 28 trees or groups of trees submitted to receive a Tree Preservation Order is being considered by Sevenoaks District Council and our application to obtain the status of "Village Green" for the Parkland is well under way. As the Parkland is neither in the Green Belt nor in the Conservation Area, we thought that such a status was the only way to preserve it for the future generations.

For the first time this year, we are participating the "Village in Bloom" competition. To succeed, we need to gather people from different part of the village and form a committee that is not related to the Parish Council. Beside the flowers in the centre of the village, we will need a spotless village throughout. To achieve this, we would be very grateful for as many helpers as possible to participate to our **Big Morning Clean on the 1 July at 10am**.

Eventually, I am warmly inviting you to the **Annual Parish Meeting on Thursday 11 May at 7.30pm** in the Village Hall where there will be short presentations of our work. There will also be an opportunity to ask questions and make comments. Refreshments will be served afterwards and you will be able to meet us informally.

Yours sincerely,



Isabelle Mercer, Chairman

Parish Clerk, Riverhead Village Hall, Amherst Hill, Riverhead, TN13 2EL
Tel: 01732 461278 Email: riverheadparish@tiscali.co.uk