

CONTACTS

All contacts also listed on www.iwadevillage.co.uk

COUNCIL

Swale Borough Council	T-01795 417850	E-csc@swale.gov	Tw- @SwaleCouncil	FB- Swale
KCC 24hr Helpline	T-08458 247247	E-county.hall@kent.gov.uk		
Ward Cllr Ben Stokes	T-01795 476979	E-ben.stokes34@btinternet.com		
County Cllr Alan Willicombe	T-01795 439680	M-07892697712	E-alan.willicombe@kent.gov.uk	
County Cllr Mike Whiting	T-01795 842631	E-mike.whiting@kent.gov.uk		
Parish Clerk Lynda Fisher	T-01795 477015	E-iwadepc@blueyonder.co.uk		
Village Hall Hire- Sue	T-01795 475967	W-iwadevillagehall.org.uk		

CRIME

Kent Police Emergency	T-999	W- kent.police.uk		
Non-Emergency	T-101	Tw-@kent_Police	Fb-Kent Police	
PCSO Matthew Link	T-as above	E- 56826@kent.pnn.police.uk		
Nick Mayatt (Kent Warden)	M- 07969 584184	E- nick.mayatt@kent.gov.uk		
Neighbourhood Watch	T-01795 419211	Anti-Social Behaviour Team	T-01795 417575	

CHURCH

Revd.Canon Alan J Amos	T-01795 842913	E- alanmedway@btinternet.com		
Richard Lyndsell (Warden)	T- 01795 478755	E- richardlyndsell@hotmail.com		
Ron Francis (Warden)	T- 01795 427777			
Captain Stephen Plumb	T- 01795 429752	M-07905 040119	E-captainplumb@btinternet.com	

NEWS

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ORGANISATIONS AND CLUBS

Iwade School	T-01795 472578	W- iwade.kent.sch.uk		
Iwade Health Centre	T-01795 413100	Iwade Pharmacy	T-01795 439368	
Bodycare	T-01795 474555	Heaven Hair And Beauty	T-01795 435958	
Londis	T-tbc	The Woolpack (and Darts)	T-01795 472656	
Happy Days Nursery	T-01795 424348	Tinkerbells	T-07592 544285	
Ickle Pickles Nursery	T-01795 474551	Iwade Garage	T-01795 438988	
Brownies- Debbie Rhodes	T-07900 302905	(school hall- Mondays 5.45-7pm)		
Rainbows- Sue Thomas	T-01795 422810	E-susanthomas2609@hotmail.co.uk		
Cubs/Beavers- Kelly Croucher	T- 07780 975444	(Village Hall- Mondays 6:15-8:30pm)		
Model Flying Club	T-07973 938171	Health Walks- Jan	T-01795 471173	
Iwade Herons Football Club	T-01795 477821	M-07597 947226	E- ifcsecretary@hotmail.co.uk	
Iwade Allotment Assoc.	T-07778 384233	E- philburbury@hotmail.com		
Parent and Toddler	(Village Hall- Tuesdays 9-11am)	W.I- Hilary Foulds	T-01795 474686	
Scouts-	T-07854 401734	(Village Hall- Thursdays 7:15pm)		
Weight Watchers	(Iwade School- Tuesdays 5:30 and 7pm)			
Milton Hundred Wargames	E-miltonhundredwargamesclub@gmail.com			
Sittingbourne Speedway Ltd.	E- theoldgunsite@gmail.com			

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Welcome back Spring, we've missed you!

And Well Done to the new Editorial team for the May issue!

May 2013

Our Fallen Heroes - Can You Help?



Historical Research Group of Sittingbourne

The centenary of the start of World War I takes place in 2014. Many events are to be organised over the next four years to commemorate the war, the lead being taken by the Imperial War Museum.

Locally, there is a project, organised by the Historical Research Group of Sittingbourne, to record the names of all those listed on the first world war memorials of Sittingbourne and eighteen surrounding parishes, including Iwade. The aim is not just to record the names but to reveal who they were, how they served, when and where they sacrificed their lives and where they are buried. Ideally we would like to discover whether they have living relatives, to learn something

about them and possibly discover a photograph.

All this will be recorded in a book or DVD in order that their story and the memory of their ultimate sacrifice will be more widely known.

Iwade resident Graeme Horner is responsible for researching the names on the Iwade church memorial tablet. He has been able to discover the outline of the military service of each of them, in most cases their immediate relatives and often where they lived and worked. He has photographs either of their headstones or of the war memorial in France (and one case Egypt) where they are remembered. There are just eight names (one of whom, though

buried in the churchyard, is not recorded on the war memorial tablet). The names are Percy Edward Taylor & George Thomas Taylor (brothers), Ernest Arthur Ransley, William Thomas Kingsnorth, Walter George Colchin, George Thomas Hopkins, William John Barnes and T. Clements. If anyone is able to provide information, or particularly a photograph, Graeme would be delighted to hear from you. Any information will be treated with security & respect and will only be published with the consent of the relative. Graeme hopes to create a memorial book to be kept in Iwade Church and to extend the book to include the second world war. If you can help Graeme, please contact him directly on 01795 437 026 or email him at gandp199faraday@hotmail.co.uk

20mph Briefing Note



20mph zones in residential areas, such as Iwade, with tight roads and plenty of pedestrians. My view is that the whole village could be one large 20mph zone, with four ways

An update from Cllr. Mike Whiting.

I support the Government's view that 20mph zones should be encouraged. I have long been in favour of

in and out; north and South (Sheppey Way), east (Grovehurst Road) and west (School Lane); clearly marked 20mph. I believe it would make the roads safer for all.

KCC is currently carrying out an 18 month trial of a number of speed reduction measures outside 5 primary schools in Maidstone which includes two legally enforceable 20mph limits and two part time advisory 20mph limits. The results of this trial are expected to help inform the Councils review of its 20mph policy this summer. The final results will be reported early summer 2014.

Iwade Speedwatch

Iwade now has its own Speedwatch Team but needs more volunteers. The aim of the group is to reduce the speed of drivers within the village with full training given by Kent Police. Any volunteers would not be expected to give up much time. If anyone is interested then please email Rachel at rachelrook25@hotmail.co.uk or call 01795 435449

Tinkerbells Early Years

We would firstly like to say welcome to all our new children and their families that joined us after the Easter break. All our sessions at Tinkerbells are now currently full so we'd like to take this opportunity to advise anyone wishing to put their child's name down for our September intake, if you could



please do so as soon as possible as spaces are going fast.

Last term the children took part in making their very own bugs following on from our topic of 'Mini Beasts'. As part of our Easter celebrations, for cooking, they made yummy chocolate Easter nests. We also made visits to our allotment, preparing the raised beds ready for growing fruit and vegetables which we are now hoping to get planted as the finer weather is at last showing signs of finally arriving!

The topic for this term is 'Animals', so as well as creative animal activities taking place, our usual bus trips into town will give the children opportunities to visit the pet shop and fishmongers.



Despite the cold weather last term, we still managed to get the children out on bus trips and with everyone all wrapped up warm, it did not spoil the fun for the children that went on a trip over to Sheerness to explore on the beach.



Iwade Scouts, Cubs and Beavers

More children than ever are asking to join the Iwade Scouts, Cubs and Beaver groups. Unfortunately, the groups are a victim of their own success which means no more children can be taken on unless more volunteers can be found to assist the groups. If you can spare some time to help and have, or are willing to be CRB registered, please contact Jo Richards on 07854 401 734. Also, if anybody has a suitable skill which can be shared and demonstrated with any of the groups, again, please contact Jo.

Model Flying Club

Medway MFC has for many years collected for the Kent Air Ambulance Trust, now called the Kent and Sussex Air Ambulance Trust. Last night at our monthly meeting we handed their representative, Mr George Wildridge a cheque for £752. This takes our donations since 2006 to over £7000.

Well done to all our members and their wives who helped with the fund raising.

We are already collecting for 2013 so if you see us at any event please sort any old change or old wrinkled notes and help fill the green boxes. It's a worthy cause and one hopefully none of us will ever need.

Battling Weeds by Ann

Hopefully by the time you are reading this Iwade will be basking in the sun and cold, windy days will be a distant memory. It is amazing how weed seeds happily lay dormant until the growing conditions are just right, but our vegetables and flowers shiver and sulk, or just plain refuse to grow at all if we put them in too early. A lot of us at the allotments are fighting to get the ground ready to plant, and the battle against the weeds will be lost if they get to spread their seeds. The best advice I can give, wherever you garden, is to stop them in their tracks.

Smothering them is the one option I really like. Anything that keeps out the light suitable. Weed suppressant material is designed to let the water through and stop the weeds coming up, but it does need a good covering of something to look good in the garden. Old carpets are often used on allotments, but if left too long hard to lift once it has started to break up. Black polythene is another option which has the benefit of warming up the soil as well, but it doesn't let the water through, which can cause drainage problems, especially with our clay soil. I've been pleased so far with my cardboard I put down last autumn. On top of it I put compost from the bins, as well as some manure. Ideally the beds are covered with layers of cardboard and green waste. Most of the cardboard has now rotted away, but the compost layer is thick enough to stop a lot of weed seeds germinating, and as long as I don't dig and bring them back to the surface, I should have less of a problem.

Weed killer can be very useful if used carefully, but it's hard to find a time that is safe to spray. Drifting weed killer can be a real problem to neighbouring plots at the allotment site as it will kill other people's crops as well as the weeds. If there is a calm spell and you are not totally organic, it is worth using this before getting the ground rotavated. Otherwise the rotavator will chop the roots into little bits, each one able to grow a new plant in the case of the thistles and some other weeds. Not the type of propagation most of us want.



Dates for the Diary

County Council Elections (Swale Division)

Thursday 2nd May - 07:00 - 22:00 - Iwade Village Hall

Iwade Parish Council Meeting

Wednesday 8th May - 19:30 - Village Hall

Mobile Library

Thursday 9th May 11.15 to 11.25 - Springvale end of Sheerstone, 1 piece of ID required to join

Iwade Village Market

Sunday 12th May - 10:00 - 13:00, breakfast in the kitchen from 9am
[facebook/iwademonthlymarket](https://www.facebook.com/iwademonthlymarket)

WI Meeting

Wednesday 15th May 19:00 - Village Hall

Patient Participation Forum

Saturday 18th May 10:00 - 12:00 - Iwade Health Centre

Iwade Village Hall Table Top Sale/Boot Fair

Sunday 19th May 9.30 - 12.30 - Village Hall

Mobile Library

Thursday 23rd May 11.15 to 11.25 - Springvale end of Sheerstone, 1 piece of ID required to join

Karaoke

Saturday 25th May 20:00 - The Woolpack Pub

Big Lunch

Sunday 2nd June 2013 from 12:30pm at Iwade Allotments end of Elm Tree Avenue, all welcome

House Hold Sale

Sunday 30th June 11:00 - 15:00 (Collect a sellers map from 10:30 in the village hall)

Iwade Rocks 2013

Saturday 20th July 12:00 - 22:00 - Village Hall (more info in June's Observer)

School Lane Playing Fields

The Parish Council wish to make residents aware that the School Lane Playing fields are closed to the public as they now belong to Persimmon Homes and are therefore private property. Please remind your children as we would not want to have accidents there.

Missing Cat

After being missing for a week and asking for help from Iwade Does Facebook, we have finally found Betty Boo. We had a call from a man who thought he had seen her about a mile away. We dashed over there and called her name and she appeared over a wall!! She is now safe and well at home. Thank you to everyone for looking out for her and to Paul Whitehead who found her.

Big Lunch

Iwade's local allotments will be hosting a Big Lunch on 2nd June from 12:30pm. There will be raffle prizes donated by local businesses and the opportunity to buy some seedlings for your garden or allotment. Perfect for an afternoon of family fun. We will be collecting for both Iwade allotments and Macmillan Cancer Care. All you need is yourself, family, food and some loose change. We'd love to see you there!

Table Top Sale/Boot Fair

Ever get the feeling that you really need a spring clean and a clear out of your belongings? Now is the perfect time to get rid of some things and earn some money in the process!

The next table top sale will also incorporate a boot fair in the car park and garden area of the Village Hall, giving you a perfect opportunity to have that spring clean. If you don't think you have enough to fill a table, how about getting together with a friend to share one?

Costs are £8 for an indoor table (provided) or just £5 for an outside space (BYO table).

Book your table at www.bookwhen.co.uk/iwade-village-hall-events



School Lane Development

Most reports on new housing are negative, but we are pleased to report that the Hillreed Development at the end of School Lane will have much better parking than previously thought. Each house will not only have a garage, but also 2 parking spaces. A luxury that most of us can only dream about! The Showhome is expected to be open from the middle of May, at which point all sales will be moved away from the temporary office in Colson Drive. Hillreed would like to thank residents for their patience during this period.

Canvassing

by Roger Truelove KCC Election candidate.

'Oh to be in England, now that April's there'

When Victorian poet Robert Browning offered his wistful home thoughts from abroad, he did not have in mind spending every day in April canvassing for votes on every English man's doorstep. That, rather strangely, is what I have done for nearly every one of the last 30 years.

Now in the middle of a current campaign, I am writing this most categorically not in the hope of currying support, but to give some insight into what it feels like to be the intrusive supplicant standing at your door.

The first thing to say this year is that it is very cold. I have never known it feel so cold for a spring election. Indeed, at times we have decided not to venture out at all, partly of course, to protect our own health but also in deference to the poor people who we drag, often reluctantly, to the front door.

I have friends who ask "why do you do it?" In fact, there are some party members, in all parties, who will do anything for the cause, except canvass. For some it is too much of a stressful experience. They fear that they may be caught out on some key political point and let the side down.

The truth is that the doorstep exchanges rarely contain much that is truly political. In fact, I honestly believe that when national political figures talk about "the issues on the doorstep" they are usually being a bit creative and selective about what those issues are.

Rather than talk about the economy, or the health service, or foreign policy, it is much more likely that the conversations on the doorstep are about the immediate road surface, litter collection or a children's play area.

Of course, there is also a fear of being rudely rejected, but that happens very rarely. It isn't very English to be rude. Of course, if you can't accept somebody telling you they won't vote for you, then you had better not start canvassing.

By any analysis, that has to happen. Even in the recent Falklands citizenship vote, there wasn't a 100% vote in one direction. What is a little more depressing is when voters (or rather non-voters) reject the whole political process. "You're all the same, I'm not voting" they say. Sadly this group grows year by year. This is not the place to discuss the reasons why.

Now, I still have not said why we do it. We don't really expect to convert people do we? No, we don't. However, all the evidence suggest that if we don't bother to call on people, then a fairly substantial number of those who might support a particular party, decline to bother too. They stay at home on Election Day.

As I write this, I am exactly half way through the current campaign. There is a long way to go. What sustains our willingness to carry on canvassing day after day until the election is over? I am sure this may seem pathetic to some readers, but to the political activist, Election Day and the counting of the votes is a little akin to being in the Cup Final of a major sport, say football or cricket. The emotions after the event are very similar too, depending of course on the result.

In fact, if the weather has improved by then, I'm pretty sure that once the counting is over I will seek to restore emotional sanity, and go off to Canterbury to watch some cricket.

Assuming you have done, thank you for reading this.

Patient Participation Group

The next meeting is on Sat 18th May at 10am in the Health Centre. The meeting offers you the chance to shape the future of the HC, please come along and have your say!

Iwade WI

by Glenn Walters

In April Iwade WI was regaled with stories of "Mystery Animals of Kent" by Neil Arnold. He is a very well known authority on this subject and made fascinating listening. To keep in with this theme the competition was a drawing of an animal. Also in April Iwade WI hosted the Newington Group meeting where eight WI's gathered together in the Village Hall, conducted the usual business and then were entertained by the Secretary of the Magic Circle. Tea and home baked savoury and sweet biscuits were served and the entertainment was rounded off with a rendition of songs by eight members of our WI, along with a few others and a very brave gentleman, who are part of a local singing group called The Hartbeats who meet in Hartlip Village Hall on a Friday afternoon. (www.livinglively.or.uk)

On 15 May it is our Resolutions meeting where we choose which resolution to put forward for voting at the National AGM. We are also going to have a "Rogues Gallery" at this meeting where members will bring in a photograph of themselves between the ages of 0-5 years, to see if they can be identified.

A visit to the Brick Lane theatre to celebrate St George's Day with entertainment and afternoon tea is an extra treat we are looking forward to.

We also anticipate that our speaker in June, Sarah Jane Ladbrook, will entertain us with

"Overland in a Bus, London to China".

Iwade WI meets on the 3rd

Wednesday of each month, if interested please ring

Hilary (Sec) on 01795

474686.



Iwade Gets Active

"There's nothing to do around here!".....well, there are lots of clubs and activities in (or near) Iwade, here are some ideas.

Iwade Bootcamp.

A really friendly bunch and all standards of fitness welcome! Meet every Wednesday 6.10pm on the park area green of Stangate Drive, Sessions are only £2 For more details, contact Adi on 07540 418 447.

Find Iwade Bootcamp style fitness group on facebook.

Fishing

Millen Water Fly Fishery is a syndicate fishery for Fly Fishing which members stock and manage. The water is private with no access for day tickets however members can invite guests. The fish are predominantly Rainbow Trout with a small number of Brown Trout, Blue Trout and Tiger Trout, a resident population of Rudd and a haven for wildlife. Insect life is prolific from gnats to dragonflies, which is good for the fishing.

Contact Gordon Dickson on 01634 684 465 or e-mail gordon.dickson1888@gmail.com or find them at www.millan-waters.co.uk

Golf

The Rook Golf Society golfers can mainly be found in the Woolpack so if you are interested in joining then Peter Bruce is your man. Otherwise ask for Mark Burgess behind the bar

Karate

Nyumon Karate Do is on at Iwade Community Primary School on Wednesdays. For more information contact Amanda Thompson on 07709 632879

Football

Iwade Herons Football Club are a junior football club offering all young players in the area an opportunity to train and play the beautiful game of football in a safe environment. The Herons' focus is fun! Established in 2003 with just 2 junior teams today the Herons have young players enjoying the game ranging from Under 5/6's fun footballers up to an Under-18 team.

If you would like to know more about the Club, or wish to enquire about a young player joining or even to volunteer in running the teams or the Club we would be delighted to hear from you! Please see our Contacts page www.IwadeHeronsFC.co.uk for the details of the Club's officers, any of whom would be pleased to assist you.

Find them on Facebook "Official Iwade Herons Facebook Group"

Scottish Country Dancing

Scottish County Dancing is on Friday evenings at Iwade Village Hall from 8pm to 10pm. Beginners welcome, no previous experience necessary. Bring soft shoes to wear. Cost £2 includes tea/coffee at the interval.

Model Flying Club

Established in 1974 Medway Model Flying Club are a friendly club of model flying enthusiasts. The Club's main flying site is at Stickfast Lane, near Iwade. Membership currently full although you are welcome to contact Phil Fearn (Chairman)

Email: pfiwade@blueyonder.co.uk for more information. Or just come along and say hello.

Walking

The Iwade arm of Kent Healthwalks meets at Lloyds Pharmacy on a Thursday morning 10.30am for 10.45am start to walk 3 to 4 miles across the fields (if it's not muddy and wet).

Free of charge and no commitment.

Note that stiles have now been replaced with kissing gates thanks to Kent Highways.

Contact Jan on 01795 471173 or email jan.a.morris@btinternet.com or check out the East Kent HealthWalks website

Darts

The Woolpack is home to Mixed, Ladies and Mens Darts teams who play on Tuesdays, Wednesdays or Thursdays. To find out more talk to Mark Burgess at the Woolpack.

Speedway

Sittingbourne Speedway Club is based at The Old Gun Site, Raspberry Hill Lane Iwade.

Iwade operates two training tracks. The main track is for full 500cc machines while the training track is for riders of all ages on machines up to 200cc. The Club's main objective is to provide speedway training and practice for members. Many who started out at Iwade have gone on to become established riders in British Speedway, including two world champions!

Contact them on 07875 849551 (Enquiries) or email theoldgunsite@gmail.com. Or find them on the web at www.sittingbourne-speedway.co.uk

All Saint's Church by Stephen Plumb

May 19th is Pentecost Sunday, a day that remembers the start of the church some 2000 years ago, when the Holy Spirit 'came upon' the disciples and 1000's of people became believers in Jesus.

The same Holy Spirit is still at work in and through the church helping it to proclaim to each generation, in ways that people can experience and understand the Christian gospel.

The weekly All Age Service which began at Christmas is one response at All Saint's to seek to make church more enjoyable and relevant to our daily lives.

There are plans to make some minor alterations to the historic building to make it more comfortable, and provide a flexible and usable space for the church and the wider community.

At last month's APCM two new church wardens were elected; Pamela Horner and Dawn Plumb and a new PCC. Their task is the same as the first disciples, to be 'empowered' by the Holy Spirit to make the gospel known and experienced in their community. All Saint's is here for the community in Iwade, so why not come along one Sunday morning at 10.45am?

Discounts

This month brings you some brilliant new discounts for Iwade residents from some fabulous local businesses!

Iwade Garage

Anyone booking a full service during the month of May will receive a mini valet included free of charge (valued at £20).

www.iwadegarage.co.uk
01795 438988

Hawaiian Tropics

Tanning Studio

25 High Street, Sittingbourne
01795 410957
Offer 1: Flabelos Weight Loss Machine –
1 month course (28 x 10 mins) Half Price at £30
Offer 2: 75 Minute Sunbed Course £30
Like us on Facebook @ Hawaiian Tropics
Please mention voucher when booking and bring to first appointment.

The Flabelos Machine really works! -Ed.

Kan Kans (Usborne Books)

Imaginative and creative reading books for your children.
10% discount on any order placed in May.
Contact Katharyn on
07982 728736
Like us on Facebook at
facebook.com/kankansbooks

MIXED FORTUNES AT SPEEDWAY CLUB

Some good news and bad news. Firstly the bad news is that the atrocious weather conditions played havoc with the Club's winter training programme, so far the club has only run two practice sessions this year. All other planned practice sessions have had to be called off as the tracks have been unrideable. Hopefully the weather will start to improve and riders will come out of hibernation. The good news to report is that the Club has again been selected to host the final round of the British Youth Championship. This follows on from the Clubs successful staging of the prestigious event last year. Full details of the meeting will be announced nearer the date which is scheduled for September 2013.

An Interview with Stephen Plumb

by Sam Clarke, Borden Grammar School

The youth of our community is very important to all of us, but 'youth' is a very wide term. We asked budding young journalist Sam to interview key member of the community, Stephen Plumb.

What is your position? I live in Iwade and am employed by the Diocese of Canterbury as a Missioner to north Sittingbourne with focus in Iwade.

What is your involvement in the village? I am a Parish Councillor for Iwade, currently the Chair. As part of the community aspect of my role and in conjunction with Iwade Community Primary School, I listen to the children read each week, take assemblies and I am also a school Governor. I have taken responsibility for the Sunday morning worship at All Saint's Church since Christmas 2012

Do you enjoy your job? Most of the time yes, it is very varied and when there are positive outcomes for people or situations it is very fulfilling.

What activities do you know are available for youth in the village and what is your opinion on them? A major attraction to live in Iwade was the number of community groups and organisations for people of all ages. When you ask about youth, it depends what specific age category you are referring to. Secondary School age young people are under served in Iwade. There was a youth club running in the village hall until quite recently. There are the uniformed organisations which do a great job and have a strong membership, but have little appeal to the older teenager. The primary/junior age are much better provided for, again with uniformed organisations, the Herons FC, after school clubs at school, and I with others run Kingsquad (Christian Childrens club) every Tuesday.

If you do not think there is enough, what do you think should be done? The Parish Council is currently asking the residents of Iwade to contribute their ideas to help draw up a ten point plan to improve and enhance life in the village. Questionnaires were delivered to every home in Iwade and the finalised plan will be endorsed by Swale Borough Council under their 'Localism Live' program. The opinions and suggestions of young people would be very welcome.

There has, in the past, been the suggestion of young people setting up a 'Youth Council' which is made up of young people from the village to promote ideas relevant to young people. However no young people came forward to run with the idea. But the idea has been raised again this week and it would be great for young people and the whole community if such a council could be set up.

If you are a young Iwade resident and want to have your say, please go to www.iwadevillage.co.uk, [facebook/iwadefacebook](https://www.facebook.com/iwadefacebook) or go along to the Parish Council meeting. Only by speaking up can we make ourselves heard.

Moving Frog Spawn

Lots of people recently are offering to donate frogs spawn to neighbouring ponds. Please be aware that this practice is not a wise one due to the potential spreading of disease from one pond to another. Only a tiny fraction of the eggs laid will metamorphose into froglets and only a tiny fraction of these will mature into adult frogs. Better to make your own pond more inviting to frogs. For advice on making a good habitat for frogs, see www.froglife.org

Iwade Parish Council Notes taken from the meeting of 13th March 2013

Matters Arising from the Minutes- New Housing Proposals for the SE Sector of the Village – The Chairman referred to the Local Development Framework meeting at Swale Borough in February, when Cllr. Lewin stated that although a lot of work had been done looking at housing figures, local Councils were being asked to look at these again by central Government. Cllr. Lewin said that the Borough Council would prefer to stay with the figure in the original 'Bearing Fruits' document, although it would be quite hard for the local Planning Officers to implement. Reasons were put forward by the Planners as to rising figures; but the majority of Councillors in the Committee were very keen to stay with the original figure of about 11,000 homes. The document now goes before the Planning Inspector and is expected to be rejected, but it does feel that all the Councillors were very supportive to the view that Iwade has had enough housing.

An area of land to the SE of the village has been earmarked for 400 homes. A large number of Iwade residents voiced their disappointment with this proposal, which they totally oppose. At the moment there does not seem to be any willingness by the Borough Council to grant permission for extra housing in Iwade, apart from that already given.

20 m.p.h. Speed Limit in Iwade – Cllr. Hunt's survey has shown that residents would prefer this speed limit, although some questions were raised and the comment made that in most of the streets in the new sections of the village you cannot go over 20 m.p.h. It would appear that Grovehurst Road and School Lane are the main areas of concern. Cllr. Whiting commented that whilst there was still a case for making a 20 m.p.h. zone; there would need to be some traffic calming installed in these two roads. Kent County Council will not action this at the moment; at present they have 80 schemes county wide and are waiting to see how these are performing. He suggested conducting a wider survey. KCC would want to do a wide consultation, but he still thinks it will be worthwhile looking at this.

Secondary School Transport – Bullying Issues – Cllr. Gale has arranged a meeting with the Bus Company, a representative from Kent Police, County Cllr. Whiting and the Clerk to look at this issue. He will report back at the April meeting.

Village Centre – Members were pleased to see that Londis have taken over the old Budgens unit and the shop is now up and running. Clerk to contact Village Centre Management to ascertain who controls the car park as complaints have been received about parking issues. A Parishioner mentioned that there will be new signs and a disabled parking bay for the village centre.

School Lane Playing Field and Handyman Duties – Swale Borough Council, is seeking a quotation from Wicksteed for the removal and installation of the play equipment in another part of the Borough. The equipment is still insured and regularly inspected by the Handyman. It was agreed to utilise the Handyman in other areas of the village until the future management of the playing field is determined.

County Cllr. Willicombe mentioned that this will be the last time he will be attending a meeting before the May elections and that he has really enjoyed working with this Parish Council; Cllr. Whiting made the same comment. The Chairman thanked both Members for their help over the past years.

County Cllr. Whiting has been trying to arrange a meeting with Persimmon. He is also in the process of arranging a visit to Aylesford Depot. He thought it was good news concerning the Local Development Forum and housing. He is trying to get Eric Pickles, M.P. (the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government) to come and look at Iwade.

Community Warden (Nick Mayatt)/PCSO – Nick's report has been circulated to Members and its contents were noted. He added that dog fouling is still a problem and there are still issues with parking.

Matthew Link introduced himself as the village's new PCSO (he has taken over from Aaron); he has been doing this work for six years and has worked with County Cllrs. Whiting and Willicombe. He has already dealt with some issues within the village: school parking, mud and HGV problems in School Lane. He has also been looking into plant pot thefts. He can be contacted through 101; but if it's an emergency residents should ring 999.

Iwade Localism Project (Swale Borough Council)- 10 Point Plan – Distribution agreed, letter printed and awaiting collection by members.

The Barn – The Chairman advised that the meeting with Swale Borough Council to discuss the Church/Parish Council taking over the Barn had been very positive. Swale plan to utilise the building for staff use and storing tools for the new Graveyard, but it is hoped it can instead be used as a small meeting room for the Church and community groups. It has electricity and water laid on, but Swale is not sure about drainage. The Council will need an alternative facility for their staff and equipment and there is the possibility of sufficient ground within Church land to accommodate this. It was also suggested that Swale set up a meeting for those present to look inside the Barn.

New Village Hall- Cllr. Hunt advised that Persimmon has got back to him and it is not possible to have the new Village Hall on School Lane Playing Field; basically they have run out of time because of the S.106 Agreement on the Sports Pavilion. He suggested the piece of land next to the Medical Centre and they have agreed this is something they could consider. County Cllr. Whiting will try and raise this with Persimmon.

The next Monthly Meeting will be on Wednesday 8th May, 2013, commencing at 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall.