

Loose Views

The newsletter of the Loose Parish Council
ISSUE 16 - APRIL 2017



Where would you need to be standing to see this VIEW? See back cover for answer.



What is so special about this date?...



Loose Parish Council Review of 2016 Centre Pages

Loose Village Spring Clean

Why not join us for a Village Spring Clean on **Saturday 8th April 2-4pm**? Help get our lovely village looking its best by joining us for a litter pick. Please meet at King George V Pavilion at 2pm. Litter pickers and high viz gilets will be provided, as well as tea and cake when you return at 4pm.

...It is the date of the Annual Parish Meeting - 7pm
(see page 3 for details)

www.loosepc.kentparishes.gov.uk

LOOSE PARISH COUNCIL OFFICE - Where possible, please email:
office@loose-pc.gov.uk

Clerk & Responsible Finance Officer: Mrs Jan Capon Tel: 01622 692712 (Mon-Weds)

Deputy Clerk: Mrs Liz McLaren Tel: 07419 986668 (Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri)

Communications & Media Clerk: Mrs Anne Rigby Tel: 07419 986538 (Mon, Tue)

Loose Parish Council (LPC)

“Serving the Community”

The role of a councillor can be both challenging and rewarding. If you are interested in standing as a Councillor, please contact the Clerk, Jan Capon (*see Front Cover*).

Please note the parish council is non-political and not affiliated to any one religion. It is comprised of individual volunteers from the local community.

LPC Committees

The council currently has eight committees. Some of which meet just 3 or 4 times a year:-

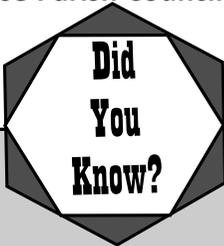
- **Community Hub (COM)**
- **Environment (ENV)**
- **Events (EVE)**
- **Finance & Administration (F&A)**
- **Human Resources Board (HR),**
- **Loose Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group (LNPSG)
(Currently meets every 6 weeks)**
- **Pavilion & Playing Field (P&P)**
- **Planning (PLAN) (Meets once/twice a month)**

The annual schedule of meetings is usually agreed at the Annual meeting in May. Details of meetings can be found on the calendar on the parish council website.

Please note: The April main meeting of the Loose Parish Council will be held on the second Monday of the month (10th), as Easter falls on the third Monday.

Current Councillors

Mrs Vianne Gibbons (LPC Chairman)
Mrs Charlie Hollister (LPC Vice Chairman)
Mr Jim Andrew
Mr Gordon Bernard
Mrs Susan Luckhurst
Mr Tom Oliver
Mr Tony Oliver
Mr Peter Rigby
Mr Malcolm Summers



**Did
You
Know?**

Parish Councillors are volunteers from all walks of life. They are members of the public who freely give up their time to help improve the local environment and facilities for the people in their area.

FINANCIAL MATTERS

The year end Accounting and Annual Governance Statement returns will be finalised as at the 31st March 2017. Parishioners will have the chance to exercise their rights in being able to inspect the accounts and to ask for sight of, or ask for any copies of documents during a specified period, dates of which will be published.

Looking forward to the next fiscal year 17/18, the Loose Parish Council will continue to strive to provide excellent facilities and value for money for the Parishioners of Loose. The total precept has increased to £68,712 (£65,440 in 16/17) for the whole Parish. (Band D households will pay an extra £2.46 per year).

Items planned for the forthcoming year include- upgrading of CCTV and lighting at the Parish Pavilion to offer greater security at the KGVPF. New planter at the junction with Old Loose Hill and the A229, to enhance the gateway to the conservation area. Other upgrades to the Pavilion, including the provision of broadband, has been planned. On going projects on Brooks Field including works to Roys Wood will be taken further forward.

We have received late notification from MBC that we will be charged for bin emptying at the KGVPF, at the moment we are not sure whether this will come into effect for 17/18 or 18/19, but adequate financial provision will be made available for this.

There will be changes to staffing & communications over the coming year which will help us to reach all corners of our Parish. Please do have a look at our new website, which is a work in progress, as we would value your comments.

*Jan Capon,
Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer.*

LOOSE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Chair of Steering Group:

Cllr. Jim Andrew

Thanks to all of you that responded to the questionnaire that was delivered to all properties and businesses in the parish in October requesting your views on the draft plan. It is appreciated that to complete the questionnaire required a lot of time and effort.

Your response was good and we received 59 returns. The steering group is now analysing these to see how they may affect the draft plan. This task should have been completed by the time this newsletter goes out.

Remember you will have another chance to comment on the draft plan when it will be in the hands of the Borough Council and advertised by them.

Annual Parish Meeting

for residents of the Loose Parish

Wednesday

26th April 2017

7pm

at the

Loose Parish Pavilion

King George V Playing Field
Walnut Tree Lane

Although hosted by the parish council, this is **YOUR** meeting and **YOUR** opportunity to **DISCUSS** the matters that concern **YOU** about Loose.

Come along, meet your fellow residents and find out what is happening in the Loose area. There will be an informal layout to the evening.

Refreshments available.

Tel: 01622 692712

www.loosepc.kentparishes.gov.uk

Loose Parish Council Review 2016

2016 was another busy and productive year for the Parish Council. We continue to try to react positively to concerns and requests from Loose residents. Some of our more significant achievements in 2016 are outlined below.

Loose Neighbourhood Plan

This important project began in earnest in 2014 and has been ongoing throughout 2015/16. Neighbourhood planning will enable our community to influence the development of where we live and work. It sits alongside the Maidstone Borough Local Plan and will guide decisions such as housing development and infrastructure. It gives us all an opportunity to set out a positive vision for our parish. During 2016 many public consultation opportunities were organised with exhibition and engagement events. We also completed a door drop of leaflets asking for feedback with questions for all residents and stakeholders on the draft plan by a deadline of December 13. When all the views have been assimilated, the document will go to Maidstone Borough Council and onto an appointed examiner. Next steps will be for residents and stakeholders to comment on the draft via Maidstone Borough Council (MBC) consultation process.

Planning

We are a planning 'consultee' to Maidstone Borough Council (MBC) and can make our recommendations on planning applications known to the MBC planning committee as part of this process. We have considered some 80 or so local applications over the past year.

Environment

We have been working hard to improve the environment on Brooks Field. We have removed debris in the stream and pond and have plans to create an island in the rushes for the ducks to breed without being disturbed.

The new oak trees planted in the community wood have all survived and we have a further five planned for 2017. We have taken soil samples to add some indigenous wild flowers into the meadow to improve bio-diversity.

A lectern is to be erected at the Kirkdale end of Brooks Field to provide information on all the different species of trees in the wood.

The War memorial has received a specialist clean and we have made further gravestones in the closed cemetery safe. We added the path between the viaduct and Dairy Farm, Land at the top of Linton/Heath Road and the BT exchange verge to the grass cutting schedules.

One of our councillors has taken a course in weed control which means she is qualified to use the high strength pesticides needed to control invasive weeds, such as Japanese knotweed. This gives extra flexibility and saves a considerable amount of money, compared to the cost of employing contractors. The village sign has been restored by Loose Amenities and is now standing in the triangle outside the Walnut Tree pub.

The telephone box on the village green continues to act as an information kiosk and an information board will be added inside.

Loose Fete

The summer Fete held in September on the playing fields was the most successful to date raising £2069. The fun fair and the dog show are key attractions and it was fantastic to see so many families enjoying the afternoon. This continues to be a valuable source of revenue which will be put towards King George V Pavilion project. Plans are already underway for next summer's event in September 2017.

Highways

Funding was received from the KCC members grant to apply hatching on the road at entrance of Walnut Tree Avenue. This was for safety reasons to provide clear sightlines for residents emerging from the Avenue and to try to discourage parents using this area to drop off school children. It also helps buses to get access to the bus stop in front of The Walnut Tree pub.

In November, in response to residents' concerns, we helped conduct a traffic survey at the busy Linton Crossroads. We hope that, like similar surveys, the results will prove informative and influential especially as this busy intersection is so crucial to MBC's development proposals for South Maidstone and the Weald.

Website

We have a new website which will be more user friendly and add more functionality for mobiles and tablets. The address is still www.loosepc.kentparishes.gov.uk.

Parish Pavilion

Discussions are underway about revised plans to extend the pavilion. In the meantime we have added some new furniture and kitchen equipment to update the facilities and we are working hard to attract more people to book the hall. We are very pleased with the way the new external playground equipment has been used and the enjoyment it has given the families in the area.

2017 - Tree Planting in 'Roy's Wood'



Over twenty people came to help plant five additional trees in 'Roy's Wood' on Brooks Field on the 25th February. The trees have very generously been donated by Kent Men of the Trees, who also donated three replacement Alders, which were planted by the stream.

The parish council would like to thank all the people who participated.

ENVIRONMENT

Committee Chairman:

Cllr Charlie Hollister

The new oak trees have been planted in Brooks Field so we now have 14 different varieties.

At the moment they just look like twigs but, with a lot of nurturing and care, we hope that they will grow big and strong for future generations. Many, many thanks to everyone who came to help on the day and to Kent Men of the Trees who kindly donated them.

Loose Amenities Association have been busy removing the bull rushes from the stream and have done a brilliant job. Many thanks to Derek Corbett for organising the work party and to those who worked so hard over the three weekends it took to clear them.

A planter has been purchased for the island at the top of Old Loose Hill and should be in situ soon. Hopefully this will make a beautiful display of flowers as an entrance to the old village, rather than a parking space, which is a safety risk for motorists.

Although spring is on its way can people please be aware that, if the weather does turn cold, the gritter lorry cannot spray Old Loose Hill unless they can get a clear access. Please park as thoughtfully as possible because the hill would be extremely dangerous if it freezes.

PAVILION & PLAYING FIELD

Committee Chairman:

Cllr. Malcolm Summers

Recently there have been a number of incidents of anti-social behaviour and vandalism at the King George V playing field. If you witness anything untoward happening please ring the police on 101 (or 999 for emergencies) to report an incident. You are strongly advised not to tackle the problem yourself.

PLANNING MATTERS

Committee Chairman:

Cllr. Jim Andrew

From the end of March, the committee will be losing Cllr Gordon Bernard, who is moving from the area. This is a great loss for us as he has done sterling work for several years. We wish him well for the future.

Please note; to allow flexibility for more councillors to attend planning meetings, planning meetings that do not precede other meetings will now start at 7:30pm rather than 7:00pm as previously. Due to the number of vacancies on the Council, the committee operates with a minimum number of members. Planning meetings that precede other meetings still start at 6.45pm.

EVENTS

Committee Chairman:

Cllr Peter Rigby

This year's Fete will be held on Saturday, 2nd September at King George V Playing Field. Once again there will be a fun Dog Show as part of the entertainment, as well as the ever popular children's sports/games. The Fete's theme will be Heroes and Heroines. As always, there will be a prize for the best-dressed stall (sponsored by Shayler's Funfair), but prizes will also be available for those revealing their inner hero/heroine in costume. Prospective stallholders can apply through the Parish Office or the LPC website.

Looking ahead, we have plans to revive the informal picnic event on Brooks Field next year, probably in June. More information nearer the time.

COMMUNITY HUB

Committee Chairman:

Cllr. Tony Oliver

A new committee has been set up specifically to discuss revised changes to the parish pavilion. Originally, plans for an extension were submitted to Maidstone Borough Council last year, but following a very constructive open day, where a number of issues were raised, the application was subsequently withdrawn.

Community Contacts

Police: Emergency 999

Non-Emergency 101

Community Warden:

Mrs Liz Lovatt Tel: 07813 712107

Loose Ward Councillor:

Mrs Susan Grigg Tel: 07706 052495

Maidstone Borough Council

(Environment & Planning issues)

Tel: 01622 602000

Kent County Council

(Highways - Fault Reporting)

03000 418181

Loose Council Office & Staff

e: office@loose-pc.gov.uk

Clerk & Responsible Finance Officer -

Mrs Jan Capon

(Finance & Admin, Human Resources,
Neighbourhood Planning, Health & Safety &
Risk Management)

T: 01622 692712

Deputy Clerk - Mrs Liz McLaren

(Environmental, Pavilion & Playing Field &
Planning Issues)

T: 07419 986668

Assistant Clerk - Mrs Anne Rigby

(Pavilion Bookings, Events Enquiries &
Webmaster)

T: 07419 986538

Local Schools

Cornwallis Academy

www.futureschoolstrust.com

Loose Primary School

www.looseprimaryschool.gov.uk

Churches

All Saints Church - Church Street

Congregational Church - Linton Road

The Vine Church - Church Street

**For these & more
community contacts,
please see the parish
council website.**

Community Events 2017

April

Easter Mon. 17th - 11am-2pm

Rainbow Meadow - Letter trail & Magic

Show. www.loose-amenities.org.uk

Weds. 26th - 7pm onwards

Parish Pavilion - Annual Parish Meeting

www.loosepc.kentparishes.gov.uk

May

Mon. 29th - 11am-5pm

Brooks Field - Loose Duck Race

www.loose-amenities.org.uk

July

Sat. 8th - 8pm (advance tickets only)

Vale House (opposite the Chequers PH)

Music Night - Frank & Dean Show

www.loose-amenities.org.uk

August

Sun. 5th - 11am-4pm

Loose Village & Brooks Field

Teddy Bear Trail & Picnic

www.loose-amenities.org.uk

Sat. 12th - 2pm-4.30pm

McAlpine Allotments, Old Loose Hill

30th Annual Show - Loose Gardeners'

Society

September

Fri 1st-Sunday 3rd

KGV Playing Field - Shayler's Fun Fair

Sat. 2nd - 1.30pm-5pm

Loose 'Heroes & Heroines' Village Fete &

Fun Dog Show

www.loosepc.kentparishes.gov.uk

Want to try something new? www.girlguidingkentweald.org.uk

If you want to make new friends, learn new skills, experience international travel, take part in adventurous activities or just take a break from your everyday routine, we could have the opportunity for you.

Loose Guides (and other groups in the local area) are in need of some additional volunteers. With over 50 girls on the existing Loose Guides waiting list, we would like to open a second group so that these girls do not miss out. We already have one leader who will be in charge of the group, so we are looking for additional people to help.

Whether you can give a few hours regularly or only provide occasional support we would be interested to hear from you. If this is something that you think may be of interest to you, please email Hilary Carter boughtonvaldivision@girlguidingkentweald.org.uk

Do you live in Loose?
Do you occasionally need help?

**LOOSE NEIGHBOURS
could assist you**

- Lifts to medical and other appointments
- Collecting/returning library books
- Help with shopping
- Completing simple forms

We can also advise on other providers.

Phone **07909 812139**
and see if we can help.

We are a small, friendly organisation, and all volunteers are DBS checked. No charge is made for any of our services, although donations are always welcome to help cover our costs.

We are grateful to the Loose Amenities Association and to Kent County Council, via our local county councillor, for providing grants that enabled us to set up this scheme.

**Why I Volunteered
to Join the Council....**



**Councillor Vianne Gibbons
(Loose Parish Council Chairman)**

***"I joined the LPC to help
preserve and enhance Loose."***

If you like the community you live and/or work in, and want to see how you can preserve and enhance it for the enjoyment of others, why not think about becoming a parish councillor? You do not need any special qualifications, just some free time to get involved and join our friendly team.

**Interested? Contact the
Clerk for more information.**

Loose Parochial Charities

The Loose Parochial Charities is not a Church Charity but has historically been chaired by the Vicar of Loose. It is an amalgamation of several Victorian poor relief charities set up in the 1930s. We give small monetary gifts to needy people in the parish at Christmas time.

The stipulations are that they are indeed in need and secondly that they reside within the parish boundary.

If anyone wishes to become a beneficiary or knows of someone in financial hardship please contact The Rev. Steve Price or Mrs Eileen Dodd Tel: 01622 745857.

All enquiries will be treated within strictest confidence.

This issue's 'view' is looking over the Loose Valley from Busbridge Road.