

Neighbourhood Plan

Four years ago the Parish Council created a Steering Group consisting of nine resident volunteers, and four Parish Councillors, to prepare a Neighbourhood Plan for Hartley. The purpose of the Plan was to establish what the Parish should look like over the next fifteen years.

The process for creating the Plan is quite complex and includes gathering evidence from residents through consultations and developing the results into workable policies, to guide planning decisions in the future. The basic policies, supported by residents, include the retention of the open countryside, and woodlands in the Green Belt around the Village, maintaining local green spaces, producing design codes for any new buildings, retention of Community Assets and supporting local businesses.

The Steering Group recently received a boost with the service, for 20 days, of a Planning Consultant's time to help with the remaining technical issues. (This cost was met by a Government Grant). This has enabled the Steering Group to make progress and, it is anticipated, that the next major stage will be in the Autumn with the submission of a draft Plan to Sevenoaks District Council. (The Council must be consulted to ensure that the Plan meets certain statutory requirements).

A formal consultation with residents, on the Plan, will take place early next year and it is hoped that the Community will support the work so far undertaken. If you live in, or have moved to Hartley to enjoy the countryside, this will be your opportunity to protect it.

For more information, visit the Steering Group's website www.hartleynp.org.uk

Anti-Social Motorbike Activity

Residents are reminded that the riding of motorbikes/mini motorbikes and similar vehicles is **NOT** permitted on any of the Council's open spaces, which include Woodland Avenue, Chantry Avenue and Longfield Hill playgrounds, Hartley Wood, Gorse Wood, Rectory Meadow, Manor Field, Billings Hill Shaw and Northfield.

The riding of the above vehicles in any of these areas is classed as anti-social behaviour.

If you see anyone riding these vehicles illegally you can report it to the police by telephone on 101 or online;

www.kent.police.uk/ro/report/ocr/af/how-to-report-a-crime/

Remember that each time a crime is reported, it helps to record events that, together, may help to build a picture and generate additional police presence in the area to tackle the problem.

Your Parish Councillors are: Larry Abraham, Penny Cole, Perry Cole, Jim Colwell, David Conroy, Lesley Driscoll, Laurence Glander, David Graeme, Mally Malham, Anne Oxtoby, Brian Ramsay, Ian Ross & Vincent Sewell.

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PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE: www.hartleyparishcouncil.gov.uk

PARISH CLERK: 01474 709441 EMAIL: enquiries@hartleyparishcouncil.gov.uk



Hartley Parish Council

JUNE 2025

Serving the Residents of Hartley

VE Day 80th Anniversary - A shared moment of celebration



Photographs courtesy of Lesley White, Jane Tyrrell and Cllr David Graeme.

Hartley Parish Council hosted its own celebration marking the 80th Anniversary of VE Day on the 8th May. The evening consisted of performances and a singalong with "The Local Vocals", the local Guide group read out wartime stories and poems, refreshments were provided by the WI and the Scout Group ran a BBQ sponsored by the Parish Council. The Beacon Brazier was lit at 21:30 as part of a nationwide beacon lighting ceremony and the event culminated in a themed firework display set to music. Thank you to everyone who attended and helped make this event a fitting tribute.

A special thank you must go to all the volunteers without whom such events could not happen.

PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE: www.hartleyparishcouncil.gov.uk



FREE FAMILY FUN DAY with Face Painting

**WOODLAND AVENUE RECREATION
GROUND, DA3 7DB**

**TUESDAY 12th AUGUST 2025
10AM — 1PM**

**There is no need to book, just come
along !**

**(An ice cream van will be at the event with
refreshments available to purchase)**

ADVICE, MEDIATION & USEFUL NUMBERS

Kent County Council	03000 418181
Sevenoaks District Council.....	01732 227000
Kent Police - Emergency Calls.....	999
Kent Police - Non Emergency Calls	101
KCC Community Warden	07811 271259
Hartley Library	03000 413131
Doctors Surgery	01474 702127
Citizens Advice	03003 309001
Arriva Northfleet.....	01474 535138
West Kent Mediation.....	01732 469696
Samaritans	116 123 (free)
Childline	0800 1111
Community Cupboard.....	07526 823122
Kent Integrated Domestic Abuse Service	08081 689111
Papyrus Suicide Prevention Under 35s.....	0800 0684141 (free)
For GAS emergencies	0800 111999
For ELECTRICITY emergencies	105
KCC website	www.kent.gov.uk
Young Minds	www.youngminds.org.uk

FREE Football Sessions

Hartley Parish Council is planning to offer **FREE** football sessions for boys and girls in the summer. More details will be available on our website and notice boards once confirmed.

Bus Services

The 489 bus service which runs from New Ash Green via Hartley to Gravesend was under threat of being withdrawn. Fortunately the service will be taken over by Go Coach as per the current timetable up to 31st August.

In the meantime, a full tendering process is being carried out for the long term future of the service.

More information will be published when it is received.

Gorse Wood Management Plan

As mentioned in December's newsletter, the Parish Council is keen to combat littering and fly tipping in Gorse Wood and to improve the quality of the overall appearance of the woodland environment.

A Management Plan has been adopted and a work programme is being prepared.

The Parish Council is keen for residents to be involved on the **13th and 27th November** so please save the dates. More details to follow.

Hartley Parish Council Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the Council took place on Monday 12th May at Manor Field Pavilion, Church Road. At the meeting, Cllr Anne Oxtoby stood down as Chairman and Cllr Larry Abraham stood down as Vice-Chairman. Cllr Laurence Glander was elected as Chairman and Cllr David Conroy was elected as Vice-Chairman.

Amenities and Open Spaces Committee

Cllrs; **Conroy*, **Glander*, Graeme, Malham, Mrs Oxtoby & Sewell.

Burial Grounds and Gardens of Remembrance Committee

Cllrs; Abraham, **Conroy*, Perry Cole, Mrs Driscoll, **Glander*, Ramsay & Ross.

Finance and General Purposes Committee

Cllrs; Colwell, **Conroy*, **Glander*, Ramsay & Sewell.

Personnel Committee

Chairman of the Council, Vice-Chairman of the Council & Chairman of the Finance & General Purposes Committee.

Planning Committee

Cllrs; Abraham, Colwell, **Conroy*, Mrs Driscoll, **Glander*, Ramsay, Ross & Sewell.

(Chairman & Vice - Chairman are ex officio members on all committees - Current Chairman & Vice-Chairman marked with * & shown in *italics*).

Standing Orders Advisory Committee Cllrs; Abraham, Perry Cole & Mrs Oxtoby.

Northfield Management Committee Cllrs; Glander, Mrs Oxtoby & Sewell plus 3 members from Ash-cum-Ridley Parish Council.

Annual Parish Meeting

Hartley Parish Council's Annual Parish Meeting took place on Friday 16th May at 19:45 in Hartley Village Hall. Ten residents attended the meeting and our Kent County Council Community Warden Jackie West attended as a guest speaker, updating everyone on her role within the Community.

The meeting was introduced by the new Chairman of Hartley Parish Council, Cllr Laurence Glander.

The Parish Council extended their thanks to Cllr Anne Oxtoby who had stood down as Chairman after 14 years and also to Cllr Larry Abraham who had stood down as Vice-Chairman. (Both Councillors remain on the Parish Council).

A copy of the Annual Report for 2024-2025* was available at the meeting and has been distributed to all households.

**Unfortunately there was a printing error on some copies of the Annual Report which resulted in some of the pages being out of order. Due to the costs involved in producing this report, a decision was made to send out all copies rather than to reprint the incorrect versions.*