

# SELLINDGE VILLAGE NEWS

## MARCH 2021

Edition 683



We would like to say a huge **THANKYOU** to everyone for your help and support this year with “Your store your say” and the charity work we have done.

We managed to be the top shop in our area for both. Raising over £1700 for charity this period.

**We couldn't have done it without you!**

As for the REFIT unfortunately there have been some more delays, so our April closing date has now been pushed back again. We will be finding out more over the next few weeks, but will keep everyone updated.

Thank You for your continued support and understanding

Team Sellindge Co – Op



### LAND BEHIND RHODES HOUSE

Quinn Estates who obtained Outline Planning permission Y16/1122/FH in January 2019 to build up to 162 dwellings and full permission for the entrance, on this site have issued their first phase plans.

The first phase which is divided into 2 parts with phase 1 A ( *pictured to the above* ) where there are plans for 34. market price 2 to 3 bedroom dwellings. Fully detailed plans for these dwellings are included with the application.

Phase 1 B is for 20 self-build 4 and 5 bedroom dwellings.

( *Phase 1B pictured left* )

There are no detailed plans for these dwellings submitted in the phase 1B plans just layout, so each dwelling will have to undergo its own planning application, however the outline planning permission element will still be in place.



The business units which also have outline planning permission are not part of phase 1, they will be in separate planning application which has not been issued yet

### SELLINDGE DOCTOR'S SURGERY – IMPORTANT PATIENT NOTICE

The Dispensary will be closed all day – Wednesday March 31<sup>st</sup> – Re-opening on Thursday April 1<sup>st</sup> at 8.30am

**census2021**

**SUNDAY MARCH 21<sup>st</sup> don't forget**



<b>MAR 8</b> <b>STEP ONE A</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Schools re-open, childcare allowed</li> <li>One plus one social meetings outdoors</li> <li>One visitor to care home residents</li> <li>Stay at home stays in place</li> </ul>	<b>APR 12</b> <b>STEP TWO</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Non-essential retail, personal care premises, hairdressers and nail salons, libraries, gyms, zoos and theme parks can reopen</li> <li>Pubs and restaurants can reopen outdoors. No need for substantial meal, no curfews</li> <li>Wider social distancing rules continue</li> <li>One household can stay at a cottage or holiday let</li> </ul>	<b>MAY 17</b> <b>STEP THREE</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rule of Six will be dropped outdoors</li> <li>Two households can meet indoors</li> <li>Hotels, cinemas, soft play areas re-open</li> <li>1,000 people or half full permitted at indoor sports venues. Outdoor venues 4,000 people or half full. 10,000 allowed at Wembley</li> <li>International travel possible</li> <li>Review of social distancing</li> <li>Review of certificates for jabs, tests</li> </ul>	<b>JUN 21</b> <b>STEP FOUR</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All legal limits on social contact to go</li> <li>Remaining hospitality re-open</li> <li>Restrictions on large events lifted</li> <li>Restrictions for weddings may still be in effect</li> </ul>
<b>MAR 29</b> <b>STEP ONE B</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rule of Six</li> <li>Outdoor sports</li> <li>Stay Local</li> <li>Work from home where possible</li> <li>Still no overseas travel</li> </ul>			

**SELLINDGE PARISH COUNCIL** [www.sellindge-pc.gov.uk](http://www.sellindge-pc.gov.uk) 01303 813 271 [clerk@sellindge-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@sellindge-pc.gov.uk)

### Office opening

Due to the new National Lock Down the Parish Council office is closed.

The Parish Council phone will be monitored for messages, and so will the email, which is the best form of contact.

### Dog Poo Bags

Dog poo bags are still available from Nigel at Trust Cottages in Moostock Lane, he puts them a patio chair outside his house, as does the Chairman who places on the front garden wall if you phone him on his mobile 07710 260751. These can also be collected from the office.

From your Parish Council Clerk Linda Hedley.

### BONFIRES

Please avoid having bonfires while the coronavirus guidelines are in place.

Smoke from bonfires contains chemicals which can harm health, irritate lungs and cause problems with breathing / asthma and cause problems for people that are already suffering from COPD. There may well be quite a few people in the Village who are very anxious about Covid-19.

Please be considerate of your neighbours. Bonfires can put people's health at risk.



### HI KENT

Due to Covid 19 the battery service for hearing aid users is not due to start yet.

In the meantime if anyone needs batteries they can ring Mary Devine on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2021 between 2 and 4 pm on 01303 813 228 to arrange pickup.



Hi all, Following major Lockdown announcement youth football has now been suspended until further notice. Hopefully we'll be back soon. Take care and stay safe.

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**Jenny Hollingsbee and Susan Carey, Ward Councillors for North Downs West, F&H D C**

[Jenny.hollingsbee@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk](mailto:Jenny.hollingsbee@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk) 01303 812 066 [susan.carey@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk](mailto:susan.carey@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk) 01303 670 561

21 March is Census Day and you will no doubt see many messages about this from the Office of National Statistics. It's designed to be done online and take 10 – 15 minutes per person but paper copies are also available. As the Government uses information from the Census to allocate various grants to local government e.g. how many people over 85 years of age, how many children needing education etc. it matters that the Census is as accurate as possible. As ever, do watch out for those who may try to use the census to scam you. You won't ever be asked for your bank account details or credit card as part of a census. Any worries, ask a trusted family member or friend for advice.

Two sites belonging to the District Council in Folkestone, the Civic Centre and Folca, continue to be part of the NHS Covid vaccination programme. You will be contacted by the NHS when it is your turn to be vaccinated but it's worth watching out on social media for updates as progress is rapid and a general invitation was sent to all over 70 to come forward if they had not already received an invitation. As ever, you'll find more information on vaccinations at [www.kentandmedwayccg.nhs.uk/covid19vaccine](http://www.kentandmedwayccg.nhs.uk/covid19vaccine)

We're sorry that the snow led to some kerbside waste collections being missed. It's been good to see how well the waste collection service has held up despite Covid (both staff fallen prey to Covid or needing to self-isolate) but the weather conditions were simply too treacherous for both the vehicles and staff. When conditions allowed, the crews have been concentrating on collecting the food waste and the residual waste with residents asked to store any missed recycling till their next regular collection.

The cold weather also saw the District Council activate SWEP (Severe Weather Emergency Protocol) whereby rough sleepers are offered accommodation. We have 15 rough sleepers identified in our District and all but one accepted the offer. There is of course help offered year-round but rough sleepers often have problems with substance abuse or anti-social behaviour that make it hard for them to accept help.

The layby near Otterpool Lane is being regularly cleaned by the District Council Environmental team but it's quickly trashed again by vehicles that stop there. Please keep reporting the problem to the District Council to keep on top of this problem. You can do so online or via the Contact Centre.

We've written extensively in past newsletters about the process that establishes where new homes, businesses and leisure facilities can be built. The Core Strategy sets this out and includes plans for Otterpool Park the garden town which will take the lion's share of the homes that are required for our District. The Public Examination (by an independent Planning Inspector) of the Core Strategy is nearly complete with just a final session on transport outstanding. You can see all the papers and the hearing in front of the Planning Inspector on the Council's website.

We are also pleased to confirm that we have both allocated ward member grants totalling £442 to Sellindge Lawn Tennis Club for new signage and £1,200 to Stowting church towards the cost of fencing. Jenny also allocated £500 to an arts project at Sellindge church and £500 to the Sellindge Bowls Club.

Susan attended the Zoom meeting of Sellindge Parish Council on 09 February and we both look forward to being able to take part in person just as soon as restrictions are eased.

We are happy to hear from residents about any of the above or other District Council issues you wish to raise.

Susan Carey and Jenny Hollingsbee your District Councillors

**SELLINDGE SPORTS and SOCIAL CLUB**

Due to the current Covid-19 Lockdown restrictions, the Sports and Social Club are completely closed, with no clubs or groups being held.

Great News! Thursday evenings will now be our dedicated Pizza Night, Stone Baked Pizzas delivered to your door! Available for delivery and collection 5PM TILL 8PM.

We advise you pre order to avoid disappointment.

Please call 07876 794323 or PM us to order, Also send a text or wats app and we can send the menus directly to you.

We will also be running our hot food delivery service on Fridays 4pm to 8pm 07876 794 323 – 01303 812 437

Please let any elderly neighbours who would be interested in hot food but may not be on facebook aware.





**FROM YOUR KCC COUNCILLOR** Susan Carey, Elham Valley Ward. [susan.carey@kent.gov.uk](mailto:susan.carey@kent.gov.uk) 01303 670 561

The snowploughs and gritters worked round the clock to keep the main road network open, when snow hit Kent last month. There was drifting on Stone Street (B2068) and both Crete Road East and Crete Road West were blocked by abandoned cars. Kent Highways has a fleet of 64 gritters/snowploughs, four mini gritters and over 100 farmers who help as needed. There are over 5,000 miles of road in Kent but not all can be ploughed. Some traffic calming features that make it impossible to use the ploughs or they are sensitive environmental areas (SSSI) and can only be hand dug. Around 30% of Kent's roads are on gritting routes which can be seen on the Kent website. There is consultation every year about these routes but we only have so much money for this purpose so if a road gets added another must be removed.

Which is a good introduction to the KCC Budget meeting held on 11 February. Our budget is over 1 billion pounds with around half devoted to social care – the elderly, people with learning disability, children in care etc. Most of what we do is a legal requirement such as waste disposal, the coroners' service, trading standards etc. and we also have some discretionary services such as our KCC Member Grants. Every budget is a balance between the services that we need and we want and how much money we have. Winter services are just one of the important things we need to fund.

There were 9 opposition amendments tabled on budget day and all but one involved spending more (the amendment that didn't involve extra spending was the only one passed). The final vote on our budget means the KCC share of your Council Tax will rise by just under 2% plus another 3% which can only be used for social care. Our budget consultation had shown support for a rise and that social care was the area that most people wanted protected. At the same time there will be an automatic £50 reduction in Council Tax for anyone receiving Council Tax Support and a special fund has been agreed for those struggling to pay their bills. The KCC share of your Council Tax Bill will rise by £67.50 a year (£1.30 a week) for a Band D house. The other parts of your bill cover the Fire Authority, Kent Police, the District Council and the Parish Council who all set their own level of tax.

The Kent Resilience Forum (KCC, Kent Police, Highways England and other public sector partners) confirms that all is working well for the arrangements for road traffic to and from the ports and Eurotunnel with most HGV drivers having their papers in order and their Covid tests done. In the first 28 days of operation, KCC's parking enforcement contractors have clamped 693 HGVs parked illegally (nearly 100 in our District and the District Council officers have passed on the information about all the 'hotspots'). Of the HGVs clamped, 82% were foreign registered vehicles and 18% from the UK. We are hopeful the clamping will prove a real deterrent to the longstanding problems caused in Kent by illegally parked HGVs.

A reminder that if you are vulnerable and have an urgent need that cannot be met through existing support networks, you can contact the Kent Together Helpline at [www.kent.gov.uk/KentTogether](http://www.kent.gov.uk/KentTogether) or by calling on 03000 41 92 92. It is a 24-hour, seven-day-a-week service.

I continue to post information on local roadworks, alerts from highways and other items of local interest on **The Elham Valley** facebook page and you can also find me on twitter @susanjcarey



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We're excited to announce Sellindge Tennis club is now home to Advantage Tennis Ltd. You can view their coaching services at [www.adtennis.co.uk](http://www.adtennis.co.uk) Nick Skelton, former head coach at Hythe tennis club has just moved to the village so it's a perfect opportunity for him to join our tennis club.

Nick who will work alongside Mike Bruce, our current Level 4 coach and like Mike has an outstanding track record of delivering adult and junior coaching. We wish Nick all the very best and we are sure his expertise will help to further strengthen our tennis club offering.

Why not join our friendly tennis club from 1 April 2021. Whether you fancy getting back into the game, having fun playing socially, joining one of our many coaching sessions or indeed enjoy the competitiveness of leagues there's something for everyone at Sellindge!. Our on-line membership packages are available from our website <https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/SellindgeTen.../Membership/Join>

## **SUPPORT SELLINDGE CHURCHYARD PROJECT** **when you shop at the Co-Op**

The Co-Op Local Community Fund is supporting our project to create a wildlife area for all the community and improve the appearance and accessibility of the Churchyard at St Mary's, Sellindge, one of the six Stour Downs Parish Churches.

When the Wildlife Area and improved Churchyard projects are completed, the community, particularly families and older people, will be able to enjoy walks, wildlife spotting and learning about the natural environment. In creating this space, the community can come together to help work on preparing the wildlife area and improving the Churchyard, promoting positive well-being and community spirit.

Please select St Mary's Sellindge as a cause to support when you shop at the Co-Op by following this link: <https://www.membership.coop.co.uk/causes/47395>

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## **THE STOUR DOWNS PARISH – SELLINDGE**

### **A letter for March**

Over the past year, one thing I have had to learn to live with – as someone who likes to plan ahead – is how to live with not being able to do just that – to prepare too far ahead. There have been twelve months now of having no choice but to live with the moment and waiting to see what it is to come. And so, even sitting down to write this letter for the next month takes some restraint to not look ahead. March brings things I need to prepare for, but without knowing the shape this will take in response to restrictions in place... how will we celebrate Mothering Sunday this year, Palm Sunday? Will we be using Plan A or B for Easter...or will I be on to version C? Or perhaps, more pressing, will my children be back at school?

Yet this is a time for looking ahead. As we emerge from winter into the start of spring, all around are signs of “getting ready”, with bulbs bursting into flower and new life around. It is a time for “spring cleaning” – both inside and in the garden, preparing the way for new growth. The natural world reminds us to get out and be busy joining in with preparing the way, but also to pause and take time to savour the changing palette of spring.

This reminds me of the balance between “being” and “doing” – for a Christian that might mean time spent doing helpful things and time spent being more reflective and still, in the presence of God. There is a story in the Bible of two sisters, Mary and Martha: Mary sits listening to Jesus whilst Martha is left to do all the work preparing the meal. This leads Martha to vent her frustration, only to be told by Jesus that Mary has spent her time more wisely, being in the presence of Jesus. I don't know if you have found more “Mary” moments to be reflective in the past year, perhaps finding time for quiet moments – maybe watching the garden or a walk enjoying nature. Certainly, the “Martha” side for me has been busy with both homeschooling and keeping the church connected, all those Zoom meetings and the live-streaming!

We are sometimes guilty of focusing so much on the immediate needs around us (particularly in the crisis of pandemic), that we forget to be still and be present. As Christians journey through Lent, they might examine their experience of ‘being’ and ‘doing’ throughout the months of pandemic and ask whether they have found time to spend with Jesus during the past weeks and months.

Finding time or patience to be still might be a challenge, but as we seek to be more mindful about self-care in the coming weeks and months, this time to “be” rather than “do” is precious. Christians might discover this quiet time as a moment to be with Jesus as allowing Jesus to restore and heal us through his presence.

I hope that you can take a moment to enjoy and savour the coming of spring, and moments of “being” to prepare you for whatever “doing” is needed as plans change going forward.

With blessings,

*Rev Chris*

## PARCES OF HOPE AND LOVE.

Foodbanks were something we heard little of a few years ago yet seem to be sadly something a growing number need to rely on as a lifeline in times of difficulty. The current situation with the pandemic and the economic effects of lockdowns and restrictions, and the demands of families where children are at home 24/7 (I know all about feeding four young growing appetites!) continues to be a challenge for many in our nation and our local communities.

There are a number of charities and organisations that coordinate foodbanks in many areas, including the towns close to our communities of the Stour Downs. Having previously supported these with collections and fundraising, the pressing situation with the arrival of the first lockdown led me to see if we could do something targeted more locally to the communities served by the Stour Downs parish churches. I asked members of the church congregation, and then also invited the local community via social media, if they might be able to donate long-life grocery products for us to put together boxes of essentials for those who might find these useful. It was a blessing to receive so many generous donations, and these keep coming, enabling us to help a number of local families.

There is a box in the porch of the Rectory in Smeeth where people stop by on their walk or on an essential journey and drop of a few tins and packets as extras in the weekly shop, or even some bags of extra shopping. We had some thoughtful presents for Christmas gifts to pass on and lovely festive treats. There have been more costly bulk items such as laundry powder donated, as well as monetary donations to buy fresh produce and other extras. Sellindge Primary School have recently set up an additional collection point outside the school entrance for us, and which we are grateful to see being filled up regularly with kind donations.

Our parcels are either delivered anonymously via local schools or delivered to doorsteps. Messaging through social media has been used to request and arrange deliveries.

There have been some touching messages of thanks received, and it is the kindness and love for community that is strong in our villages that make this project work. When there is so much outside of our control and little that we might be able to do at the moment, to be able to do something that offers hope, real help and a sign of love for our neighbour then we all benefit – both as givers and recipients.

Thank you to all who continue to enable this endeavour to make a difference.

*Rev Chris*

Please get in touch if you or someone that you know would benefit from a parcel of essentials, or if you need some support in this challenging time. Donations of long-life food products can be left in the porch of the Rectory in Church Road, Smeeth (TN25 6SA) or in the box outside Sellindge Primary School main entrance.

Contact Rev Chris at

[vicar@stourdowns.org.uk](mailto:vicar@stourdowns.org.uk) or 01303 470791, or message via Facebook at the [Stour Downs Parish page](#).

We currently continue with online worship during lockdown via Facebook

(<https://www.facebook.com/Stour-Downs-Parish-275026813134319>)

or by phone on Sundays at 9:30am (dial: 0333 0110 945 Room number: 15371271# PIN: 1030#).

The churches in Brabourne, Smeeth and Stowting are open daily for prayer and reflection.

Morning and Evening Prayer are on Facebook at 9:15am and 6:15pm Monday-Friday, and Sunday worship on Facebook is 9:30am. Look out for Party Church on the first Sunday posted on Facebook at 3pm.

Please get in touch if you or someone that you know would benefit from a parcel of essentials, or if you need some support in this challenging time. Donations of long-life food products can be left in the porch of the Rectory in Church Road, Smeeth (TN25 6SA) or in the box outside outside Sellindge Primary School.

Contact Rev Chris at [vicar@stourdowns.org.uk](mailto:vicar@stourdowns.org.uk) or 01303 470 791

