



## Welcome to the Autumn edition

It's been an eventful last 6 months for the country. From Spring to a glorious summer, now we are surrounded by fallen leaves. & have our streets & gates adorned by poppies to mark the Remembrance Day. This summer we had the joyous celebration of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee which the Village collectively celebrated with several social events.. This was followed by the poignant passing away of the Queen and again the village came together again to honour her at the National Moment of Reflection in September.

So many wonderful examples of the community coming together, be it taking care of the new planters planted with lovely plants & flowers ( a big shout out to Polhill Garden Centre for providing the plants & compost & to our local resident handyman Paul for assembling the planters). Hopefully, by next Spring the bulbs planted by the volunteers in the planters will bring colour & joy to our beautiful village.

If you have any questions or issues about developments or any new ideas to make the Parish better, please feel free to send us your comments at [www.badgersmountparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.badgersmountparishcouncil.org.uk) or subscribe to updates by joining the mailing list on the website

Here's wishing the entire community Season's Greetings.

MERRY  
CHRISTMAS  
&  
HAPPY NEW  
YEAR



### DISTRICT LEVEL NEWS

We know it's been a difficult time for everyone with the rise in the cost of living. The Parish Council has been very conscious about this while preparing their budget and made a conscious decision to keep the precept at this year's level & not increase it for the Year 2023-24.

The Sevenoaks District council has launched a series of campaigns to help local residents in the District. Their 'Here to Help' leaflet provides information on useful websites, organisations and advice to help with rising costs.

Details of all SDC schemes are available on the BMPC website at [https://www.badgersmountparishcouncil.org.uk/page-district\\_council\\_schemes.html](https://www.badgersmountparishcouncil.org.uk/page-district_council_schemes.html)

SDC has also announced its Plan 2040 Consultation. The Parish Council is currently working on responding to this Consultation and we would love to have the residents views on many of the Policies that may affect our village. Summary of the Consultation is posted on the website. Some of the pertaining questions are attached to this Newsletter. Our next Parish Council meeting is on Dec 15th, 2022 and all residents are invited to discuss your views on this Consultation as this will have some implication on our own Neighbourhood Plan

## Upcoming Events

- 7th Dec 3:30 pm Nesbit House, Christmas Lights switch on and carols by school children for the residents.
- 19th Dec 7 pm Christmas Carols (with mince pies & mulled wine) at BM Memorial Hall
- 18th March, 2023 (TBC) Annual Charity Event-Bake Sale
- 20th April, 2023 (TBC) Annual Parish Meeting

The BMRA Shop has a wonderful selection of Badgers Mount memorabilia, merchandise and souvenirs - all of which would make excellent gifts for your loved ones this festive season.

Discover over 100 items branded with the Badgers Mount insignia designed by a local artist living in our village. From T-shirts, hats, leggings, sweatshirts, and other wearables to household items like cushions, bedsheets, wall art, to pet supplies like food bowls, mats, and bandanas - there's something for everyone at the BMRA Shop!

Find the most amazing Badgers Mount merch at <https://bmrashop.square.site>



Pic credit: Arthur



## TALKS WITH KENT HIGHWAYS

### CLLR DUNLOP

---

Your Parish Council recently had a meeting with representatives from Kent Highways. They cover all the Parishes in Kent, which means at least 1 visit to a Parish every week on top of their normal work. Before Covid, they helped us by re-laying the entrance to Badgers Road from the Orpington Bypass, adding a road-level pavement strip to prevent long vehicles and bad drivers from churning up the grass verges. Amongst the items discussed were:

- 1. Speed limit along the Orpington Bypass.** Kent Highways emphasised the position of the Police, which is that because of significant manpower reductions over the last 10 years, they are unable to enforce low speed limits where the road appears to be suitable for high speeds. The Orpington Bypass is mostly straight, with wide, clear verges. Speed indication signs are possible with costs around £7,000 to £10,000 being typical. A full speed survey is needed to provide justification. As this is a rural A-road, physical traffic-calming devices such as speed bumps or chicanes are not allowed. Protected islands in the middle of the road would need to be significantly wider than those currently in place as there are specific requirements for protective fencing etc; this would need major road widening which is extremely expensive because of the resulting need to re-route drains and services such as water, gas and electricity. Light-controlled crossings are feasible but very costly.
- 2. Footpaths.** The addition of footpaths along the Eastern verge of the Orpington Bypass was discussed. These would cost around £100 per linear meter, or around £1,500 for a typical house frontage of 15 metres.
- 3. Encroachment onto verges.** According to Kent Highways, specific legal provisions are in force for legally defined Highways, which cover not only the road surface but also the full extent of the designated Highway including all verges. There is no ability in law to be able to claim possession of any part of a Highway (such as part of a verge) after a particular period of squatting. The Highways Authority has the right to remove any construction or item on a verge. This means that in law, connections across the verge from the road to your house must be constructed by the Highways Authority to their design, not that of the house-owner.
- 4. General Maintenance.** A number of items were raised such as dirty and poorly reflective road signs and overgrown paths and verges. These were all noted, and rectification was promised.

A full listing of the points raised, and their current status, is available on the Parish Council website, [https://www.badgersmountparishcouncil.org.uk/spage-meet\\_your\\_councillors-council\\_documents.html](https://www.badgersmountparishcouncil.org.uk/spage-meet_your_councillors-council_documents.html)



## PLANNING NEWS

### CLLR PLUMB

---

The Parish Council is consulted on all planning applications for extensions to existing properties and new buildings within the Parish and submits comments to Sevenoaks District Council (SDC) including, where appropriate, residents' comments.

There have been very few planning applications recently, but one which has caused some concern is the proposal to increase the height of the telecom mast adjacent to the M25 off Badgers Road by 5 metres, with a much larger head with more antenna attached. The decision is imminent. The council continues to monitor applications which are outside Badgers Mount but which affect us including Broke Hill Golf Club, Chevening House landscaping, Land off Wheatsheaf Hill and the Skip site near Polhill roundabout. The Parish Council website publishes the major consultation papers like the ULEZ response as well as open letters from SDC on the website. We encourage you to subscribe to our regular updates so that you can stay updated

## PLEASE CLEAN UP AFTER YOUR PET

### CLLR PLUMB

---

#### Dog fouling

There are still some dog owners who do not clear up after their dogs. There have been recent complaints about dog mess on footpaths and even on other people's drives. Anyone walking along any of our footpaths will no doubt encounter at least one deposit. There are 5 red dog waste bins around Badgers Mount which the Parish Council pays to be emptied, and Sevenoaks District Council has also advised that it is permissible to put dog waste bags in the 3 black litter bins along Old London Road, but please don't put general litter in the much smaller red dog waste bins.

Dog faeces are sometimes seen on the ground near the dog waste bins, left by owners who are too lazy to bag and bin it! Someone has recently been using pink bags to pick up their dog's mess but then leaving them beside paths or in the Memorial Hall car park. Remember that the person in charge of a dog can be fined £1,000 under the Dog Fouling Act (2016) for not clearing up responsibly.

#### Identification

It is a legal requirement that all dogs are microchipped, and the details must be kept up to date. The Government are proposing to introduce new rules saying that cats must also be microchipped by the time they are 20 weeks old. Failure to update details could result in a £500 fine.

#### Control of dogs

Under the Control of Dogs Order 1992, all dogs in public places must have a collar and identification tag. You can be fined £5,000 for failing to comply with this requirement. Also remember that if a dog is worrying livestock, the farmer is entitled to shoot the dog, so keep it on a lead whenever you are near fields. There is no second chance option



Pic credit : Helen

## BADGERS MOUNT WI

**KAREN**

Badgers Mount WI members have enjoyed listening to some very interesting speakers over the past few months as well as passing some very entertaining afternoons quizzing and crafting. We celebrated The Queen's Diamond Jubilee in the hall which had been beautifully decorated by the Residents Association. We had a competition for the best crown, some members came dressed in red, white and blue and a lovely afternoon tea was appreciated by all. Over the next few months we shall be listening to a variety of talks including 'Raising Awareness for Parkinsons', Kent and Sussex RSPB Reserves, and 'The Crime Scene Examiner'. Our Christmas party entertainment has been booked, this event is for members only, but guests are invited to attend our other meetings to listen to the speakers and enjoy a cup of tea and some homemade cakes. We meet at 2pm in the Memorial Hall on the 2nd Wednesday of each month and at 2pm on the last Wednesday of each month for our Knit and Natter sessions - you don't have to knit either, you can bring whatever you like to do, or play board games or just natter! We look forward to seeing some new faces.



## RUBBISH GARDEN WASTE DISPOSAL

**CLLR MCCARTNEY**

It has been drawn to our attention that there is a large quantity of garden waste and rubble being tipped down the bank behind the houses to the right of the entrance to Badgers Road. These houses back onto the Orpington Bypass.

If this is you, please be act responsibly and ensure that you dispose of your rubbish and garden waste appropriately. It is not acceptable to use the bank for this purpose. It is a fire hazard and we were very lucky that it did not ignite and cause a fire in the recent hot spell.

### **Some useful bits & bobs**

#### **BULKY REFUSE FREIGHTER**

The Parish Council pays for SDC to bring one of their refuse freighters approximately 4 times each year to the junction of Badgers Road and the Orpington Bypass so that residents can dispose of large items which might be difficult to take to the Dunbrik tip. The next visit is scheduled on 11th February. The dates are regularly updated on the BMPC website. Posters are put on the noticeboards and several other prominent places at least a week before the visit.

#### **CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR REFUSE COLLECTIONS:**

SDC collection crews will be working on a bank holiday and Saturdays over Christmas and into the New Year so you don't miss a collection.

There will be no changes to collection days before Christmas day. However, collections will be one day later than usual from Monday 26 December for the next two weeks

#### **CHRISTMAS TREE COLLECTION**

Recycle your real Christmas tree by taking it near to Crest Close, Old London Road, TN14 7AE on Wednesdays 11 and 18 January 8am to 9am Permits Holders can use their Garden Waste Collection services.



## OTHER HAPPENINGS IN BADGERS MOUNT

**ARTHUR**

The scarecrow competition was won by Margaret Dolley with a villainous looking pirate. Let's hope that the next competition attracts a few more entries.

A Sunflower competition achieved some great results with many residents achieving some wonderful blooms. The extremely dry weather followed by a week of rain did not help some displays. The overall winner was Desert Rose (Sandersons Avenue), with Blue Haze, Abbotsdene and Fourwinds being Highly Commended.

Pedestrian Badgers Walk continues to meet and walk, in all weathers. The next walks will be in early January & will be duly communicated.

October was a time for artistic pumpkin carving with a children's' Halloween fancy dress and Trick or Treat.

Thursday coffee mornings at the Hall are a weekly event with the library bus calling every other week.

Walter Morison was a BM resident. He spent some of his life in German POW camps. He was responsible for building the glider in Colditz Castle a prisoner of war camp. He wrote a book of his part in WWII. A copy of this book has been purchased by a couple of residents and is available to borrow.

Neighbourhood Watch continues to keep an eye on what is going on. We are fortunate that crime is at a minimum locally. There is a Badgers Mount Facebook, Twitter, WhatsApp both Social and I.C.E. as well as email.

### **Badgers Mount Christmas Fair**

The Christmas fair held on the 26th of November at the Memorial Hall was a big success with a brilliant mix of crafters & merchandise. Residents socialised together while they bought Christmas presents and there was plenty of refreshments & cakes going around to make a wonderful afternoon

### **Wine Tasting Event**

A brilliant evening tasting and learning about different kinds of wines held at the BM Memorial Hall on the 19th of November

## BADGERS MOUNT LOCAL HISTORY

**GARY**

The Badgers Mount village website has recently published a 'local history timeline', it's a work in progress and is looking for additions and corrections. It covers things from the local milestone on the turnpike road, early plans and maps of the area to the opening of the M25.

Interested to know which is the oldest house or when the rail tunnel was completed? It's all on the timeline:

<https://www.badgersmount.net/history>



Pic credit : Jonathan

# Memories in pictures

## Badgers Mount Photo Competition

The Parish Council organized a Photo Competition for the Residents in Summer. Congratulations to the winners:

- Helen
- James
- Jonathan

Special Commendation

- Jill
- Arthur



Prizes for these will be given out at the Annual Parish Meeting. Some photos are displayed in this newsletter and all photos are displayed in the Photo Gallery at [www.badgersmountparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.badgersmountparishcouncil.org.uk)



The Parish Council would like to keep you updated on the important things that concern our Parish. If you'd like to hear from us please fill the form below, tick the consent form & return it to the Parish Clerk's post box at Montclare, Orpington Bypass. Alternatively email [badgersmountclerk@gmail.com](mailto:badgersmountclerk@gmail.com) or sign up on [www.badgersmountparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.badgersmountparishcouncil.org.uk)

Name:..... Email: .....

I consent to Badgers Mount Parish Council holding these details for the purpose of communication with me about information regarding the Village & District that I may be interested in  
[Note: You can unsubscribe at any time by sending a mail to [badgersmountclerk@gmail.com](mailto:badgersmountclerk@gmail.com)]

## PLAN 2040: AN SDC CONSULTATION

AS YOU MIGHT BE AWARE, SEVENOAKS DISTRICT COUNCIL HAS LAUNCHED A CONSULTATION ON PLAN 2040. THIS CONSULTATION & THE SUBSEQUENT LOCAL PLAN FORMULATED BY THE DISTRICT COUNCIL WILL HAVE DIRECT IMPLICATION ON OUR BADGERS MOUNT NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN. THEREFORE, THE BADGERS MOUNT PARISH COUNCIL WOULD LIKE TO INVITE THE RESIDENTS' COMMENTS ON THE PLAN 2040 CONSULTATION. AS SOME OF YOU MIGHT REMEMBER, THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STEERING GROUP HAD PRODUCED A DRAFT OUTLINE AFTER CONSULTING WITH THE RESIDENTS ON OUR LOCAL PRIORITIES. DO THOSE PRIORITIES STILL REMAIN THE SAME OR DO YOU FEEL DIFFERENTLY ABOUT THEM. BELOW ARE THE KEY TOPICS & SOME QUESTIONS TO GET YOU THINKING ABOUT THEM WITH RELATION TO OUR VILLAGE.

YOU CAN SEND YOUR COMMENTS TO BAGERSMOUNTCLERK@GMAIL.COM OR WRITE TO US THROUGH THE WEBSITE WWW.BADGERSMOUNTPARISHCOUNCIL.ORG.UK OR ATTEND THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING ON DEC 15 TO EXPRESS YOUR OPINIONS.

### Plan 2040 Key Topics - Consultation Plan 2040

<p><b>01 Development Strategy</b> Plan 2040 provides a strategy for sustainable growth for homes, offices, town centre uses and infrastructure such as schools, health facilities and transport. Our plan focuses on growth in existing towns, optimising density, promoting efficient use of land and the reuse of brownfield land, to protect the Green Belt.</p> <p><i>BM NP : You voted unanimously for protecting Green spaces, maintaining AONB, Green belt &amp; rural feel. The current local Plan focuses on optimising density &amp; utilising brownfield land in existing settlements. Green belt release only in exceptional circumstances.</i></p> <p><i>Q. Do you agree with this strategy?</i></p>	<p><b>06 Health and Wellbeing</b> Planning plays a key role in reducing health challenges, including the opportunity to improve wellbeing, reduce isolation and stay physically active. The Plan supports the creation of healthy communities via good quality housing in sustainable locations, with access to green open space and sustainable travel options.</p> <p><i>BM NP : Community open space/playing fields &amp; outdoor leisure facilities were not high on your agenda. In fact you voted against creating a Badgers Mount open space.</i></p> <p><i>Q. Do you still feel the same about this aspect?</i></p>
<p><b>02 Housing Choice for All</b> The national housing crisis is being felt in Sevenoaks District - first time buyers, families and our ageing population all struggle to find suitable homes. We will boost the delivery of housing in the District whilst ensuring that a large proportion is genuinely affordable and meets the needs of all residents.</p> <p><i>BM NP : You voted for low housing density, but you'd like affordable, social &amp; self-build housing.</i></p> <p><i>Q. How do you think this objective can be achieved?</i></p>	<p><b>07 Historic Environment</b> Sevenoaks District is home to a wealth of old buildings, structures and landscapes. The historic environment helps create a sense of place, supports the local economy, regeneration, high quality urban design, tourism, leisure, education and sustainability. We want to ensure future generations can enjoy it too.</p> <p><i>BM NP : You voted overwhelmingly about protecting our ancient woodlands &amp; wildlife. We are sure that hasn't changed</i></p> <p><i>Q. How open are you to sharing our natural resources for tourism &amp; education with people visiting</i></p>



<p><b>03 Employment and Economy</b> The pandemic has increased online shopping and home working. We are keen to support our high streets and deliver the right type of flexible workspaces, whilst maintaining a vibrant economy and tourist sector.</p> <p><b>BM NP:</b> You responded to not having Commercial establishments or employment opportunities within the village and happy to travel to nearby towns for amenities. <i>Q. Would you still continue with similar sentiments?</i></p>	<p><b>08 Natural Environment</b> Sevenoaks District is a beautiful place to live, work and relax. We want to protect and enhance the natural environment to help everyone enjoy the beautiful landscape and make sure the District is a place where wildlife can thrive.</p> <p><b>BM NP :</b> As mentioned before, the residents of Badgers Mount are incredibly proud of the AONB surrounding us &amp; want to protect wildlife &amp; woodlands. <i>Q. What can be done to enhance the area around us and protect it for future generations?</i></p>
<p><b>04 Climate Change</b> Tackling climate change is vital. We want to ensure we are helping communities save energy, and make good travel choices. We will ensure new developments include energy efficiency measures, as well as making it easier to cycle, walk and charge electric cars, all contributing to the Council's Net Zero 2030 commitment.</p> <p><b>BM NP :</b> You responded that Carbon Neutrality was important, however, the responsibility lies squarely with the Govt. However, since then we've faced floods, are in the midst of the energy crisis &amp; the focus has moved strongly towards Net Zero <i>Q. Would you like to adopt cleaner/greener energy sources? Would you like to move toward energy independence? More EV charging points in the local vicinity? More heat pumps/solar systems</i></p>	<p><b>09 Infrastructure</b> Infrastructure underpins the successful operation and connectivity of Sevenoaks District. Working with partners in health, education, water, utilities and many other sectors, the Plan will enable the delivery of new infrastructure to meet future needs.</p> <p><b>BM NP :</b> Family &amp; young people activity as well as local medical service /pharmacy did not figure very high in the BM list of priorities. However, you did vote for improvements of the Memorial Hall &amp; would like better telecoms &amp; Broadband infrastructure. <i>Q. Has that perspective changed especially with the introduction of the ULEZ zone which will make access to GP as well as educational facilities more expensive? Considering that both Orpington Bypass &amp; London Road are major busy roads would you like provision for safe cycle &amp; pedestrian routes? What will promote a positive impact on mental well being?</i></p>
<p><b>05 Design</b> Design is much more than how something looks. We will make sure our new spaces are well-designed and have a positive impact on people's health, wellbeing and sense of belonging. We are seeking design excellence for all new development.</p> <p><b>BM NP :</b> You voted for a current mix of styles &amp; types, more bungalows to allow down-sizing. Look alike buildings forbidden. <i>Q. Do you still feel the same?</i></p>	<p><b>10 Transport</b> Residents and visitors need to travel to work, shops, schools and other services across the District. The Plan encourages healthy journeys and low carbon travel helping all people to move conveniently and safely.</p> <p><b>BM NP :</b> Public road transport is virtually non-existent in Badgers Mount. Closest station is Knockholt, but a large number of people use either Orpington or Sevenoaks station to commute to London <i>Q. What improvements would you like to see in the Transport network?</i></p>

IF YOU ARE LOOKING FOR MORE INFORMATION ON PLAN 2040, YOU CAN FIND IT HERE [HTTPS://WWW.SEVENOAKS.GOV.UK/PLAN2040](https://www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/plan2040)

