

## YOUTH ACTIVITIES IN IWADE

Lou Funnel

### IWADE VIBE

Friday Night Dinners

Did you know that over on Culnells Farm, we've been cooking up a feast with our new Iwade Cooking Club? This club is for anyone ages 8-12 years old, who loves to get into the kitchen!

Each week the young people come together to create a meal which they learn, make and then eat together. It is a great way to socialise and learn new skills. The club is £3 per session and runs from 4-6pm in The Nook on Culnells Farm. If you think your child is the right ingredient to come and join in with this term's foodie fun, then contact [zac@brogdalecic.co.uk](mailto:zac@brogdalecic.co.uk)

### It's getting a bit cold out there...

Swale Youth detached team have also been out in our village (with Newington & Upchurch too). Our team now has a van that is being kitted out so that we will be able to use for youth outreach work.



We are aware that with it being so cold outside, we are seeing fewer young people - who are more likely to be opting for their sofa, Switch, or latest TikTok craze! Rather than a youth club, our outreach work we are looking to create a programme of meetups for secondary school students. This can be designed around the kind of things they would like to do, be it cinema, bowling, roller skating, pizza night... it's up to them.

If you think your young person might be interested in being involved with this please email [debs@brogdalecic.co.uk](mailto:debs@brogdalecic.co.uk) to find out more.



## OUR NEW PCSO

Hello Iwade,

My name is PCSO 57460 Kirsty Linge, I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself to you all as I am now the new PCSO for the Iwade, Bobbing and Lower Halstow area.

I have worked for Kent Police as a PCSO for the past 13 years, during which time I have covered several areas, including Kemsley, Roman and Murston. I have however spent the last 10 years covering Milton Regis and The Meads.

It's always nice to have a change and take on new challenges and I look forward to seeing what my new area will bring. I also look forward to meeting many of you and helping where I can.

Each area in Sittingbourne is very different and has different issues and expectations. So please bear with me while I learn what Iwade needs from me. PCSO Lee Fennell has updated me on the majority of the things I need to know so I have a fair bit of knowledge, but the rest will come in time and through us speaking with each other. If you have any issues you wish to discuss with me, please do not hesitate to contact me.

I would ask that if you are experiencing issues you report them using 101 or our on-line reporting service which can be found on the Kent Police Website. I am aware there is a Facebook page for Iwade that is very active and many of you a part of it. I think this is wonderful for the community, however I do not monitor it and therefore will not know about issues based on what is on there. For me to help you, I need to know about what's affecting you and that will only happen if it is reported.

Kent Police have just released a new engagement tool called My Community Voice (MCV) which is a two-way engagement tool set up by Kent Police for residents, businesses and community groups in Kent and Medway. MCV will enable Kent Police to update users with news, alerts, appeals, engagement events and general policing activities in your area.

Members of the public can choose what information they receive from us and how they receive it – whether that's by email, text or voice mail. They can also share or reply to the messages they receive, enabling improved two-way communication, information sharing and problem-solving opportunities for the force.

I must add it's not a new way of reporting, but it will help me to link in with you directly and I will post on there regularly to keep you updated with things. I hope this gives you some idea of who I am, and I look forward to meeting you all in time.

Take care and stay safe.

Kind regards

Kirsty

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### Be the first to find out what's happening in your area

My Community Voice is a two-way engagement tool brought to you by Kent Police. Whether you live, work or socialise in Kent or Medway, My Community Voice provides real-time messages directly from our police officers, staff and volunteers, about matters that may affect you or your community.

Your voice is important to us and we want to hear what concerns or views you may have in the area that is important to you. You can also share messages with others or reply to our alerts if you have information to share.

From crime prevention advice, to the latest updates on scams, appeals or events – you control what information you receive and how you receive it, by email, text or voice message.



Sign up today or to find out more visit [www.mycommunityvoicekent.co.uk](http://www.mycommunityvoicekent.co.uk)

#### Report a crime

Report a non-urgent crime online [www.kent.police.uk/report](http://www.kent.police.uk/report)  
Talk to us on LiveChat – available 24/7 [www.kent.police.uk/contact](http://www.kent.police.uk/contact)  
In an emergency, if crime is in progress or life is in danger call 999  
If you have a hearing or speech impairment, use our textphone service 18000. Or text us on 999 if you've pre-registered with the emergency SMS service.  
[www.kent.police.uk](http://www.kent.police.uk)

Feb 2022

# The Iwade Observer

## THE BIG CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH-ON

Although it seems ages ago, recalling the Christmas Lights Switch-on still provides us with light in these dark winter days.

On the last Sunday in November hundreds of villagers gathered around the tree at Telly Tubby Hill to witness the start of the Christmas season, on the first Sunday in Advent.

The crowd were treated to a scintillating display of dance by members of The Elite Dance Company before the lantern parade arrived. The parade had marched up from the Village Hall and was a stunning sight. Dozens of sparkling, colourful lanterns bobbed along as they made their way to the

gathered crowds. The lanterns had been made at a workshop ran by Big Fish Arts the previous weekend and are sure to become an annual feature of the switch-on.

It was soon time to get down to the real business of the evening and a count-down led by Father Christmas culminating in a mass shout of "mincepies" saw the lights come on and bring a brilliant brightness to the scene.

Well done everybody concerned – we're already looking forward to next Christmas!!



## BACK AND RARING TO GO!

Kerry Holman

Iwade Brownies are back from the Christmas break and raring to go! We've welcomed three new Brownies, and kept three for a little longer too! The Brownies have decided what they'd like to do this year (deep sea diving, anyone?), and the leaders have carefully considered the options!! We are writing cards for other Brownie units across the country and hope to receive lots back. We are also currently planning our Easter Camp – we're off on an activity break!

Before Christmas, we enjoyed our Christmas Camp a little closer to home. Think lots of noise, lots of fun, lots of delicious food (and washing up) and even a trip from Santa himself! We stayed in cosy tents and the Brownies even helped put them away.

We are really enjoying being back 'in person' and hope it continues.





## KENT ROYALS SPEEDWAY



The story so far....

Kent has enjoyed league speedway since the late 60's when the Canterbury Crusaders and the Crayford Kestrels came on the scene in 1968. The Kestrels run ended in 1983, and the Crusaders made it to 1987. 2013 saw the return of league speedway at Central Park in Sittingbourne, when the Kent Kings sponsored by Milton Regis based CTA Fire took up their residency under the watchful eye of legendary speedway promoter Len Silver. The Kings went up from the third tier (National Development League) to the second tier (The Speedway GB Championship) at the end of the 2019 season, but alas the great pandemonium put the mockers on the 2020 season, so they had to wait until 2021 to make their debut.

The Kings moving up the Championship left a hole in in the National Development League, and Len announced that a new team would be formed, and it was put out to a vote by fans to choose the new name. The Royals was the winning name, and Iwade Garage partnered up to be the title sponsors for 2021 - The Kent Iwade Garage Royals had a good season, but due to scheduling problems for home matches, the deteriorating weather meant that the chance of winning the league was taken away by Mother Nature and a deluge of biblical proportions! The last match of the season couldn't be staged at home, and was pencilled in to run at neutral Leicester, but alas Mother Nature again decided the outcome - on the final day of the speedway season 2021, the date of the last "home" match for the Royals, it rained, and rained, and rained a bit more.

All Hallows Eve also brought more news, the stalwart of British Speedway, the man who had had a career as a racer from 1953 to 1964 with teams such as the Ipswich Witches, Exeter Falcons and the Hackney Hawks, had run teams including Hackney, Rye House, Weymouth, Crewe, Sunderland and Reading, been the England and GB Speedway team manager in 1973-1976 and 1981-1983 (winning the title in '73, '74 and '75); the 89 year old legend decided that it was time to retire. It was a dark wet autumnal afternoon that witnessed the collective gasp of riders and fans alike - league speedway in Kent had disappeared again ...

The Story of "Now"

... except in the mind of Si Kellow, the main speedway fan at Kellow Associates, who own Iwade Garage. "Why does it have to be the end?" was the main thought. Si and his girlfriend Andrea discussed the options for speedway. Was it possible to keep it going? What did the financial package need to look like to make it viable? Did it have to be at Central Park? A meeting with Len was arranged, and then another piece of the jigsaw fell into place. Graham Arnold who runs the speedway track in Iwade got hold of Si to say "Why don't you run National League from Iwade?" The meeting with Len went well, and an agreement was reached that would see Si and Graham apply to the organisation which oversees speedway - the British Speedway Promoters Ltd (BSPL) for permission to run a team in the 2022 league. On the 15th December 2021, a press release was made on the Speedway GB website. "EIGHT clubs will contest the National

Development League campaign in 2022.

Champions Mildenhall return to defend their title along with fellow '21 regulars Armadale, Belle Vue, Berwick and Leicester, whilst happily the sport will still take place in Kent, with the Iwade venue stepping into the competition instead of Central Park" - Si & Graham had done it - their application was successful!

The news went straight onto the hastily created Facebook page, and the fans were overjoyed. The news at the end of October had been like the breaking up of the Beatles. Speedway is a tight knit community, and for some people it is their only source of interaction with others. There were some that were being kept an eye on because of the state of their mental health after the first announcement. The news that league speedway was going to be around in 2022 made a huge difference to a number of people before Christmas 2021.

The announcement also brought with it a reality, and an urgency to get things done. The reality that hit was the need to raise funds to ensure that all of the necessary bonds and guarantees were in place to ensure that the 7 league matches (8 teams in the league means 7 home matches) could be staged without any issue. A request went out to the fans who had already found the new Facebook page "If anyone would like to help the club with sponsorship or donations for the 2022 season, please could they get in contact via: [pledge@kentroyals.co.uk](mailto:pledge@kentroyals.co.uk) "

Financially, in order for the season to be a success, in excess of 50K needs to be in place for the start of the season in April. At the end of the first week, 11K had been pledged. But there was a common question from those who hadn't pledged yet - "who is going to be in the team?"

A speedway team is made up of 8 riders. Team building for league speedway is much more complicated than it at first appears to be. You start with a points limit, and for 2022 that limit is 40.0. Each rider has an average, and that is the score used to determine their value against the 40.0 points. The points equate (on paper) to the number of points that the rider should be capable of delivering in a match. So, a 9.18 rider should bring in 3 times the points of a 3.0 rider (the lowest possible average). The idea of the National Development League is to do what it says in the name - help riders develop. By the 25th of December, two riders' names had been inked into the Royals team - Ben Morley who was one of the original Kings team back in 2013, and Danno Verge who had ridden for the Kings in the past and is a popular rider with fans. Others have been pencilled in, but waiting for confirmation that team building rules haven't been broken is taking longer to come through than anticipated.

So now we are pressing on, and as of the end of the first week in January, we are trying to get our team confirmed so that we can continue the search for sponsors and sorting out the myriad of paperwork and requirements that go along with keeping league speedway going in Kent.

Keep a look out for the next phase!

## IWADE COMPANIONSHIP WALKING GROUP

Steff Woodard

With a change of name, the Iwade Walking Group resumed regular weekly walks on June 10th 2021, after 15 months of Covid stoppage. We left the NHS Health Walk Scheme, to be re-born as Iwade Companionship Walks, an independent walking group.

The weather has been kind to us, and we have continued with our list of walks, Bridge, Cross-roads, Lakes, Orchards, Silos and Round the Village. We have picked and eaten damsons and blackberries, and "scrumped" apples, all with a good helping of chat, laughter and catching-up.

Sadly in September we lost James Apps, one of our very active walk leaders.

Our Christmas meal was put on hold due to the uncertainty of Covid, so after our last walk of the year, around the Village admiring the house decorations, on December 16th, we had a "picnic in the park".

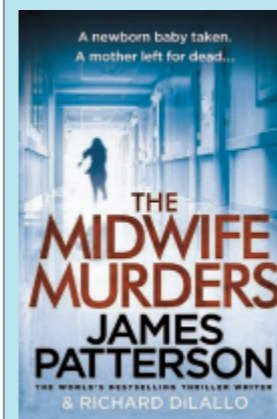
19 walkers, our highest turn-out since re-starting last year, enjoyed a very frosty and icy underfoot orchard walk, the first walk of 2022.

We are a great bunch of people, and should you wish to join us, you would be most welcome. We meet every Thursday at the Village Centre, 10.30am for a 10.45am start. Please wear suitable footwear; the routes can get very muddy and squelchy

Finally we wish all our readers Best Wishes for 2022.



## IWADE READING GROUP



Iwade Reading Group held their first meeting of the New Year on Tuesday 11th Jan at The Barn to catch up with each other and to talk about the book we read last month, 'Somebody I used to Know' written by Wendy Mitchell. Wendy was diagnosed with early onset dementia while in her 50s and still working. The book became a record of how she came to terms with the diagnosis, tried to carry on her work within the NHS, but was retired early, and how the awful illness began to make changes in her life.

It wasn't easy reading but those of us who continued with the book discovered some tremendous courage and personality and some cruel outcomes as she became less able to work, and made adjustments to her lifestyle. Throughout the book you read about her inspiring commitment to be as independent as she could be. At no point in her book do you hear or seek pity or disappointment or anger.

Wendy developed all kinds of strategies to live alone, to travel alone, to attend and speak at conferences nationally. She wouldn't give up: she travelled by bus and train across the country, drawing sketch maps of areas she wasn't familiar with, using sticky notes to remind her of activity or where things were stored, using her iPad to 'beep' at her to remind her to take medication. She even moved house, which was a challenge in itself. Her blog, as she called it, was written in two styles - her current position and as she saw herself as a person before the diagnosis. In her second book, she writes to someone who was diagnosed today entitled "What I wish people knew about dementia, by someone who knows", and what she would say to them, 'Its not the end but a beginning of a different journey...' As far as I can ascertain she is still alive and has a blog [www.whichmeamitoday.wordpress.com](http://www.whichmeamitoday.wordpress.com)

Our next book for discussion, at the Barn on 8th February, is The Midwife Murders by James Patterson. Why not come along and join in the tea/coffee, cake and discussion! See our FB page (search Iwade Reading and Book Group) for details.

## IWADE CRAFTERS

Kelvin Rivers-Simpson

Knitting, crochet, card and jewellery making, sewing ... oh! And bacon and sausage sandwiches!

What we love about Iwade! Each Friday morning a group of lovely ladies meet in the Woolpack Pub

(The Woolly) for their Iwade Crafters' coffee morning where the knit and natter club meet and show one another their talented creations from knitting, crochet, card making, jewellery making and sewing projects.

They even gathered together for a Christmas meal in the Woolly on Christmas Eve, when Alli and Paul, the owners of the Woolly, arranged a surprise visit of Santa Clause just to make sure everyone had behaved through the year. Apparently they all had so he wished them all a very Happy Christmas and a prosperous new year and of course everyone had their photos taken with Santa. Alli and Paul even gave the group a surprise bacon and sausage sandwich breakfast.

It's groups like this that make Iwade the wonderful place it is. This is why we love Iwade.



## IWADE PARISH COUNCIL - MINUTES OF FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

HELD ON TUESDAY 8TH DECEMBER 2021

### Present

Cllr. A. Dollimore – Chair  
Cllr. S. Cheeseman  
Lynda Fisher, Clerk  
Cllr. R. Langham - Vice-Chair  
Cllr. S. Lancashire

### Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

Alex Dollimore elected Chair and Ray Langham Vice-Chair.

### Welcome and Apologies

The Chair welcomed everyone and in particular new Committee Member, Stuart Lancashire.

### Monitoring the 2021/22 Budget and Accounts

Spending for the period April to November 2021 reviewed against the existing budget. Noted an overspend on Insurance, due to additional coverage there was an increase in premium. Several headings at present showing an underspend, but there are known invoices still to be received. Donations were down, due to lack of group activity because of Covid restrictions. Staff salary will be overspent due to National Insurance contributions.

For the new financial year, it was

agreed to lock the Iwade Observer payments at £1500. Noted that staff salary will need to be split – 18 hours per week to the new Clerk and 20 hours per month to the Responsible Financial Officer.

### Budget for 2021/22 and Precept

Draft budget prepared by Councillors for submission to the January full Council meeting. It was agreed to recommend that there be no increase in the Precept for 2022/23.

### Any Other Matters Arising

None.

## PASTORAL LETTER

Dear friends

There has been a lot in the news recently about how supermarkets are struggling with their supply chains, about empty shelves and reduced customer choice. But one of the things that strikes me is just how much choice we still have, what a huge variety of goods there is on offer in our shops and online.

I love to try different foods, to shop for new ideas and exercise that choice. Just looking at something like the range of coffees on sale, or the array of electronic devices available, can be overwhelming. For a long time, I have tried to be conscious of making good choices when I shop, of trying to ensure I don't buy from companies exploiting people or the environment, but it can be really tricky to get good information.

And when I reflect on this, it seems astonishing that in a world where we know the need to build sustainable practices for the sake of our planet, where it is accepted that slavery and child labour are wrong, these things are still so widespread. It is well known that the tea, coffee, fruit and chocolate we buy may well have been harvested by children who should be at school, or playing, not working to save their families from poverty. And many large corporations' working practices routinely involve the devastation of rainforest or exploitation and pollution of water sources.

The fashion industry is notorious for the reliance on, at best, poor working conditions for many employees so we can enjoy cheap, throwaway fashion. If it's really cheap, someone, somewhere will have paid the price. And it won't be those owning the big corporations.

Wouldn't it be great if, instead of consumers having to struggle to make sustainable choices, all companies were legally required to change damaging practices, which currently they not only get away with, many profit from them! A Business, Human Rights and Environment Act would make it illegal for companies operating in the UK to have human rights' abuses and environmental destruction in their supply chain, and those causing or profiting from harm would be held to account, while their victims would get the justice they deserve.

A group called The Corporate Justice Coalition is calling for this new law to hold producers to account, prevent abuses and ensure victims are compensated and damaged environments restored, as far as possible. If you want to know more, take a look at [www.traidcraft.org/hold-businesses-to-account](http://www.traidcraft.org/hold-businesses-to-account); you could add your name to the petition.

Jesus told his followers to 'love your neighbour', and if we are honest, surely we know in our hearts that all people deserve to be treated fairly, even if it means some inconvenience to ourselves! This sort of action is, for me, a perfect example of faith in action, of recognizing the humanity we share with people around the globe we may never meet. And surely, the suffering of any human being, particularly if caused by the greed of others, is something which diminishes us all. So, go, love your neighbour – wherever in the world they may live!

Every blessing

Amanda Lane

## “ANGEL'S FESTIVE CHEER” – THE YOUNG GIRL BRINGING JOY TO IWADE AT CHRISTMAS

### *Kayla Harriss*

An inspirational teenager from Iwade has kickstarted Christmas for the sixth year by writing and sending cards to every household in the village.

Angel Farley, 13, lives in Fulmar Avenue with her family. She has two rare medical conditions; Proximal Femoral Focal Deficiency (PFFD), which affects only one in 250,000 people, and Sacral Agenesis, which affects one in 300,000. Doctors who treated Angel said they were dealing with the conditions for the first time.

PFFD is a birth defect in which the upper part of the femur bone (in the thigh) is deformed or missing, resulting in one leg being shorter than the other. Angel was born without a right hip socket or right femur and has a shortened left femur; she must use crutches for walking shorter distances and a wheelchair for long distance.

Sacral Agenesis means the lower part of her spine is missing. She also has club-foot, enlarged brain ventricles (susceptible to water on the brain) and previously had a hole in the heart which has been rectified. When she was born, her parents were informed she would never walk, communicate or talk.

Despite the complications, Angel wanted to bring joy to others. She began what is now considered an “Iwade Christmas tradition” in 2015 at the age of seven. She said: “It started when I was writing cards for my friends and classmates. It made me feel good, so I wanted to do it for more people.”

Angel's dad Rob, 35, said: “She literally came home [from school] and was like, who else can I write cards to?” It was after this that a Facebook post was sent out asking if anyone wanted to receive a Christmas card from Angel.

Many people from both surrounding areas and other parts of the country responded, with some sending emails on behalf of autistic children or elderly relatives. In total, 120 cards were written and posted. Angel said: “I wanted to make people smile, because some people are lonely at Christmas.” It wasn't until 2017 that the family decided to focus primarily on writing to Iwade residents.

Just two days after her 10th birthday in 2018, Angel had the lower part of her right leg amputated. Despite the operation going smoothly, she suffered a severe infection, drug reaction, seizures and sepsis. She was later put on life support and spent a day in a coma at Great Ormond Street Hospital. After a lumbar puncture and taking some Immunoglobulin (an expensive medicine that had to be outsourced due to GOSH not having any available at the time), Angel grew responsive and her condition began to improve. Angel went on to spend a further seven weeks in hospital.

Rob talked about the outpour of kind messages from locals during this time. He said: “Everybody was so polite and so supportive of [Angel]; they were so caring. When she had recovered and was back home, that's when we said ‘Do you know what, we should give back to them’ and it just went off from there.”

Christmas 2021 saw Angel breaking a new record, writing 1518 Christmas cards and successfully delivering to every house in Iwade. She began preparing back in September with the help of 11-year-old sister Mikayla. Rob said: “We wrote them out bit by bit; Angel was doing what she can

obviously through her schooling but she got them all done and we got them delivered.”

Angel and Mikayla had managed to have all the cards signed and posted within the first week of December. Youngest siblings Tia-Leigh, 10, and Sienna, 6, particularly enjoy going door-to-door. Angel said: “The young ones are the speedy ones! We'll go round the whole village and they still want to do more!”

Rob discussed how he enjoys doing the rounds as a family. He said: “Instead of putting them in a post box and sending them all away, it felt more one-to-one to walk around the village and post them ourselves, we could look at all the Christmas lights at the same time.”

With the Covid-19 pandemic, “Angel's Festive Cheer” meant more now than ever. Rob said: “We have had more comments this time because of Covid. We've had so many people say ‘You've brightened my Christmas this year’ if they've lost a loved one.”

The family made sure to be careful with both Angel and her mum Holly, 31, being of higher risk. Holly, who recently had a cataracts operation, was unable to help as much with the Christmas cards this year. Despite it all, however, they managed to get it done with little strain due to the nature of it taking place outdoors.

Since her recovery, Angel has gone on to do multiple sponsored walks raising money for the charities and hospitals that have supported her over the years. The first fundraiser was a 10km walk in Maidstone, followed by a six-and-a-half hour walk from Iwade to Medway Hospital in Gillingham. The money was split between Great Ormond Street and the Disablement Services Centre in Medway who provide Angel with her prosthetic leg.

The Covid-19 outbreak meant that the family had to raise money from their home; in June 2020, Angel walked 1,900 laps of her carpark across 19 days. A total of £206 was raised and donated to the NHS. On the 14th August 2021, Angel travelled 12.23 miles in six hours from Iwade to Chatham Dockside in aid of the Spread a Smile charity. Holly estimates that Angel has raised approximately £3,200 since her recovery. In spring 2021, Angel received the first ever “Little Sunshine” award from the Sittingbourne Morrisons store in praise of all her charity work.

This year, Angel and her family plan to raise money for the Make A Wish Foundation, who have provided Angel with the opportunity to visit The Shard in London sometime in the near future. Rob said: “It's great- we're hopefully going to do some other charities as well after we've done those who supported Angel.”

Rob, who cares full-time for his wife and Angel, expressed what he loves most about living in the village. He said: “It's mainly about the people. The people we talk to when we're out, they're so friendly. That's what makes Iwade, Iwade- there's just such a lovely community.”

Many people on Facebook continue to give thanks to Angel since the festive period ended. One woman, Natalie Lloyd, said: “After my son had a bike accident at the end of November it certainly put a smile on my face for Christmas.”

Another woman, Gemma Webber, said “We have received cards from Angel and always try to send one back, she is such an inspiration with all that she's got going on, her smile will light up a room.”

# IWADE PARISH COUNCIL - MINUTES OF MONTHLY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

HELD ON TUESDAY 8TH DECEMBER 2021

## Present

Cllr. A. Dollimore – Chair  
Cllr. S. Lancashire  
Cllr. B. Whiting  
Cllr. R. Langham  
Cllr. S. Waters  
Cllr. S. Cheeseman  
Lynda Fisher, Clerk  
Borough Cllr. C. Woodford  
Helen Binning, Community Warden  
PCSO Lee Fennell  
PCSO Kirsty Linge  
1 Member of the Public

## Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Proposed by Cllr. Lancashire and seconded by Cllr. Whiting, the Minutes of the Parish meeting held on the 10 November 2021 were agreed and signed by the Chair as a true transcript.

## Visitors/Public Time

**Visitors** – No comments.

**County and Borough Councillors** – Cllr. Woodford advised that Swale Borough Council are installing cameras to deal with fly tipping; she is putting forward Raspberry Hill, School Lane and Ferry Road. Persimmon Homes have now started to carry out some of their outstanding work.

## **Community Warden/PCSO** –

The previous Community Warden has put in for a grant for a Games bus for the village for next year. This will operate during the school half-term.

**PCSO** – Crimes of note: A stolen moped was found in a ditch near the Sheppey crossing, owner traced, he recovered it himself. Two youths were reported to have shoplifted from the Nisa store; currently being investigated. Reports of youths smoking cannabis in the 'bird' estate. Some outdoor Christmas decorations were also damaged. Anti-social

behaviour and other incidents of note: There was a spate of 'knock and run' incidents, which culminated in an altercation between residents and some parents of suspected children. Everyone concerned was spoken to by police, no reported incidents since. Reports of nuisance vehicles along the private road at Ridham Dock. Patrols attend and warnings are given. Various reports of a moped being driven recklessly through the village. After some investigation, the vehicle has recently been seized by police. Police attended a report of a suspicious male possibly looking into vehicles along School Lane; no-one was found. PCSO Lee Fennell advised that as from 1 January he will be moving to the Queenborough area; PCSO Kirsty Linge will be assigned to Iwade and Lower Halstow.

## Matters Arising from the Minutes

**20 MPH Zones** – This is a work in progress, keep on the agenda.

Action: Cllr. Dollimore

**Planters, The Street/Mansfield Drive** – Still awaiting information from Assessor and further input from Kent County Council despite chasing. Keep on the agenda.

Action: Clerk

## Local Plan Consultation Response -

The following response was submitted to Swale Borough Council: "According to Swale's figures 65% of commuters use cars or vans to travel to work, Iwade probably has a higher percentage. Swale Borough Council's document praises existing links, but residents in this area are all aware how congested the A249, the A2 and Sittingbourne itself are at busy times. Hopefully the improvement to junction 5 will ease some of the congestion on the A249 but the other problem areas will remain.

*The Parish Council has concerns that with developments in Bobbing and in Iwade (Pond Farm and Featherbed Fruit Stall) the important Countryside Gap is getting narrower and narrower.*

*The village flood risk is increasing every time a new development is approved. The Strategic Flood Risk Assessment doesn't appear to be working, people living near to the stream and those at the lower end of the village are always at risk during heavy rain.*

*We disagree with the comments contained in the document, our local landscapes are not being protected, our orchards and most of our farmland have already been built upon and more of our green areas are soon to be used for housing. Future generations will lay the blame on decision makers when there is no arable land left to grow food.*

*The adjacent parishes of Bobbing, Newington and Borden have also seen significant residential developments.*

*The combined developments in these four parishes and other developments close to the A249 and the Isle of Sheppey has placed considerable pressure on the quality of life for the residents, who complain about:*

*Lack of school places for Sittingbourne and Sheppey.*

*Lack of medical and doctor facilities; we have one of the highest doctor/patient ratios in England. Iwade Medical Centre is a prime example, there have been major difficulties in recruiting Doctors.*

*Pollution from volumes of traffic and the impact this has on health. Daily queues impact on businesses.*

*The loss of good quality farmland which should be used for food production and not bricks and mortar; Kent is fast becoming the 'Garden of Concrete'.*

*The loss of countryside for recreational walks, something that has been found*

*It appears the current proposal indicates that any small pieces of land that become available can be used as windfall sites to add to the already high numbers of proposed new homes. Given the amount of development in recent years and the lack of a "grand plan" for the whole of Sittingbourne which has resulted in the area being subjected to piecemeal ad hoc planning producing, resulted in the poor infrastructure the town has today. The whole western area of Sittingbourne needs a sustainability appraisal with no more ad hoc development based on an outdated road network which is not fit for purpose now or future years.*

*Iwade has now suffered constant development for the past 26 years, it is time for other parts of the Borough to share this burden; that is the main urban areas and the eastern end of the Borough."*

## Correspondence

**Lighting Grant Withdrawal by Swale Borough Council** – Letter sent to Swale Borough Council's Leader outlining the strain the removal of this grant will place on the Parish Council's budget, stressing that Iwade Councillors do not want to raise the Precept due to the current financial climate. Will await the outcome of Swale Borough Council's Cabinet meeting tonight.

Action: Clerk

**KALC Community Awards** place on January Agenda.

Action: Clerk

**Clerk's Resignation/Responsible Financial Officer** – Noted the Clerk has tendered her resignation with effect from the 1 December, her last working day being 28 February 2022. She will, however, carry on as the Responsible Financial Officer. Agreed to jointly advertise the Post with Bobbing Parish Council, whose Clerk has also resigned, with the desire to appoint one person to cover both vacancies.

Action: Clerk

**Grovehurst Road Gateway Entrance** – Cllr. Whiting has been approached by a resident regarding near misses (car accidents) at this entrance, where there is no give way either side of the entrance. Clerk to check with Kent County Council to see if something can be done.

Action: Clerk

## Finance

**Trees and Plaque costs** – No response from Swale regarding suitable plaques. The Nursery has advised as to the 2021 costs. Agreed to look at planting 8 Hornbeam trees and to include sufficient funds in the 2022/23 budget.

Action: Clerk

**Highway Improvement Plans/Yellow Lines** – keep on Agenda.

Action: Cllr. Dollimore

**Budget/Precept 2022/23 – suggestions for Projects for the year ahead** –

Agreed to plant a further 8 Hornbeam Trees in the Meadow side of Woodpecker Park. Also, to look at something to commemorate The Henge found on the park area adjacent to the Medical Centre, perhaps seating, a history board. Considering the current financial climate with Swale Borough Council and KCC intimating that they will be raising Council Tax, Members agreed that the Precept should not be raised for 2022/23. The Budget will be discussed at the Finance Committee Meeting, which follows at the end of this meeting. Cllr. Lancashire was appointed a Member of the Finance Committee.

Queen's Platinum Jubilee Beacon – 5 quotes received, a local company has submitted the lowest quote, but as with most it is for the Brazier only and will need a post. Agreed Cllr. Lancashire to contact the firm to see what is possible as regards the post. Clerk to contact KCC querying whether 'Telly Tubby Hill' or the green adjacent to the Woodpecker Park bus shelter

can be used as a possible site for the Beacon. Clerk also to post on the Village Facebook, seeking a Piper to play the bagpipes at the event.

Action: Cllr. Lancashire/Clerk

**Projects – Updates on Current and New**

**Xmas Lights Event 2021** – Really successful event. Heightened Christmas tree looked good. The dance group were wonderful, as was the Lantern Parade and the visit by Father Christmas and Mrs. Christmas.

## Reports from Representatives

**Hall** – Village Hall - the Christmas Grotto will take place on 23rd December with a ballot for entry tickets. The Christmas Fayre will take place this Sunday. Still short of trustees so no weekend hirers for the time being. Receiving a grant from KCC for wipeable chairs to replace the fabric covered ones. Currently looking for a company to take over the cleaning. There will be a small rise in hire fees from the end of March next year. Also planning some redecorating next year.

**KALC** – Attended the General Purposes Committee meeting via Zoom on Tuesday; discussed suggestions for speakers at forthcoming General meetings the first of which is on 11th January 2022. Various suggestions included loneliness and 20 mph limits.

**Swale Western Area Committee** - Next meeting 14 December.

Action: Cllr. Cheeseman

## Any Other Matters Arising

Cllr. Langham advised that Persimmon are replacing the dead trees and bulbs are being planted on the green area adjacent to the Medical Centre, which is good to see.