

Hackington Parish Council Community

DIGITAL NEWSLETTER

Issue 11 March 2023

COMMUNITY ORCHARD CONSULTATION



Members of the Climate Action Group leafleted parish households in early January with over 200 households visited to gather comments about our plans for a community orchard. Altogether we received 22 responses and we would like to thank all those who replied. Below is a quick summary of the key points.

Stage 1 Creation of the community orchard and pond

The residents' feedback on Stage 1 was overall positive. No one objected strongly to the proposal. There were some concerns about the pond with regard to its safety and maintenance and who would be responsible should an accident occur. This would need to be considered in the context of rights over the land and under what legal framework we would proceed with our plans.

14 residents indicated they would like to sponsor a tree.

Stage 2 Allotments

Regarding Stage 2, the views were mixed. Seven residents expressed a wish to have an allotment out of possible 16 planned plots but there were also strong objections. Some residents objected on the basis of increased traffic through the access road by the Hillside Cottage. There were also objections on the basis of invasion of privacy, unsightly constructions like sheds and fences as well as increased traffic and problems parking on Park Farm Close. Additionally, SE Water indicated they are not keen on Stage 2. Instead of allotments, we plan to set up a wilding project on the meadow which will encourage pollination and wildlife.

Parish councillors presented the community feedback at a meeting with SE Water on 24th February 2023. Overall, SE Water responded positively to our plans, although they indicated that the plans can go ahead only as part of the planning application for the Broad Oak Reservoir. This is a significant setback for our plans as the planning application is not imminent, with a tentative lead time of between one to two years. In the meantime, we wait and see.

TYLER'S KILN PUB CLOSES AGAIN



The Tyler's Kiln pub doors closed again last week, a year after they reopened. The pub's owner is hoping to reopen the pub under new management next month. More [here](#).

INSTALLATION OF DROPPED KERBS



As residents will have seen, KCC has installed (at their expense) dropped kerbs at two points on Hackington Road, one where the pub sign is and the other where the bus stop is just beyond the entrance to the pub. This was in answer to our request to install dropped kerbs across the junction at Link Road in order to enable wheelchair users and people with prams on the footway on Hackington Road to cross over the Link Road junction safely and easily e.g. when going to and from the bus stop or the pub.

Unfortunately, due to the position of the telegraph pole at the Link Road junction, we were informed by KCC that the installation of dropped kerbs at that point was not feasible. The current arrangement, with two crossing points on Hackington Road offers an alternative route whereby one can cross over from the West to the East side of Hackington Road and thereby avoid the Link Road junction, and then back again at the bus stop.

We are aware that this is not a perfect solution, mainly because, if one wishes to cross from the East to the West side of Hackington Road at the pub sign crossing point, the sight lines are very poor, and indeed it would arguably be dangerous for anyone to cross there. Nevertheless, it is difficult to see where the sight lines on that side of the road would be much better, wherever the crossing point was placed. The alternative would have been not to have dropped kerbs installed at all, with the continued difficulty of access across Link Road for wheelchair users or people pushing children in prams or buggies.

TYLER HILL MEADOW WORKING PARTY



Tyler Hill Meadow is listed as a Site of Nature Conservation Interest. Of just over two acres it has belonged to Hackington Parish since 2002 and it has been managed by a small committee. It is made up of two small meadows encircled by woodland, entered off Tyler Hill Road with a second more peaceful entrance via the footpath (no 15) from Fleet's Lane.

Tyler Hill Meadow is in need of some maintenance. The paths and ditches are overgrown and weeds and brambles need cutting back. We are planning a working party on **Wednesday, 12th April**. If you can spare a couple of hours, do come along and bring a picnic. Please email ania.bobrowicz@hackington-pc.gov.uk if you are able to help out.

THE FOREST CHARTER



Everyone has heard of the Magna Carter signed at Runnymede in 1215 by King John, but have you heard of the Forest Charter which was signed two years later in 1217 by King Henry III?

Whereas the Magna Carter was signed essentially for the benefit of the demanding Barons, the Forest Charter was signed quite willingly to allow all free men to enjoy what had been since William the Conqueror exclusively royal forests. We can only imagine that the Forest Charter would have applied to Blean Forest: Not just the woods but the heaths and cleared pastures within the bounds of the forest. At a time when forests were the most important potential resource for food, for cooking, for heating and for industries and were defended for such important rights as pannage (acorns for pigs), estover (collecting firewood), agistment (grazing), the charter was unique in providing a degree of protection for free men who lived in and used the forest. The Charter allowed every free man to use his wood as he wished. He could make a fish pond, a marl-pit, even a mill. He could cut ditches make arable areas and coverts for fowl so long as he did not injure any neighbour's property.

Before the Charter the Conqueror's iron law would have been applied preventing and outlawing any of the listed rights and we can be sure that Bishop Odo, William's half brother, who held all the land that would have been the present Blean Woods north of Canterbury would have been a hard taskmaster.

It had been thought that there were only two copies of the Charter in existence, kept in Durham cathedral and Lincoln Castle but only recently a copy was found at Sandwich Guildhall and this copy may very well have been used in reference to ensuring freemen's rights the Blean Forest across East Kent. The Charter lasted in force from 1217 to 1971 when it was replaced by The Wild Creatures and Forest laws Act. Special courts still exist in the New Forest and the Forest of Dean to control the use of those forests.

TYLER HILL MEMORIAL HALL ACTIVITIES



Blean, Hackington, and Tyler Hill Society Meetings and Events

TBC

Gardeners' Club Meetings and Events

The next Gardeners' Club event will be on **Wednesday, 19th April 2023 at 7:30pm**. The title of the presentation is 'Recycling' by Lynne Moore, CCC. All welcome.

Monthly Coffee Club at the Tyler Hill Memorial Hall

The monthly coffee club will meet again on **Wednesday, 5th April 2023 at 2:30pm**.

Regular Clubs running at the hall (please see the notice board outside the hall for contact details):

Bowles Society: Every Thursday evening at 7pm

Canterbury Photographic Society: First Wednesday of the month 6.45-10pm

Gardeners' Club: Third Wednesday of the month: 7.30-9.30pm

Kendo: Mondays 7-8.30pm

Rock Choir: Mondays 10-11:30am

Thai Chi: Mondays 5.30-6.30pm; Wednesdays 5-6pm; Sundays 2-3.30pm

Tippy Toes: Thursdays 10-11.30am

Yoga: Tuesdays 7.30-8.30pm; Fridays 9.30-10.30am

Zumba Gold: Fridays 11-11:50am

Please note that all Tyler Hill Memorial Hall activities are run by the Tyler Hill Memorial Hall committee, not the Hackington Parish Council. Therefore for any inquiries, please contact tylerhillmemorialhall@gmail.com.

Our next Parish Council meeting will be on Thursday, 11th May, at 7:30pm in the Tyler Hill Memorial Hall.

All residents are welcome.

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