

skills are kept up to date. They also have to successfully complete and pass annual assessments. These are governed by South East Coast Ambulance Service.

All Community Responders are also CRB (Criminal Records Bureau) checked to a very high standard. Community First Responders volunteer their spare time to be available for selected 999 calls to help other members of the community.

At the moment there were only three responders working in the Sandwich area, additional volunteers are needed to improve the service. Volunteers can be male or female, aged over eighteen years. They must have access to a car and be able to attend emergency calls from either their home or place of work as soon as they are received.

They are still interested to hear from you if you do not have a car but have a valid driving licence as they hope to get a group vehicle which will allow members to book the car for use to respond.

While a responder is on call they can continue with their normal day to day activities while in the local area, but must be ready to drop everything and attend a call should one arise.

A Community First Responder needs to be extremely reliable and trust worthy, good under pressure, able to remain calm in emergency situations, be caring when dealing with patients and have a good level of physical fitness.

Volunteers attend a two-day course, taught by Ambulance Service Trainers, which covers all aspects of emergency first aid, including:

- Basic Life Support (cardio-pulmonary resuscitation)
- Use of a Automated External Defibrillator (AED)
- Oxygen therapy
- Medical emergencies
- Minor trauma
- Patient assessment

Each new responder must complete a formal assessment at the end of their training and regular ongoing training and refresher sessions are undertaken by the volunteers.

Community First Responders carry a response bag with essential first aid equipment along with oxygen and an Automated External Defibrillator. The Community responders must pay for this equipment that costs about £1300 to buy, they are also responsible maintaining the kit and the cost of batteries etc.

This equipment enables them to provide the level of care required until the Ambulance Crews arrive. Any disposable items are replaced by the Ambulance Service via the attending crews.

Stuart and Jason answered questions from the floor. The Chairman thanked them for attending and for there contribution to the local community.

5. HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

The senior site manager for WW Martins Co Ltd., Mr Derek Amas gave a report on the progress on the site. The first 5 dwellings are up and undergoing there first fix. The foundations for the last set will be proud of the ground next week and the site should be completed by Christmas. His crews had been busy over the past few months trying to keep the road clean and now that the weather had improved they would try and keep dust to a minimum. He was happy to send his workers out to wash windows and cars covered with dust from the site. He then went on to answer questions from local residents.

Mr Amas said that the client and owner of the site Mr Anthony Ralph was in attendance and had been interested in the presentation given by the Sandwich Community First Responders. Mr Ralph had agreed to fund a new community Responders Kit to the value of £1300 should a new volunteer be found and train to work in the local community.

The Chairman thanked Mr Amas and Mr Ralph

6. KALC COMMUNITY AWARDS SCHEME

The Kent Association of Local Councils Award is to acknowledge and give recognition to those that have made a significant contribution to their local community. The Scheme is supported by the High Sheriff of Kent, Chairman of Kent County Council and Mayor of Medway Council. This year the local community had been asked to put forward nomination for this award.

The Chairman said he was pleased to announce that Mrs Jean Prior had been given this award for her years of service to the local community running the Coffee Pot group. The Chairman had given Mrs Prior her award at Coffee Pot earlier in the day.

7. POLICE REPORT

Unfortunately PCSO Ian Norton had been prevented from attending the meeting tonight due to an incident in Sandwich.

Parish Cllr Butcher informed those present that a team of distraction burglars posing as Southern Water employees were currently working in this area; she asked everyone to beware and to inform their neighbours.

8. NEW COMMUNITY HALL UPDATE

The Chairman reported that phase one had been completed at the end of December 2014. We are now waiting for the building ownership to be transferred from DDC to the Parish Council so that phase two could start. This transfer had been signed off by DDC cabinet on the 3rd March 2015. Three months had been lost on the project due to the inefficiency of the architects who had not provided plans and specifications to the agreed timescales. Final costings for phase two should be available very soon. It was hoped that the new village green could be seeded and some planting may be completed this spring.

Questions were asked from the floor. One criticism was that the car park was located in the wrong place. It was agreed this would be discussed by the Council.

Action Parish Council

9. CHAIRMANS REPORT

The Parish Council consists of 9 members and remains unchanged for the past year.

In addition to the General Election on 7th May, there are Parish Council elections. If you are interested in becoming a Parish Councillor may I suggest you contact Dover District Council, Election Services.

Planning

Over the past year the Council has made comments on 6 – compared to 16 last year applications

4 of which were extensions to houses which have been supported.

A revised application for the Lasletts site, Frost Fields adjacent to the Beacon Lane / Marshborough Road crossroads for the provision of 13 houses, instead of 11 was considered and Councillors had no objections – use of a brown site. But have expressed their concerns about vehicles exiting on to Beacon Lane and Marshborough Road. Further, the opportunity has been taken to ask for bus stops perhaps with shelters on both sides of Marshborough Road.

The revised solar panel farm application has been considered earlier this evening. No objection has been raised by the Parish Council since it is now located in a more acceptable area.

Highways

Two road traffic accidents were brought to my attention during the past winter. One was on the long bend in Beacon Lane, where a car skidded on an icy road and demolished the gas control box subsequently cutting off gas supplies to nearby properties. The other accident was a collision between a car and lorry at the Wood Ash cross roads when one person was taken to hospital.

This has once again raised the question of having a speed limit for Beacon Lane.

When the Parish Council sought this a few years ago Kent Highways did not see a need.

We have also discussed the need to move the 30mph sign in Beacon Lane near the Foxborough / Marshborough cross roads further back along Beacon Lane thereby encouraging motorist to slow down earlier before the cross roads.

Also at these cross roads, concern has been expressed by several people about vehicles parking less the 10metres from the corner of Beacon Lane and Foxborough Hill thereby obscuring sight of vehicles coming from Beacon Lane when driving forward from Foxborough Hill. This has been raised with the local Police.

Flooding has occurred again around the Old Post Office following torrential rain in the autumn. Kent Highways were asked to arrange for the road drains to be cleared once again. CCTV was also used in the drains to confirm that there were no blockages. None were found.

I beg the question, in these times of financial cutbacks, should we have a small group of local volunteers willing to clear the drain tops of leaves etc especially during autumn, down The Street to reduce possible flooding and to look after and take a pride in our village.

The KCC Public Rights of Way Dept provided a new barrier in place of the broken stile on the footpath through Ringleton Manor. The overgrown pathway linking Foxborough Hill and Foxborough Close was cut back.

Old Village Green

In view of the development of the new community hall with the adjacent land for a village green it was decided to relinquish the old green at the rear of Foxborough Close which is now being returned for agricultural use. The old cycle track – installed ten years old- was scraped but the benches and litter bin kept for future use.

Kent Resilience Forum

Last October a booklet became available to the public to address the need to prepare for emergencies. It gives guidance on what to do in case of flooding, fire, high winds, snow, loss of power and numerous emergencies. These are free and can be obtained from Cllr Linda Butcher.

In addition Sandwich Town Council has produced an excellent Emergency card for similar occurrences with numerous phone numbers from whom you can seek help. These are available at the rear of the hall. If you would like more information then please speak to Cllr Pip Russell.

These are excellent document especially for the elderly.

At this point I wish to thank Cllr Pip Russell for her regular updates on the District Council's work. I'm sorry to see she is retiring as a District and Town councillor.

Once again I wish to express my thanks to all club and groups who provide facilities for the local folk.

Our thanks to Ken and Linda Butcher for caring for the flower bed at the top of Fir Tree Hill and to Su Atkinson with Monika Smith for the flowers beneath the village sign on Sandwich Road. Thanks to Su Atkinson again, litter lady who does a sterling job in keeping the village clean and tidy.

And as I have said for many years a big thank you to our Clerk, Sarah who has a challenging task these days in keeping on top of the endless paperwork but continues to keep this Parish Council running smoothly.

Finally, I would like to express my sincere thanks to me fellow councillors for their support, especially the new Community Hall Working Group – Steve, Peter and Linda over the past year.

David H-Woodward, Chairman

10. RESPORTS

i) District Councillor Pip Russell

Factual information provided during the election purdah period:

The compulsory purchase is complete of Burlington House and The County Hotel in Dover, which now paves the way for the regeneration of the St James's area and a new Dover town centre. The two buildings will be demolished in early summer, 2015. Several large retail concerns and a major hotel chain are interested in the development and the area redevelopment should be completed towards the end of 2016.

DDC has succeeded in managing its finances well during the recent global financial crisis, despite the huge reduction in government grants and has frozen Council Tax this year, with emergency services having raised their charges by 3 per cent, thus bringing the increase on Band D properties to 1.8 per cent per annum. Car parking charges throughout the District have been frozen, with charges reduced in the evenings to assist after-work shopping.

500 new affordable homes are planned in the District and the finance is in place for these. Planning have approved the Western Heights redevelopment, despite some opposition from Protect Rural England and the new site for Hadlow College at Betteshanger is progressing well, and will bring jobs and scientific co-operative links to the area.

There are now over 2,000 staff at Discovery Park, with more than 100 companies registered there.

In Sandwich, the discovery of the Sandwich Magna Carta in the Kent Library and Archives has brought great excitement. The Town Council discussed the future of the charters held at Kent Archives at their Town Council Meeting on Monday of this week and it was decided to go ahead with the immediate restoration of both the Magna Carta and the Charter of the Forest and to bring them back to Sandwich in the future. There will be a travelling exhibition of the Kent charters between June and December 2015, to mark the 800th Anniversary of the sealing of the Magna Carta by King John. Dover Museum had booked four weeks in September this year for display of the exhibition, but have kindly agreed to allow Sandwich to use two of these weeks to display of the charters in The Mayor's Parlour at The Guildhall. Much work has to take place, and finances found, before the town can take charge of the documents and a Sandwich Magna Carta work group has been negotiating with the archivists at Kent, Visit Kent and the Faversham Town Clerk to get our documents ready for the tour and for future display. Where they are kept in the future depends upon requests for funding from The Heritage Lottery Fund and other benefactors.

Sandwich Town Council, our MP, Laura Sandys and the Town Team have been putting in much effort to the resolution of the town's traffic problems and are making headway in this respect. A Sandwich Neighbourhood Plan is being written. This will take approximately eighteen months to two years to complete and will involve the residents of Sandwich in the consultation process.

An Emergency Plan for Sandwich has been completed, and copies will be available from the Guildhall immediately after the election, when some new additions of Town Council responders will be included on the plan.

ii) District Councillor Paul Carter

Problems had been experienced due to KCC funding cuts. DDC are trying to maintain services to local communities and have managed to balance next year's budget with out the need to increase council tax.

One of the issues raised by local resident has been enforcement. In planning, littering and dog fouling. To tackle this issue three enforcement offers have been employed by DDC to deal with littering and dog fouling. Offenders are now being tackled and fixed penalty notices are being issued. Additional planning enforcement officers are also in post.

Waste recycling continues to be very successful with DDC having just been given a Gold Award for it recycling scheme.

iii) County Councillor Leyland Ridings

Cllr Ridings was not in attendance and had not sent a report.

The Chairman asked if there were any more questions from the floor, there being none he closed the meeting at 9.15pm and invited everyone to remain for refreshments.