

VIEW FROM THE PAVILION - PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER SPRING 2026

Headline news...



The really big news for the community is that the Parish Council has been successful in its appeal to the Planning Inspectorate, to establish that a pedestrian Right of Way does exist at the Wheelwright Arms in Matfield. A large dossier of information and user evidence was submitted and the map shows the route that was proved to exist. The Council has agreed that a diversion of this route to a safe pavement alongside Maidstone Road would be appropriate and this is in discussion with KCC and the developer who will install this at his own expense. An article on this will be published when the matter is nearing conclusion, in the meantime access remains via the grass verge.

STOP PRESS...

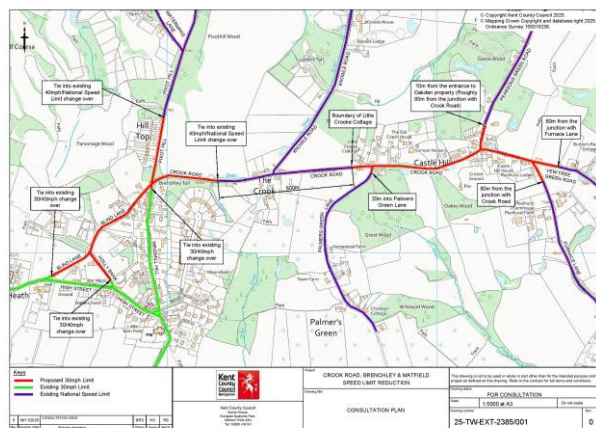
- This Newsletter and the Council's Agendas and Minutes are now produced in an accessible format to assist those who use screen readers
- The Council 's budget for 2026-27 has been agreed at £187,432 with the net increase in residents' contribution via the precept of only 0.6%. Full details can be found on the Finance tab of the website.
- The Council is installing a rack for 4 bicycles at the toilets in Brenchley, awaiting an Active Travel grant
- A new fingerpost is being installed for the High Weald National Landscape Trail at Matfield Green with part funding from our Kent County Councillor
- Assessment is in progress for a land drain to alleviate flooding on the Green
- A broken pane at the Marchants bus stop has been repaired
- The parish Highways Improvement Plan has been updated to include hatching at the bottom of Blind Lane and other revisions discussed with KCC, when finalised this can be found on the Traffic tab of the website
- An information lectern with historical information and walking route in Brenchley is nearing completion for the Jack Verrall Memorial Gardens
- Contact has been made with three haulage companies requesting they avoid Petteridge Lane
- The Council has engaged with the developer of 15 houses adjacent the Village Hall on proposals for an extensive playground and extra parking spaces on land owned by the PC
- The Council is considering ways to increase the areas of the parish which are gritted by KCC
- A budget for flower planters has been agreed and options are being considered
- The Angling Trust are undertaking regular tests and monitoring of the water and fish health at Matfield Pond

Something you might like to know about the Parish from Brenchley Archives:

Charles Lancelot Storr, a son of the first Vicar of St Lukes and grandson of Rev Francis Storr, Vicar of Brenchley, wrote plays and verse with irreverent and sometimes derogatory references to people in the parish.

...and finally

The Council has submitted an application for a grant from TWBC for £22,525 for two road safety projects, one to improve the digital signage at the school crossing and one for a very large project to reduce speed limits around Castle Hill and the Pixot Hill crossroads into Crook Road. These projects required significant background work with a survey and traffic counts needed to underpin the application to KCC. They should be delivered within the next 12-18 months.



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Minutes of Parish Council Meetings can be found on the website: www.brenchleyandmatfield-pc.gov.uk

Don't forget the Parish Council Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/brenchleyandmatfieldpc/>

Where you will find information such as road closures, crime/fraud warnings and other important