

## Hever Parish Council Annual Report

The Chair reported it had been a busy year, with some highlights being:

- Two wonderful community celebrations for the Platinum Jubilee and King Charles III Coronation that HPC helped to sponsor
- Awarding Grants totalling £8,638.83 to local groups including Eden Valley Museum, Hever Film Club, all three village halls, Four Elms and Hever schools, Air Ambulance, Samaritans, Home-Start South West Kent, Edenbridge Foodbank. Some funding is still available so applications are welcome.
- The state of some of the public footpaths was raised. A Councillor is carrying out a survey of the 52 footpaths in the parish. HPC will look at ways to help contribute to their repair. Please raise any issues you are aware of.
- Continued funding of the Bulk Refuse Freighter. Next collection is July 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- Family fun day took place in August at Four Elms field. Another one arranged for Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> August 2023.
- Volunteers helped clear debris from the pond drains and spruced-up the Four Elms pond area. Thanks to all who gave their time.
- Concerns were raised with Police and Kent Highways regarding accidents at Four Elms crossroads and traffic speed throughout the parish. HPC has submitted the annual Highway Improvement Plan and several meetings have taken place with Highways and speed surveys carried out. The outcome and plan of action are awaited.
- Volunteers from the parish participated in the annual Community Litter Pick collecting more than 50 bags of rubbish from around the parish. Thanks to all who took part.
- The internal audit reported that HPC is compliant with both financial and regulatory frameworks.
- Elections – HPC had an uncontested election, with nine councillors re-elected. The annual meeting has taken place and key roles appointed. One councillor seat is vacant.
- District Councillors – Cllr James Barnett is our new District Councillor who was welcomed.
- HPC, a consultee on all planning applications within the parish, commented on 27 different Planning Applications, 9 Appeals and 1 Licencing Application. The Planning Committee volunteer their time to investigate, consider and formulate a view for the Planning Authority, Sevenoaks District Council.
- During the year Stephen Sadler, stepped down. Stephen was Chair of the Planning Committee. Thanks for his contribution and commitment to the residents of Hever Parish. Mark Thomas was co-opted as Councillor.

Please visit [Hever.org](http://Hever.org) for information, meeting agendas and minutes, planning information as well as links to topics of interest. Do let us know if there are areas you would like to bring to our attention.

My sincere thanks to the Parish Councillors, all are volunteers who give their time and commitment to help improve our local community and to the support and guidance given by Rachael, Parish Clerk RFO.

**Councillor Angela Haydon, Chair, Hever Parish Council**

