

MINUTES of the Annual Parish Meeting held at Dunton Green Pavilion on Wednesday 29th March 2023 at 7.00pm

01. CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the 2023 Annual Parish Meeting. The APM is a legally required meeting and an opportunity to share news and to thank organisations and individuals who do so much for the village.

02. PRESENT / APOLOGIES

Present: Cllr. Freda England (Chairman of Dunton Green Parish Council), Tracy Godden (Clerk to Dunton Green Parish Council), Wendy Jackson (Parish Council staff), PCSO Sue Harwood, Paul Geraldine (Chair of Governors Dunton Green Primary School), Judith Verlinden (Age UK Volunteer), Daphne Harrison (St. Mary's Riverhead) and 8 members of the public (including Parish Councillors, Age UK volunteers, DGPC volunteers)

Apologies (accepted): Cllr. Kim Bayley (Sevenoaks District Council), Sue Larken (Age UK), Tracey Boanas (Headteacher Dunton Green Primary School)

03. MINUTES OF 2022 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The minutes of the 2022 Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 30th March 2022 were approved as a true record. Proposed – Graham Hersey, Seconded – Angel Gomes-Chodynietcki and Agreed.

04. MATTERS ARISING

None.

05. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

A report summarising the activities of the Parish Council (and the wider community) had been received and was noted [attached].

The Chairman highlighted the following elements:

- The Parish Council continues to have vacancies.
- There are elections in May and the Chairman encouraged people to consider submitting nomination forms.
- The Parish Council is struggling to get back to pre-Covid levels of hire for the Pavilion.
- The McCarthy Stone development on the old Vauxhall garage site has started. The Parish Council will receive around £113,000 in Community Infrastructure Levy payments from this development. This is money that can only be spent on infrastructure, but it may well help with the introduction of speed controls in the village (once sites can be agreed).
- The Parish Council continues to work with and support charities and organisations that provide services for Dunton Green residents (such as Age UK).
- The Parish Council has actively been planting trees in the village as part of the Queen's Green Canopy Scheme at sites in Longford Meadow and Price's Wood.
- In keeping with its aspirations to make Dunton Green greener, the Parish Council continues to make improvements to its land and assets.
- There has been ongoing work with Kent Police regarding antisocial behaviour, with funds being spent on additional CCTV to assist with identifying perpetrators.

06. NICK CHARD, KENT COUNTY COUNCILLOR

No report provided (and not in attendance).

07. CAMERON BROWN & KIM BAYLEY, SEVENOAKS DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Whilst neither of the District Councillors was in attendance, a report summarising their activities had been received and was noted [attached].

It was noted that Cameron Brown will not be standing at the forthcoming elections.

08. KENT POLICE

PCSO Sue Harwood had provided a report (attached), which was noted. PCSO Harwood confirmed that with an impending restructure scheduled for early June, there would no longer be a named PCSO as a contact point for the village. There should be a named PC for the village, but details had yet to be confirmed. PCSO Harwood would be moving on to a Neighbourhood Task Force and thanked the Parish Council for the support offered to her during her time as Dunton Green's PCSO.

09. DUNTON GREEN PRIMARY SCHOOL

A detailed report had been received and was noted {attached}. The Headteacher (Tracey Boanas) was unable to attend the APM, but the school was represented by the Chair of Governors, Paul Geraldine, who highlighted a number of areas:

- The big news from the school is that the Headteacher has submitted her resignation and will leave at the end of the summer term. Tracey Boanas has made such a hugely positive difference to the school in the last six years, and everyone will be very sad to see her leave. The position has been readvertised in the hope that a shortlist can be drawn up and an appointment made in May.
- In common with all schools, and small schools especially, the financial position for the school is poor. Surplus funds are being eaten away by inflation with increased utility and staff costs, which is a national challenge.
- There has been a lot of media interest regarding OFSTED and whilst no-one knows when they will come to Dunton Green, it is expected that the school will have a visit in the autumn. This will be challenging with a new Headteacher, but the school staff and the Governing Body are preparing, to try to keep the school's Good rating.
- The school continues to need the support of the community, whether that be by attending school fundraising events or by continuing to volunteer at the school.
- The school is currently seeking Parent Governors and possibly Co-Opted Governors moving forward.
- One of the big challenges is the loss of the after-school building (which KCC condemned). Efforts are being made to try to fund a new structure in the school and KCC Councillor Nick Chard has indicated that he will try to use his influence in this regard. This was an important building as it was used for the Breakfast Club as well as after school activities.

10. Age UK Sevenoaks Reports – Lunch Club and Pop In

Reports (attached) had been received from both the Lunch Club and the Pop In. These were noted. Sue Larken had sent apologies for being unable to attend as a result of car issues. Judith Verlinden was in attendance with other Lunch Club volunteers. Membership numbers have picked up significantly over the last year which is hugely positive.

11. OTHER REPORTS, IF ANY

None.

12. CONSIDERATION OF ANY RESOLUTIONS FOR WHICH NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN

None

The meeting closed at 7.14pm.

After the conclusion of the formal part of the evening, Cllr. England advised that at the APM there is a tradition of formally recognising a member of the community for their contribution to Dunton Green. 2023 is no exception. For 2023, the award goes to PCSO Sue Harwood 'In appreciation of Sue's dedication to Dunton Green – passionate about her role in our community, always willing to go the extra mile, Sue is a much-respected and valued community officer.' A very surprised Sue graciously accepted the award and was speechless, for a change!

Ahead of the Parish Reception refreshments, the assembly was treated to a talk by The Town Crier of Sevenoaks, Chris Conlan. A very entertaining session on the history of Town Criers and Chris's journey to become a Town Crier was much appreciated and very well received by everyone in attendance.

Dunton Green Parish Council Annual Report 2022/23



The Parish Council has remained the same with Cllr. Freda England as the Chairman, supported by Cllr. Paul Lockley as Vice Chairman, and 7 other parish councillors, with an excellent 86% attendance rate. Unfortunately, we still have 2 vacancies and welcome all enquiries. With the reopening of the Pavilion, Wendy Jackson, our Bookings & Facilities Assistant, deals with the day to day running of this building and the various assets within the village.

Our District Councillors, Cameron Brown and Kim Bayley, and our Kent County Councillor, Nick Chard, had a 6% attendance rate, only attending 2 Parish Council meetings in the past 12 months, between them.

Whilst the day-to-day trials and tribulations caused by Covid have subsided, we, like the rest of the community halls in the village, have struggled to regain our hirers back to pre-pandemic levels. This is possibly as our hirers mainly provide activities which, in these days of a cost-of-living squeeze, are deemed as non-essential spending.

We have continued our support and work with local Charities such as Age UK and Sevenoaks Larder, providing social and health benefits to many. An initiative by The Gathering was one of the first 'warm places' this winter and made the front page of The Chronicle. We also fund sports and training events for all age groups. Girls' football has been particularly popular.

Our social media, including our website, continues to provide up to date information and details of events. We thank those in the village who retweet and repost on other local groups. We have continued to publish our quarterly newsletter which we know many look forward to and use as a handy reference source.

Although we are not the planning authority, we look at all applications and comment on most in the village. We also, where possible, support the concerns of our neighbouring parishes of Chevening and Riverhead. Unfortunately the Planning Inspectorate allowed The Chevening Parkland Scheme application, which even Dunton Green's rare white crayfish could not stop. The construction of 3 large bunds will bring lorries through the village for 5 years. The latest Fort Halstead application was also approved and the construction of over 600 homes at the top of Polhil will no doubt bring more lorries for many years in the future.

The Parish Council commented on the latest version of the Sevenoaks District Local Plan, called Plan 2040. There will be a second phase of consultation later this year. The Parish Council remains concerned that for planning purposes Dunton Green is considered to be an urban rather than rural area, with Dunton Green included in the 'Sevenoaks Urban Area'. The Parish Council would like Dunton Green to be considered in its own right, as a village with its own specific planning needs, and objects to the designation of 'poorly performing' to the Green Belt land that runs behind the village hall and recreation ground, parallel to the main road.

The McCarthy Stone development on the old Vauxhall site has started and the Parish Council is working with all authorities to minimise the disruption caused during construction. This 36 homes site will result in a £113k CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) payment to DGPC which can only be used on infrastructure projects. Unfortunately, it cannot be used for day-to-day costs like the gas bill!

Following the death of a parishioner at Tesco's roundabout and a cyclist on Star Hill 2 years ago, DGPC approached KCC with a proposal to implement a SID (Speed Indicator Device) scheme. The device would be similar to the one by the village hall but would be moved around the village to various sites. However, we are still trying to agree legal and appropriate sites for installation. Its purchase, installation and maintenance will be funded by the Parish Council (and is considered to be 'infrastructure', so CIL money can be used for such schemes). Speeding throughout the village continues to be a cause of concern amongst residents and we are still seeking volunteers to run a much-needed Speedwatch group in Dunton Green.

We are in the process of formally registering the footpath from the recreation ground across the fields to the station with KCC Public Rights Of Way to ensure its future but have been informed that there is at least a 4 year backlog in applications!

We have worked with our PCSOs on all aspects of anti-social behaviour and installed additional CCTV in the recreation ground area, which has proved effective in identifying persons of interest.

Despite our income from the Pavilion dropping and the bills rising, our precept request (the money we receive from the Council Tax) will not be increasing for the second year in a row. Unfortunately KCC, SDC, Police and Fire authorities have had to all increase their precepts.

We continue helping to keep the village clean and tidy, funding regular litter picks and dog bin emptying. The popular bulk freighter collections are now 6 times a year to cope with demand, although costs have risen sharply due to Health and Safety issues identified in a recent risk assessment. With the help of SDC, we have a zero tolerance to all graffiti.

We have just completed our planned winter tree planting in Price's Wood (forming the last part of our Queen's Green Canopy project, planting in Longford Meadow having been completed last Spring) and thank KCC for the two new trees that have now been planted in the verge area opposite The Miners, which followed a request from a resident to have that area enhanced.

As we are in the run up to local elections we cannot elaborate on future plans this evening but do remember that you will need photo ID to vote on May 4th.

Financial Update

Summary 2021/22 Financial Year Annual Return signed off by the Audit Commission:

	£	£
Brought forward		162,562
ADD		
Annual Precept		138,000
Total other receipts		51,826
SUBTRACT		
Staff costs	48,636	
Total other costs	181,992	
Balances carried forward		121,760

Grants to village organisations

We have provided financial support in the 2022/23 financial year to various charitable organisations (listed below), as well as continuing to allow some organisations to use our facilities free of charge to enable vital services to be delivered to our community.

Citizens Advice in North & West Kent	£500.00
West Kent Mediation	£100.00
Kent Surrey & Sussex Air Ambulance Trust	£200.00
RBL Poppy Appeal	£100.00
Kent Community Domestic Abuse Programme	£200.00
Sevenoaks Samaritans	£200.00
West Kent Mind	£100.00
Victim Support	£100.00
Sevenoaks Volunteer Transport Group	£500.00
Holding On Letting Go	£100.00
Relate West & Mid Kent	£50.00
Sevenoaks CFR	£400.00
Dunton Green Primary School PTA	£200.00
Sevenoaks Larder	£250.00
West Kent Neighbourhood Watch Association	£20.00
Age UK (Lunch Club) / Age UK Pop In	£1,200.00

Lastly, I would like to thank all our Parish Councillors, volunteers and hirers for helping us make Dunton Green a better community. We are ably supported by Tracy (Parish Clerk) and Wendy (Bookings & Facilities Assistant) who do a fantastic job making sure that we can all do our very best.

Report of the District Councillors: Kim Bayley & Cameron Brown

Introduction

Both your Councillors have attended Full and other Council meetings during the year, as well as a number of meetings with Council departments and constituents on a variety of issues. We have also attended a number of Parish Council meetings during the year.

Development and Planning

Both your Councillors have reviewed and taken appropriate action on a number of applications within the district. Your Councillors have also been monitoring the McCarthy and Stone retirement development at the old Vauxhall garage site, where we had to have hoardings removed to improve visibility, as well as the works being undertaken at the site on the A224 near the bridge.

Of some concern are the increased vehicle movements as a result of the works at Chevening House which we will also monitor as this work progresses.

Roads

There have been continued discussions around parking near Riverhead Infants School and Worships Hill and around proposals to address safety issues in Chipstead Lane. KCC have brought forward a proposal to add additional restrictions to Worships Hill at the pinch point. The KCC proposal to add yellow lines to Chipstead Lane was withdrawn and we are hopeful that a new KCC proposal will be forthcoming shortly.

Your councillors have also made requests to KCC to improve the safety at crossings in the area as well as for additional restrictions in Station Road to improve safety near the roundabout.

Net Zero

SDC continues to work on a number of initiatives to improve carbon emissions in the district.

Council Tax and Finances

As many of you may know, Sevenoaks District Council now receives no additional funding from central Government and is self-sufficient.

The Council operates a balanced 10-year budget and has an investment strategy that has sought to maximise the investment returns on savings and borrowings, for the benefit of residents as well as a property investment strategy designed to deliver returns of over 5%. Without this investment scheme many of the services we enjoy would have to be reduced. Currently among the larger Sevenoaks projects, the Council has rebuilt Swanley Leisure Centre at a cost of more than £20m and is redeveloping several sites in Swanley for new housing, affordable housing and work space.

In February 2023 the Council, on a cross party basis, agreed a limited Council tax increase of a little under £5 a year for the average household.

Cllr. Kim Bayley

Kim continues to sit on 4 Committees at SDC as well as being Deputy Portfolio Holder for Innovation and Improvement (encompassing major infra structure and Council projects such as the new car parks, major property developments. As well as communications). In addition to Innovation and Improvement, she sits on the Finance Committee, with a particular focus on ensuring that the District Council can continue to deliver the current levels of services with a vastly reduced budget, the Cleaner and Greener Committee (waste, parking, environment) and the Governance Committee. As Deputy Portfolio Holder, she also has regular updates with the Leader of the Council and the heads of property, finance and communications. During the year the Cleaner and Greener Committee has had a particular focus on driving a green agenda and the Innovation committee continued its work to improve communications, customer services and monitor large infrastructure projects such as the Swanley developments.

Cllr Cameron Brown KC

Cameron is a member of the Audit Committee, is chair of the Scrutiny Committee and sits on the Development Control/ Planning Committee. Over the course of the year he has chaired a number of meetings of the Scrutiny, which has covered topics such as Sencio and the Leisure Centres (where it was reported by their management team that Scencio was in good financial health), the works of the various committees including Finance and Investment, Housing, development and Conservation, Improvement and Innovation and Cleaner and Greener. It also undertook a review of the work of KCC Highways and the Police and an in depth scrutiny review into the response from SDC to the Covid Pandemic. A copy of Cameron's report on their work is attached.

Cameron will not be standing in the May 2023 local elections and would like to record his thanks for the support he has had from the Parish Councils and residents since being first elected in May 2007, some 16 years ago. It has been a real privilege to serve the residents of Riverhead and Dunton Green during that time but now will be able to concentrate all his energies on his work as one of his Majesty's Counsel.

Finally

We do of course remain available to discuss any local issues with residents and members.

Please do contact us by email - Cllr.brown@sevenoaks.gov.uk or

Cllr.bayley@sevenoaks.gov.uk

**Kim Bayley
Cameron Brown KC
March 2023**

Scrutiny Committee Annual Report to Council – 2022/23

Remit of the Scrutiny Committee

1. As per Appendix C of the Council's constitution, "Scrutiny Committee Procedure Rules": *1.1 The Council is required by Law to discharge certain overview and scrutiny functions. These functions are an essential component of local democracy. The Scrutiny Committee contribute to the Council's Performance and also hold the Cabinet to account for its decisions.*

1.2 The Scrutiny Committee allows a wider involvement in Council business by involving non-councillors from the wider public section, voluntary groups and community groups to help them in their work. They may make reports and recommendations to the Cabinet and the Council as a whole on its policies, budget and service delivery.

1.3 The Scrutiny Committee also monitors the decisions of the Cabinet and the Scrutiny Committee can "call-in" a decision of the Cabinet which has been made but not yet implemented. They may recommend that the Cabinet reconsider their decision. They may also be consulted by the Cabinet or the Council on forthcoming decisions.

1.4 Scrutiny should be carried out in a constructive way and should aim to contribute to the delivery of efficient and effective services that meet the needs and aspirations of local inhabitants. The Scrutiny Committee should not shy away from the need to challenge and question decisions and make constructive criticism.

"The Scrutiny Committee will comprise a permanent Chairman and Vice Chairman, and 9 other elected Members that follow the political proportionality of the Council. No Members of the Committee may be members of the Cabinet, their deputies or members of any of the Cabinet Advisory Committees."

Approach

2. Throughout the course of 2022/23, the Scrutiny Committee has drawn up and followed a work plan that has focussed on four key areas. These are:

- **Inviting Cabinet Portfolio Holders** to each meeting of the Scrutiny Committee where possible to discuss particular areas of focus/challenge and concerns members may have;
- **Inviting a number of external representatives** to attend Scrutiny Committee to discuss particular areas of concern and their activities within the district;
- **Setting up In-Depth Scrutiny working groups** as task and finish groups to investigate particular areas in detail, reporting back to the Committee so that recommendations can be agreed and reported to Cabinet.
- **Reviewing performance of services** in relation to agreed performance indicators, in particular focusing on red flag indicators. These are discussed at meetings, with explanations being provided by Officers. Matters of serious concern are referred to the Portfolio Holder/ Cabinet as appropriate.

This approach has ensured that the Committee has scrutinised both the work of SDC and other public bodies across the district, per the Committee's above terms of reference.

Work Covered

3. Based on the above approach, the following is a summary of work carried out during 2022/23 by the Scrutiny Committee.

Portfolio Holders

4. Portfolio Holders were asked to provide an update on recent work and future challenges to the relevant meeting, and were subsequently asked a number of questions by Members of the Committee regarding specific challenges and their approach and views. Portfolio holders attended as follows:

Scrutiny Committee	Portfolio Holder	Area of Committee Focus
July 2022	Cllr Julia Thornton Development & Conservation	Emerging Local Plan National Planning Policy Framework
July 2022	Cllr Peter Fleming Improvement & Innovation	Levelling up and Regeneration Bill The Environment Bill Capital Projects
November 2022	Cllr Kevin Maskell Housing & Health	Framework for displacement of refugees through Homes for Ukraine Scheme across Kent The One You Programme Council's Housing Strategy
January 2023	Cllr Matthew Dickins Finance & Investment	Finances & 10 year budget Replacement of Council's Refuse fleet
November 2022	Cllr Margot McArthur Cleaner & Greener	Revision of waste collection rounds Bid to National Heritage Lottery Fund for improvement of Bradbourne Lakes

External Invitees

July 2022

Kent Police

Inspector Matt Atkinson, of Kent Police attended to give an overview of the levels of crime and approach of policing within the District.

Members of the Committee asked a number of questions relating to areas including:

- The use of Town Centre Constables to combat shop thefts
- The Community Safety Unit and working in partnership with the Council
- Evening and weekend policing levels in the District
- The priority of tackling domestic abuse and violence against women and girls (VAWG)

November 2022

Kent County Council

Cllr David Brazier, the Kent County Council (KCC) Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport attended and gave a verbal update on the work carried out by Kent Highways.

Members of the Committee asked a number of questions relating to areas including:

- Levels of support to bus services within the District
- Specific areas of concern regarding parking
- Winter services provided by KCC Highways
- Support to voluntary and community transport schemes
- The quality of the KCC out of hours service

January 2023

Sencio

The Chairman welcomed Jane Parish, Chief Executive of Sencio Community Trust and the Asset Maintenance Engineer (Sencio) who were in attendance and gave a presentation to the Committee.

Members of the Committee asked a number of questions relating to areas including:

- Preventative maintenance of plant and equipment
- Edenbridge all weather pitch
- Sencio's financial position
- Sencio's submission of accounts

It will be noted that Ms Parish is due to come back to Scrutiny in March 2023, to provide assurances about the financial state of Sencio.

In-Depth Scrutiny

July 2022

Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic Working Group – Reconstitution

Members resolved to reconstitute the In-Depth Scrutiny working group that was formed in November 2021 to look at the Councils response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Chairman expressed the importance of the report being shared with the members of the Working Group in the first instance and ideally for a consensus to be reached, although it could be noted in the report if this was not the case. He also advised the report should then be shared with officers in good time in order they could check for matters of factual accuracy and advise as appropriate. The report could then be submitted as per the published report deadlines to be considered at the November meeting of the Scrutiny Committee.

November 2022

Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic Working Group - Final Report

Members considered the final report of the Covid-19 Working Group which had looked at the Council's response to the Covid-19 pandemic and assessed the Emergency Plan and District Emergency Centre (DEC).

Following debate at the Committee, a set of agreed recommendations were made to Cabinet which were considered at it's meeting of 8 December 2022.

Final Word

In May this year I will stand down as a District Councillor, having first been elected back in the heady days of 2007 (with the slogan "Vote Blue, Go Green, Vote Cameron Brown" – seemingly to cover all bases at the time but admittedly rather colour intensive), a period of some 16 years. It has been a real privilege to represent the residents of Dunton Green and Riverhead during my terms in office.

At SDC I have spent much of that time sitting as a Chair or vice Chair of Scrutiny and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all my fellow Councillors and Officers for their assistance, hard work and support, but in particular James London, the vice chair, and Jim Carrington West.

I regard the role performed by the Scrutiny Committee at SDC as extremely important, acting when needing to do so as a check and counterbalance to both the Executive and Officers. A robust and lively Scrutiny Committee significantly contributes to the democratic health of SDC and it is vital that those who sit on that committee continue to hold to account those who exercise power on our behalf.

Councillor Cameron Brown KC
Chairman – Scrutiny Committee

Dunton Green APM 2023

Well, another year has flown by and in that year there have been a few changes in Kent Police.

At the moment we have THREE operational PCSOs for the whole of the Sevenoaks district (Sevenoaks, Swanley and Edenbridge). This has obviously kept us very busy dealing with calls / issues over the whole district, never really knowing where we will be sent next.

From June 7th 2023, there will be some more changes within Kent Police and I will no longer be the PCSO for Dunton Green, because each ward will be having a named PC.

Dunton Green has a very low crime rate, and this year it has reduced again. There is a table of crime statistics for the last 12 months attached to this report, for your information.

There was an issue with some "HATE" graffiti which we took very seriously and have been working with other agencies to try and find the offender. Although at the time we had a suspect, we did not have enough evidence to be able to make an arrest. The "HATE" graffiti has stopped for now but we do, however, have an issue with general graffiti in the village, which I am still working on as and when I can. If anyone has information regarding this or any other Anti-Social Behaviour in the village, please let me know.

It was brought to my attention that the netball club was having problems with a group of young people refusing to leave the courts and then being a general nuisance. With the help of Tracy and the new CCTV at the recreation ground, I was able to identify the offenders and issue them with an Acceptable Behaviour Agreement. This seemed to solve the problem.

Lastly, I would just like to mention My Community Voice (MCV). This is a new 2-way communication tool launched by Kent Police. It gives residents alerts of crime in their area and encourages them to give any relevant information. It is free to download and use.



I have brought some leaflets for you to take and read at your leisure.

I have enjoyed looking after Dunton Green for many years, and have appreciated all the help and support of the Parish Council, especially Tracy, who always goes above and beyond.

Well, I think that's it from me. Thank you for taking the time to read this report.

PCSO Sue Harwood

29th March 2023

District	Ward	Month
Sevenoaks	Dunton Green and Riverhead Ward YC13	Feb-23

Offence	Mar-22	Apr-22	May-22	Jun-22	Jul-22	Aug-22	Sep-22	Oct-22	Nov-22	Dec-22	Jan-23	Feb-23
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Offence	Month												Financial Year				Rolling Year			
	Mar-22	Apr-22	May-22	Jun-22	Jul-22	Aug-22	Sep-22	Oct-22	Nov-22	Dec-22	Jan-23	Feb-23	This Year	Last Year	%Change	Change	This FY Year	Last FY Year	%Change	Change
Arson & Criminal Damage	3	2	1	2	2	7	1	1	0	2	1	3	22	37	-41%	-15	25	39	-36%	-14
Bicycle Theft	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	2	1	100%	1	2	5	-60%	-3
Burglary - Business And Community	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	4	5	-20%	-1	5	5	0%	0
Burglary - Residential	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	2	0	0	2	10	8	25%	2	11	10	10%	1
Robbery	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	-1	0	0	0	0	1	3	-67%	-2	0	6	-100%	-6
Sexual Offences	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	3	1	1	1	0	8	11	-27%	-3	8	3	167%	5
Shoplifting	2	1	5	2	5	-1	0	3	3	2	3	0	24	15	60%	9	25	32	-22%	-7
Theft From A Vehicle	1	0	3	1	0	2	1	4	0	3	2	1	17	9	89%	8	18	22	-18%	-4
Theft Of Motor Vehicle	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	2	7	18	-61%	-11	7	8	-13%	-1
Theft Offences	5	2	5	6	13	3	10	2	6	4	2	10	63	24	163%	39	68	27	152%	41
Vehicle Interference	0	1	2	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	7	2	250%	5	7	6	17%	1
Violence Against The Person	7	2	8	3	11	12	3	7	7	4	6	6	69	125	-45%	-56	76	115	-34%	-39
Victim Based Crime (VBC) Total	20	9	27	18	34	24	19	22	21	16	16	26	234	258	-9%	-24	252	278	-9%	-26
Drug Offences	0	1	2	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	8	5	60%	3	8	3	167%	5
Public Order	2	2	3	1	2	1	3	1	0	1	0	1	15	28	-46%	-13	17	20	-15%	-3
Possession Of Weapons	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	2	0%	0	2	1	100%	1
Misc Crimes Against Society	1	1	2	1	1	0	0	0	1	2	0	1	9	6	50%	3	10	9	11%	1
Crimes Against Society (CAS) Total	3	4	7	3	3	2	3	1	1	4	3	3	34	41	-17%	-7	37	33	12%	4
All Crime Total	23	13	34	21	37	26	22	23	22	20	19	29	289	299	-3%	-10	289	311	-7%	-22
ASB	5	2	4	4	5	6	5	1	7	5	7	3	49	67	-27%	-18	54	73	-26%	-19

Dunton Green Annual Parish Meeting

29 March 2023



Dunton Green Primary School summary

The current school year is the second school year since the pandemic lockdowns. However, as in so many other schools, the effects of the pandemic continue to be significant: recovery of lost learning is an ongoing process, mental and physical health issues continue to be a challenge for pupils, staff and others in the community and the indirect impact on funding continues to be a major challenge.

Headteacher recruitment:

The immediate priority for the School is to identify a new Headteacher with the right attributes to build on the significant progress which the School has made over the last six years under the leadership of Tracey Boanas. Tracey informed governors at the beginning of January of her intention to step down as she re-assesses her own personal priorities following the pandemic. She will be a hard act to follow but we still have the benefit of Tracey's commitment and leadership until the end of the school year in July.

A recruitment campaign was launched last month and a number of candidates have been identified. Following a recent review of progress, governors decided to extend the length of the campaign to ensure that we identify the best possible field of candidates, not least as a number of other schools in the local area are also trying to recruit a headteacher at present. The campaign will now close just after the Easter holiday and we should be able to update on progress in late April or early May.

Staff team:

Tracey has built a strong staff team as has been evidenced recently by the way in which Daisy Holliday the Assistant Head Teacher, who we were delighted to welcome back from maternity leave in December, worked so effectively with other members of the team to ensure that the School was led well during a period when Tracey was away from the School. As is often the case, we have seen some changes in the staff team but we have been able to recruit high quality replacements although, for some roles, this has taken longer than we would like; this is particularly the case with a small number of Teaching Partners (formerly "Teaching Assistant") roles. We would encourage the community to consider whether they can take on similar roles when these opportunities arise in the future. We also benefit from a number of people in the community who provide various types of voluntary support to the School and would be interested to hear from any others who may be able to provide similar support.

Pupil progress:

This continues to be the principal focus for the staff. Although national benchmark data has not been published since 2019, it is apparent that children generally are still recovering ground lost during the lockdowns. This has been particularly apparent in the development of Writing skills. The school continues to have strong outcomes for grammar, punctuation and spelling in KS2 – 81% of pupils taking the Year 6 SATs in May 2022 achieved the expected level v 72% National. In Reading the pupils taking SATs were 4% above National and in Maths this was a significant 17%. The staff continues to develop and implement strategies to address the area of writing progression skills which has been a key priority for the School since before the pandemic. The School has also implemented a new Phonics teaching scheme to enhance the development of reading skills.

As has been the case for several years, as well as academic progress, the staff are also focused on pupils developing a wider range of interests, experiences and skills. Extra-curricular activities continue to be a key aspect of school life with a wide range of sport, other outdoor activities and trips. These activities also require support from parents, carers and others in the community, not only by accompanying children on trips but also, for example, helping to maintain the grounds and outdoor play areas. Again, additional offers of help in this area would be welcome.

The school continues to achieve highly in sports at a competitive level. District Sports is an annual athletics competition, involving multiple primary schools from all over Sevenoaks. The schools are separated into small, medium and large schools and Key Stage 2 children compete in a series of races and events. There are obstacle relays, sprinting races and field events like javelin and long jump. In July 2022, Dunton Green came first in our category (medium size primary schools) which was very exciting as we managed to retain our title from 2019! We hope to secure first place again this year!

Intra House Competitions:

At Dunton Green Primary School, we give all of the children the opportunity to compete against each other, every term. The children take part in their house groups and are hoping to win our very own house cup! This term, the children will be playing football in Key Stage 2 and in EYFS and KS1, the children will complete football related challenges.

Attendance:

A continuing challenge for the School and the community is a higher rate of pupil absence than we would like. Although this is a national issue since the pandemic, our focus is on the adverse impact on the individual pupils. The School is increasing its efforts to work with the community to help to overcome the reasons for absence as much as possible. A team has been set up, including not only the School's senior leaders but also the Family Liaison Officer, to bring even greater focus to these issues. We would also encourage everyone in the community to consider how they can help with this challenge; ensuring children are at school is fundamental to closing the post-pandemic gaps in their progress. The school has recently been commended on its efforts to improve attendance with a certificate on being in the top 25% of schools of a similar size.

Team DG – the parent teachers association:

Team DG is a key element of the school community. Jamie Castle became the Chair of Team DG earlier in this school year and a number of new people have joined the committee. The School is grateful for the work of the previous leaders of Team DG and is looking forward to working closely with Jamie and his team. The team is planning a number of events which need to be as well-supported as possible, including the Summer Fair on 2 July and the end-of-year Farewell BBQ on 7 July. Please make every effort to join these events. Even if you can't attend these events, please consider whether you can support Team DG in other ways. Whilst a number of parents, carers and others in the community support Team DG events, these events and other Team DG initiatives take a lot of organisation and management, so it is vital to the School's success that these responsibilities are shared as widely as possible.

Finances and fund-raising:

The events organised by Team DG make an important contribution to the School's finances. This is becoming even more important as the pressures on funding from central government and Kent County Council increase: as well as general inflationary pressures, the School is working hard to limit the impact of soaring energy costs and also has to absorb some of the increasing staff costs. Tracey Boanas and her team

have done an outstanding job of managing the School's finances prudently but, in spite of these continuing efforts, the pressure on the financial position is increasing.

We recognise that financial pressures are also increasing for many in the community but, as far as possible, we would ask people to support School and Team DG events, at least with offers of help even if direct financial contributions are not possible.

In this context, Team DG, the staff and governors are also renewing efforts to identify other potential sources of funding. Applications for grants are being considered, particularly with regard to the replacement of the After-School Club Building. The previous facility was demolished as KCC had concluded it would become unsafe but is unwilling to fund its replacement as the facility would be used for extra-curricular activities. The After-School Club (and Breakfast Club) provides an important service to the school community so it is vital that a suitable facility is available.

People with fund-raising experience from Team DG and the Governing Body are considering how to progress this initiative but, again, support from others with fund-raising or relevant practical experience (eg design, planning or construction) would be welcomed.

Governing Body:

I am supported by a strong team of governors but, inevitably, we have to replace governors whose term expires or whose other commitments intervene. We are currently in the process of identifying potential replacements for a parent governor whose term recently expired and another who will be standing down shortly. If any parents or carers are interested in these roles, please contact the School Office. Similarly, we would also be interested to hear from any others in the community who would be interested in becoming a "co-opted" governor. Again, please contact the School Office.

Ofsted:

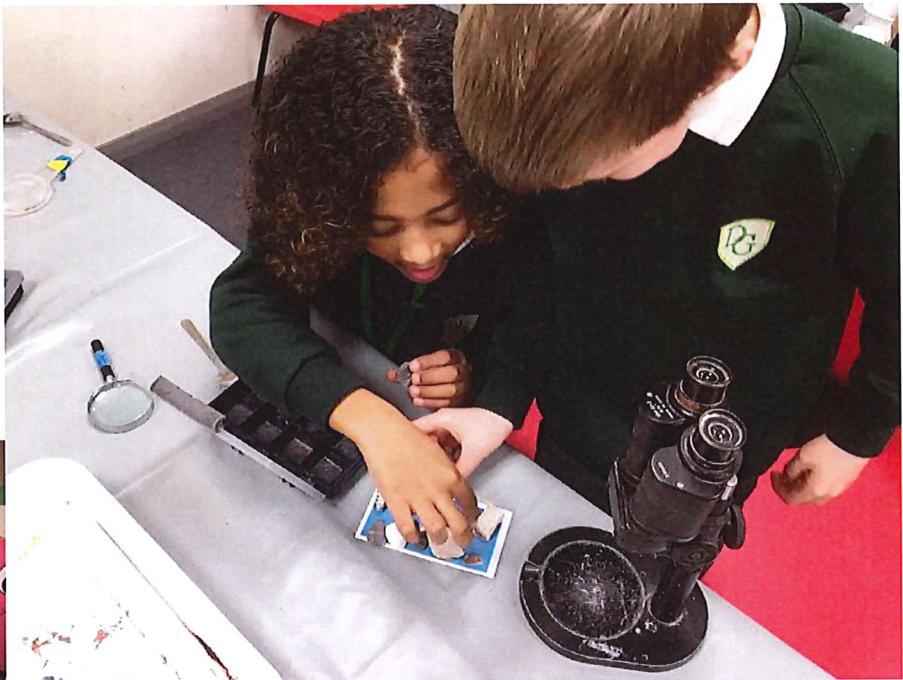
Given recent national news, I would also like to flag that the School is expecting that Ofsted may undertake its next inspection in the next year or so. We do not know the precise timing; schools are usually given 24-48 hours' notice. Given the "Good" rating which the School achieved in 2018 and the changes to Ofsted's approach in the intervening period, staff and governors will be making preparations for this visit in coming months.

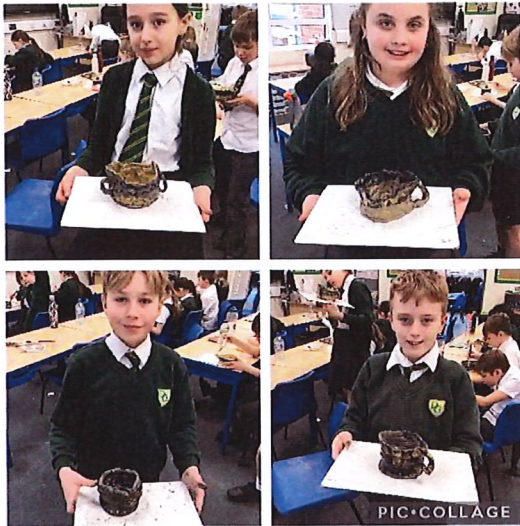
Finally, on behalf of the Governing Body, as well as re-iterating our thanks to Tracey Boanas for her outstanding commitment to the School over the last six years, I would like to thank the pupils, the staff, parents, carers and wider community for their support for the School. The continued support of the whole community will be vital as the School moves forward under new leadership.

Paul Geradine

Chair of Governors

A selection of photos from Dunton Green Primary School





Message from Headteacher Tracey Boanas



It has been my absolute privilege and pleasure to have been the Headteacher at Dunton Green for the past 6 years. The school and the community are uniquely special and I have met an extraordinary number of selflessly dedicated and generous people during my time here.

As I prepare to leave at the end of the summer I know that I will be handing over the reins to a Headteacher who will take on a very different school to when I arrived.

I wanted to reflect on some of the successes over the past few years and why I believe that Dunton Green will continue to make an excellent choice of school for the families in the local and wider community.

School building

The building in general and health and safety has improved significantly. The first achievement was to improve the very flimsy and unsafe entrance to the school. A stable porch with a waiting area was constructed. This meant that we could introduce a keypad system and an electronic signing system on an iPad. Following extensive pleas to the local authority a largescale upgrade to the KS2 side of the building and heating system was completed last year. The classrooms have all been renovated and refurbished with new furniture. I am truly grateful to the Parish Council and the PTA who supported the school financially for the refurbishment of two classrooms.

There have also been improvements to the grounds, a rolling maintenance programme and all health and safety checks are now fully compliant.

The communal areas and displays are much improved, evidencing children's learning of a high standard and full of pride.

SEND – the provision for SEND pupils has been improved. Since the appointment of Mrs Linkins who is an accredited SENDco, the provision and support for those pupils with SEND is recognised at the local authority time and again by external professionals and colleagues. Our inclusive ethos is something which we are very proud of.

Staff development – when I joined the school the professional development of staff was sporadic and a low priority. I am delighted that some of the original teaching team are still here and have grown enormously in their teaching ability and confidence in leading subject areas and coaching colleagues. Mrs Holliday was appointed Assistant Headteacher in September 2021 and is a capable and ethical leader. She will be a key asset in supporting the new Headteacher as they get to know the staff, parents and pupils. We have been able to support colleagues new to teaching because of the high calibre of the current staff team and we have been praised highly for our work with teachers at the beginning of their career. We have also been fortunate to retain and recruit some excellent teaching partners who support teaching and learning. Mrs Mackenzie is now a trained ELSA (Emotional literacy support assistant). All staff who work in the school are now provided with high quality professional development opportunities which means that the children benefit for the growing expertise and specialisms.

Behaviour and attitudes

Not only is behaviour and attitudes to learning high in the school, we receive frequent praise and feedback from the public regarding the children's conduct outside of the school. This is one of the best compliments we could hope to receive. At a STEM event in the autumn term where there were over 3,000 students from Primary and Secondary schools; Dunton Green Yr 6 pupils were singled out for particular praise for the pupil's manners and respect.

Core Values

The reason behind the success of the learning behaviour is I believe due to the introduction of the core values. Achievement, Respect, Perseverance, Resilience, Teamwork and Kindness. All staff and pupils live by these values and even the youngest children in Reception understand the core values and how they can demonstrate these each day in school.

Curriculum

The curriculum has transformed significantly. 6 years ago there was no clear progression of knowledge or skills. Subject leadership was poor and expectations of achievement were low. The curriculum is now carefully mapped out in each year group with high expectations for all learners. Questioning and adaptive teaching are key components of teaching. Technology has been improved and updated with two banks of ipads. The school is currently in a project developing meta-cognition, so that teachers and children understand how they learn, how to make links in their learning and how to use these skills as they move onto Secondary school. The curriculum is broad and adventurous with trips, visits, visitors and life-skills woven into the provision. Children are given many opportunities to perform across the school year. This includes the Nativity for EYFS and KS1, a superb Carol Concert for KS2 children and their families, Rocksteady band performances, Love 2 Dance at the Stag theatre for children in upper KS2, class assemblies in every year group. We continue to develop the curriculum and we are excited that our newly developed Forest School area will host the first learning sessions in the summer term. (Our sincere thanks to Peter Ashlee for all his help with this).

Our Twitter feed is an excellent way to see our fabulous curriculum in action. [@DGprimaryschool | Twitter](#)

Roles, Responsibilities and Peer learning

The children readily take on a range of responsibilities within the school. This includes peer mentors, sports ambassadors, school councillors, lunchtime monitors, Year 6 prefects and Year 6 buddies to Reception children. They represent the school at the annual Remembrance Service. The children participate in various events across the year to raise funds for charities.

Parent engagement

The perception of the school by the local community was quite low 6 years ago and parents did not engage well. Places for Reception were low – in fact only 14 families had applied to start in the September when I took over. Last year for the first time we were oversubscribed. Some parents would never attend parent consultations or support the school. We now regularly see over 95% of families attend school events. Weekly praise assemblies are now well attended by parents and carers. Relationships with parents are excellent and confidence in the local community is strong. The school has also developed an excellent reputation amongst the Sevenoaks Partnership of Schools community.

Well-being and welfare

Like most establishments following the pandemic we have seen the rise in all members of our school community requiring additional support for their mental health and well-being. We have a trained senior mental health lead in our SENDco. This year we have established a well-being committee and the staff genuinely care and support each other in a way I have never witnessed in any other setting. Our family liaison officer Mrs Hennessy is incredibly knowledgeable regarding signposting families and children for appropriate support. Her work right across the school for our vulnerable families was rightly recognised in

the Literacy planet awards this year as an unsung educational hero.
<https://www.literacyplanet.com/blog/meet-the-2022-educator-wall-of-fame-winners/>

After just a year in post I was able to lead the school through a successful Ofsted achieving good in all areas in July 2018. The following year in 2019 we were able to evidence the impact of the continued rise in standards with the excellent attainment outcomes in every keystage. The pandemic unfortunately thwarted our pace of improvement and like most schools across the country we continue to work on regaining lost learning. The school has come a long way over recent years and with a committed team of staff and Governors, and incredibly supportive parents Dunton Green is well placed to flourish. I am immensely proud of the school that Dunton Green has become and would like to take this opportunity to thank all the parents, residents and local community who have supported its journey. Finally I would like to thank every member of staff past and present who has helped to shape the future of this wonderful village school.

Tracey Boanas

Headteacher

Dunton Green Lunch Club

Dunton Green Lunch Club is held on the first Wednesday of every month. Lunch is prepared by AGE UK, Hollybush and made possible by a long-standing group of volunteers who are all interested in providing a happy environment where guests feel welcome, they can enjoy a meal in the company of others and this provides a focal point in their calendar each month.

In 2021, AGE UK successfully bid for and secured a much-appreciated grant from Tesco. The grant enabled us to reduce the cost of meals to our members in 2022. Where possible, we were able to offer live music, decorating the hall for other significant celebrations i.e. the Jubilee and Christmas.

I can speak on behalf of the team and myself, that we enjoy preparing and delivering the lunch club every month. We are also grateful to Tracy, for her help and guidance at The Pavilion and the Parish Council's ongoing support.

Judith Verlinden & the DGLC Team
March 2023

Dunton Green Pop In Cafe

The classes are held monthly on the 2nd Wednesday of each month 1:30-3:30pm

The class begins by welcoming everyone in with a cup of tea/coffee and a biscuit. This gives everyone time to come in, have a talk and catch up with each other or make new friends and get to know their neighbours.

The exercises in the class are mainly seated and adaptable to suit anyone of any ability to do as much or as little as they want to do in the session. The ages of the people attending vary from 60s -90s .

The exercise session starts with gentle warm up and mobility exercises for the joints, such as shoulders, and progresses to using legs and arms, gradually warming up the body and increasing heart rate slightly to improve circulation. We then move on to strength exercises for the legs and arms, improving the ability to stand, improving posture and decreasing the chance of falling by practising balance exercises. Resistance bands are used, and each participant has their own strength theraband to use, working at their own pace and level.

I have also demonstrated how to get up from a fall, how to get out of a chair more easily and shown everyday functional moves to help with independence.

Towards the end of the class, stretching exercises are done to improve flexibility and also some mindfulness. This gives a few moments of calm and peace to help those who can practise this if they feel anxious at any time.

As I work for Age UK, I have been able to help refer anyone in need to my colleagues and have done so for applying for help with Blue badges, Attendance Allowance, home adjustments, or advice on general wellbeing and have had guest speakers from CAB NWK to speak on energy advice & how to stay warm.

The classes are always well attended and most importantly we always laugh together, in good company.

Thanks to Dunton Green Parish Council for being the most supportive Parish Council in my work!

Sue Larken - Age UK Sevenoaks & Tonbridge Health & Wellbeing Coordinator
March 2023