

Blean Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held by Zoom on Monday 12th October 2020

Sheet 2144

Those Present: Cllr. B. Flack (Chairman); Cllr. G King (Vice-Chairman); Cllr. A. Jeffers; Cllr. P. Hutt and Clerk D. Horswell.

Also present: Ward Cllr. D Smith; Ward Cllr. A. Ricketts; and County Cllr. R. Thomas.

1. Apologies for absence: Cllr. H. Samuelson – on holiday.

Cllr. King said that Mrs Dunster had sent her apologies as she cannot access Zoom to report on the pavements.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Changes to DPI's & Declarations of Interest in matters to be discussed:

No changes or Declaration of Interests from Councillors.

3. To Approve: Minutes of the last Meeting: of 7th September.

All Members present **AGREED** and **APPROVED** the Minutes and were **Signed** by the Chairman as a true record.

4. Approval for Invoice Payments and authorisation: (Banking Report circulated to Cllrs. prior to meeting.)

Banking Report October 2020

Approval for invoice payments

Method of payment	Payee	Description	Gross Cost
DD	Serco	Waste Collection October 2020	£80.04 (Vat £13.34)
Bacs	Mr K Waddington	Handyman Wages September 2020 Plants	£185.93 £20.00
Bacs	Mrs D Horswell	Clerks Salary September 2020 Reimbursement for Zoom Pro Monthly Payment October Ink cartridges Black &	£714.33 £14.39 (Vat £2.40) £34.00

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3. 20/01406 - Two-storey side extension - Forge House, 1 Blean Hill - **Whilst the Parish Council have admiration for the work that the applicant intends to carry out , they are concerned that this development with the large 2 storey extension and car park will encroach on the countryside being outside the village boundary. Also, the plans do not appear to show sufficient sightlines for the new access - pedestrian are shown but no vehicular sightlines on what is a busy road and directly opposite the Blean Tavern pub vehicular entrance. For these reasons the Parish Council raise objection to this application.**

Tree Notice:

1. 20/01838 - T.P.O. no 26, 1990 - T1) Ash tree- Fell - 121 Blean Common - **Blean Parish Council has no objection to this application.**

Planning Applications Received since last report:

- 1. 20/01984** - 2 no. single-storey side extensions and replacement of front timber windows to UPVC - 40 School Lane - **Comments by 23rd October.**
- 2. 20/01215** - Change of use of a part of an existing stable building to a single holiday let - Chapter Farm, Denstroude Lane – further information - **Comments by 23rd October.**

Decision Notices by CCC:

- 1. 20/01384** - Variation of condition 2 (drawings) of planning permission CA//18/02014/FUL for the proposed swimming pool in rear garden together with a single-storey outbuilding for use as ancillary accommodation following demolition of existing single-storey outbuilding; to allow use of kent peg clay tiles on the roof of the outbuilding instead of slate tiles - Arbele House, Chapel Lane - **GRANTED**
- 2. 20/01429** - Variation of condition 02 (drawings) of listed building consent CA//18/02015/LB for the erection of single-storey outbuilding for use as ancillary accommodation following demolition of existing single-storey outbuilding; to allow use of kent peg clay tiles on the roof of the outbuilding instead of slate tiles – Arbele House, Chapel Lane – **GRANTED**
- 3. 20/01706** - Two single-storey rear extensions following demolition of conservatory - 2 The Gap Trueman Close - **GRANTED**

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WITHDRAWN

20/00842 - Variation of condition 2 (drawings) of planning permission CA//19/00788/FUL for the proposed two-storey detached dwelling along with cycle store; to allow removal of solar panels, alterations to windows, doors and eaves details, introduction of 1no. window to south-west elevation together with alterations to the roof of the single-storey side extension and the replacement of a rear door with window
- **16 Chapel Lane**

Ward Cllr. Dan Smith reported that the appeal for 21 Chestnut Avenue had been dismissed.

6. Report from Ward Cllrs, County Cllr. and PCSO:

6.1 County Cllr. Report – Cllr. Robert Thomas:

Please see report attached to these minutes.

6.2 Ward Cllr. Dan Smith Report:

Cllr. Smith reported that the Governance Committee had passed that Planning application call-ins should be through Ward Cllrs. in future with the planning reasons given to the Ward Cllr.

He also reported that Customs Immigration is looking at building new centres for lorries with KCC having plans in hand to control traffic.

6.3 Ward Cllr. Barbara Flack Report:

Ward Cllr. Flack said that the KCC crews should be congratulated for the repairs and resurfacing work being carried out.

EKH – 5,000 properties are to come under the control of CCC. There is a good team in place and there will be changes in the future.

Climate Change Partnership Board – meeting last week. Carbon net 0 by 2030.

Bollards – rise and fall operational in the city.

Planning – changes to call-in procedures have been agreed.

Rural Forums have been disbanded but meetings between CCC and Parish Councils will still take place the first being to discuss the Concurrent Funding Function on Monday 19th October.

E-Scooters – Successful bid with KCC/CCC trial through University/City centre and Christchurch. There is a map showing the area covered. This scheme has been supported by Cllr. Thomas. Cllr. Smith said thanks must also go to Cllr. Linfield for her help on this.

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6.4 PCSO Report Please see report attached to these minutes.

7. Reports and Updates: (Reports circulated to Cllrs prior to meeting)

7.1 Village Hall Report: - Cllr. King

REPORT OCTOBER 2020

The hall has a range of measures in place to protect users and visitors in accordance with Covid 19 precautions.

The playgroup is now operating, and a number of groups are able to meet, but overall there has been a reduction in the use of the building, as must be expected at present.

The annual general meeting will be held later this month, possibly face to face with social distancing in the community area, or possibly via Zoom, details will be announced later both on the website and on village notice boards.

Cllr. King added that the Lettings Officer has confirmed that there are eight regular users with larger groups splitting into two.

7.2 N.H.W. Report (report attached to these minutes)

7.3 Footpath Report –Cllr. Samuelson and Cllr. Hutt

No report.

7.4 Parish Council Update – clerk

1. Vacancies

There are still three vacancies on the Parish Council. Notices have been put on the website and noticeboards advertising the vacancies.

2. Work around the village

Ken continues to litter-pick around the village, recreation ground and Nature Reserve. He empties the elephant bins in the recreation ground and has completed the monthly safety checks on the play equipment and outdoor gym equipment. He is in the process of stripping the planters at the bus stop and replanting. Also, he has cleaned out the weeds from around the shops.

The fingerpost at Chestnut Avenue CB7 has fallen down – reported to PROW 22/9/20
Ref: 200946140

3. Nature Reserve

The hay has been cut in the Nature Reserve, baled and taken away.

4. Recreation Ground

A quote has been sought from Paul Wells to repair/replace the support leg on the kicking wall (as identified in the Wicksteeds Annual Report).

5. Arby's café – Blean Woods – residents' concerns have now been passed onto Swale Borough Council as it is in their District. SBC's Planning Enforcement Officer is investigating.

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6. Gladman Appeal

Email from Gladmans requesting an adjournment:

Since being informed about the re-determination of the Blean Common appeal, the Appellant has been actively investigating a number of potential mitigation options which could provide the necessary certainty to NE that the appeal proposals would not have a Likely Significant Effect on the European site. While we believe we have identified a number of potential options, we consider that it is necessary for us to now consult with the EA, NE and Southern Water regarding the feasibility and acceptability of these options. The appellant is conscious that the Inspector is the Competent Authority for the purpose of the re-determination appeal and will want sufficient certainty that any mitigation is deliverable in order to reach a conclusion that an Appropriate Assessment can be passed. As such, we are writing to request an adjournment of the re-determination inquiry until at least March 2021 to allow for this further work to take place.

7. New Parish Council website – Cllr. Hutt is continuing working on the new website to include the new web accessibility regulations.

8. Matters raised by the Public:

There were no matters raised by the public.

9. Matters to be discussed:

9.1 Vacancies on the Parish Council

Since the last Parish Council meeting Cllr. Flack has put notice of the vacancies on the Blean Residents site and the Conservative Group site.

Cllr. Flack said that, as she intends to resign as Chairman next May, it is important to get new people onto the Parish Council.

9.2 Update: Parish Council Website

Cllr. Hutt said that the new website is up and running and he has put it through the recommended tools, tested colours and tweaked little issues. A template will go on it to say it is web accessible compliant. The Planning Tracker is not working properly yet but Cllr. Hutt intends to take it off and put a list of planning applications with a link to CCC Planning Portal.

In November/December a notice will be put on the old website pointing users to the new website.

9.3 Update: Parish Office Utilities

As reported at the last meeting it had been proposed and agreed to write to the Village Hall Committee and offer to pay 3.2% until such times as the office is in use again. The Village Hall Committee has agreed to this proposal.

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9.4 Invitation to Concurrent Funding meeting – 19th October @2.30pm.

Cllr. Flack is chairing the meeting and the Clerk is to attend.

9.5 Proposals to amend the call-in arrangements for planning applications update.

Cllr. Flack said that this applies to not just Parish Councils but residents groups and Community Groups also. In the past, when an application was called in it was further along the route, whereas now Parish Councils will be able to go to Ward Cllrs. much earlier to get the ball rolling and solve any underlying problems. Parish Councils will continue to be statutory consultees. It will hopefully strengthen relationships with Ward Cllrs.

9.6 Update: Gladman Appeal, Blean Common

The appeal has been postponed due to problems with the waste water discharge at Stodmarsh Nature Reserve. This has put a number of development sites on hold until mitigation measures are ensured. The postponement could be up to six months. A notice will be put on the Parish Council website.

10. Councillors' Reports:

10.1 Cllr. Hutt said that he has had comments from residents about higher speeds by vehicles since the re-surfacing of the A290 and he has explained that the work is in progress. Cllr. Thomas said he will try to find out more details of timings.

10.2 Cllr. King reported that a resident has complained to him about drainage problems caused by a neighbour. This has previously been reported to the Parish Council and discussed but, unfortunately, there is not anything the Parish Council can do. KCC and CCC are both aware of the problem.

10.3 Cllr. Jeffers reported that since SE Water had dug up the road outside Woodlands Estate the finger-post sign and dog bin which was sited on the post has been knocked down making the bin unusable. The clerk will report both to the relevant authorities.

11. Any Other Business for discussion at the next meeting.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.43pm.

Date _____

Signature _____

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REPORTS

Kent County Councillor Robert Thomas
Parish Council Report

October 2020

1. Revision of KCC Environment Policy

The policy has been updated formalising specific commitments to addressing environmental priorities and as a key criterion to continue to meet the International Standard for Environmental management ISO14001:2015.

<https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/ielIssueDetails.aspx?Ild=55095&Opt=3>

2. Kent Plan Bee workshop

The summit to launch KCC's pollinator strategy and action plan has now been finalised. Sign up can now be done at

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/kents-plan-bee-virtual-summit-2020-tickets-123471523651>

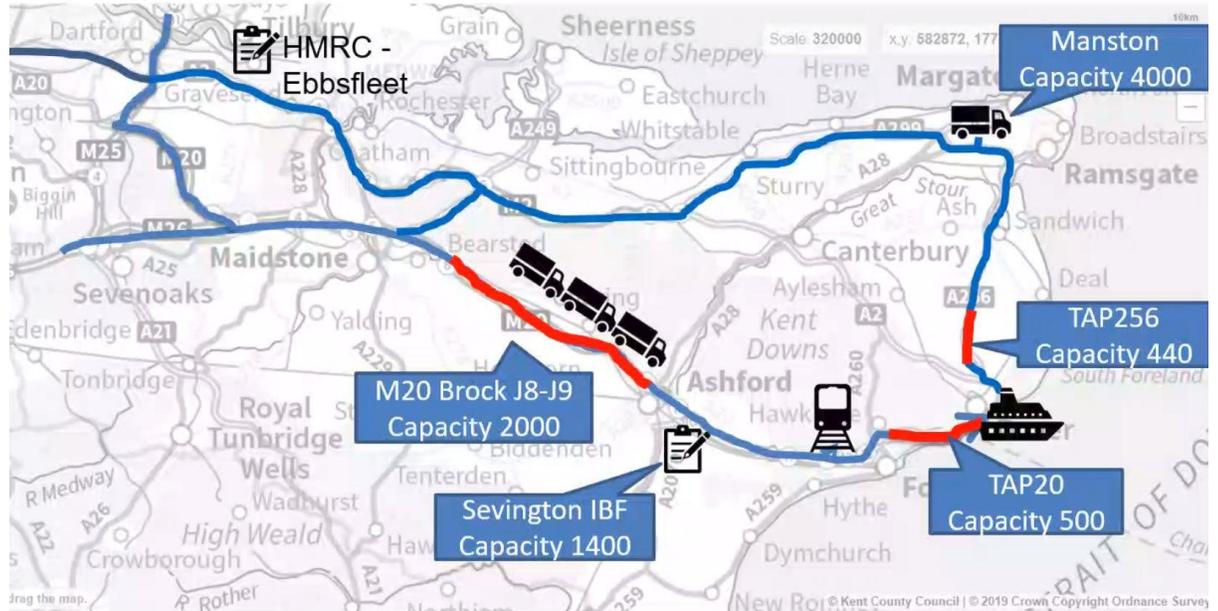
3. Brexit

KCC councillors had a recent update on transition arrangements and Operation Brock should it be needed. I have sought assurances around animal welfare arrangements in the instance that operation Brock is utilised.

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3rd Trigger – Brock M20 3hrs from being full Brock M20 Active for Eurotunnel, PoD Traffic to Manston



4. KCC Rail Summit 2020

Was held on 13th October 2020 to hear the latest updates including KCC Rail Strategy 2021 as well as updates from Network Rail, South Eastern and HS1. The consultation on the strategy is listed below.

Improvement works underway at Canterbury East

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OFFICIAL Access For All (AFA) schemes



- Launched as a £390m programme in 2006, extended in 2014 with a further £163m.
- Created to deliver an “accessible route” in each of the identified stations from the station entrance to each platform and between platforms.
- More than 150 stations have been completed to date nationwide, with around 68 further projects at various stages of construction or development.

Kent Route Updates

- **Canterbury East** – work starting onsite in October and to be completed by July 2021 (CGI to the right).
- **Chatham** – due to start onsite in May 2021, subject to planning.



Important improvements around the network



OFFICIAL Crime, Trespass and Graffiti



Crime and Trespass

We are working in partnership with Southeastern, our land sheriffs and local station teams to prevent crime and trespass on the railway.

We've seen a positive reduction across all categories of crime versus this time last year.

Graffiti

Over the past 7 months, during the coronavirus pandemic, we invested in cleaning up the railway of graffiti.

In response to complaints from our lineside neighbours, we committed to clean up hotspot areas. This was a change of policy from 2019, when only offensive graffiti would be cleared.



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Good news for trees and the environment



OFFICIAL Kent Pilot Project



- The Kent Pilot Project is about improving our approach to managing trees and other vegetation alongside the railway and forms part of our wider region strategy, Sustainable Southern.
- Estimated project spend to next April is £4M.
- Opportunity to transform how we undertake and communicate our biodiversity and sustainability work.
- Improve our understanding of delivery costs for different types of habitat.
- Provide data and lessons learned for other routes adopting similar approach.



What next for the franchise for the on the railway?

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Key Drivers of Demand

COVID-19:	Presumed demand for rail travel returns by 2025+
HOUSING:	Additional 118,500 by 2031 in Kent & Medway
POPULATION:	Additional 179,000 by 2031 in Kent & Medway
JOURNEYS:	More 2 or 3 days per week / Off-set by new demand

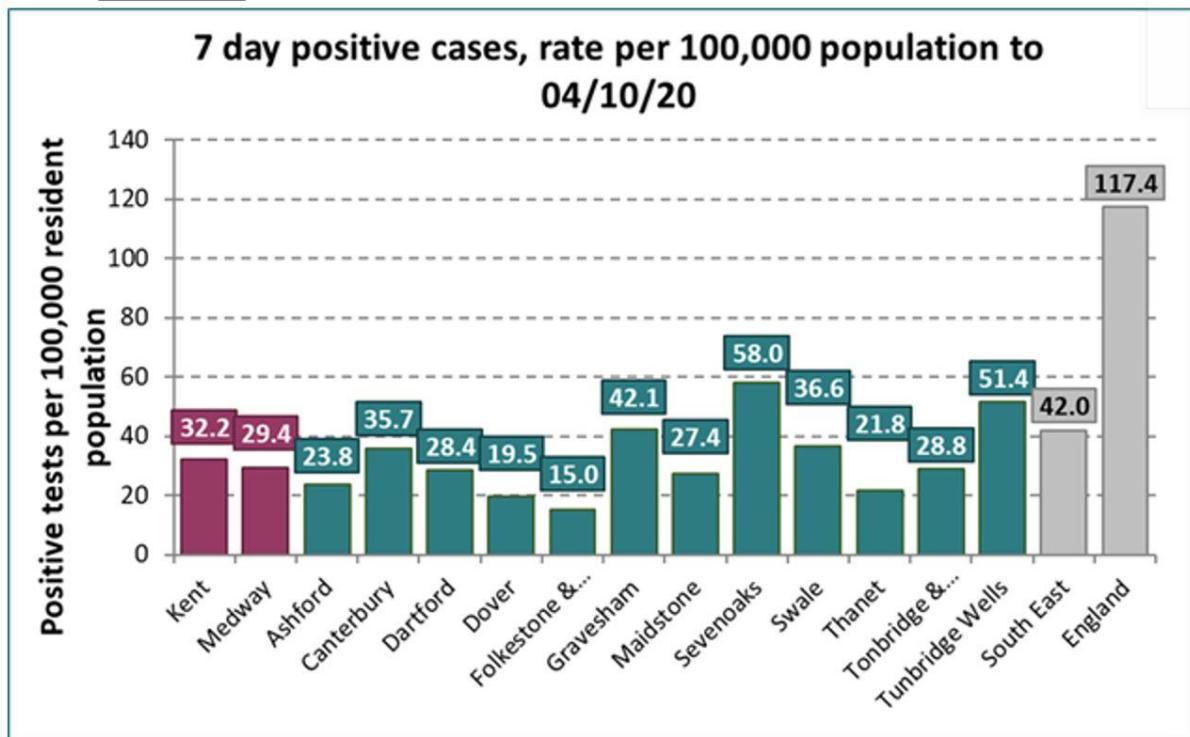
Presumed timeline for new concession

2020 - 2022	existing Direct Award to run full term
2022 - 2023	further one-year Direct Award
2022 - 2023	public consultation, competition and concession award
2023	start of new South Eastern concession
2025	earliest date for changes to services and rolling-stock
2031	earliest end date for new South Eastern concession
2033	optional extension end date for new concession

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5. COVID-19



The most recent figures show that the 7 day average of new cases per 100,000 people is 32.2 in Kent compared to 117.4 across England. The Director of Public Health and his team are working particularly closely with Kent's universities and are in almost daily contact to provide support and advice.

Access to testing feels to have improved recently, especially access to postal kits, and care homes' access via the care home portal. While we are seeing the occasional cluster/outbreak in care settings and institutions, the majority of cases are community based and in younger cohorts than the first wave.

The helplines to schools and the new helpline for universities (opened this week) seem to have helped reduce local pressure on the Public Health England team.

Recent returns from Kent's schools indicate attendance of pupils at school is just under 94%, which is an increase from when schools first reopened in September. There have been a number of cases since schools reopened where large numbers of individuals in schools have had to self-isolate. Public Health, Education and Health and Safety officers continue to work closely with schools providing advice and guidance as required.

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Arrangements for the Kent Test have been significantly impacted by Covid. The Test date was delayed and it will now take place for Kent pupils on 15 October. Officers in the Fair Access team in the Children Young People and Education directorate have been working on arrangements for many months to ensure contingency plans are in place for a range of different scenarios and that pupils and staff remain safe throughout the testing process. Detailed guidance was issued to schools on 21 September to ensure the test is conducted fairly and safely in line with COVID guidance. The whole process is designed to ensure there is an opportunity for a child's wider circumstances to be considered before their assessment is finalised, which will help minimise the chance of any child being at a disadvantage when compared to their peers. The Kent Test Head Teacher Assessment has always been available for pupils who do not perform as well as expected on the day of the test and this remains the case this year.

The government has also announced a three week delay to summer examinations

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/students-to-be-given-more-time-to-prepare-for-2021-exams>

Consultations to note

1. KCC budget 2021/22
<https://kccconsultations.inconsult.uk/consult.ti/Budget2122/consultationHome>
2. Kent Rail Strategy 2021
<https://kccconsultations.inconsult.uk/consult.ti/kentrailstrategy2021/consultationHome>

News

Planning

In August, the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) issued details of proposed changes to the current planning system for a consultation which ends on 29 October. The "Planning for the Future" White Paper proposes sweeping reforms to the planning system; while some of the proposals are positive and to be welcomed, there are others that raise serious concerns. These include the approach to land categorisation, the mechanistic approach to required housing numbers and the fundamental overhaul of the developer contribution system. There are also immediate concerns about the impact on public involvement and democratic accountability. KCC Cabinet response on 12 October can be seen at

<https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/documents/s99300/Item%207%20Cabinet%20Committee%20report%20-%20draft%20v9.pdf> .

There has been a separate consultation running alongside the White Paper on "Changes to the Existing Planning System", which imply sharp increases in assessed housing need for most Kent Districts. KCC raised concerns about the implications of the algorithm for increased development pressure and severe detriment to communities across Kent.

<https://kccmediahub.net/kcc-opposes-possible-big-increase-in-housing-targets745>

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PCSO Report

Blean, Tyler Hill, & Rough Common

September 2020

Information provided by: PCSO Tom Daley, Canterbury Community Safety Unit.

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Crimes of note:

- 04/09/2020 2 females were seen in the area of Old Park Road, acting in a suspicious way pointing at cars and houses. This was thought to be suspicious. They left area when approached.
- 14/09/2020 A resident of the Woodlands Estate in Blean was the victim of an online scam. The resident lost in excess of £6000. Residents are reminded, to be very careful when dealing with people over the phone. Never reveal bank details to anyone in this manner. A genuine bank would never ask you to reveal bank details, over the phone.
- 17/09/2020 A vehicle parked outside a resident's house in Chapel Lane, Blean, suffered criminal damage, including deep scratches to the bodywork.

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Anti-social behaviour and other incidents of note:

- There are ongoing problems on Blean Nature Reserve, Youths are drinking and smoking on the green. The local Rural Police Task Force have been made aware and will look to make this part of their patrols.
- Speeding is continuing to be a problem through, Blean, Tyler Hill and Rough Common. The Local Policing Team have been made aware and are continuing to set up speed checks. I am also about to be trained in using the speed gun. This will mean that I will be able to conduct speed checks on my own.
- Nuisance motor bikes are becoming a problem in most areas, Again the Rural Team have been made aware.
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Items of good work:

- I have been trying to be as visible in my ward as possible this month. Although workload at times means I will be called away. I intend to step this up as the evenings get darker to deter anti-social behaviour and thefts/criminal damage.

Updates of previous reported issues:

- The speeding issues are still very much a problem. I am very much trying to get on top of this and will continue to monitor and request my police colleagues to conduct as many speed checks as possible.
- I will continue to patrol as much as possible in order to deter crime.

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NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH REPORT- Sept and October 2020

Blean village co-ordinator:- David Greenman, 3 Vicarage Lane, Blean, CT2 9ET
Phone: 01227 450853/mob 07843962986
e-mail: david.greenman@btinternet.com

4 reports, relevant to the village, were received from Kent Police between Sept 29th and Oct 8th and forwarded electronically to the 17 links around the village of Blean.

Online fraud, particularly on the phone, is reported 'ad nauseum' these days. The simple reason is that it is ubiquitous. I therefore make no apology for the following report from Kent Police:

Stay safe online

•

Switch on the encryption within your wi-fi software so that no one can use your internet connection without your password.

•

Remember that not everyone you meet online will be who they say they are.

•

Use a good firewall when you are on the internet to prevent others from accessing personal data without your permission.

•

Don't give out personal details that reveal your identity or where you live to someone you meet online.

•

Don't reply to emails asking for bank account and credit card details – genuine companies will not ask you to confirm personal information via email as it is not secure.

•

Don't arrange to meet people you don't know.

However, if you do agree to meet someone you have chatted to online, tell someone where and when you are meeting or take someone with you. Always meet in a public place.

David Greenman
NHW coordinator for Blean.

Friday 9th October 2020