

MAY/JUNE 2026

WHAT'S GOING ON IN HALSTEAD?



THE GREEN BELT



Jean Peel, Chair of Halstead Parish Council, was recently filmed by the BBC raising concerns about the village's infrastructure in the context of the increased number of proposed large building developments.

Jean writes, "We are very fortunate to have much of the land in our area included in the Green Belt that surrounds London. We are certain you want to keep it that way."

PLANNING

FORT HALSTEAD DEVELOPMENT

635 homes will be built over the next 10 years. The developer is Barratt and work has already started. Difficulties with water supply connection and pressure are a great concern to the existing residents. There is also wide concern about the level of demolition noise and vibration on site. Halstead Parish Council is meeting with key staff at Barratt Homes.

CLARKS LANE AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Houses should be ready by the Autumn, despite the current lack of progress on this small development in the village. English Rural Housing has now appointed a new architect and building team. Halstead Parish Council is in contact with the project manager and monitoring progress.

BROKE HILL DEVELOPMENT

Quinn Estates has submitted an amended plan for the proposed development of 660 dwellings, plus a retirement village, a care home, a school, and other facilities, all to be built on 140 acres of high-performing Green Belt land. The deadline for objections to SDC was 14th May. As this planning application has immense consequences for our village, for Sevenoaks District, and for the London Borough of Bromley, we are very grateful to all of you who took the time and trouble to write in *again* registering your Objection to the amended Planning Application. Halstead Parish Council is fighting hard to challenge this development as an extension of urban sprawl into protected Green Belt land, and is keen to protect the essential rural nature of the site for the pleasure of the community and the protected species that live there.

VILLAGE PRIORITIES

With so much pressure from the Government, which wants to build 1.5m homes over the next 15 years, Halstead Parish Council is finding an increasing number of planning applications coming its way. In order to address local planning issues the Parish Council has decided to produce a **'NEIGHBOURHOOD PRIORITIES STATEMENT'** (a suggestion made by Sevenoaks District Council in their Local Plan document). This statement will enable our community to outline future aspirations and inform responses to planning applications, support grant-funding bids, and shape our engagement with local authorities. It has to reflect the views of residents, and so your help is needed and essential by answering a **QUESTIONNAIRE** that will be distributed to every home in the parish. Please help us – we need you.

VILLAGE MATTERS

NEW FACES

PIP NOTT is our new Parish Council Clerk, bearing the weight of all the administration of the Parish Council, and we are already indebted to her. Please say Hi as you see her around the village.



CALLY COUCHMAN is a newly co-opted member of the Council and will serve until the next Council elections in 14 months' time. She and her husband have lived in the village for decades.



HELP NEEDED

Halstead Parish Council would welcome more people with specific skills, or willing to learn new skills, to help the Parish Council with special projects. Planning takes a lot of time, and we need help. Other skill-gaps include marketing, graphic design, finance, and more. Please just get in touch and we'll talk it over.

BROKE HILL CAMPAIGN

We were delighted to welcome Sevenoaks MP, Laura Trott, to Halstead in support of our fight to protect the Green Belt from developer Quinn Estates, who proposes to build 660 houses over the rewilded ex-golf course. Over 60 concerned villagers turned up to the photo call on a Wednesday lunchtime, including 'Bill-the-Badger', and Laura spoke to the crowd, and has also written a piece about the campaign in a recent issue of the Sevenoaks Chronicle.



POTHOLES

Concerns about the state of the roads in the village is regularly raised at the monthly Parish Council meetings. A map of the parish has been produced and a mobile phone app, 'What3Words', can input the location of potholes, including their size and depth to populate a report for Kent County Council. KCC also have a pothole-reporting facility which puts any reported potholes on a map so you can see which are already on the system, and the actions taken by KCC. Potholes can also be reported on the Gov.uk website.

NETBALL COURT

As the netball club no longer needs the netball court on the Recreation Ground, ideas are requested from residents about a change of use.

Suggestions include a pickleball court, or a volleyball court. Halstead Parish Council will seek a grant from Sevenoaks District Council to help fund the change of use. All ideas to the Parish Clerk, please, address below



FREIGHTER REPLACEMENT OPTIONS

Many residents have expressed their dismay at the loss of the SDC freighter which visited the village three times a year. Halstead Parish Council is actively researching into replacement options for this service which SDC has decided to discontinue.

SPRINGTIME IN HALSTEAD

PICNIC TABLES

Halstead Parish Council have funded two new picnic tables on the Recreation Ground.



We're looking forward to Summer, but we've had time to enjoy the blossom around the village and bluebells in our woodlands.



PARISH FLOWER BEDS



The sponsored flowerbeds all around the village are what makes it look picturesque all year round. The price of a flowerbed is £150, and the flower beds are maintained by Halstead Parish Council. If you would like to sponsor a flowerbed this year, please contact the Clerk (address below).

SAVE THE DATE!

June 20th: FAMILY PICNIC DAY:

Following the great success of last year's event, Halstead Parish Council are putting on another Family Picnic Day. It's FREE, it's FUN, and it's FRIENDLY. Come with your friends and neighbours, and bring a picnic with you.

<<NEWSFLASH>>

Look out for a new series of Village Information Leaflets. The first, 'Dark Villages' was delivered to your door recently.

August 14th: FAMILY FUN DAY

Returning to Halstead on Friday 14th August, FREE Fun for all the family: activities, crafts, and more. There is no need to book, simply turn up and have fun. However, children must be supervised by a parent or guardian at all times. Activities are aimed at children under the age of 12, and they may not be suitable for very young children. Please bring waterproof clothing, sunscreen, and your own refreshments, although we hope to persuade the ice cream van to call.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

We had a good turnout for the open meeting on 11th May, with some interesting presentations from local groups and societies. Around 30 people came and enjoyed hearing about what goes on in the village.



OPEN GARDENS FESTIVAL

GET READY! Halstead Open Gardens Festival is organised and run by Halstead Society, and will be held next year on **Sunday 13th June 2027**, raising money for the Air Ambulance and a village charity/society. It will be run along the same lines as last time: 15 or so gardens, both large and small and hopefully, as before, a vintage car display, a brass band, and afternoon tea in the village hall. There will also be a giant plant sale with stalls all over the village in the gardens that are open to visitors. So may we make a plea? If you are discarding plants or dividing them this year, please pot them up and save them for the **Open Gardens 2027 Plant Extravaganza**. Please contact Cally Couchman on 01959 532253.