

Valley Conservation Society

doing nothing is not an option

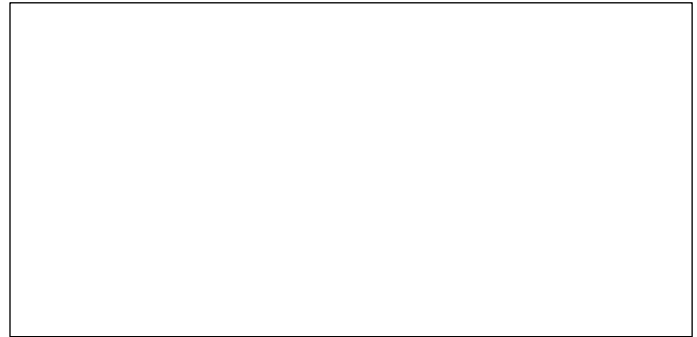


Members' newsletter No 176

We are a non-political organisation

December 2021

Thanks to all who joined our Day of Action



We were very pleased with the response to our Day of Action walk in support of the Save Kent's Green Spaces campaign.

There were a lot of old faces present - and several new ones as well – all angry at Maidstone council's proposal in its Local Plan Review to allocate agricultural land at Abbeygate Farm off Stockett Lane for 250 homes.

Their proposal includes running a road corridor 20m-wide across the Walnut Tree Meadow Nature Reserve, in order to provide an access from the new estate onto Dean Street.

Most people were hearing about the proposal for the first time – and it's noticeable that we haven't heard a peep on the subject from our South Ward councillors Messrs Wilby, Clark or Mortimer.

Whether or not you were on the walk, you can help defeat this proposal now by responding to the borough Council's Regulation 19 consultation on the Local Plan Review. Details on how to do so are on the back page.

Some good points to mention would be:

- A third of the land shown as the development site is in fact the Walnut Tree Meadows Nature Reserve
- It would involve the loss of prime agricultural land.
- It is not a sustainable site as there is no pedestrian footway from the proposed access onto Dean Street down into Tovil, so every movement would be by car
- It would adversely affect the setting of a listed building: the 15th century Abbeygate Place
- Despite Maidstone's policy saying there should be only an emergency access from Stockett Lane, part of the proposal site lies east of Stockett Lane, and could only be accessed from Stockett Lane itself, which is width-restricted.



MBC wants to forge a 20-metre wide road corridor through Walnut Tree Meadows above



Above, just some of the walkers who took part.

Right, John Talbot, the owner of the 15th century Abbeygate Place addresses the meeting.

Mr Talbot, a VCS member, has engaged a solicitor specialising in planning law to fight the site allocation.





Above, the start of the walk, below, one of the fields allocated for housing

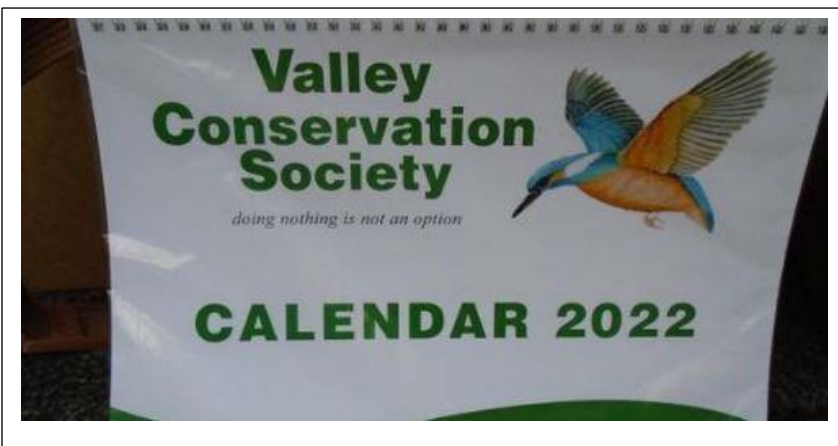


Happy Platinum Jubilee, Your Majesty

Next year the Nation will celebrate The Queen's record-breaking 70 years on the throne. We have got ahead of the game by planting a 10ft copper beech tree in Crisbrook Meadow in honour of Her Majesty. The tree was donated by Fred Cornwell.



The Valley Conservation Calendar for 2022 is now on sale



Featuring 12 colourful views of the Lower Loose Valley and its wildlife, the calendar costs just £5. Call at the Conservation Cabin in Cave Hill any Tuesday between 10am and 3pm or order from our chairman Bryn Cornwell on 01622 746514.



We'd just like everybody to take another look at what a wonderful job the work party team have done on the ragstone wall in Crisbrook Meadow.

Their next major project will be to extend the joists on the Conservation Cabin to create an overhang and to re-place the roofing felt. On this one, the boys may need some help. If any of our members is a builder, roofer or carpenter and can lend a hand, please contact Bryn on 01622 746514.

Facebook

With most of the committee born before the invention of the personal computer and with our chairman still believing that TikTok is what the clock on the mantelpiece does, we have perhaps been a little slow to embrace social media. However, one of our recent Facebook posts received 4,551 hits which brought a smile to the face of John Robertson, our social media co-ordinator. John would like everyone who is living in the 21st century to visit (and follow) our Facebook page - <https://tinyurl.com/VCSface> - and to like and share our posts as much as possible. LOL

Local Plan Review

Allocation **LPRSA 265** is for 250 homes on agricultural land at Abbey Gate Farm.

You can let MBC know what you think of its proposals via <https://maidstone-consult.objective.co.uk/kse>
You need the section labelled "Local Plan Review Regulation 19"

Alternatively, you can just email the council on ldf@maidstone.gov.uk

Or write to **Strategic Planning, Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, ME15 6JQ**

Your response must contain your full name and postal address or it won't be counted and must be submitted by December 12.

Valley Conservation Society

Membership Application 2022

Names:

Address:

..... Postcode.....

Email(s) **please print**

Phone Mobile

Membership is £2 per person per year (50p for 14 to 18 year olds). **It would greatly assist us if you are able to pay by online bank transfer or standing order.** Please email VCSMembership@btinternet.com with your name and address if you choose this option.

I enclose a cheque/cash for £ (Donations welcome)

Cheques/cash can be delivered with your form to Tony Day, Membership Secretary, 57 Mayfair Avenue, Maidstone ME15 6BY. Cheques should be payable to Valley Conservation Society

STANDING ORDER MANDATE

(please allow at least 14 days to start date for bank processing)

To: **The Manager**, (add name and address of your bank/building society)

.....

Name(s) of Account Holders

.....

Account Number: Sort Code:

Please pay:

Lloyds Bank plc, Week Street, Maidstone (309537) Branch, PO Box 1000, Box BX1 1LT

For the credit of: **Valley Conservation Society**

Account Number: **02166853** Sort Code: **30 95 37**

The sum of £ starting on2022
and thereafter on 1st day of January every year until further notice.

Signature(s) Date:

General Data Protection Regulations: *Our legal basis for holding and processing the data you provide is our legitimate interest as a membership organisation and we will use it to send you newsletters and other information we consider relevant and useful. We will not disclose it to any third party.*

Please tick the box if you consent to VCS retaining the details on this form

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