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TONBRIDGE AND MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

PARISH PARTNERSHIP PANEL

Thursday, 7th February, 2019

Present: Cllr N J Heslop (Chairman), Cllr M A Coffin (Vice-Chairman), Cllr Mrs S M Barker, Cllr R P Betts, Cllr T I B Cannon, Cllr R W Dalton, Cllr D Lettington, Cllr B J Luker, Cllr D Markham and Cllr T B Shaw.

Together with representatives from Addington, Aylesford, Birling, Borough Green, Burham, Hadlow, Hildenborough, Kings Hill, Platt, Plaxtol, Ryarsh, Snodland, Wateringbury, Wouldham and Wrotham Parish and Town Councils and County Councillors Mrs S Hohler and Mr H Rayner.

Councillors O C Baldock and H S Rogers were also present pursuant to Council Procedure Rule No 15.21.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs J A Anderson, R V Roud, Ditton, Ightham Parish Council and Mr P Homewood

PART 1 - PUBLIC

PPP 19/1 MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting held on 15 November 2018 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

PPP 19/2 UPDATE ON ACTION IDENTIFIED IN THE LAST MINUTES

The Chairman referred to Minute Number PPP 18/24 and advised that the outcomes of the Polling District Review would be reported later in the meeting. There were no other actions identified which required an update.

PPP 19/3 LOCAL ELECTIONS - GUIDANCE FOR PARISH AND TOWN COUNCILS

The Elections Manager (Daune Ashdown) referred to the timetable for the upcoming borough and parish elections on Thursday 2 May 2019 and outlined the key dates of importance.

Nominations would be accepted from Tuesday 19 March until 1600 hours on Wednesday 3 April. The deadline to apply for postal votes was 1700 hours on Monday 15 April.

All parish councils were requested to use the nomination forms available from the Electoral Commission as these had been revised since the last election and reflected that it was no longer necessary to include a home address.

Information related to election expenses would be circulated to all parish clerks and a return form had to be submitted even if no expenses were incurred or there was no election being held. Further advice was available from the Electoral Commission.

It was intended to undertake the count on Friday 3 May at Larkfield Leisure Centre.

Finally there would be a further briefing session for parish councils related to polling day on Thursday 11 April and details would be circulated in due course.

PPP 19/4 REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS AND POLLING PLACES

The Elections Manager reported on the Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places and advised that the representations received as part of the consultation, which had ended in December, had been given careful consideration by the Electoral Review Working Group and the General Purposes Committee on 14 and 28 January 2019 respectively.

It was indicated that there had been in-depth and robust discussions and a number of views had been considered. The final proposals would be considered by Council on 19 February 2019 and any changes arising from these would be made to the Register with effect from 1 March 2019.

Finally, it was noted that all information related to the consultation and review would be published online once final proposals had been agreed.

PPP 19/5 PREPARATIONS FOR BREXIT

In opening the discussion, the Chairman, in his role as Leader of the Borough Council, indicated that all levels of government had a responsibility to be prepared for Britain's departure from the European Union. The Borough Council had plans in place for various emergency situations and planning for Brexit was an extension of these measures.

Reference was made to the report to Overview and Scrutiny Committee of 22 January 2019 (attached for information), which advised of a range of initiatives being considered by the Borough Council to ensure that business continuity was maintained in the light of possible disruption related to Brexit issues.

A key concern for Tonbridge and Malling would be the potential significant traffic congestion affecting the M20/A20/M26 corridor and surrounding roads should there be severe delays at Kent ports.

The Head of Kent County Council Resilience and Emergency Planning and the Kent Resilience Forum (Fiona Gaffney) was invited to comment on the latest position regarding countywide preparations. It was acknowledged that Brexit might represent a significant challenge and there could be considerable impact on the ports, Eurotunnel and surrounding road network. Traffic management and transport plans were being developed, in liaison with local district/borough councils, the Kent Association of Local Councils, distribution centres and haulage organisations, as the importance of maintaining supply chains and keeping traffic moving was recognised.

There was also a focus on Community Impact Assessments to understand the issues that could affect local communities, such as becoming isolated in the event of gridlock on minor roads. In addition, consideration was being given to ensuring that all key partner websites were updated regularly to offer 'real time' guidance and advice.

The following concerns and points were raised, discussed and noted:

- The significant impact on the M20/M26/M2 and other road networks within the borough
- Options being considered to alleviate the pressures on these road networks
- Plans being developed to address the instruction of the Department for Transport to keep the M20 open and traffic flowing
- Uncertainty around the proposals for a lorry park on the M26 and its status
- The unintended consequences to the surrounding road network if the M26 was used as a lorry park
- Clarification that Operation Brock was an initiative to keep the M20 open by queuing freight traffic and having a contraflow in place for non-freight traffic
- The request to have dedicated websites to provide latest information regarding traffic and supply chains
- Preparations for enforcement around non-compliance of freight drivers to avoid minor roads

In summary, Members expressed severe concern around the ability of the local road network to cope should the significant numbers of freight predicted arise and stressed the importance of listening to local communities who had experience of the issues.

PPP 19/6 KENT POLICE SERVICES UPDATE

Inspector Rothwell had submitted apologies and due to operational pressures other representatives of Kent Police were unable to attend the meeting. However a written report had been submitted for information, which set out details of a number of recent initiatives and operations.

Further information on any of the items raised in the Kent Police Services Update report was available by contacting Kent Police direct. Alternatively, any specific community issues could be passed to the Democratic Services Officer (allison.parris@tmhc.gov.uk) to forward to Kent Police.

PPP 19/7 KENT COUNTY COUNCIL SERVICES UPDATE

The County Councillors for Malling North (Councillor Sarah Hohler) and Malling West (Councillor Harry Rayner) provided an update on key points of relevance to the Malling Division and the headline messages included:

- The County Council would be setting their budget for the forthcoming year on Thursday 14 February.
- The 'Big Conversation' public consultation related to local bus services was open for comments and ended on 19 February.
- Further work at Manston Airport had increased freight capacity although this was still short of the volume that passed through the port of Dover.
- The consultation into the review of library services had finished on 29 January 2019 and a reduction in opening hours was proposed for Borough Green and Hildenborough. Kent County Council had been asked to consider whether funding contributions from parish councils to fund the shortfall in hours was a viable option. A response was awaited.

A list of current County Consultations was available on:

https://consultations.kent.gov.uk/consult.ti/system/findConsultations?dos_earch=Y&pageinfo=consultations&ca_weblistcontrol=Main&type=O

With regard to the library consultation, the Chairman advised that the Cabinet Member for Community Services had written to the County

Council setting out the views of the Borough Council. This letter would be available as part of the Communities and Housing Advisory Board [agenda](#) in due course.

Finally, the County Council were pleased to report that the Turner Contemporary in Margate would host the Turner Prize 2019.

PPP 19/8 TONBRIDGE AND MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL SERVICES UPDATE

The Chief Executive provided an update on key points of relevance to Tonbridge and Malling. The headline messages included:

Waste Services Contract:

A new contractor Urbaser had been appointed and an introductory leaflet would be sent to all residents in the next couple of weeks. The new contract would start on 1 March and up until the end of September would mirror the current service arrangements. However, from 30 September new service arrangements would be rolled out across the whole borough and would include the new opt-in garden waste scheme.

Residents could apply for the garden waste service from 7 May and early bird discounts would be offered to those who signed up by 3 August. Parish councils were encouraged to promote this initiative.

A detailed update on the new Waste Services Contract, including a marketing plan, would be reported to the Street Scene and Environment Services Advisory Board on [11 February 2019](#)

Finally there was still time to arrange a meeting with the Waste Contract Officer (Alison Sollis) and parish councils were asked to contact her direct if they were interested.

Public Conveniences:

Following a review of the Borough Council's facilities by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 18 October 2018 a number of recommendations would be considered by the Cabinet on 14 February 2019. These included the potential transfer of public conveniences in parished areas to the local parish council and the Director of Street Scene, Leisure and Technical Services would be contacting those parishes affected to discuss this further.

It was intended that any transfers would take place in March 2020 which gave sufficient time for arrangements to be put in place.

The Chairman thanked the Parish Councils that had responded to the consultation and these representations had been given careful consideration by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Local Plan:

This had been submitted to the Planning Inspectorate on 23 January 2019. It was anticipated that a Planning Inspector would be appointed within the next few weeks, who would then consider the submitted documents and set out the next steps in the process. A Programme Officer had been appointed to assist with the Local Plan Examination process and further information regarding the next stages would be published on the website as soon as it was available.

All representations received during the Regulation 19 Consultation in November 2018 would be published as soon as was practically possible on the Borough Council's website. It was noted that this would take time to complete as personal information would have to be removed in accordance with General Data Protection Regulations. However, it was estimated that this would not be complete before the end of March 2019.

In response to a question raised by the Kent Association of Local Councils, the Chief Executive advised that whilst the Local Plan had been submitted it had limited weight in planning terms until it had been approved by the Secretary of State. All current planning applications had to consider current planning policies. However, the Chairman reiterated that the Borough Council's objectively assessed need had been met in terms of the Local Plan submission.

The meeting ended at 8.55 pm

Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council

Briefing on Nominations for Prospective Candidates and Agents for Borough/Parish Elections 2 May 2019

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Welcome and Introductions

- Julie Beilby – Chief Executive
- Daune Ashdown – Head of Electoral Services

Agenda

- Welcome & Introductions
- Elections
 - Lead Officers
 - Elections 2019
 - Election Timetable
- Nominations
 - Qualifications - Disqualifications
 - Nominations process
 - The Register of Electors
 - Electoral Registration
 - Paperwork
 - Final Submission of nomination papers
 - After the deadline – what happens next?
 - Election Expenses
 - Guidance - Local and Electoral Commission
 - Other Assistance
 - What happens next?
 - Contacts
 - Any Questions

Elections - Lead Officers

- The Returning Officer – Julie Beilby
- DRO's Deputy Returning Officers
 - Adrian Stanfield, Sharon Shelton, Daune Ashdown
- The role of the RO
 - To run free, fair, democratic elections where the result declared is as decided by voters in the poll, and in accordance with the legislation and official guidance.
- Limitations
 - Disagreements between candidates - Not to adjudicate between individuals or groups not offer advice to either side
 - Equality for all candidates
 - Alleged breach of the law? – report to police
 - Election finances

Elections -2019

- Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council elections
 - 24 wards
 - 54 seats
- Parish and town council elections
 - 36 parish areas
 - 268 seats
- Borough Statistics
 - 66 Polling stations
 - 143 Polling station staff
 - 97,000+ electors
 - 15,600+ postal voters

Elections - Timetable

Action	Local
Publication of Notice of Election	Monday 18 March
Delivery of Nomination Papers (including consent, deposits, political party forms)	10am to 4pm on working days from Tuesday 19 March to Wednesday 3 April
Deadline for delivery of Nomination Papers	4pm on Wednesday 3 April
Deadline for Withdrawal of Candidature	4pm on Wednesday 3 April
Deadline for notice of appointment of election agents	4pm on Wednesday 3 April
Publication of first interim election notice of alteration	Wednesday 3 April
Publication of Statement of Persons Nominated	Thursday 4 April
Deadline for Registration applications to be received for applicants to be included onto the Register of Electors in order to vote in the election	Midnight Friday 12 April
Deadline for requests for a new postal vote, or to change / cancel existing absent vote arrangements.	5pm on Monday 15 April
Publication of second interim election notice of alteration	Between Monday 15 April and Wednesday 24 April
Deadline for new applications to vote by proxy (except medical emergencies)	5pm on Wednesday 24 April
Publication of final election notice of alteration	Thursday 25 April
Last day for notice of appointment of polling or counting agents	Thursday 25 April
First day of requests to issue replacement spoilt or lost postal ballot papers	Friday 26 April
Polling day	Thursday 2 May 2019
Deadline for new applications to vote by proxy on the grounds of a medical emergency	5pm on Thursday 2 May 2019
Last day to issue replacement spoilt or lost postal ballot papers	5pm on Thursday 2 May 2019
Return of election expenses forms	Borough: Friday 7 June Parish: Thursday 30 May

Nominations - Qualifications

On the day of nomination **and** on polling day

- At least 18 years old
 - British citizen, citizen of the Republic of Ireland or qualifying Commonwealth citizen, member of EU member state
 - One or more of the following:
 - Registered local government elector for local authority area
 - Occupied as owner or tenant any land or premises in the local authority area during the whole 12 months preceding nomination
 - Principal or only place of work (including unpaid) during last 12 months in local authority area
 - Lived in the local authority area during the last 12 months
 - Reside in Parish or parish ward or within 4.8km
 - Not disqualified
- Can stand in Parish & Local election

Nominations – Disqualifications

- A person cannot be a candidate if:
 - employed by the local authority or hold paid office under the authority
 - subject of a Bankruptcy Restrictions Order (or interim order) in England or Wales
 - they have been sentenced to a term of imprisonment of three months or more (inc suspended sentence) without option of a fine, during the 5 years before election day
 - serving a disqualification due to being found guilty of a corrupt or illegal practice by an election court
 - hold a politically restricted post
 - **Take own advice – RO cannot assist**
 - Cannot stand in more than one Local ward or ward of same Parish

Nominations Process

- Notice of Election – 18 March
- Start of delivery of nominations 10am – 4pm 19 March
- Statutory close of nominations – 4pm 3 April
- Appointments
- DRO will be present, RO will adjudicate.
- Reasons for rejection –
 - Particulars are not as required by law
 - Paper in not subscribed as required
 - The description is not as required

Nominations - The Register of Electors

- You will officially become a candidate on 26 March, if on or before this date you have already declared yourself a candidate at the election. This is the date that a register and list of absent voters can be issued.
- Request for register form in nomination pack
- May only be used for the permitted purposes:
 - To help complete nomination form
 - To help with campaigning
 - To check donations/loans are permissible

Electoral Registration

- All electors can vote **except** Overseas (F flag on register)
- Poll cards will be issued w/c 18 March
- Deadline to register: midnight Friday 12 April
- Encourage people to register online at www.gov.uk/register-to-vote
- Handling registration forms or postal vote application forms/packs – Code of Practice

Nominations - Paperwork

- Paperwork
 - Forms now available from the Electoral Commission website – new ones
 - Guidance also available from the Electoral Commission website

Nominations - Paperwork

Contact details form

Nomination paper – 1a

- As written on paper will appear on all official notices & Ballot papers
- RO can only correct minor errors
- Full Name – not initials
- Commonly used Forename & Surname

Nominations – Paperwork

Descriptions – 1a

- Non Party candidates:
 - Independent
 - No description
 - Party-nominated candidates
 - Registered name of party
 - Description registered by party
 - Written permission to use description from registered nominating officer
 - Description must match certificate
 - Description must match EC website
- Description no more than 6 words **(Parish Only)**

Nominations - Paperwork

Subscribing nomination paper - 1a

- Complete in full
- Signature and electoral number required (letters & numbers)
- Printed name required
- 10 for Borough (local government electors on 1 March Register)
- 2 for Parish (local government electors on 1 March Register)
- If make a mistake, cross through , this can be ignored.
- If more than 10 on paper, will only accept first 10, even if 1 is invalid.
- Tell subscribers names will be on official notices - GDPR

Nominations - Paperwork

New Home Address form -1b

- Can opt to show “ward” rather than home address on official documents (list of candidates, ballot papers, etc.)
- Open for inspection by other candidates, agent or proposer/secondder in ward
- Destroyed 35 days after declaration of result.

Nominations - Paperwork

Local elections: Consent to nomination - 1c

- Name in full
- Record which of the qualifications applies – if more than one, complete all that do apply.
- Put address details for each criteria
- Date of birth
- Candidate must sign & date form
- Note the difference for parish elections.
- Must be witnessed, sign and date
- Attach copies of legislation when submitted

Nominations - Paperwork

Standing for a political party - 2 & 3

- Complete the **two forms** in full
- The certificate of authorisation must include the name of the political party and the description that may be used. This description **must match** that used on the nomination form. This form is signed by an authorised representative of the party.
- The request for a party emblem form must give the name of the emblem that the candidate wishes to use. Please use the reference number/description given on the EC website. This form is signed by the candidate.

Nominations - Paperwork

Election Agents - 4

- Complete in full
- Must be formally appointed and accept appointment no later than 4pm, 3 April
- Must be signed by the candidate **and** by the agent
- Please ensure you give the contact details for the agent – this person is responsible for the campaign and we will normally contact them with any information you may need.
- Must give office address, if no office address will use home address
- No election agents for Parish election

Nominations – Formal Submission of Nominations Papers

- To our main reception area, here at Gibson Drive, where a Deputy RO will be on hand, no other buildings
- In person, by hand, not electronically or by post will automatically be invalid
- From 10am to 4pm on working days between 19 March – 3 April
- **Make an appointment**
- Don't leave it too late,
- Informal checks
- Original forms including:
 - Nomination form
 - Home address form
 - Consent to nomination
 - Party description and emblem forms
 - Election Agent appointment
- Will do informal check and then notify if valid/invalid
- Serious offence to include false information

Nominations – After Deadline what happens next?

- Statutory Deadline – 4pm - 3 April 2019
- Withdrawal deadline - 4pm – 3 April 2019
- Formal notice of validity/invalidity sent
- Publish and display list of candidates
(Statement of Persons Nominated)
- Nomination papers and consents available for public inspection until the day before polling day. Contact voting@tmbc.gov.uk for an appointment.

Election Expenses

- Legal requirement to submit a return, even if nil
- Complete and return by:
 - Borough
 - Parish (even if uncontested)
- No spending is reimbursed
- Information is made public
- Templates available from the Electoral Commission
- Spending limits will be advised

Nominations - Guidance

- Guidance

- For Locals – <https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/candidate-or-agent/local-elections-in-england>
- For Parish/Town Councils - <https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/candidate-or-agent/parish-and-community-council-elections-in-england-and-wales>
- infoengland@electoralcommission.org.uk
- 0333 103 1928

- Spending

- 0333 103 1928
- pef@electoralcommission.org.uk

Other assistance

- **KALC – Kent association of Local Councils** (Parish/Town Councils only) Lots of good advice and training, etc.

- **The EnAble Fund for Elected Office**

Cover the additional financial costs associated with a disability or health condition, that would otherwise prevent someone from seeking elected office. Provided by the Government Equalities Office. Administered by Disability Rights UK.

Cost of the reasonable adjustments required to enable someone to stand for elected office, including BSL interpreters, Assistive Technology, a Personal Assistant to assist with specific tasks, taxi fares where other modes of transport are not appropriate. Runs until May 2020. Create a level playing field for disabled people and people with a long term health condition. Telephone: 0330 995 0400 and select Option 1, E-mail:

enablefund@disabilityrightsuk.org <https://www.disabilityrightsuk.org/enablefund>

- **WhoCanIVoteFor.co.uk/standing** - Voters will be looking online to see who to vote for, so here's a non-partisan site trusted by the Electoral Commission; Don't forget to complete your profile, the council can't do this for you.

What happens next?

- Further briefing on 11 April – 7pm

To cover:

- Postal Votes
- Appointment of postal vote agents, polling agents day, count agents.
- Polling day and Tellers
- Verification and Count
- After the event

Contacts – TMBC

- For candidates / agents **only**
 - Daune Ashdown
 - 01732 876229
 - Daune.Ashdown@tmbc.gov.uk
 - *Copy in:* voting@tmbc.gov.uk

- All contacts
 - www.tmbc.gov.uk/voting
 - voting@tmbc.gov.uk
 - 01732 876022

Any Questions?



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Tonbridge and Malling Parish Partnership Panel Update – January 2019

Last 60 days (no meeting in December)

- On the run up to Christmas the CSU have implemented our Winter plan, Operation Yodel. Part of this involved using overtime to increase the uniform presence on Tonbridge High St to deal with retail theft and disorder. The 5th December was an all-out day including partners. A crime prevention stand in the Pavilion handed out purse chains, alarms and property marking kits to the public. Other parts of this plan involved our response to Urban and rural burglaries that increase at this time of the year. Licensing checks were conducted across Tonbridge and Malling to reduce alcohol related disorder and the domestic abuse often associated with it. We also worked with TMBC to ensure all 800 taxi drivers were briefed in regard to those vulnerable as a result of alcohol getting home safely.
- Operation Omaha continued to address 'county line' drug supply into Tonbridge and Malling. There is currently no identified gang activity but it continues to be the priority of the CSU to prevent a foothold being taken. The CSU have also identified local organised drug supply and have plans and operations in place arrest and disrupt.
- The Specialist Domestic Abuse PCSO has started a drop in coffee meeting for DA victims / survivors. This is with the intention that they can learn from and support each other, breaking the cycle of DA. It is also hoped from a Policing point of view that more victims will come forward and more prosecutions will be supported as a result.
- Op Motor has been focussed on the anti-social use of cars at Tesco's in Larkfield. CSU officers have changed their shifts to attend the venue and others in the area. Section 59 warnings have been given along with Community Protection Warnings. Approximately 30 young drivers who had been spoken to in the car parks attended the KFRS road safety engagement event. This is educational and seeks to change the mind set of young drivers.
- Op Tennyson is addressing the spike of theft from motor vehicles in the Snodland area. Enquiries continue after the CSU identified a suspect locally.
- Op Posh is responding to a rise in ASB in the Larkfield area. PS Turtle and PCSO Leng attended a parish meeting seeking to address this and updated partners. Dispersal orders have been put in place to assist patrols to deal and officers briefed. This operation continues at time of writing.

Next 30 days

- CSU are reviewing and working towards seasonal issues for our spring plan. This will use analytical data from last year and seek to address expected seasonal crime trends.
- A number of warrants under the misuse of drugs act are scheduled to be executed after intelligence has been received. These are an effective tool to dismantle local drug networks and seize illegal drugs. There continues to be a good supply of information from both the public and officers local knowledge.
- Kent Police are planning for a number of Brexit outcomes with partners. The CSU will form part of the implementation of this locally and hold a local Community Impact Assessment overseen by our Community Liaison officer.

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Tonbridge and Malling Briefing Note

Winter response Friday 1st Feb to Sunday 3rd Feb

Weather

The snow that arrived on Friday during the evening traffic peak broadly across the mid Kent area and settled quickly on both the A229 Bluebell Hill and the A249 Detling Hill.

The detailed Met Weather forecast that we receive specifically to inform gritting predicted rain across the county with a low possibility of snow flurries. We received an updated forecast at 18:30 which detailed up to 5 cm of snow. We had already sent the gritters out to complete gritting by 20:30 and when these returned to the depots, we instructed dedicated gritters to patrol and grit both Bluebell Hill and Detling Hill and carried out a further gritting run of the west of the county.

Whilst the snow was not forecast by the Met Office, preparations throughout the week for earlier predictions of snow ensured that all KCC and District severe weather emergency plans (SWEP) were in place and operational.

For all information on which routes we grit and how we treat snow and ice conditions on the network these are outline on our website [KCC Winter Service](#)

Emergency Response

The Highways Senior Duty Officer (SDO) was informed around midnight that 2 out of hours officers were attending Walderslade Woods after numerous reports of trees falling over stranded vehicles. Drivers had in the main abandoned their vehicles at this time and no injuries were reported. The scene when the officers arrived consisted of a very high volume of fallen and leaning trees over the highway almost the entire length of Walderslade Woods. Our emergency tree surgeon services for both West and East Kent were contacted and within 2 hours around 18 tree surgeons had arrived at the scene with large plant and cutting equipment. Trees were continuing to fall whilst the crews were on site, so the road was closed. The decision was made to cut up and remove all fallen trees and also to fell any leaning trees to remove further risk.

By 08:00 hrs the crews had felled around 80 trees throughout the night in both Walderslade Road and Boxley Road and were estimating that a further 100 may need to be felled.

KRF worked with NHS and Social Services to identify any vulnerable residents and these were contacted by telephone to check their wellbeing. Residents that could not be contacted by telephone were visited by a Salvation Army volunteer. Throughout the incident no vulnerable residents reported any issues.

On Sunday the road was closed again in order to remove the final fallen and leaning trees. Chipping plant was brought in to remove larger limbs from the carriageway and JCBs cleared the road of debris and remaining snow to fully re-open the road by Sunday afternoon. Around 200 trees in total have been felled and cleared.

Trees

Heavy snow fall can in some circumstances cause damage to trees. Significant snow damage to trees is not a frequent occurrence and depends on the moisture content of the snow. Wet snow is heavier and more damaging because it can accumulate on the trees branches and freezes in very cold temperatures. This added weight of wet snow on branches is sometimes more than the tree can support, and the result can be snapping branches or failure of the tree.

KCC inspect all trees adjacent to the highway every 5 years and instruct safety works to remove dead or dangerous trees on priority-based timescales. Trees on Walderslade Woods were inspected within the last year and were found to be in good condition. Due to the heavy snow fall, Walderslade Woods was re-inspected on the morning of Monday 4th February with no trees identified as a safety concern.

A further inspection is planned later this week of the wider Walderslade area to assess if any further action is required.

Follow-up works will be programmed within the next fortnight to allow for the clearance of the aftermath of this exceptional event.



Scene on Saturday 2nd February – Morning



Scene Saturday afternoon on Saturday 2nd February