

PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER



Winter 2024/2025

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WELCOME – MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR

Vigo Parish Council would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year. If you know someone who is unable to access this newsletter online, and would rather have a paper copy please email the Parish Office clerk@vigo-pc.gov.uk

MEETING DATES FOR 2025

Full Parish Council meetings are held in the Village Hall (small hall). Everyone is welcome to attend. If you have a particular issue you would like to raise, please speak to the Clerk in advance. Agendas are published in advance in our noticeboard in The Bay, and on our website.

Thursday 9th January 2025

Thursday 13th February 2025

Thursday 13th March 2025

Thursday 10th April 2025

Thursday 8th May 2025 (Annual)

Thursday 15th May 2025

Thursday 12th June 2025

Thursday 10th July 2025

Thursday 24th April 2025 is the Annual Parish Meeting where you can hear the Annual Report of the Parish Council, as well as updates on what local organisations have been up to over the last year.

PARISH OFFICE CHRISTMAS OPENING HOURS

The office will be closed week commencing Monday 23rd December and will re-open on Monday 6th January 2025. The Clerk will be working from home on Thursday 2nd January 2025.

The Clerk & Assistant Clerk work partly from the Parish Office and partly from home. They do not work on Friday. Open office hours (where you can visit the office without an appointment) are Monday 9am til 1pm and Tuesday 2pm til 5pm. The Clerk is available at other times during the week, by appointment only

HOW TO CONTACT THE PARISH COUNCIL:

By email: clerk@vigo-pc.gov.uk

Via our website: www.vigo-kent.gov.uk

Phone Number: 01732 823337

Emergency Phone Number: 01732 905960

Or by post: Vigo Parish Council, Vigo Village Hall, The Bay, Vigo, Gravesend, Kent. DA13 0TD

WINTER WEATHER – SNOW, SALT BINS AND GRITTING

Gritting the roads is the responsibility of Kent County Council (Highways). You can report online: <https://www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/report-a-problem>

Here you can report various Winter Maintenance Issues (Ice / Snow problems or issues with Salt Bins). Scroll down to Winter Maintenance on the drop-down menu.

The Parish Council have contacted Kent Highways and reported that all the salt bins need refilling. There are eight salt bins in the village currently, but we have recently been awarded a grant to have another four installed.

GRAVESHAM RECYCLING AND WASTE COLLECTION DATES



Your recycling and waste collection dates

Don't forget your collection dates change over the Christmas and New Year holidays. Here is the guide to the correct days to put out your bins/sacks.

Christmas Collections	
Normal Collection Day	Revised Collection Day
Monday 23 December 2024	Monday 23 December 2024
Tuesday 24 December 2024	Tuesday 24 December 2024
Wednesday 25 December 2024	Friday 27 December 2024
Thursday 26 December 2024	Saturday 28 December 2024
Friday 27 December 2024	Monday 30 December 2024
Monday 30 December 2024	Tuesday 31 December 2024
Tuesday 31 December 2024	Thursday 2 January 2025

New Year Collections	
Wednesday 1 January 2025	Friday 3 January 2025
Thursday 2 January 2025	Saturday 4 January 2025
Friday 3 January 2025	Monday 6 January 2025
Monday 6 January 2025	Tuesday 7 January 2025
Tuesday 7 January 2025	Wednesday 8 January 2025
Wednesday 8 January 2025	Thursday 9 January 2025
Thursday 9 January 2025	Friday 10 January 2025
Friday 10 January 2025	Saturday 11 January 2025

Your waste collections revert to normal on Monday 13 January 2025.
No Garden Waste Service from 22 December until 6 January inclusive.
Garden waste collections will follow the waste collection schedule commencing Tuesday 7 January.

PLANNING ON UPDATING YOUR WINDOWS AND DOORS?

LOOKING TO EXTEND YOUR PROPERTY?

Please remember that you need to seek covenant approval from the Parish Council BEFORE carrying out any works. There is no charge to apply. Please send details of your proposal to the Clerk and it will be discussed at the next available Parish Council Meeting.

DUMPING GARDEN WASTE IN THE WOODLAND OR ON PARISH LAND

There have been a number of incidents where garden waste (and general waste in some cases) have been dumped on Parish Land, including the woodland areas. Clearing this up takes time and also takes resources away from other jobs that need doing. If you witness any dumping or are aware of who may be doing this – please contact the Clerk – all communications will be treated confidentially.

TREE SURGERY IN VIGO

The Autumn / Winter period is the time when our Contractors, Paul & Steph do the majority of tree surgery in the village.

We have a list of tree works which is made up of routine maintenance, work that we have identified, and work that has been identified as a result of residents contacting us.

If you have any concerns about trees, please contact the Clerk. An assessment will be made, and if work is required it will be programmed accordingly. All work is agreed by Full Council. Paul & Steph are not able to agree to any work unless it is under the direction of the Parish Council.

Under no circumstances should residents carry out work on Parish trees. Trees in Vigo are protected by Tree Preservation Orders.

VPC do have a woodland management policy which clearly states what our commitment to tree work is – this can be viewed on our website www.vigo-kent.org (click on “The Council” and then on “Procedures & Policies”). If you would like a hard copy of these documents, please contact the Clerk.



EMERGENCY OR NOT?

- Call 999 if a crime is in progress, or there is a threat / danger to life and or property
- Call 999 if there are nuisance bikes on busy roads or areas of high footfall.
- Call 999 if there are youths climbing on the village hall roof or the school roof
- Call 101 for non-urgent matters (nuisance bikes on community land or in low foot-fall areas)

POTHOLE? UNEVEN PAVEMENTS? BLOCKED DRAINS?

Report all of these issues to Kent Highways online at <https://www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/report-a-problem>

If you can't report online or want further advice...please contact the Parish Clerk.

2025 POP UP CAFÉ DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

All dates are the first Friday of the month. 10am til 12 noon, in the (small) Village Hall. Come along for a warm welcome, friendly chat, a hot drink and a slice of cake.

3 rd January	7 th February	7 th March	4 th April
2 nd May	6 th June	4 th July	1 st August
5 th September	3 rd October	7 th November	5 th December

Disabled access is available, please go to the slope at the side of the hall, where a doorbell will be available – someone will come and let you in.



COMMUNITY WARDEN CONSULTATION

Are you in favour of Vigo Parish Council sponsoring a Community Warden for one day a week in Vigo (average cost per household £12.44 per year)?

THE RESULTS:

Vigo Parish Council were pleased to receive a great response to the Community Warden consultation that was sent out recently. We received a fantastic 14% response rate by elector (212 responses from a total electorate of 1,514). There was a 20% response rate by household (164 responses from a total of 798 properties). The vote split was very clear with a resounding **75% of people voting YES**, and 25% voting NO.

WHAT HAPPENS NOW?

The Parish Council met on 12th December to discuss the results, with a unanimous decision made to budget £9,000 to sponsor a Warden for one day a week in Vigo, from April 2025. Vigo Parish Council will now write to Kent County Council to inform them that they wish to move ahead with the proposal. We will do what we can to secure the services of Mandy Cason, who had (up until now) been the Warden in Vigo for over 20 years.

Thank you to everyone who took the time to reply. We would also like to thank all those who added comments, both positive and negative, which we have taken note of.

ANNA CHAPLAINCY FOR OLDER PEOPLE.

My name is Stephanie Perfitt, and I am a Lay Minister and Anna Chaplain licensed and Commissioned by The Church of England. I have been a lay minister for three years and an Anna Chaplain for two years.

I have recently joined the churches of Vigo, Stansted and Fairseat working alongside the Reverend Christopher Noble. My relationship with these churches and congregations began during my training when sent to Vigo for my church/community placement. I never severed that link and have worshipped alongside these congregations for some time now.

As time passed it became apparent to me that I should make these churches my home church and become a full member assisting Chris with the services and to reach out to the communities.

I am married with two daughters and four lovely grandchildren whom I enjoy spending time with. I also enjoy socialising - chatting and meeting people so I would really enjoy getting to meet some of you who live in Vigo.

Anna Chaplaincy is a specific ministry to the senior members of our communities. So, if you feel lonely, isolated or forgotten about then why not get in touch with me and I can come along and have a cuppa and maybe help you in some way.

My contact details are 0777 432 0435 or perfitts1964@gmail.com Anna Chaplaincy is there for anyone who needs some company and friendship, and it would be a great pleasure for me to do that for you.

If you would like to check me out, then please do contact Jo Glass the parish clerk at the parish office 01732 823 337 or clerk@vigo-pc.gov.uk OR Reverend Christopher Noble

rev.stmarysstansted@gmail.com

I very much look forward to hearing from you and hopefully meeting up with you

Every blessing Stephanie

THE COMMUNITY CUPBOARD: A Message from Bob Wright (community cupboard volunteer)

As one of the team of volunteers at The Community Cupboard, I would like to thank the Parish Council for the opportunity to provide more information about our charity. May I start with letting you know how you can donate. There are two places in our Stansted, Fairseat and Vigo area. The first is a donation point within the outer porch of 11 The Paddock, Vigo. This is with thanks to Sheila and Alastair Oag. The second is in front of the tills at Culverstone Stores. This is with thanks to Pete Juty. The Community Cupboard was founded in 2019 and based in converted premises at Gamecock Meadow, West Kingsdown TN15 6EL We are a registered charity [1185331]. We now also have second foodbank in Swanley at St Mary's Road BR8 7BU.

Our byword is 'more than a just a foodbank'. We offer a helping hand to anyone who walks through our doors. We do not require paperwork and that way we offer a non-judgmental service that can respond quickly to a need. As well as a food parcel, we offer advice and a signposting service to link with other relevant services and charities. Our web-site is www.thecommunitycupboard.co.uk

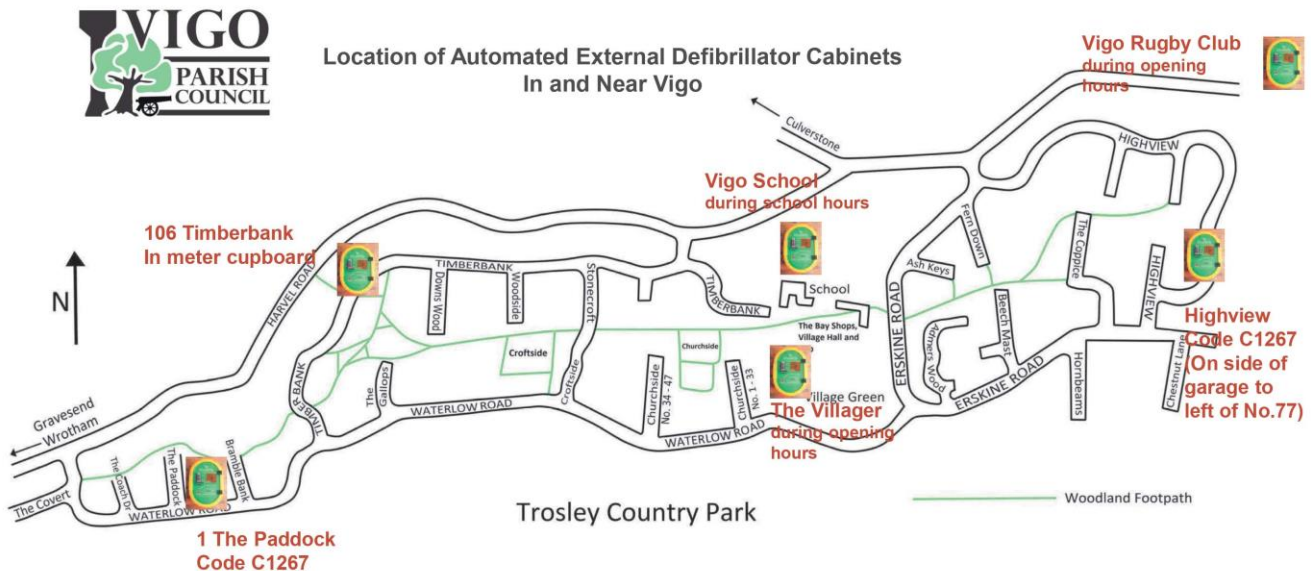
Each foodbank opens different days and times, and these are displayed on the web-site. Should you wish, you would be welcome to bring your personal donation to the foodbank and someone will receive you and offer a hot drink and explain how we operate.

This photograph is of most of our team on the occasion of our fifth anniversary where The London Golf Club kindly hosted us for a coffee morning.



VIGO VILLAGE DEFIBRILLATORS

We are fortunate to have six defibrillators in the village: please see the map below.





This is a fabulous event, and usually very well attended. Come along and get in the festive spirit with us. Wrap up warm and put your best singing voice on, or just come for a listen. All are very welcome.

For anyone who needs some support right now. ❤️

CALM - 0800585858
Mind - 03001233393
No Panic - 08449674848
Bereavement - 08088081677
PAPYRUS - 08000684141
Samaritans - 116 123
SHOUT - Text SHOUT to 85258
Abuse - 0808 2000 247
Refuge - 020 7395 7700

Stay safe this Christmas.

