Report of Environment Committee 12th November 2013 in School House at 8.30 am.

Present – Mary Evans, Jane Lawrey, Charmian Marsh, Elizabeth Ward (Chair)

Apologies – none

Oxenhill Woods – It was noted that the whole area was extremely wet, due to prolonged rain. Log piles at Tudor Drive entrance still has to be removed. The timber in the main ditch in the Shaw has still not been moved. It is essential this takes place and the ditch cleared as soon as possible. A definite spring necessity, if not before. Roadstone has not yet been placed at the bridge entrance into the meadow abutting M26. It is very slippery at this point. It is appreciated that weather conditions have impeded necessary work.

Chalkpit area – It is noted that the area has been tidied following the Scout Bonfire event.

Scout Hut area – This area is much improved and it is hoped that the hard work will not be undone. A meeting is to be arranged with Railtrack and SDC over provision of a litter bin at the top of the steps on the downside of Otford Station.

Litter picking – from Gulliver’s to Tudor Drive, part of Pilgrims’ Way East, the Chalkpit, and Station Road back to Gulliver’s, is continuing on a rota system by members of this committee. Mary Evans and her husband have offered to clear the leaves on the path from P.W.E. junction with Shoreham Road to Gulliver’s.

Dog Fouling – There will be check/marking in the Rec. once a month, dates tba. Details of the results will be sent to the football clubs and to the recreation committee.

Palace Park Wood – The whole area is very wet.

Telston Park – A working party will take place during the winter. Date tba. Brian Thomas is working on trees in this area.

Hale Lane – Contact will be made through OPC about work to be done on a large tree overhanging the old swings.

Tarmac – Report of the meeting on 10th Sept. is not yet available. EW will arrange a group visit for anyone who is interested in viewing this highly controlled site of extraction and environmental replacement.

Planters at the Parade – Good soil will be applied today. Discussion followed as to plants required, bearing in mind sight lines and air displacement by traffic passing by. JL and ME will investigate Coolings and Coblands as trade cards are available for both. It was also suggested that OPC obtain a trade card/s.

Solar System – Mowing of the orbits has not been satisfactory this year. A new volunteer has not come forward. It has been suggested that an approach be made to Roger Scantlebury. This is in hand.

Pole/sign survey – The committee have walked the village and identified poles and signs that need attention or removal. This report will come on a separate document. Notice boards were
also inspected. It was felt that Organisations outside the village should not take up space that was barely enough for our own village use. This also applies to businesses not in the village. It was thought that an e mail should be sent to the parish office to gain permission to display posters. That posters should be removed when the event had passed and the fixing removed.

OPC have received a request for outdoor gym equipment on the main rec., ME and CM will make a visit to Pembury to look at their facilities and report back.

Correspondence -
Magazine Kent Voice – Autumn/Winter 2013-11-18
Tree Inspection Reports
Oxenhill Woods Report October 2013
Rick Bayne’s report for Darent Valley Landscape Partnership Scheme, resubmission to HLF for May 2014.
Darent Catchment Improvement Group, workshop to be held in Otford 3rd Dec. 5.30 – 7.30 A.O.B.
Date for next meeting/s tba
Supplies for stall on 30th November in Club Room, posters are finished, display this week.