

# The Annual Village Report 2016-17



*The War Memorial after refurbishment – April 2017*

**For Birling Gap, Crowlink, East Dean and Friston**

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## Community Bus Service 41

The East Dean and Friston shopping bus Service 41 provided by Cuckmere Community Bus Ltd (CCB) continues to run twice weekly - on a Tuesday and Thursday. The Parish Council sponsors the Tuesday run. The timetable is on the Parish Council noticeboards and our website, and is reproduced below.

The bus picks up and drops off anywhere around the village, just hail the bus or ring the bell if you are a passenger, and it will stop anywhere provided it is safe to do so. It's like a taxi service – but without the related cost.

Passenger numbers using the bus service during the year have not been as high as in the past, although numbers have stabilised over the past few months. Thursday travel seems more popular than Tuesdays which, owing to the payment structure, results in a higher than average cost to the Council. The Parish Council will continue to support the Service 41 during 2017/18.

The usual Christmas bus run was again held using the scheduled service. The East Dean Revellers were taken to and from the Downs Golf Club for a festive lunch, and a jolly good time was had by all. Owing to demand an extra bus was again laid on, courtesy of CCB.

The English Concessionary Travel Scheme Passes are accepted on all CCB services after 9.30am and at all times over weekends. Please pass the word.

*Stewart Fuller*

*Councillor and CCB Volunteer Driver*

### Timetable: Every Tuesday and Thursday

Eastbourne, Terminus Road, stop M	10.10	11.40	14.50
Eastbourne, Old Town, Waitrose	-	11.43	14.53
Wannock, Village Hall	10.24	-	-
Jevington, Eight Bells	10.31	-	-
East Dean, Village Hall	-	11.50	15.00
Friston, Windmill Lane	10.38	11.54	15.04
Warren Lane, junction The Brow	10.40	11.56	15.06
Hillside, junction Deneside	10.44	12.00	15.10
Deneside, junction Peakdean Lane	10.46	12.02	15.12
Peakdean Lane (top)	10.48	12.04	15.14
Deneside (east)	10.51	12.07	15.17
The Link (top of Michel Dene Road)	10.54	12.10	15.20
East Dean, Village Hall	10.58	-	-
Jevington, Eight Bells	-	-	15.27
Wannock, Village Hall	-	-	15.34
Eastbourne, Old Town, Waitrose	11.05	12.18	-
Eastbourne, Terminus Road	11.09	12.22	15.48

## Community Watch



### *Neighbours helping Neighbours in East Dean, Friston, Birling Gap and Crowlink*

Community Watch offers a free, confidential and informal service to residents. In its five-year history it has received 238 calls. Many requests have been for lifts to the DGH, GPs, or dentists and although free transport may be an attraction, having someone to talk to at what can be a critical time makes this an invaluable CW service. There has also been some demand for relief for carers, or simply for company, which is something the volunteers hope to build on.

Volunteers have also collected prescriptions, taken residents to the supermarket (or done their shopping), returned library books, given transport to the village hall and helped with practical problems such as dog-walking and simple DIY tasks. One of the many advantages of this scheme is that it overcomes one's natural reluctance to ask for help.

We are unable to offer advice involving nursing or health concerns, benefits or legal and financial matters. However, we can provide details of organisations that may be able to assist. Apart from that, we can turn our hand to most reasonable requests for help!

The number of recorded calls only tells a very small part of the story. Once a link is made with a volunteer many future arrangements are made 'under the radar' and maybe this is the most important part of the Community Watch service. Volunteers speak of how a single request for help often develops into genuine friendship and ongoing, direct support.

In the spring of 2016 our team heard an informative 'chalk-face' talk on dementia from Rob Page and at this year's 'open' spring meeting Joanna Shawcross led a discussion on the subject of a 'Compassionate Neighbours' scheme which focuses on the care of those discharged from hospital or the terminally ill. If it progresses, it will be a separate organisation from Community Watch.

A programme for future meetings is being devised to include items such as: Loneliness, 'How To Say No' and the topical issue of Fraud and Internet Scams.

In order to carry out our aim of putting callers in touch with someone living nearby, we are always very happy to hear from prospective volunteers. If you are interested in being a volunteer for this most important of village activities, please telephone one of our three call co-ordinators (**423311, 423101 or 423611**) to find out more.

*Joan Colin  
Volunteer*

## East Dean & Friston Churches

We have continued to seek to serve God, the community and wider world over the past 12 months. This has included running events for all locally such as the Pie and Wine Lunch, Harvest Lunch, Lent Lunches, Saturday Lunches and CMS Garden Party, and running various courses explaining the Christian faith. We have supported local charities such as the Beachy Head Chaplaincy and Family Support Work, and were also pleased that Brian Lea was able to visit our mission partners working among refugees in Beirut last autumn, taking a gift from us. We seek to keep the message of Jesus Christ at the heart of all we do, and to make him known to all who seek truth. All are welcome at any of our services - just be ready to join with us in facing the challenge and change that the invitation of Christ brings!

*David Baker*  
*Rector*

## East Dean & Friston Cricket Club

East Dean and Friston Cricket Club is a friendly village cricket club and we would like to invite any budding Cricketers to join us at the club for the 2017 season.

*Gaurav Bijlani*  
*President*

## East Dean & Friston Local History Group

During the past year we have had ten excellent and instructive talks, and the 2017 programme promises to be just as good for the year ahead. During 2016 there were two popular outings; the first to The Keep at Falmer and the second to Firle Place. Our Christmas Lunch was also well attended and the 'after dinner' talk by Kevin Gordon was enjoyed by all.

Last year we ran a stall at the Village Fête and it proved very successful; both from the sales achieved and the interest shown by visitors, who included a BBC crew, filming for the 'Black Britain' TV programme. Our thanks to all those members who provided equipment and help on the day. The history group will be there again this year.

Our web site at [www.edflhg.uk](http://www.edflhg.uk) is kept up-to-date with all the latest information about our group. It contains the programme of events and lots of other useful information, including about 100 of our archive photographs.

The membership is now the highest since we kept computer records; standing at 184. Our local history booklets continue to be popular with 639 sold in 2016 and a total of 3,356 sold



since we started producing them in 2010. This contributed to our funds and we were able to make donations in support of the Village War Memorial repairs and the production of the Village Parish Magazine.

Our success is due to the work of the committee and the many volunteers who lend a hand at meetings. But all this would be pointless without the excellent support of our members who regularly fill the village hall and provide a very enthusiastic audience.

*Lloyd Brunt*  
(Joint Secretary)

## East Dean & Friston Parish Magazine

Although the Parish Magazine has gone through several metamorphoses since it was first launched in January 1903 as The Jevington, East Dean and Friston Church Magazine, its purpose remains at heart the same. Produced by the church, this is nonetheless a **parish** magazine. It is residents' willingness to write reports, publicise activities, share photos and experiences or be creative that helps us to promote everything that is so good about living in East Dean and Friston. Outsiders are often surprised at the scope of the magazine, and the rich and varied life it reflects; there can be few places blessed with such a range of activities. But then we know this is no ordinary village.

Thanks to a large team of volunteers, we can deliver our monthly magazine free of charge to every home and business within our community – free, because of the kind donations made by our readers and the income from advertising local businesses. Being self-supporting like this is vital, and so thank you, everyone, for all that you do to help us hold the mirror up to life in this very special place.

*Christine Jeffery*  
Editor

## East Dean & Friston Residents' Association

The Residents' Association has experienced a busy and challenging year with a complete change to the Committee having taken place at last year's AGM. The new team has taken time to 'learn the ropes' and we are now almost at full strength. The committee comprises:

Paul Seeley - Chairman  
Robert Salmon - Vice Chairman  
Diana Burton - Treasurer  
Membership Secretary – Audrey Searle  
Committee members – Barbara Barrett, Sue Duncan and Ann Richardson

At the time of writing we still have a vacancy for a Secretary and we would be delighted to hear from you if you feel this would be a role you would like to assist the committee with.

The Residents' Association exists for the benefit of everybody who lives in the area. It works closely with other local organisations, and particularly the Parish Council, to serve the interests of local people.

We are ably supported by many in the village who help with Team Grit, Village Volunteers, neighbourhood policing news, planning matters and the Welcome Packs for new residents.

The Annual Village Fete will take place on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> July. It is to be held on The Greensward and Rosie English is chairing the organising committee for the event this year. If you wish to take a stall or would like to offer assistance on the day please email Rosie at [edfresidentsassociation@gmail.com](mailto:edfresidentsassociation@gmail.com) or contact her on 422387. We are pleased to announce that Maria Caulfield MP, has agreed to open Fete so please come along and support the event.

The gas mains replacement programme in the village stalled during the year when the contractor failed to return to site. A new contract has been awarded with work commenced on site in April and completion expected by the end of June. We have all experienced the 'joys' of various contractors working around the village over the last 12 months. It is important to recognise that we all rely on these essential services and maintaining our infrastructure so that we may continue to enjoy living in the village is very important.

Finally the committee would like to thank all of the community for your support over the last year and we look forward to continuing to work for the wellbeing of the village over the coming year.

*Paul Seeley*  
*Chairman*

## **East Dean Responders**

### **Annual Report 2016/17**

East Dean Responders is a registered Charity with the objective:-

*To provide, at the request of the Ambulance Service, early first response to local medical emergencies primarily in East Dean, Friston, Birling Gap, Crowlink and surrounding areas by volunteer Community First Responders.*



We meet our objective by recruiting, supporting and managing a team of Community First Responders (CFRs) who are all volunteers. The CFRs are local people who aim to get to a medical emergency before the ambulance crew. An early response can sometimes save a life. Because our village is somewhat remote this is especially important in bad weather when the main roads might be closed.

CFRs are trained and regularly assessed by the South East Coast Ambulance Service (SECamb). Anyone of 18 years and above may become a CFR; and no previous experience is needed. The only requirement is that he/she has access to a car and can commit to at least 4-6 hours per week.

CFRs log-on to an on-line rota system trying to cover as many hours as possible. Should a local medical emergency arise SECamb will contact the CFR who is on duty and request that he/she responds.

The past year has seen the CFRs being called out 76 times compared with 68 the previous year. For 2016/17 average response times to reaching the patient within the parish was around 4 minutes and average response times to reaching the patient in all locations was around 8.5 minutes. Under both scenarios the CFRs reached the patient some 8 minutes before the ambulance. The following table provides an analysis of shouts, and the figures prove the benefits of the EDR operations. We are all proud of our CFRs and what they achieve.

2016/17		2015/16	
	<b>Number of Shouts</b>		
45	Arrived before ambulance/paramedic	46	
14	Arrived same time as ambulance/paramedic	10	
17	Stood down once mobile	12	
76	Total	68	
	<b>Call Locations</b>		<b>Since 2012</b>
34	East Dean & Friston Parish	53	216
9	Beachy Head	5	21
1	Jevington		8
8	Seaford	4	23
24	Eastbourne	6	33
76	Total	68	301
	<b>Average Response Times (total)</b>		
8mins 25secs	Average time to patient	6mins 8secs	
7mins 57secs	Average time before ambulance	8mins 12secs	
	<b>Average Response Times (Parish)</b>		
4mins 9secs	Average time to patient	4mins 31secs	
8mins	Average time before ambulance	6mins 41secs	

The figures show a significant rise in the year in the number of shouts outside the parish probably reflecting the availability of near-by ambulance crews at the time. We will monitor this trend over the coming year.

For most of the year we had five CFRs but it has been a difficult and demanding time for the team owing to a number of pressures at both personal and organisational levels. However, we are pleased to say that towards the end of the year two new recruits passed their training and are now operational and have received their equipment. Further on-job training and experience will see them progress from 'Echo' to full operational status. Plus, someone further has expressed an interest in becoming a CFR. If this comes to fruition we will have eight CFRs. We will then allow a period of consolidation and review the optimum number during 2017.

New refresher training standards are being introduced by SECamb and these would include the use of a computerised mannequin. CFRs will start experiencing the new training standards later in the current year. The CFRs all have full sets of kit including defibrillators, and the Trust also owns the two defibs at the Village Hall and the Barn Stores. All this equipment needs to be maintained and updated periodically, and although we are pleased that we have adequate funds for any immediately foreseeable expenditure, on-going funding will be an issue we will be reviewing in the coming year.

At the year end the EDR Trust had nine trustees, five of whom were the CFRs; this helps ensure a close working relationship within the organisation.

At the start of 2017 we sadly lost Rob Page who was instrumental in setting up the East Dean Responders (then Downland Heartstart) and was the Trust secretary. He will be fondly remembered.

We are here to serve the local community and my thanks go to the CFRs for their dedication and commitment in meeting our objective. My thanks also to the other Trustees and the Parish Council for their continued support, and to all the residents who actively support us in our endeavours

And finally .....

**Numbers do Count!**

Is your house number displayed so the emergency services can find you when you need them? If your house number is not easily seen it can cost precious time in an emergency. Every second wasted because the first responders or the ambulance service can't find the right house has a profound effect on the outcome, so please think about doing something about it.

Thank you

*Stewart Fuller*  
*Chair, EDR Trust*

## East Dean & Friston Short Mat Bowls

Short Mat Bowls has been played in the large Village Hall since the hall was first opened in 2000 and our 17th Season, which has been thoroughly enjoyed by all those that have played, has just ended.

Our season runs each year from the Start of October to the end of March and our two hour sessions run on both Monday and Friday afternoons from 2.15 to 4.15.

It is a very easy game to learn and instruction is available if required and you will be playing on one of our two mats within a few minutes of arrival. There are no joining fees, no dress code other than flat shoes, bowls are available or you can bring your own, very few rules and you only pay £4 each time you come, and it is open to all villagers.

Please come along to the Village Hall at any of the times shown above, or phone Alan Robson on 01323 423299 for more information.

*Alan L. Robson*

## East Dean & Friston Villages Website

The East Dean and Friston villages website has had a successful year.

We have 29 local clubs and societies with a presence on the site, many regularly updating their activities and keeping in touch with members and the community. The home page is used by a number of clubs to advertise important events on their calendar. There's also a village picture show featuring our beautiful downland location to bring visitors into our shops and businesses.

The site is attracting a growing number of advertisers, especially those working locally or providing a local service. In the coming year we will extend the advertising base and would like to hear from all local businesses if they would like to advertise on this site.

So please check the site on [www.eastdeanvillage.org.uk](http://www.eastdeanvillage.org.uk) or please contact me Gillian Carstens [eastdeanvillage@webplus.net](mailto:eastdeanvillage@webplus.net) 01323 423801.

*Gillian Carstens*  
*Webmaster*

## REPORT by the PARISH COUNCIL

**Council Members** - at the year-end your Parish Councillors were Stewart Fuller (Chair), Ruth Maxwell (vice Chair), Ian Haydock, Phil Hill, Amanda Hookham, Mike Keller, Jen Sargent and Paul Seeley. At the time of writing we have a vacancy; we'd be pleased to hear from anyone interested in filling this rewarding role in supporting our wonderful village. My thanks go to my fellow councillors for their support and input during another busy year. My grateful thanks also go to our clerk, Katrina Larkin, who ensures we are following correct protocols; her experience and counsel is always much appreciated. In addition, my thanks also go to our District Councillor, John Wilton, our County Councillor Steven Shing, the Residents' Association and the Parochial Church Council for their continuing support.

**Council Meetings** - the Council usually meets on the first Thursday of the month (no meeting in August). During 2016/17 there was the Annual Meeting of the Council and 11 ordinary Council meetings. All Council and Committee meetings are open to the public and at the start of the every meeting there is a public session when any questions can be asked and any statements or presentations can be made. During the year 36 members of the public attended the 11 council meetings. Agendas are posted on noticeboards and on the Council website. Summary minutes of Council meetings are posted on our noticeboards and links to the summaries and full minutes are sent to all those on our email register.

**Planning** - all councillors are members of the Planning Committee. The group met 12 times during the year to consider 38 Planning Applications (23 in 2015/16) and other planning related matters; 22 members of the public attended these meetings. Some two thirds of all applications were recommended for approval while 10 were recommended for refusal (some of which were subsequently amended and resubmitted) and four for approval if modified. The South Downs National Park (SDNP) is the Planning Authority for the area and the Parish Council is a statutory consultee and, owing to its local knowledge, is asked to comment on all planning applications within the Parish, which lies wholly within the National Park. In making comments the Committee takes account of representations from the Residents' Association and individual residents, and is always mindful of the standards within the ED&F *Village Design Statement*. The SDNP has adopted the VDS as a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) and as such it carries the weight of formal planning policy. Copies of the VDS have been sent to all architects who have carried out work in the village during the past year and it is pleasing to note that a number now quote compliance with the VDS in their submissions to the SDNP.

**Finances** – (see appendix) - during the year we received £54k and paid out £42k, a cash surplus of £12k. The closing bank balance was £48k. The precept (amount received from the council tax) was £48k. Other receipts were VAT refund (£3k); other income (£3k). Our summary expenditures were council office (£15k); professional fees (£3k); mowing and tree cutting (£8k); asset maintenance (£5k); donations (£3k); community bus (£2k); VAT (£2k); all

other (£3k). The cash held at the year-end is to cover the war memorial repairs, to help meet planned expenditures in 2017/18 (eg pavilion and part of the play area upgrade) and to provide normal operating reserves.

**Communications** – to let you know what is going in Parish Council circles we place articles in every edition of the monthly Parish Magazine, issue our quarterly newsletter *Rendezvous* to all homes, update the Council noticeboards in the village, send emails to those on our email register and maintain the Council website. During 2016/17 there were nearly 9k individual website sessions accessing over 30k pages, with noticeable surges when decision papers are issued prior to meetings, and when the summary council minutes are issued. Our on-line noticeboard is also well viewed. We've recently introduced a FAQ page on the website; do let us know if you have a question you think would be helpful to have added. Finally, our email register has stabilised at just over 500 addresses; we send 2-4 email each month to keep you in the picture. Let us know if you wish to be added to the register.

**Items covered** – a brief selection of items we covered during a busy and interesting year was as follows (for further details of these and other topics, please refer to our website):-

**i) War Memorial**- following an engineering structural report into the state of the memorial, remedial work was initiated and recently completed on the near-100 year-old monument. Cracking was noted around the base owing to the downward pressure of the weight of the structure's main body. There had been some settlement of the core and moisture had found its way in. The highly porous Eastbourne Greensand base stone used in the original plinth has now been replaced with York Stone to match the steps. We will shortly be arranging for the inscriptions on the plaques to be highlighted and for the steps to receive a facelift. Quotes are being obtained for repainting the railings. Our thanks go to the Local History Group for their kind donations.

**ii) Recreation Ground** - the recreation ground is nearly 4 acres and is registered as a QEII Field in Trust; it is a community asset owned and maintained by the Parish Council. It includes a pavilion, cricket wickets, tennis courts and a children's play area (see later section). Cricket is played on the ground at weekends during the summer, along with mid-week stoolball matches. The tennis nets are now up for the summer 2017 season. We were pleased to welcome an outside theatre to perform on the ground last summer, and are pleased they have decided to perform here again in 2017. We confirmed we will not be arranging a bonfire event in 2017 but will consider an event for 2018 around mid-2017. We have recently adopted the CAA guidelines on the flying of drones which include no flying within 50m of public or property.

**iii) Highways** - we meet twice-yearly with ESCC Highways to discuss common issues and concerns. Items considered during the year included additional use of yellow lines, flooding

on the A259, uneven pavements, traffic control at Exceat, footpath and roadway signs, and verge cutting. Minutes of these meetings are available on our website.

**iv) Friston Crossing** – there is an obvious need for an easier pedestrian crossing route at the top of Friston Hill. Several mainly cost prohibitive alternatives have been considered, and the current option being looked at is to build out the kerb in front of the west-bound bus shelter. This will reduce the width of the roadway at that point and make it easier for pedestrians to cross the road between the two bus shelters. ESCC are undertaking a feasibility study and if accepted the Parish Council would help with the costs under the community match funding scheme. We will undertake further consultation once the study has concluded.

**v) Mowing** – we arrange for the mowing of the recreation ground (except for the cricket pitches – done by the cricket club) and the three registered village greens (The Green and Church Green, Friston Green and the Greensward). We also look after other pockets of land (eg The Fridays) and the verges previously maintained by ESCC within the 30mph zone as these require a significant number of extra cuts. We also monitor and maintain many footpaths in the village, repairing steps and distributing bark chip during the cutting seasons.

**vi) Litter Bins** – a number of bins around the village were removed during the year (the idea being that visitors etc will take their litter home). However, we decided to retain bins at the village car park where two new wildlife-resistant bins have been installed. If successful we'll consider installing similar bins at the recreation ground and the East Dean bus stops. New dog waste bins have been placed at the recreation ground and the village car park.

**vii) Dutch Elm Disease** – this is caused by a fungus which blocks the water conduction system of trees resulting in wilting and death of the foliage. Following ESCC reducing their level of support to householders removing diseased trees, we introduced a scheme to match the shortfall. A number of residents have taken advantage of the support thereby helping avoid a continuation of the disease in the village.

**viii) Charity of the Year** – this year our selected charity was the Beachy Head Chaplaincy which received the proceeds from fund raising events (Village Fete) and other direct donations. In previous years the charities supported include Royal British Legion, St Wilfrid's Hospice and Multiple Sclerosis.

**ix) Other Reports** – there follows two specific reports covering *Playground Upgrade* and *Sheltered Housing* prepared by respective lead councillors; these topics will be presented at the Village Meeting.

*Stewart Fuller*

*Chair, East Dean & Friston Parish Council*



## Playground Upgrade

The Queen Elizabeth II Field in Trust is an important village asset as the focus for a wide variety of recreational activities, such as both formal and informal sporting use, open air theatre and children's holiday clubs. Part of the area comprises a fenced playground, which is very well used, by residents and visitors alike. However, some of the equipment is old, with associated increasing maintenance costs, and some is in disrepair. Substantial expenditure will therefore be required in order to make the existing play area comply with current Health & Safety RoSPA advice.

In 2016 the Parish Council recognised that the necessary refurbishment could include an upgrade, in order to extend the age range, play value, suitability and accessibility of the equipment.

The upgrade initiative started with some basic fact finding including a survey of parents and children (and grandparents). The great majority of adults consulted considered the equipment to be limited, especially for the very young and older children, and needed updating. Accessibility was also of concern. Modern play equipment increases play value by combining multiple features and skills development (balance, co-operation, agility, strength, communication). Multi-use equipment also means better value for money and broader appeal for all.

We have therefore embarked on planning an ambitious 'natural-look' refurbishment programme, to include removing old equipment, installing 8 new items, while retaining some existing kit, all providing a wider variety of activities for children; play value, accessibility, safety, durability, cost and environmental sensitivity have all been considered. Three suppliers were then invited to tender for the project, and taking into account cost, aesthetics, total package and approach we have identified a preferred supplier. No formal commitment has been made.

The cost of the refurbishment will be in the region of £64k + VAT. Extra cost will be incurred for replacement fencing around the play area.

The Parish Council have reviewed possible funding strategies, on the basis that grant funding be obtained for at least 50% of the overall cost, with the council meeting the balance.

In February 2017 the council received feedback from Wealden District Council relating to funding support. Unfortunately, grants are highly competitive and comprise small amounts (often in the region of £2k); in addition, the Parish Council is not eligible to apply for some grants. Consideration has been given to setting up a 'Friends' group of volunteers to apply for grants and oversee the project, independent of the Parish Council; on completion of the project the Council would take over the maintenance, insurance, etc. Under this model VAT would be an additional cost of the project.

Alternatively, the Parish Council could undertake the whole project without setting up a 'Friends' group. It could reclaim VAT and would take out a long-term loan to meet any grant shortfall.

Once funding has been identified, the preferred supplier will be invited to start the project, removing the damaged equipment as a priority. Further updates will be provided as the project moves forward.

*Ruth Maxwell*  
*Parish Councillor*



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## Sheltered Housing

Towards the end of October a working group was set up to look into the need within ED&F for smaller properties so that villagers can downsize once their existing property becomes too much to cope with, but who still want to remain within the village setting amongst friends. The lack of smaller properties has arisen due to little or no restriction on enlarging properties prior to the implementation of the ED&F Village Design Statement.

The group had an open mind as to what could be of help to villagers, ie independent living consisting of a bungalow design with no stairs, wet room, lifeline, maintenance and window cleaning all taken care of; alternatively assisted living which could be a larger building with cooking and washing also included with a lift between floors; and thirdly dementia and nursing care or a combination of all.

We believe the site or sites should be within easy access of local amenities, ie shops, PO, doctors and bus routes which we feel would rule out Friston.

Thought and time went into who we should get in contact with in order to get an idea of what is available and I am sure there are people who will be thinking why did they not get in contact with X, Y or Z; well we did work from a long list which we reduced in order to get a variation we could put before the Annual Village Meeting which does not indicate a preference.

Firstly we contacted Wealden DC who are aware of the need for residents to downsize. In their communications reference was made to cost of building and 1 and 2 bed apartment blocks, possibly not quite what we are looking for.

As residents are probably aware BUPA are the owners of The Grange residential home and in January a meeting took place with BUPAs Head of Finance and their Head of Property which at the time we thought was very useful. They said it would not be possible to supply full dementia care at the Grange but would look at assisted living. Subject to planning consent this could be in the form of a 2-storey building on their car park to the rear of the village hall consisting of 1-bedroom units. Independent living provided by BUPA comes under Richmond Homes, this would require a large site for 30+ units, restaurant and spa, providing a village within the village ... not what is required or possible given the acreage of land required for such an undertaking. We were told they would look at the figures and come back to us with proposals by the end of February but despite several emails nothing has been forthcoming.

For independent living we spoke to The Thomas Scanlan Trust an independent charitable trust who supply 1 and 2 bedroom bungalows on land as small as 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of an acre they have purchased freehold. Their units in Uckfield have the facilities mentioned earlier which of course involve a monthly service charge. Most have their own parking. A scheme manager is a phone call away for any problems that arise. Properties can be purchased by a 125 year

lease, when vacating for whatever reason the Trust must have the opportunity to find a new occupant from their waiting list. 5% of the sale price goes to the Trust which helps to fund new projects. Properties can also be purchased via a Lifetime lease discount scheme, this uses Government tables on life expectancy, whereby purchase prices are reduced using discount valuations. The value reduces by 1/10<sup>th</sup> per annum until there is no return to the purchaser. The property then reverts to the trust. If an independent living scheme was to be implemented it is important that strict planning restrictions are imposed so that properties cannot be extended so as to ensure that in 15-20 years' time we are not back at square one regarding a lack of small sized property.

In March we met with Barchester Healthcare who supply a more complete package. Unit numbers were along the lines of 10 independent living with a similar number of assisted living units. Full nursing and dementia care is also provided. The plan being that residents could change according to their needs, even on a temporary basis if for example somebody had had an operation and needed nursing care before returning to their independent living ... there would be a fee for this. Their Independent living units are purchased leasehold, fitted with call bells and with basic on-site maintenance available. Those living independently can use the communal areas if they wish and either cook for themselves or pay to use the restaurant. When independent living occupants vacate the property it is sold on the open market with a percentage going to Barchester to cover renovations. Although located in the one building each unit had a proper looking front door and had an individuality about them. A Barchester style scheme would require a larger site than a Thomas Scanlan style one.

There may be residents with land they think is suitable for development or redevelopment in order to provide such an amenity for residents of East Dean and Friston. If so perhaps they would like to contact a member of the council.

Thank you, as you will understand the Parish Council has to be impartial in preferences and planning matters, but if we can help progress such a scheme we will.

Since the start of the working group we have received an enthusiastic response to the idea and now look forward to views at the Annual Village Meeting.

Thank you

*Ian Haydock*  
*Parish Councillor*

# East Dean and Friston Parish Council Financial Performance 2016/17

## Appendix

<b>Receipts</b>	53,815
<b>Payments</b>	
Council Office	15,027
Parofessional Expenes	3,291
Councillor Expenses	381
Asset Maintenance	5,296
Services	15,460
S137 Benefits	
VAT on Payments	2,449
	41,904
<b>Surplus for the Year</b>	<b>11,911</b>
Opening Reseves	36,136
<b>Closing Reserves</b>	<b>48,047</b>

<b>RECEIPTS</b>	
Precept	48,110
Support Grant	438
Pavilion hires	895
Grants/donations	0
Downlands Way Maintenance	995
Village Hall Rent	375
Bonfire	0
Other	181
VAT on Receipts / Reclaims	2,821
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>53,815</b>

<b>PAYMENTS</b>	
<b>Council Office</b>	
Clerk's Salary (gross)	12,937
Employer's NICS	666
Travel Expenses	358
Office phone/broadband & power	216
Office equipment	684
Printing	110
Postage, Printing and Stationery	56
<b>Total Council Office</b>	<b>15,027</b>

<b>Professional Expenses</b>	
Insurances	1,484
Audit fees	550
Village Hall Rent	375
Subscriptions	593
Legal fees	289
<b>Total Professional Expenses</b>	<b>3,291</b>

<b>Councillor Expenses</b>	
Councillors course fees	216
Chairs expenses	
Councillors expenses	165
<b>Total Councillor Expenses</b>	<b>381</b>

<b>Asset Maintenance</b>	
<b>Pavilion</b>	
Refurbishmemnt	235
General maintenance	105
Cleaner's wages	380
Fire Extinguisher maintenance	54
Utilities	419
<b>Total Pavilion</b>	<b>1,193</b>

<b>Sports Ground &amp; Play Area</b>	
General maintenance	1,718
ROSPA inspection	91
Safety surface	120
Replacement playground kit	119
<b>Total Sports Ground &amp; Play Area</b>	<b>2,048</b>

<b>Other Assets</b>	
War memorial	0
Public Seats	279
Bus shelter - clean/maintain	600
New waste bins and other	1,176
<b>Total Other Assets</b>	<b>2,055</b>
<b>Total Asset Maintenance</b>	<b>5,296</b>

<b>Services</b>	
Mowing	7,283
Donations	2,500
Public relations	566
Website/Broadband	176
Cuckemere Bus	2,152
Tree maintenance	717
Village Events	676
Dog bins	240
Footpath maintenance	28
Path and highway signs	1,030
General RoW maintenance	92
Bonfire	0
<b>Total Services</b>	<b>15,460</b>

(Accounts subject to final check and audit)

