

.... with East Dean and Friston Parish Council

Hello and Welcome



..... and a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all. This is the second of our regular Newsletters. The first was delivered to a random selection of homes throughout the Parish in November and this edition is being delivered to all homes with the Parish Magazine. In future, *Rendezvous* will be issued on a bi-monthly basis, so the next edition will be included with the March 2013 Parish Magazine.



Our Role in Planning Applications

The South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA) became the Local Planning Authority for the National Park on 1 April 2011, and after a year's Agency Agreement, took over all Planning aspects from Wealden District Council in April 2012. The Parish Council is a statutory consultee of the SDNPA and, owing to its local knowledge, is asked to comment on all planning applications within the Parish, which lies wholly within the National Park. The SDNPA is obliged to take into account, but not necessarily follow, our views or recommendations. We do not determine a Planning Application - that is the role of the SDNPA's Planning Committee or their Planning Officers using delegated powers. Following a Planning Application to the SDNPA, they will seek views from several sources, including us. Applications we receive from SDNPA for comment are considered at our monthly Planning Committees which are usually held on the fourth Tuesday of the month. Agendas (and minutes) are placed on the Parish Council Noticeboard in Downlands Way, and on the Council website. As with all Council and other Standing Committee meetings, the Planning Committee meetings are open to the public.

Waste Management Contract

Wealden District Council's new Joint Waste Contract will commence on 1 April 2013. The most significant change will be an increase in recycling and a better service. Residents will not need to separate items for recycling; all can go into the same bin, and glass will also be accepted. There will be two bins – one for landfill waste and the other for recycling. A third bin can be provided for garden waste, otherwise this can go into the general recycling bin. As currently, collections will be alternate weeks. **The new arrangement doesn't start until April** – more info will follow between now and then.

For Maintenance Needs

For maintenance issues associated with any of the following items please email us, or use the *contact us* form on our website, or telephone the Parish Clerk, or any Councillor (see over): the 4 Bus Shelters; Downlands Way Shops Car Park Area; Footpaths and Related Signs; Friston Pond; Litter Bins; Mowing; Council Noticeboards; Pavilion; Playground; Playing Field; Public Seats; War Memorial and Flagpole.



Meet a Councillor

Here we meet **Dave Windsor** - Vice Chair of the Parish Council. Born in South London, Dave retired in 2010 after a career in project management, and sales and contracting in municipal swimming pool design & installation.



He worked and lived throughout West Africa, the Middle East, and the Americas, and ended up concentrating on Europe and the UK. In 2000 he moved to East Dean with his wife Susanne. He has one married son and two grandsons. On arriving in East Dean Dave joined Neighbourhood Watch and was a member of the Parochial Church Council for four years representing them on the Village Hall Trust. Dave is the current Chairman and a player of the Cricket Club and has been a member of the Parish Council since 2006. *"My most recent privileged activity was to be a Games Maker in the 2012 London Olympics"* Dave says.

Did You Know?

East Dean and Friston Parish Council is one of over 8,000 Parish Councils in England. It covers 3.3 sq miles, includes the hamlets of Birling Gap and Crowlink, and has some 800 homes and a population of over 2,000.

Date for Your Diary

The Annual Village Meeting in March 2012 was deemed very successful. Note the date for the 2013 Meeting - **Thursday 14 March** at 6.30pm in the Village Hall. Further information will be issued nearer the time.

Council Surgeries

We've increased the frequency of our Surgeries to two per month, so do come in for a chat and to give us your views. We've had to change the location owing to a change in the management of the local shops. The two Surgeries are now planned for a) the first Thursday of the month (just before our monthly Council meeting) between 6pm and 7pm in the Small Village Hall and, b) on the last Thursday of the month between 10am and 12 noon in the Main Village Hall. The next two will be held on 3 and 31 January 2013. We hope to see you there.

Finances

The Parish Council's main source of income is from the Precept, which is a tax collected on our behalf by Wealden District Council as part of the Council Tax. The annual Precept is around £40,000 and we receive this in two equal instalments. Other annual receipts amount to around £3,000 from rentals and contributions. Our planned expenditure for the year is some £44,000. For the seven months to October we had spent £20,773; the major items were loan repayments, insurances and subscriptions (£4k); office and admin costs (£8k), Recreation Ground (£3k), Rights of Way (£3k), and other expenses (£2k). We are currently going through the annual budgeting round for 2013/14 and details of this will be included in the March *Rendezvous*.

Emergency Plan

Over the coming months we will be reviewing and updating the existing Emergency Plan with a view to re-issuing it during Quarter 1 of 2013. An 'Emergency' may be defined as *'any event or circumstance that causes or threatens death or injury, disruption to the community, or damage to property or to the environment on a scale that cannot be dealt with by the emergency*

services as part of their normal day-to-day activities'. Although there is no statutory responsibility for the Parish Council to plan for, respond to, or recover from emergencies, it is obviously good practice for us to identify hazards and make plans on how we may respond if faced with an 'Emergency'. However, we are not an emergency service, so the Parish Council response will generally be confined to looking after the welfare of people in the community or helping to

maintain the infrastructure. The aim of the Emergency Plan will be to show how the community and individuals harness local resources and expertise to help in an emergency, to complement the response of the emergency services. More to follow..... In the meantime, with the onset of winter, you may wish to consider a *Home Emergency Box* which might include a couple of small torches and spare batteries; bottles of water and fruit juice or long-life milk; tins of food that don't need heating (plus can opener); first-aid kit; routine medication, and a list of important telephone numbers. Just in case – it's best to be prepared.

Website

Don't forget to visit us at our Website below, and let us know your views:

<http://www.parish-council.com/eastdeanandfristonparishcouncil/>

Your Parish Council

Parish Councillors

Rob Page (chair)	423484
Dave Windsor (vice chair)	423880
Tim Bryant	422442
Stewart Fuller	423710
Phil Hill	07860759911
John Hine	422275
Simon Hunt	423669
Jen Sargent	422326
vacancy	

Parish Clerk

Katrina Larkin

The Old Cottage, Lewes Road
Laughton, East Sussex, BN8 6BQ
01323 811870

Parish Council Meetings

Meetings are held in the Small Village Hall, usually on the first Thursday of the month starting at 7.30pm. The next two meetings are on:

3 January and 7 February 2013

Residents are very welcome to attend, observe and participate in the proceedings. The agenda and minutes are placed on Council noticeboards and on the Council website.

Standing Committees

Name	Chair
Finance & General Purposes	Stewart Fuller ¹
Planning	Stewart Fuller ¹
Rec Ground	Dave Windsor
Rights of Way	Phil Hill
Village Events	Rob Page (¹ from Nov 2012)

Finances to end October

Receipts	£42,362
Payments	£20,773
Cash in Hand	£53,945
Budgeted spend for the year	£44,249

Email Register

The Parish Council has an email register for use in sending out urgent or important items or where timescales are short. If you would like to be included on the register please send an email, with your name and address in the subject line, to:

edf.email@yahoo.co.uk