

## .... with East Dean and Friston Parish Council

### Hello and Welcome

..... and nice to be with you again. Here are some events in March for your diaries, all in the Village Hall:-

**7 March** - Surgery at 6pm; Parish Council Meeting - public Q's at 7.30pm

**14 March**-- Annual Village Meeting - 6.30pm - come and browse the displays; hear what has been going on during the past 12 months; ask your questions; refreshments available

**26 March** - Recreation and Planning Committees - public Q's at 6pm & 7.30pm

**28 March** - surgery at 10am Coffee Morning - Norman Baker MP in attendance

### Pre-Planning Advice

The South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA) is the statutory Planning Authority for the National Park area. From 7 January 2013 it improved the way in which it offers planning pre-application advice. This is the same level of service across the whole of the National Park. Whilst it includes fees for advice regarding new dwellings and larger developments there is no fee for either householder advice or advice regarding whether residential planning permission is required. For further info see their website or call their Planning team on 01730 234120.

### Neighbourhood Planning

Neighbourhood planning is a new way for local communities to help decide their future. It is an optional exercise and the Parish Council was initially keen to be fully involved. However, no other Parishes within the Wealden section of the National Park were minded to proceed with a Neighbourhood Plan which



would otherwise have afforded the benefits of a contiguous group. In addition, the SDNPA are working on their own Local Plan, which will not be ready before 2015, and their current guidance includes *"Where there are no conceivable development sites or changes in land use anticipated, neighbourhood planning may have less*

*relevance"*. As the Wealden Local Plan, which the SDNPA is expected to adopt as an interim measure, shows a maximum of only 10 net new homes up to 2027 for East Dean and Friston, there is little planned development change in the Parish for the foreseeable future. In view of these factors the Parish Council has concluded that the potential expense and the amount of time involved in Neighbourhood Planning would offer little, if any, benefit over the current planning process, and hence no further activities associated with Neighbourhood Planning will be undertaken at this time. This subject was an item on the Village Action Plan and this has now been deemed complete.

### Community Bus

The Parish Council sponsors the Cuckmere Community Bus service 41 which runs every Tuesday (not Xmas or New Year days) providing return shopping trips to Eastbourne. During 2012 over 1,600 passenger journeys were made averaging 31 individual journeys per Tuesday, a slight increase over numbers for 2011. The Council will continue to support the service during 2013.



### Meet a Councillor

Here we meet Phillip Hill who has been on the Parish Council since 2011 and is Chairman of the Rights of Way Committee. Phillip is a committed Christian and sits on the Parochial Church Council of East Dean and Friston. He and his wife Jill have 2 sons and 4 grandchildren.



One son lives in Cape Town and the other in Zurich so skiing and going on safari come quite naturally! Phillip's career was in Professional Consulting in the Construction Industry and after years of travelling abroad he and the family left the UK in 1980 to set up a business in Oman. On his return, 10 years later, he continued his consulting career and ultimately became involved in buying and selling companies to deliver strategic growth. Phillip is semi-retired running his own Management Consultancy. He says *"This Parish Council is exciting as it is pro-active, has a structured approach to its activities and a plan for the future to deliver benefits to the community"* so watch this space!

### Did You Know?

The Parish has three registered Village Greens: - The Green and Lower (Church) Green registered together, Friston Green and the Greensward. Plus, the recreation ground is being dedicated as a QEII *Field In Trust*.

## 2013/14 Budget

The Council's expenditure budget for 2013/14 has been approved at £45,838 which, together with planned receipts of £6,984, results in no increase to the precept (the Parish Council's portion of the Council Tax) for the fourth consecutive year. The Budgeted receipt from Wealden is £40,890, resulting in a planned surplus of £2,036 which will increase reserves. Main items of expenditure for 2013/14 include council office (£15k), loan repayments, insurance, subs (£8k); communications (£2k); mowing (£6k); maintenance of pavilion and playgrounds (£4k); bonfire (£3k); Friston Pond (£2k); maintenance of shelters, seats, Downlands Way (£3k) and the community bus (£1k). Planned receipts come from Bonfire activities, contributions and rents.

## Pavilion

One of the major items on the Village Action Plan is to consider the possible replacement or refurbishment of the Pavilion at the cricket field. A summary review of the options will be completed during the year but pending that



review it is necessary to maintain the Pavilion in a fit state. It is used not only by the Cricket Club for the Saturday and Sunday matches during the summer, but also by other organisations like the Church Club, the Holiday Club and other lets. The building is winterised during the winter. During last summer the flooring of the kitchen area needed replacing and work was needed on

the kitchen emergency/fire exit. Then during the latter part of 2012 the weather dictated a review of the roof and supporting trusses which led to the replacement of most of the felt on the flat roof areas. The all-in cost for these items was in the region of £3,000 and was contained within the annual maintenance budget for the Recreation Ground.

## Potholes

Potholes happen when roads freeze and thaw repeatedly, causing the surface to break up. They appear more frequently in late winter and early spring. Dangerous potholes are those in a part of the road that would be dangerous to all vehicles and which measure more than 40mm deep and more than 300mm in diameter on busiest roads, and more than 100mm deep and more than 300mm in diameter on all other public roads. If the pothole is dangerous, ESCC will aim to make it safe within two hours and fix it within 24 hours. Less urgent potholes will be fixed as soon as they have a crew working in the area. To report a pothole call ESCC on 0345 60 80 193. ESCC do not maintain unadopted highways (eg those on the Downlands Estate). *(Article based on ESCC website).*

## Communications

We consider it very important that we are able to communicate with all those in the village. There are a number of avenues we use including the village Noticeboards; the twice monthly surgeries; articles in the Parish Magazine; Council and Committee Meetings which all start with an open public session; the new Council website; and *Rendezvous*. We're doing what we can, so do let us have your comments or suggestions on things you would like to hear about. Contacts us via phone, letter, email, website or face to face. We're here for you.

## Website

Don't forget to visit us 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
Phillip 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:

**7 March and 4 April 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
Planning	Stewart Fuller
Rec Ground	Dave Windsor
Rights of Way	Phillip Hill
Village Events	Rob Page

### Finances to end January

Receipts	£45,387
Payments	£50,268 <sup>1</sup>
Cash in Hand	£27,475
Budgeted spend for the year	£44,249

<sup>1</sup> includes £14k on Friston Pond (incl VAT). Grant of £11k from SDNPA, & VAT reclaim due.

### 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](mailto:edf.email@yahoo.co.uk)