

Hello and Welcome

..... here are some diary dates in January:-

8 Jan – *Parish Council Meeting* starting with the public session at 6.30pm

20 Jan – *Planning Committee* starting with the public session at 7pm

22 Jan – *Council Surgery* at 10am at the Village Coffee Morning

Do You have Access to the Internet?

Of the 400 responses to that question in the Village Survey, 86% answered 'yes'; very impressive. Did you know that a lot of the council information is available in our on-line library? Here's a selection - all council and committee minutes from April 2013; past Annual Village Meeting reports and minutes; governance documents; budgets and forecasts; emergency plan; village action plan; key statistics; decisions on planning applications; minutes of meetings with ESCC highways; past copies of *Rendezvous*; and more. Take a look.

Bonfire Night

This was a successful event with over 3,000 attending; maybe too many as we try to make this a village-focused event. It generated a cash surplus which will



allow us to make a contribution to our selected charity this year: St Wilfrid's Hospice. We had a review of the evening at our December meeting and this covered organisational issues, level of volunteers, traffic management, food, bar, torches, PA system, and the timing and date for any future event. Whilst agreeing the bonfire night is intended to

be a village only event, communication via websites and social media had resulted in the large number of visitors. The daily hit rate on the council's website rose dramatically during the few days before the bonfire. All that was in addition to local advertising. Some are of the view that the event should be at a weekend and start earlier in future; others think we should perhaps not hold the event in 2015, and refocus thereafter. A decision will be taken at our 8 January meeting. What do you think?

Community Bus

This service, sponsored by the Parish Council, is very well supported with a weekly average of 27 passenger journeys on Tuesdays and 22 on Thursdays for the 8 months to November. On 16 December regular travellers enjoyed their Christmas lunch at the Downs Golf Course; an extra bus was provided to meet demand - courtesy of Cuckmere Bus Ltd. Over 30 people attended.

Contact Us

Although some details are included within *Rendezvous*, here are the various ways you can contact us:- telephone any councillor or the clerk; email us on edfpc1@gmail.co.uk; use the contact us form on our website; email any councillor direct – use the web link against a particular councillor's name under the Parish Council tab on the website; write to us at East Dean and Friston Parish Council, The Old Cottage, Lewes Road, Laughton, BN8 6BQ. We're here to help, and we want to hear from you.



Merry Christmas

The Council and the Clerk wish all the residents of the parish a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Annual Village Meeting

When the festivities are over, please make a note of the forthcoming Annual Meeting. This year it is being held on Thursday 30 April 2015 in the Village Hall. Last time over 120 residents attended to hear about the results of the Village Survey and to hear presentations from the clubs and societies within the village. The format for the 2015 meeting is yet to be determined, but the council will play a much smaller role than in the past! It is your meeting, so what would you like to be covered? Let's have some ideas, ideally by end January to allow us time to plan. More details nearer the day.

Parish Council Elections - 2015

It's all happening in May 2015. Not only are the general and district elections taking place on 7 May at the Village Hall but your Parish Councillors all stand down during that month. Are you interested in becoming a councillor? It can be very rewarding. Come along to one of our meetings to find out what goes on; but that's not the only source – look at our website or call a councillor or the clerk for an informal chat (details as over). It's your village so why not get involved?

Budget

The budget for 2015/16 will be approved at our meeting on 8 January together with the setting of the precept for that year. A review of our finances and projections show a need for an increase in the precept of around 20%; a little less than the example in the October *Rendezvous*. A 20% increase in the Parish Council precept, the first in over five years, would raise the average Band 'D' home contribution by less than £1 per month. The main factors leading to the increase are the continuing refurbishment of the pavilion, maintenance in the playground area, and additional activities to meet cutbacks by ESCC and WDC.

Crossing at Friston Pond

An earlier assessment by ESCC of the difficulties of crossing the road at Friston Pond didn't meet their benchmark score for a crossing point, although match funding could be applied for. The parish council has subsequently submitted a proposal which would move the bus stop on the north side on the main road to a new site north of Friston Pond, accessible by crossing minor carriageways. It would provide a pelican crossing with a central refuge on the main road. ESCC are reviewing the proposal and undertaking a safety audit under the community match scheme, although this is likely to be very expensive.

Recreation Ground

The council own the recreation ground in Gilberts Drive and a request has been



received from the cricket club to move the cricket square some 20m south. In considering the request, council took account of the requirements of stoolball, the period during which there may be two roped-off cricket squares, the position of the new square in relation to the pavilion, and the impact on the biodiversity strip. Council has agreed in principle to

the request on condition that no costs fall to the council and that a non-adverse view be obtained from an independent sports authority.

Village Design Statement

The VDS was available for consultation within the parish during October; the points raised during that exercise will be included in the final version of the document. The consultation period on the SDNP's website ended early December and we are awaiting any feedback before the SDNP consider our VDS to become a *Supplementary Planning Document*. It will then carry significant weight in the determination of planning applications at the SDNP level in the future. Final versions of the VDS will be available in due course. Our thanks go to the working group which gave so much time and effort to updating the VDS.

Websites

The Parish Council is the custodian trustee of the Village Hall and we are pleased to see that the Hall has recently launched its own website www.edfvillagehall.org.uk. As a result of this launch we have made a few changes to the Parish Council website. First, a revised home page which provides a link to the new **village hall site**, a link to the long-established **village site**, a direct link to the **community bus timetable**, and a number of other links. Secondly, we've removed the individual Clubs pages from our site as these are now featured in the new Village Hall site. The Council website is below or google "east dean council"; we are usually within the first few finds.

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

Your Parish Council

Parish Councillors

Stewart Fuller (Chair)	423710
Phill Hill (vice Chair)	423990
Tim Bryant	422442
Dave Cooper	422486
Ian Haydock	423920
John Hine	422275
Simon Hunt	423669
Rob Page	423484
Jen Sargent	422326

Parish Clerk

Katrina Larkin

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

Parish Council Meetings

The next two Council meetings will be held in the Small Village Hall at 6.30pm on:

8 January and 5 February

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

Standing Committees

Name	Chair
Planning	Tim Bryant
Rights of Way	Phillip Hill

Finances for year to Nov '14

Receipts	£49,339
Payments	£35,290
Cash in Hand	£33,409

Village Fete

The council is pleased to note that the Residents' Association has agreed to organise the Village Fete in 2015 on the Greensward. We have agreed to donate £250 towards the event which is scheduled for 11 July 2015.

Email Register

Over the past several months there has been a surge in the number joining the Parish Council's email register. We use it for 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:

edfpc1@gmail.com