

# Rendezvous ....

March 2015

Issue 15

... with East Dean and Friston Parish Council

## Hello and Welcome

..... here are some diary dates in March and April:-

**5 Mar** - *Parish Council Meeting* starting with the public session at 6.30pm

**24 Mar** - *Planning Committee* starting with the public session at 7pm

**26 Mar** - *Council Surgery* at 10am at the Village Coffee Morning

**2 Apr** - *Parish Council Meeting* starting with the public session at 6.30pm

**28 Apr** - *Planning Committee* starting with the public session at 7pm

**30 Apr** - *Council Surgery* at 10am at the Village Coffee Morning

**30 Apr** - *Annual Village Meeting* – doors open 6pm (see article below)

## Annual Village Meeting

All Parish and Town Councils throughout England are required by law to hold an Annual Parish Meeting which must take place between 1 March and 1 June (inclusive), not starting before 6pm. Our next Annual Village Meeting will be held on Thursday 30 April in the Village Hall and all are welcome. You will hear brief reports from the Parish Council and from other organisations including a variety of clubs and societies from within the village. There will be a Q&A session, with voting if required. Last year over 120 residents attended; a wonderful turnout. Clubs and Societies are being invited to have displays on show for visitors to see between 6-7pm; then a brief report from the council followed by talks/presentations from the clubs etc until about 8.30pm. We'll end with Q&A. There will be free nibbles and a glass of wine. Finally, this is not a parish council meeting but a meeting of the local electorate. Watch out for posters around the village nearer the day. Hope to see you there.

## Grass and Verge Cutting

We have approached ESCC with a view to taking over the grass-cutting of the total area of Highway Maintainable grass within the parish. If we went ahead ESCC would make a contribution to the parish council equal to the amount it currently costs them to perform the operations. We are currently assessing the benefits of this move, and if we did take it over we will aim to increase the frequency of the current number of rural cuts per year.

## Broadband

There has been a lot of work going on around the village by *Openreach* over the past few months, running cables and installing new cabinets. Before a new cabinet is ready to provide better broadband services to customers it has to be connected to the new fibre network being built. Installing new fibre spines tends to take longer than installing a new cabinet so very often you will see cabinets in place sometime before they can be used, as is the case in East Dean. Cabinets also have to be connected to power and a range of tests needs to take place to make sure everything is working properly before it is made "ready for service". Based on the *go-esussex* roll-out info at end Jan 2015, work to upgrade the exchange serving East Dean is provisionally included in Phase 4 (Jun–Sept 2015).



## Neighbourhood Plan

In 2013 we decided not to pursue a Neighbourhood Plan, but have recently reconsidered the benefits of such a Plan. It would allow the parish to plan in a complete and rounded way eg integrating bridleways and facilities across the National Park, but it would have been best to do this in partnership with the other parishes in the Wealden section of the National Park, as originally proposed. In the absence of that partnership, it might not be feasible for East Dean to resource a Neighbourhood Plan alone, and there would be no overwhelming benefit to the parish. We therefore agreed that the new council, to be elected in May, should not inherit a commitment to undertake this work. They can review the position again in due course

## Village Design Statement

The VDS has gone through two public consultation stages and we were therefore disappointed to learn of the SDNPA Design Officer's recommended changes six weeks after the closure of the second consultation period. We contacted senior officers at SDNP and they have arranged for a fast-track review to be undertaken. As the VDS is mainly for reference by home owners wanting to alter existing properties, with no commercial developments expected (apart from The Fridays), we are hopeful there will be no significant changes.

## What does the Parish Council Do?

In essence the Parish Council is a statutory body - a branch of local government which is responsible for what goes on in East Dean, Friston, Birling Gap & Crowlink, and which represents all who live here. The Parish Council owns the Recreation Ground, cricket pavilion, playground, tennis courts, Friston Green (including the pond & car park) and Downlands Way car park. We maintain all of these along with the bus shelters, the white highway finger posts, numerous waste bins, public seats, many rights of way, and the war memorial and flag pole on The Green. The Council is the custodian trustee of the Village Hall.

In addition, we are responsible for, amongst other things: -

a) preparing the *Village Design Statement* (VDS) to help influence the planning authority (SDNP) in determining short and long-term planning and development issues for the village – see separate article in this newsletter

b) commenting to SDNP on local planning applications (anyone interested may come along and speak about any application at our monthly planning meetings)

c) a *Village Action Plan* (VAP) - summary of work-in-progress items is on the council website and our noticeboards

d) the *Village Emergency Plan* and *Self-Help Guide* (available on our website or from the clerk)

e) liaising generally with ESCC, SDNP and WDC

(eg on speeding, parking facilities, verge cutting)

f) working with and supporting the Parochial Church Council, the Village Hall Trust, the Residents Association and other local groups

g) supporting and encouraging Downland Heartstart (Community First Responders) and Community Watch

h) supporting the twice-weekly shopping bus service

i) mowing those areas of grass and Rights of Way which we have accepted responsibility for

j) arranging the Annual Village Meeting and the annual bonfire event (currently under review)

k) aiming at good value for money for that portion of the council tax we receive

In May 2015 all councillors stand-down. We will therefore have nine vacancies and a number of existing councillors are not standing for reappointment. Are you interested in any of the above items? Do you want to help out? Why not put your name down to become a councillor? Give the Chair or the clerk, or any councillor a ring for a chat (details above right) or come along to one of our meetings to hear what goes on.

## Did You Know?

Some facts relating to the recreation ground:-

- officially named the War Memorial Recreation Ground (for the 1939-45 war)
- it covers an area of approximately four acres
- acquired by the Parish Council in the mid 1950's with the land costing £908
- the inaugural village fete was held on the ground in 1957
- the first PC-run bonfire event was held on the ground in 2005
- home ground for East Dean & Friston Cricket Club 1<sup>st</sup> IX
- awarded Queen Elizabeth II Field in Trust status in 2013

## Council Website

Our website is updated regularly - particularly the news page. It also contains some useful standing information - so don't forget to check in now and again. The address is below or google "east dean friston council"

<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:

#### 5 March and 2 April

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 Jan' 14

Receipts	*£64,099
Payments	£46,443
Cash in Hand	£37,016

\* includes £10k bequest received in January for upkeep of the Village Hall

### Mobile Library

The mobile library now calls at the village hall car park on a three-weekly cycle (down from two-weekly). It will call on the following Fridays between 12.20pm and 13.20pm:-

20 March, 10 April and 1 May

### Email Register

The parish council has an email register which we use 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](mailto:edfpc1@gmail.com)

