

.... with East Dean and Friston Parish Council

Hello and Welcome

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

3 Sep - *Parish Council Meeting* starting with the public session at 6.30pm

24 Sep - *Council Surgery* at 10am at the Village Coffee Morning

29 Sep- *Planning Committee* starting with the public session at 6.30pm

General Power of Competence (GPC)

Parish councils have traditionally operated under a patchwork of powers introduced by different pieces of legislation at different periods. Typically, if a council had no specific power to deal with a particular issue, its hands were tied. The one exception was Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 which allowed councils to spend money where it had no explicit power to do so, provided it is for the benefit of the area and does not exceed £7.36 per elector (2015/16 figures). We use S137 for mowing the village greens in private ownership (£3,000 this year). Now the Localism Act 2011 gives eligible councils the GPC to do '*anything that individuals generally may do*'. We now currently meet the specific criteria required to adopt the GPC and we'll be deciding next steps at our September meeting. If we decide to adopt the power we will be able to do things such as set up a company and charge for services, run a shop or post office (but not make a profit) and invest in local businesses - all acting reasonably, of course. We are not planning to do any of these things at present, but the opportunity will be there for the future.

Did You Know?

A highway is made up of the *carriageway* and any related *footway*. We call the latter pavements which are simply part of the highway which they go alongside; they do not have any separate legal existence. It is, therefore, generally an offence to obstruct a pavement (footway) as it is part of the highway. However, being part of the highway does not mean that users can cycle or drive on the pavement unless there are special measures to allow it (eg cycle routes).

Village Design Statement



The initiative to review and update the current VDS seemed to have stalled a while back but we've now had some useful discussions with senior officers from the SDNP and we are all now hopefully back on track. Subject to a final review of the latest updated draft we may need to go through a quick re-consultation process before submitting it to SDNP Planning for acceptance as a *Supplementary Planning Document*. We'll provide an update in the September Parish Magazine.

Bonfires

Before lighting a bonfire please consider the impact it can have on your neighbours and the environment. Chemicals in bonfire smoke contribute to overall air pollution levels, can affect the health of those with respiratory conditions, and can also cause a nuisance to neighbours. We urge residents to consider using the free garden waste collection service rather than having a bonfire. However, if you do decide to light up please take steps to ensure it does not cause nuisance to your near and not-so-near neighbours.

Now That's Better



Speeding on the A259

Questions about the speed of traffic on the A259 have recently been raised again so we would like to remind residents of the details from the traffic survey undertaken by ESCC in September 2014. At the Parish Council's request the survey was carried out over a seven day period using a Speed Detection Radar which recorded the speed of vehicles for each hour of the seven days. The hourly figures were then summated to provide a 24 hour picture over the total seven day period. During the week the speeds of over 12,000 vehicles were recorded. The findings were that 85% of drivers did not exceed 40mph and 50% did not exceed 30mph. The average speed over the total 24 hour periods was 32mph. There was no marked difference in speeds between eastbound and westbound traffic. Not surprisingly the vast majority of vehicles recorded were between 7am and 7pm when over 10,000 records were taken. Based on these results and further discussions with ESCC highways, the PC decided to close the item on its action plan.

Tennis Court

We've given the court an overhaul - the perimeter fence has been repaired, new basketball nets put up and the vegetation has been removed. The tennis nets are now up permanently for the season and the court is always open for use - no charge.

Stoolball Comes to East Dean

At the recent village survey, to the question 'Which sport, other than cricket and tennis, would you like on the Recreation Ground?' 46% of those responding favoured stoolball. That was virtually double the second choice of soccer. So, what did we do? We arranged to get some kit, and we'll be getting some more. We asked for those interested in playing or helping out with the game to let us know - we got a few responses. We then started looking at how to arrange regular games and indeed some games have already been played. And now we have been in discussions with a team who play in Division 1 of the *Eastbourne Red Triangle League* and they are keen to use our Recreation Ground as their home base starting with the 2016 season. We're now thinking of a form of open-day for residents to come along and meet the new players and maybe have a gentle introductory game before the start of next season. Now there's something to look forward to. We'll arrange things and let you know the details early next year.



Roadworks

Each week the ESCC Highways team advise us of completed roadworks and those about to start within their Area 9, of which we are a part. We then place on our website any works which will impact on East Dean and Friston. Further info about these and other current and planned roadworks may be found at roadworks.org which is updated regularly showing all road works in the area, start and end dates and the likely impact on traffic.

Did You Know?

**WHAT'S
IN A
NAME?**

A Parish Council may call itself a *village council*, a *neighbourhood council* or a *community council*. It can even pass a resolution declaring its area a *town* and the council would then be a *town council* and the chairman would be *town mayor*. The next level up is *city council* but that status is only granted by the monarch. Whatever we may be called, our role, powers, duties and responsibilities would remain unchanged.

Village Website

This is over 12 years old and has received little maintenance over the recent past. It was ahead of its time and has served the village well but is now past its prime. The two webmasters have moved on and although we have recently found someone willing to update the village site, any development needs to be interfaced with the growth in other local sites eg the Church, Parish Council, Village Hall and others in the pipeline. Recent feedback indicates that relatively little use is made of the old village website owing to other various sources of information. The Parish Council currently funds the village site so we need to consider what input we wish to have, and which direction we wish things to go. We'll keep you posted as things progress. As an aside, the quarterly *Village Diary* is available on both the Parish Council and the Village Hall websites.

Council and Village Hall Websites

The Parish Council 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 (we currently receive over 700 sign-ins per month). The address is below or google "east dean friston council". Also check in with the new Village Hall website. It, too, has a lot of useful information and currently receives nearly 500 sign-ins per month. (The Parish Council is the custodian trustee of the Village Hall).

parish-council.com/eastdeanandfristonparishcouncil

edfvillagehall.org.uk

Your Parish Council

Parish Councillors

Stewart Fuller (Chair)	423710
Phill Hill (vice Chair)	423990
Oliver Boulet	423469
Jane Branson	07855791558
Joe Cullinane	423834
Ian Haydock	423920
Michael Keller	422091
Ruth Maxwell	423397
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 Village Hall at 6.30pm on:

3 September and 1 October

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

Standing Committees

Name	Chair
Planning	Ian Haydock
Rights of Way	Phillip Hill

Finances for year to July '15

Receipts	£26,942
Payments	£15,893
Cash in Hand	£34,798

Grass Cutting

We have now taken over the verge cutting from ESCC and the mowing of the large grass area at The Fridays, and we'll aim to cut them all more frequently than in the past.

Mobile Library

The mobile library will be at the Village Hall car park between 11.10am and 12.10pm on Fridays 4 and 25 September and 16 October.

Email Register

The parish council's email register is used 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