

.... with East Dean and Friston Parish Council

Hello and Welcome

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

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

17 Nov - *Planning Committee* starting with the public session at 6.30pm

19 Nov - *Council Surgery* at 10am at the Village Hall Coffee Morning

21 Nov - *Street Meeting* with PCSO 10am – 11am outside the Barn Stores

Local Plan

The SDNPA recently issued a draft *Local Plan* for consultation. The Plan aims to help shape the future of the Park by: i) putting landscapes first while still serving the needs of the communities and local economy; ii) protecting the special qualities of the South Downs; iii) valuing nature both for its own sake and for the things it provides – like clean water, food and space to breathe; and iv) applying a single set of planning policies across the National Park to ensure all planning decisions reflect its special qualities. The consultation period has recently ended and the next stage is for SDNP to publish an updated Plan followed by a formal pre-submission consultation. This is targeted for Autumn 2016, with a target adoption date of June 2017. We'll keep you posted.

Green Spaces

As part of the *Local Plan* framework the SDNP is inviting proposals for the designation of *Local Green Spaces*. These are areas of particular importance to a community that can be identified and protected through the planning process. Once designated, a community will be able to rule out new development other than in very special cases. Village Greens already have their own protected status so do not need the LGS support. The PC will shortly be identifying areas to possibly become LGS's. If anyone has any suggestions for such areas they can either complete the submission form, obtainable from and returnable to SDNP, or contact the Parish Clerk.

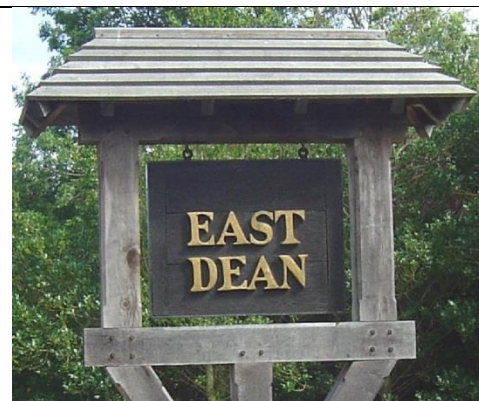
Village Design Statement



A further round of amendments has been made to the VDS to include references to the most relevant draft policies from the SDNP *Local Plan*. This should serve to strengthen the VDS as a potential planning document. The overall process in updating the VDS has been very slow but good support is now being provided by SDNP and we expect it to be formally submitted for approval shortly.

Exceat Bridge

Although some are focusing on obtaining permanent traffic controls at Exceat, we have emphasised the bigger issue locally as temporary control during the annual Airbourne event. Eastbourne Borough has resisted spending money for controls outside its area and only offers local event signage to try to direct motorists to a range of alternative routes. They have looked at keeping event goers in the town for a longer period to help stagger departure times. We are asking for further meetings between the PC, EBC, ESCC and the police.



Elm Trees

Following the loss of a number of trees to Dutch Elm Disease there is a possibility of planting up to 10 saplings in the verge along Gilberts Drive. A utility survey has been carried out to determine appropriate sites and ESCC have now been asked to undertake a Highways review. Coincidentally, Nov is National Plant a Tree month.

Bridleway Signs

We have asked ESCC to look into the possibility of adding appropriate warning signs at the bridleway which goes into the Birling Gap Road on the bend near the National Trust centre.

Village Hall Funding

The Council has confirmed its request for a feasibility report into how best it could provide financial support to the Village Hall in a legally robust way. An initial draft is scheduled for 2016 and the findings will then be shared with Hall Trustees.

Did You Know?

The SDNP stretches 87 miles from Winchester in the west to Eastbourne in the east and covers an area of 628 sq miles. The Park came into full operation on 1 April 2011 and some 112,000 people live within its area.

Rendezvous

Three years old this month; past editions are accessible via our website; next edition – January 2016

Emergency Plan

The Parish has an Emergency Plan which is intended to provide a Parish-led self-help response during any emergency that requires it. We reviewed the Plan in September 2015, together with the related Self-Help Guide, and decided that apart from names of Councillors no changes were required to either document. Both can be accessed via our website; however, if you would like a hard-copy of the Guide, please contact the Parish Clerk or any Councillor. The next review will be in 2018.

Grass Cutting/Strimming

The new mowing contract started in April 2015 and was subject to an initial review period. There have been a few settling-in issues with the new arrangements including the hand-over of verges from ESCC. This year also turned out to be a bumper growing season and the longer grass in open areas and twittens resulted in a small number of adverse comments. However, most of the issues have now been sorted and some additional cuts have been carried out. We're still waiting to finalise some verge cutting matters with ESCC, but have now agreed to the remaining part of the contract being extended to the three year period as planned.

Soakaways

Following an episode of *Rip off Britain*, a resident contacted Southern Water and received a rebate of water charges as surface water at her property drained to a soakaway. There is a standard charge made by the water company for rainwater which runs off roofs and paved areas into the public sewer. However, if the surface water from the property goes to a soakaway and none of it enters the public sewers, a claim for a rebate from the water company may be made. For further details, contact Southern Water or visit their website. The Residents' Association sent out an email on this subject in October.

Crossing at Friston Pond

The current difficulty of crossing the road at Friston Pond requires pedestrians to cross between two bus shelters which dangerously expose them to a blind



bend and the brow of a hill. Earlier assessments of the situation either didn't meet ESCC benchmark scores for intervention or were considered too expensive to improve. We are therefore planning to submit another proposal whereby a build-out with kerb-edging would be created near the bus stop by Friston church to make it safer for pedestrians to cross. This would also stop vehicles undertaking by using the bus stop area. The proposal is being sent to ESCC for a feasibility study and a request for match-funding. If successful, the PC would be responsible for all necessary consultations.

Community Dividend

We've decided not to proceed with additional flagpoles in the village and have used the grant we received last year to replenish our flag stocks and donate the balance to Downland Heartstart.

Parish Council Website

Our website is updated regularly - particularly the news page. It also contains some useful standing information eg *Village Directory* and *Village Diary*. Use the address below or google "east dean friston council". Also take a look at the Village Hall website; the 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:

5 November and 3 December

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 Sept '15

Receipts	52,866
Payments	22,379
Cash in Hand	54,236

The full year precept has been received

Dog Bins

Dog bins are costly to maintain/empty but following requests from residents, consideration will be given to placing one in the recreation ground as part of the forthcoming Budget round.

Mobile Library

The mobile library will be at the Village Hall car park between 11.10am and 12.10pm on Fridays 6 and 27 November and 18 December.

Email Register

The parish council's email register is used for sending out urgent or important items. 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