

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

### Hello and Welcome

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

**7 Jan** - *Parish Council Meeting* starting with the public session at 6.30pm

**19 Jan** - *Planning Committee* starting with the public session at 6.30pm

**28 Jan** - *Council Surgery* at 10am at the Village Hall Coffee Morning

### War Memorial

This monument has been standing for nearly 100 years. A structural survey was carried out some two years ago which noted cracking caused by the lateral forces induced by the weight of the main body of the monument. The cracking had allowed settlement of the core and the ingress of moisture into the body of the structure which is likely to accelerate the deterioration and exacerbate the problem. Although there were no concerns of the structural integrity in the short term the recommendation was for remedial work within the then next couple of years in order to prolong the lifespan



for, say, another 100 years. A reinforced concrete band was suggested to act like a 'belt' to restrain the lateral forces. In order to undertake these works temporary support in the form of a braced scaffold structure would need to be designed and supplied by a specialist installer. We have lodged a grant application with the War Memorial Trust for financial support for the repair and are now in the process of obtaining comparable quotes which need to be submitted to the Trust for our application to be considered further. If all goes well we hope to initiate repairs in the spring of 2016. Funds for the repair are being provided for in the 2016/17 budget.

### Airbourne

There appears to now be a higher level of support for imposing controls at Exceat Bridge during Airbourne. ESCC have agreed to trial traffic lights at the bridge on three ordinary days to harvest data on speed and volumes. This would then be extrapolated to the numbers expected at Airbourne. However, the cost of the exercise would be about £600, half of which would be contributed by Eastbourne Borough Council. The other £300 would need to be paid by this parish. There would also be more signage at future events, targeted to keep motorists on the A259 and off the Beachy Head Road, which should therefore remain relatively clear as a 'back door' for emergency use.

### 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 28 April 2016 in the Village Hall. Last time over 100 residents attended to hear from a number of local organisations and clubs within the village. The format for the 2016 meeting is yet to be determined. It is your meeting so what would you like to be covered? Let's have some ideas, ideally by the end of January to allow us time to plan. More details nearer the day.



### Merry Christmas

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

### Bonfire Night

We didn't hold a bonfire night in 2015, primarily because of the loss of key personnel from among the organisers; this meant it would be impractical to implement the safety measures identified after the 2014 event. Recently some interest has been shown in arranging a bonfire in 2016. We therefore called a meeting for end November asking people to pop along if they were interested in volunteering to help manage it. Regrettably only two residents appeared. We will now need to decide at our January meeting if we are going to commit funds for a 2016 event. The firework display providers are already well booked up as most organisations want their event on either the nearest Saturday or 5 November; in 2016 these requirements coincide. We'll keep you posted.

### Mobile Library

The mobile library will be at the Village Hall car park 11.10am to 12.10pm on Fridays 8 and 29 Jan and 19 Feb.

### East Dean Responders

The council is pleased to note that *East Dean Responders* is the new name for Downland Heartstart. A new name but the same objective: *To provide, at the request of the Ambulance Service, early first response to local medical emergencies primarily in East Dean, Friston, Birling Gap and Crowlink by volunteer Community First Responders.* You can access *East Dean Responders'* webpage from the PC's home webpage.

## 2016/17 Budget

At our January meeting we will approve the Budget and Precept for 2016/17, and note the three year forecast to 2019/20. We considered a draft of the budget at our December meeting (available on our website) and held a follow-up working level meeting, also in December. Based on the draft exercise no increase in precept is required for 2016/17, nor is any planned for the following three years; it remains constant at £48.1k. However, with increasing pressures being placed on financial structures of District and County Councils, it is likely that certain services provided by them will be reduced or withdrawn. The Parish Council may then decide it wishes to help fund in full or in part some of those services. This is the principle behind Localism – returning power over expenditure to grass roots. This may then lead us to review our forward plans, either as part of the current exercise or as part of next year's budgeting process. In the meantime, some specific items included in the draft budget are major works on the playground upgrade, a further phase of Pavilion refurbishment; the cost of repairs to the war memorial; the recently extended three year mowing contract which now includes the urban verge transfer from ESCC; continuing support for the community bus service; and an allowance for non-specific projects eg match funding. No allowance has yet been made for the possible funding of a Community Warden or PCSO; a move in this direction will undoubtedly lead to an increase in the precept. We'll keep you posted.



## Community Bus



The council subsidises the **Tuesday** shopping bus service; the higher the passenger numbers the lower the subsidy. Over recent months the numbers travelling on the Tuesday service has been declining in favour of the Thursday service, resulting in an increased monthly subsidy. Hopefully this trend in travel days might reverse soon.

## Making Decisions

Council meetings are formal events. They have a clear purpose – to make decisions. They are public events; the meetings are advertised and the public and the press have a right to attend and observe how the council operates. At the start of every council (and committee) meeting there is a public session where you can express your view or ask questions (about items on the agenda). To help show transparency in our decision making, every decision item on a council meeting agenda needs to be supported by a formal paper which is issued in advance of the meeting. They are placed on our website so you can read them before we consider them. You can then come along to the public session and express a view or just listen in. In addition to placing the agenda on the Downlands Way noticeboard, we also let those on our email register know when the next meeting is and provide an online link to the decision/background papers. Are you on our email register? If not, look to the right.

## Parish Council Website

Our website is updated regularly particularly the news page which also lets you know what else has been updated. Use the address below or google "east dean friston council". We know our address is long; we do have plans to rename it shortly. Also take a look at the Village Hall website, the PC is custodian trustee.

[parish-council.com/eastdeanandfristonparishcouncil](http://parish-council.com/eastdeanandfristonparishcouncil)

[edfvillagehall.org.uk](http://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:

**7 January and 4 February**

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 Nov '15

Receipts	53,869
Payments	30,423
Cash in Hand	47,195

The full year precept has been received

### Did You Know?

Wealden District Council propose to put ED&F into a new *South Downs Ward* covering a number of rural parishes within the SDNP. The new ward will include the parishes of ED&F, Alfriston, Cuckmere Valley and the Long Man. No parish boundaries are being altered in this exercise; it is just district wards which will change at the next district elections in 2019.

### 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](mailto:edfpc1@gmail.com)