

# Rendezvous ....

June 2016

Issue 21

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

### Hello and Welcome

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

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

**21 Jun** - *Rights of Way Committee* starting with the public session at 6pm

**21 Jun** - *Planning Committee* starting with the public session at 7pm

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

### Village Design Statement

Finally, after rigorous testing by SDNPA officers, the VDS was approved by their Planning Committee on 14 April. The document was applauded for its clarity and presentation, and the SDNP intend holding it up as a model for others. There is now a brief 'cooling off' period before it gets official status later in June in case anyone wishes to seek a judicial review - rare but possible. The VDS will then become a Supplementary Planning Document and form a material consideration when assessing planning applications. It will carry weight similar to planning policy, and hence strengthen the voice of our community in planning matters. It's been a long journey but we're virtually there; thanks to all involved. The VDS may be accessed from the Council website, and hardcopies will be available from the Clerk after the 'cooling off' period.

### Mobile Phones

Living in a rolling rural area it is not surprising that some of us suffer from poor mobile phone reception (black spots). Mobile phone communication travels like high frequency radio waves; it needs line-of-sight from transmitter to receiver and can be influenced by the weather and by the materials around and inside our properties. We have heard some residents receive a satisfactory signal in



the village whilst others, even in the same street, receive a poor signal. For some the issue may lie with the mobile phone network – some providers have better coverage than others, especially in rural areas. Our nearest aerial mast is on the water tower in Friston and this is provided by O2. Other "virtual networks" such as Tesco's purchase capacity from O2 so their subscribers also benefit from this coverage. At the Annual Village Meeting on 28 April a straw poll showed a high proportion of residents received a reasonable reception with O2. Unfortunately rival networks like Vodafone do not have the same coverage and, given that mobile mast installation is an expensive business

(plus being an environmentally sensitive one in the National Park), it is unlikely that our coverage will be expanded in the near future. However, we have recently heard that O2 are going to be upgrading the equipment at Friston to provide '4G' coverage. This is designed to enable fast internet coverage via mobile phone but may also improve the general coverage. If there are any further developments we will let you know.



### Annual Village Meeting

The AVM was held on 28 April in the Village Hall and its success was measured by the number attending. Over 100 residents came to see the displays and chat with representatives from local clubs and societies, to hear a number of presentations, and participate in a Q&A session. The Annual Village Report was made available – this can be seen in the on-line library on the Council's website, or copies can be obtained from the Parish Clerk. The document includes reports from Cuckmere Bus, Community Watch, Roads Company, Art Group, Cricket Club, History Group, Parish Magazine, Residents' Association, Short Mat Bowls, East Dean Responders and the Parish Council

### Annual Parish Council Meeting

Each year the Council hold an annual meeting to make appropriate appointments and confirm certain rules and regulations. The APCM this year was held on 12 May at which Stewart Fuller was re-elected Chair, Ruth Maxwell was elected vice Chair and Mike Keller was elected Chair of the Planning committee (which consists of all Councillors). The Chair and members of the Rights of Way Committee will be determined at our June meeting. At the APCM it was agreed that the Council's charity for the year will be the Beachy Head Chaplaincy.

## 2015/16 Finances

The Council's receipts during 2015/16 amounted to £54,699 and payments totalled £42,312, giving a surplus of £12,387. The precept (amount received from the council tax) was £48k. Other income items included a grant from ESCC for verge cutting (£1k) and VAT refund (£4k). Main spend items were Council Office (£15k), professional expenses (£4k), pavilion and rec ground (£6k), mowing and tree cutting (£7k), community bus (£2k), communications (£1k), donations (£2k) and VAT payments (£3k). Cash held at the year-end was £36,136. The cash build-up is to help finance planned major expenditure in 2016/17 namely War Memorial refurbishment and play area upgrade.

## Community Bus

The shopping bus Service 41 provided by Cuckmere Bus (CCB) runs into Eastbourne twice weekly – on a Tuesday and Thursday (two return trips each day).



The timetable is on the Council noticeboards and website; timetables for all CCB services are available on their buses. Concessionary passes are accepted on all scheduled services. The Council sponsors the Tuesday run; unfortunately passenger numbers have fallen slightly, and there has been a noticeable shift from Tuesday to Thursday travel resulting in extra cost to the Council. We hope that

use of the service hasn't peaked and that more people will start to use it. The bus picks up and drops off on route anywhere within the village, just put your hand out or ring the bell. It's like a taxi service without the related cost.

## Advertising Signs

There have been some concerns about the number of temporary **community/charitable** event signs which appear around the village periodically. We have therefore recently adopted the ESCC guidelines for placing such signs on the highway in rural areas. These include - maximum of two signs on each approach road to the event; signs to be placed at the back of the verge; signs are not permitted on street furniture; signs not to be placed within 60m of a junction; signs not to be erected more than 7 days before the event, and to be removed within 24 hours of the event; signs not to exceed 0.6 square metre in area (2 feet x 2 feet). No commercial advertising, and no metal posts. Signs are placed at users own risk and they may wish to take out public liability insurance. Signs placed which do not comply with these guidelines may be subject to removal without notice. We ask those involved in placing signs to follow these guidelines and help maintain the rural nature of the village.

## Some Stats from 2015/16

21 residents attended Council Meetings  
30 residents attended Planning Committees  
23 planning applications were considered  
504 members are on the PC email register  
2,325 passenger journeys on the local bus  
8,405 visits to the PC website  
22,530 pages accessed on the PC website

## Playground

We are thinking about some significant upgrades to the Playground in the Recreation Ground. When we have developed some ideas/options we'll come and ask what you think.

## Council Website

Our website is updated regularly - particularly the news page. Use the address below or google "east dean friston council". Also take a look at the Village Hall website; the PC is custodian trustee of the Village Hall

[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
Ruth Maxwell (vice Chair)	423397
Jane Branson	07855791558
Ian Haydock	423920
Phill Hill	423990
Michael Keller	422091
Jen Sargent	422326
vacancy	-
vacancy	-

### Vacancies

We have two vacancies (after Joe Cullinane and Oliver Boulett both stood down for personal reasons). We hope to be in a position to co-opt two new Councillors at our June meeting.

### 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:

**2 June and 7 July**

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

### Standing Committees

Name	Chair
Planning	Mike Keller
Rights of Way	vacant

### Finances for year to April '16

Receipts	£24,424
Payments	£2,067
Cash in Hand	£58,493

### Rendezvous

Our bi-monthly newsletter has been running since November 2012, and we have now decided to reduce the frequency to quarterly. The next issue will therefore be September 2016, and will be issued in the Parish Magazine along with the quarterly Village Diary.

### Email Register

There are over 500 addresses on our email register. To be included simply send an email, with your name and address in the subject line, to:

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