

Rendezvous

March 2017

Issue 24

(Next Issue – June 2017)

.... with East Dean and Friston Parish Council

Hello and Welcome

..... here are some diary dates in March for meetings in the Village Hall:-

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

21 Mar - *Rights of Way* starting with the public session at 6.00pm

21 Mar - *Planning Committee* starting with the public session at 7.00pm

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

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. Our next Annual Village Meeting will be held on Thursday 11 May in the Village Hall and all are welcome. This is not a Parish Council meeting but a meeting of the local electorate. Last year over 100 residents attended; a great turnout. Clubs and Societies are again being invited to have displays on show for visitors to see between 5.30pm and 6.30pm; followed by brief updates on a selection of topics including the playground upgrade and sheltered housing, and possibly an update on local policing. We'll end around 8pm with a general Q&A. There will be free nibbles and a glass of wine. Let us know if there are any other specific topics you want to hear about. Watch out for posters around the village nearer the day. Hope to see you there.

Playground

Good progress is being made on this major project. We have a preferred supplier with a quotation in the region of £64k+ as reported in the January Parish Magazine (spread over two years). Since then, attention has focused on how to raise external funds – the original objective being to meet 50% of the cost internally and 50% by grant funding. Consideration has been given to setting up a 'Friends' group independent of the Parish Council, though on completion of the project the Council would take over the maintenance, insurance, etc. Under this model VAT would be an expected cost of the project. Wealden District Council could give grants up to £10,000 and (like many donors) prefer

to support larger projects with multiple contributors. Alternatively, the Parish Council could undertake the whole project without setting up a 'Friends' group. It could reclaim VAT and would take out a long-term loan to meet any grant shortfall. Maria Caulfield has agreed to help by referring potential grant-giving bodies/organisations to us, although a number of such bodies do not fund local government. An update will be given at the Annual Village Meeting on 11 May.

Waste Bins

Following the article in the September *Rendezvous* a number of litter bins have now been maintained or removed. In addition, two new litter bins, with anti-pest intrusion, are being installed in the village car park. New dog waste bins have also been installed at the Recreation Ground and the village car park.



Mobile Reception

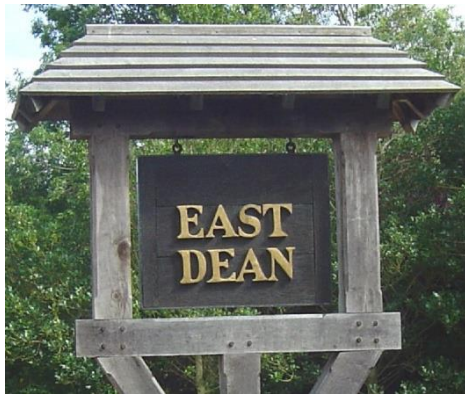
Telefonica (owner of O2) has recently asked for our views about a new phone mast to be located on the north side of the A259, to the east of the bus shelter and approximately adjacent to the twitten leading to Wenthill Close. The mast would be intended to help alleviate areas of poor reception. We have broadly welcomed the proposed installation and suggested some minor changes to the exact location. We now await their formal planning application.

War Memorial

The remedial work on the memorial is now planned for March/April (to try to avoid any poor weather conditions). After the builders and stonemasons attend to the cracking and moisture ingress on the structure, the scheduled work will include making the names on the monument clearer.

Sheltered Accommodation

The working group set up at the end of 2016 (see December *Rendezvous*) has met on several occasions and has been in contact with several service providers. The group are looking at the need for sheltered housing in the village, the potential siting of such housing, potential partnering arrangements with other councils and developers, and other related items which the group may identify. An update will be given at the Annual Village Meeting on 11 May. In the meantime if you have any comments please call Ian or any other councillor.



2017/18 Budget

At our January meeting we approved the Budget for 2017/18 holding the precept at the same level for a third year. Expenditure next year is budgeted at £86k made up of Council Office (£15k); Professional Fees (£5k); Pavilion (£5k); Play Area (£33k before grants); other asset projects/maintenance (£10k); mowing (£8k); Community Bus (£3k); other services (£7k). Looking forward, the amount of project work indicates a requirement for a planned 20% increase in the precept in 2018/19 but this will be reviewed as part of next year's budget round. The detailed 17/18 budget and forward view is available on our website.

Stoolball

We were sorry to hear that Geebro, the new East Dean stoolball team which only started playing on the recreation ground last year, is likely to fold before the start of the new season. However, as one door closes another opens; we were pleased to hear from two new clubs who would like to play stoolball and other games on the ground. We look forward to welcoming both teams.

Friston Crossing

There has long been a need for an easier pedestrian crossing route at the top of Friston Hill. Several mainly cost prohibitive alternatives have been considered, but the current option being looked at with ESCC is to build out the kerb in front of the west-bound bus shelter. This will reduce the width of the roadway at that point and make it easier for pedestrians to cross the road between the two bus shelters. ESCC are undertaking a feasibility study and if accepted the Parish Council would help with the costs under the community match funding scheme. We will undertake further consultation once the study has concluded.

Hedges

With the 'greenery' just about to start growing again, may we remind you to please watch out for your hedges and bushes encroaching onto footpaths and roadways and cut them back as necessary. Thank you.

Highways

At six-monthly intervals (April and October) a number of councillors meet with ESCC as part of the SLR initiative (Strengthening Local Relations). Although other subjects can be raised, the majority tend to be related to highway issues. For the next meeting some of the planned discussion items include:-



- a) 30 mph signage for motorists turning left into Gilberts Drive
- b) repairs to two noisy manhole covers on the A259
- c) an advance Birling Gap sign for

motorists travelling east-bound

- d) improved verge cutting on the Birling Gap road between the former sheep centre and Shepherd's Cottage
- e) division of responsibility for verge cutting between parish and county council
- f) a speed roundel on the A259 near the Upper Street junction
- g) whether the Roads Company can paint speed roundels on Estate roads
- h) control of parking at junctions (eg: A259/Michel Dene Road)
- i) an update on the Friston Crossing feasibility study
- j) Sussex Police being invited to attend SLR meetings

These are not public meetings but the minutes are held on the council website.

Safety Day

Discussions have been held with Sussex Police about arranging a safety day in the village sometime late summer/early autumn. Watch this space.

Your Parish Council

Parish Councillors

Stewart Fuller (Chair)	423710
Ruth Maxwell (Vice Chair)	423397
Ian Haydock	423920
Phill Hill	423990
Amanda Hookham	422180
Michael Keller	422091
Jen Sargent	422326
Paul Seeley	422361
Vacancy	

Standing Committees

Name	Chair
Planning	Mike Keller
Rights of Way	Paul Seeley

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 March and 6 April

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

Finances for year to Jan '17

Receipts	£53,571
Payments	£36,289
Cash in Hand	£53,418

Website

The council website carries the council and committee meeting minutes for the current and previous two years; and since September 2015 the decision papers considered at each council meeting are also on the website. One of the standing monthly papers is 'Business in Progress' prepared by the Clerk. Overall, this is useful set of reference documents detailing the Council's work. Take a look: edfparishcouncil.org.uk

Email Register

There are over 500 addresses on our email register; just one of the ways we use to keep you in the know. To be included simply send an email, with your name and address in the subject line to:

edfpc1@gmail.com