



What should East Preston look like in 2017?

A multi-storey car park on the Village Green? No, I didn't think so, but now I have your attention!

How do you want East Preston to develop over the next five years? In the last Newsletter we ran a short questionnaire asking you what you thought about East Preston and some of the Parish Council activities. Thank you to all who responded; every comment was analysed and passed to the appropriate committee as input to their work.

One clear message from that questionnaire was your vision of East Preston: that it should be a thriving garden village by the sea with strong community values and sustainable local shops and services, development being consistent with maintaining a village environment.

What we also learnt from that exercise was that it would be wrong for us as the Parish Council to tell you how East Preston should develop – you, The Community, should be telling us! We need a Community Led Plan!

The Council has agreed to work with Action in Rural Sussex (AiRS – a charity that works with local communities across Sussex to provide practical help and support in

enabling them to be vibrant living and working places) to produce a Community Led Plan for East Preston.

Starting with opinions we have gathered over the last few years, including the recent newsletter questionnaire, AiRS will develop and implement a comprehensive survey of all East Preston households to understand what you want to happen in our village.

The completed Plan will be an important document. It will be used to set direction for the Parish Council and will be a concise statement of what East Preston residents expect when we deal with larger local authorities, something they cannot ignore as 'localism' becomes established.

Note the words 'Community Led'! While the Parish Council will do all it can to help make this Plan a success it needs you – the Community – to make it work! We need volunteers (East Preston residents or people who work in East Preston) to join us in making this Plan a success. Please contact the Parish Office for more details.

We have had our first meetings with AiRS. A small team of volunteers (thank you!), with AiRS guidance, are deciding what questions should be included in the survey. AiRS will publish the survey and send a questionnaire to each East Preston household. You will be able to complete the form and return it to AiRS by post or by using an internet equivalent. All responses are confidential to AiRS who will analyse what you say and provide the volunteer team with guidance on producing your East Preston Community Led Plan. The plan will be presented to the Parish for approval at the Annual Parish Meeting in May. Please come along to hear what the plan says and have your say in adopting it.

Finally, **Fill in the Form!** Even if you can't help us develop the survey do look out for the AiRS Questionnaire when it arrives in February. This will be your chance to have your say on local issues which will become part of **our** Plan.

“A BEAR HUNT”

The Parish Council is once again going to run its popular half-term play scheme in February. This year, the scheme will be based upon the very popular book 'We're Going On A Bear Hunt' by Michael Rosen and Helen Oxenbury.

The first session will be on Monday 13th February and the second session will be on Wednesday 15th February. Both sessions will be in the Conservative Hall on Sea Road and will run from 10am to 12.30pm, and are open to children aged between 4 and 11, accompanied by an adult. Price per child per session is just £3.



Please contact the Parish Office for an application form or download one from the website. This should be returned with payment - cheques made payable to East Preston Parish Council. But hurry! There are only 30 spaces available for each session, so please book soon.

Please invite us to the February meeting of your East Preston club or society, so that we can spend a few moments explaining what we are doing and how it will benefit the village, and to remind everyone to **Fill in the Form!**

Warren Recreation Ground

Does the Warren Recreation Ground (WRG) meet the needs of 21st century East Preston? Should it remain as it is or can we expand its use while staying true to Reverend Warrens intentions when he gifted it to the Parish?

The existing playground is only suitable for younger children. Should we provide additional facilities for older children and adults; for example, offering outdoor exercise equipment? Is enough use made of the tennis court in its existing form? Would it be better to use that site for something like an outdoor exercise area?

Working with the Village Hall Foundation we will soon see the Fives Court repaired and put back into use, but do we just use it as it was or can we expand its use? We are considering painting a goal, some stumps and a tennis net-line, and putting up a basketball hoop. What else could we do?

All of the above suggestions are to get you thinking. While the Parish Council is ultimately responsible for



1930s gymnasts on the Warren Recreation Ground

the WRG and that is unlikely to change, are we the best people to have a vision for the future or would that vision better come from users or potential users? Would you support a 'Friends of the WRG' based on the model used for Langmeads Field? Let us know if you would be interested in becoming a Friend of the WRG and helping to define its future and its day-to-day management?

Public Meeting

A number of disabled persons and carers attended a public meeting on 23rd November and explained some of the difficulties they experience in East Preston. The small lively group raised four main areas of concern namely:-

- 1. Blind corner at Lashmar Road/North Lane** - vehicles are parked on double yellow lines and across driveways at peak school times. The council has referred this concern to Arun District Council's parking wardens for their attention.
- 2. Fairlands** - cars being parked across dropped kerbs, or too close to The Martlets entrance causing visibility problems for pedestrians and drivers which are increased by the arrival of buses.
- 3. Worthing Road/Station Road roundabout** (southern refuge/"island") - visibility problems when travelling from east to west as oncoming traffic from Worthing Road is not visible, and vehicles mount the pavement at this corner.
- 4. Roundstone Level Crossing** - Although works are in progress, improvements to its approach are required.

Other issues included uneven pavements, disintegrating road surfaces beside the kerbs, the size and parking of delivery vehicles close to the blind corner at North Lane/The Street, access to the top of the beach (Sea Road), and the lack of disabled toilets in East Preston. Disabled parking spaces at the north and south shops were mentioned but not discussed.

The setting up of a Good Neighbours scheme was mentioned, as well as a friendly social group, run by volunteers. Although interest in both was expressed, no offers of help were made. However, a "drop-in club" was suggested and funding is being investigated. A further public meeting is planned; details from the Parish Office.

For a full report of the meeting, please contact the Parish Office. The issues, which affect both the able-bodied and the disabled, will be put forward for inclusion in the Infrastructure Plan required by WSCC. A further meeting is planned; details will be available from the Parish Office in due course.

Your views are important and are needed. Enquiries, written comments and offers of help can be left at the Parish Office, 122 Sea Road (01903 770050). Written comments can also be left at the Library (The Street).

Bag it and bin it!

There has been a marked increase in the number of complaints to the council about dog owners not clearing up after their dogs.

Areas in the village that have been complained about include the Village Green, the Warren Recreation Ground, the beach and foreshore and Lashmar Recreation Ground.



Please clear up after your dog.

If enough residents let the council know of where a new dog bin could be sited, then the council will give that its consideration.



Winter planting

A number of residents expressed concern that the council had reduced its winter planting this season. This was reviewed by the council, and some additional winter planting is now in place around the village.

Coming Soon - News Extra!

As an extra service to East Preston residents the Parish Council will be publishing a monthly 'News Extra'. It will be in addition to this quarterly newsletter and include items that would have gone stale if they waited for the next Newsletter.

It is our intention to publish the News Update on the fourth Thursday of each month. We would be happy to consider including news snippets from local clubs and societies, but no commercial organisations please. All contributions should be sent to the Parish Office by noon on the fourth Tuesday of the month.

This will be a low cost service with everything produced 'in-house' and distribution by volunteers.

Copies of News Extra will be available for collection from participating local shops, the Library and Council Office. Look out for the first issue on Thursday 23 February.

Suggest an article

Do you have ideas for articles or do you know of something happening that you want to share with us, then please contact us. We would be delighted to consider all suggestions that would be of interest to East Preston residents.

Jubilee Painting Competition

To mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and with the kind assistance of the East Preston Festival Committee and local schools, we are sponsoring a painting competition open to all East Preston children between the ages of 5 and 10. There will be prizes for the best entries and we hope to display some of the entries at the library and around the village during Festival week (1st to 10th June).

Please watch noticeboards, school newsletters and local websites for details in the coming weeks.



School crossing patrol

Tracy Kigano began work recently as our school crossing patroller in North Lane, near its junction with Lashmar Road.

Tracy lives in the village and is already getting on well with children, parents and guardians alike. Tracy is employed by West Sussex County Council (WSCC) but the village refunds the costs to WSCC.

And a reminder! Think before you park!

The council has received a number of complaints about poor, inconsiderate and illegal parking in the roads around our schools, particularly during drop-off and collection times. Why not join the growing number of parents that walk their children to school? It's healthier, it's more fun and you and your children get more chance to meet or make friends.



Council meetings

Full council meetings are held on the first working Monday of every month, except August, and begin at 7pm in East Preston Infant School, Lashmar Road.

All residents are welcome to attend, and time is set aside at the beginning of the meeting for residents to comment upon any item on that evening's Agenda.

Various committee meetings take place throughout the year. All meetings are advertised in the council's noticeboards situated in the south-eastern corner of Lashmar Recreation Ground, one in each shopping area, one in the Village Hall car park and on our website: <http://eastpreston.arun.gov.uk>.

Wanted!

New Parish Councillors!!

With the recent resignation of Councillors Anne Harberson, John Melser and Nick Stevens, to whom we offer our thanks for their combined contribution of over twelve years Parish Council service, we are looking for new people to become Parish Councillors and help shape East Preston's future. It is a great way of meeting people and becoming involved in village life.

Now is an exciting time to join the council. We are working on a Community Led Plan which will ensure that the council and community are working together for the good of all East Preston residents.

Want to know more? Contact the Parish Office for an informal chat with Simon Cross (Parish Clerk) or to arrange to meet one of the current Councillors.

Please contact the office if you would like a large print version of this newsletter.



Contact point: Parish Clerk - Simon Cross, Assistant Clerk - Tracy Khoo
Council Office, 122 Sea Road, East Preston BN16 1NN

Telephone: 01903 770050 E-mail: eparishcouncil@btconnect.com

Website: <http://eastpreston.arun.gov.uk>

Arun District Council 01903 737500 West Sussex County Council 01243 777100

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