



Working together for East Preston

Did you know that the Warren Recreation Ground is managed by the Parish Council and that the Lashmar Recreation Ground is managed by the District Council?



Warren Recreation Ground

You may have picked up recently that a lot of what any Parish Council does is about shaping the future for local residents.

The council is just thirteen councillors and four part-time officers, and with six thousand residents in East Preston there must be ideas for improving the Warren and Lashmar Recreation Grounds that the council has not thought about.

In some ways it doesn't really matter whether you know or not. In both cases, the Parish Council would like to see more local residents getting involved in shaping how both areas are used and how they evolve in the future.

In 2009, the Friends of Langmeads was set up and now works alongside Arun District Council to oversee the development of Langmeads Field. As a community group, the Friends of Langmeads is able to apply for grants and funding that councils cannot. The entry points to Langmeads Field have been improved, a greater number of community events held, more bulbs and trees have been planted, and regular community litter-picks help keep the area attractive.

We would be delighted to see a Friends of the Warren and a Friends of Lashmar operating in the village, bringing fresh ideas and life to both areas. Please get in touch if you would be interested in being part of either or even both groups, and we will bring the interested people together and get something up and running. Working together we can achieve great things.



Lashmar Recreation Ground

Draft Local Plan Published

In July, Arun District Council published its Draft Local Plan (2013 - 2028) Consultation Document. The plan sets out the vision for Arun to 2028 and beyond. Arun has determined that economic growth for job creation is its number one priority. It wants to enable residents of working age to be able to work within Arun. This is called increasing 'job density' and it is the central theme of this plan. The Local Plan will help to achieve this by diversifying the range of employment sites available to investors; protecting existing viable employment land from other forms of development, encouraging employment growth in manufacturing, cultural, office, leisure, retail and marine based activities and freeing up commercial enterprise from planning red tape through the use of Local Development Orders.

The Local Plan's strategic vision is underpinned by 'objectives' which set out the aspirations of how Arun can change over the plan period. It also contains a suite of strategic and more detailed policies which aim to achieve the vision and objectives. It promotes and guides private and public sector investment and neighbourhood planning. The Local Plan's 'strategic policies' set out the overall strategy for

the district. Specifically the Strategic Policies set out:

- The amount of new employment, retail and housing development that will take place in the district up to 2028; this includes a proposal for a minimum of 30 new homes to be built in East Preston;
- A strategic framework to help determine Planning Applications;
- The framework for Neighbourhood Development;
- A statutory guide to help local communities deliver local change.

This Local Plan is a very important document and we encourage everyone to read and comment, not an easy task as it is over 350 pages long. We hold a copy in the Parish Office (viewable by appointment) or you can download it from Arun's website: http://www.arun.gov.uk/mediaFiles/downloads/1264933/20120709_Final_Draft_Local_Plan_for_Web.pdf

While the Parish Council will be responding to the Draft Plan proposals, we need your comments as well, either directly to Arun or through the Council Office. Please note that Arun's consultation period closes on the 10th September 2012.

“Langmeads Field - Its History”

Illustrated Talk on Friday 14th September, starting at 6:30pm
(Conservative Hall, Sea Road, East Preston)



Gymkhana on Langmeads Field, 1972 - let us know if were you there

Langmeads Field, once pasture land and parkland, is a precious survivor of by-gone East Preston. Using old field maps and photographs Margaret Gilbert will cover its history, from ancient fields and farm, the 19th century Warrens of Preston Hall and their legacy, the adjoining parish church, ancient routes, livestock, trees, boundaries, ditches and gymkhanas, to its acquisition by the District Council, covenants and the Friends of Langmeads. All welcome.

Entry is free for Friends of Langmeads members, £3 for visitors with tickets on sale at Sea View Stores and Hedgers Newsagents, both in Sea Road.

Village Life

September

3rd Full Council
8th Warren Recreation Ground Annual General Meeting (tbc)
10th and 24th Planning Committee (starts 6pm)
19th Amenities Committee
24th Community Engagement Committee

October

1st Full Council
8th and 22nd Planning Committee (starts 6pm)
24th Amenities Committee
44th Community-Led Plan Launch

November

5th Full Council
12th and 26th Planning Committee (starts 6pm)
21st Amenities Committee
26th Community Engagement Committee

December

3rd Full Council
10th Planning Committee (starts 6pm)

All meetings start at 7pm and are held at East Preston Infants School, Lashmar Road, unless otherwise noted. Although scheduled as above, Planning Committee meetings will only take place if there are Applications to be discussed. For all meetings, please consult the Noticeboards and website a few days before the meeting for the Agenda.

Volunteers needed

Elsewhere in this Newsletter we highlight the Arun Draft Local Plan. Part of the process may devolve some planning responsibility to the Parish Council. To achieve this we have agreed to produce a Neighbourhood Plan. Like many of our surrounding Parish and Town Councils we have started that process. When finished and approved by you, we will have stronger powers to influence the development of East Preston.

We need enthusiastic people living or working in East Preston to help create our Neighbourhood Plan. We need your help for a number of reasons: most importantly the plan should say what you want, not what councillors think you want. Councillors have a range of experience and knowledge but sometimes we need in-depth knowledge in specific areas - Planning, Employment, Traffic, Services etc. - that are vital to the development of a good plan. Currently we have to pay for consultants to provide additional expertise but it would be better for everyone in the parish if there were local volunteers.

As a Council we will take the lead and be of assistance but we need working parties to help create the Neighbourhood Plan. This will be an opportunity for you to help and to influence our future.

Do you have other specialist knowledge that may be of assistance to the council? Do you have knowledge that you think may be applicable to council activities? We would like to be able to contact those who do have specialist knowledge to aid us when needed.

What we are looking for is two-fold: help with the Neighbourhood Plan and expertise to assist the Council on specific issues. One does not exclude the other! Interested and willing to help? Please contact the Parish Office for an initial chat.



Healthy walks in East Preston

Do you need to improve your general health? Manage your weight or just make new friends? Then please join us for our East Preston walk.

When: 4th Friday of every month (2012: 28th Sept, 26th Oct, 23rd Nov and 28th Dec)
Meeting Point: East Preston & Kingston Village Hall in Sea Road.

- All walks are free of charge and led by a trained walk leader.
- Walks last for approximately 60 minutes.
- You are advised to wear comfortable footwear and appropriate clothing. Walks go ahead in all weathers.
- You will be asked to fill in an Outdoor Health Questionnaire if you are a new walker to the scheme so that the walk leader is aware of any health issues. If in doubt please ask your GP before coming along.

For further information please contact Charlotte Anning (Scheme Coordinator) on 01903 890301.



Flooding

As you no doubt know, some residents have suffered terribly from flooding recently. If you are aware of areas within East Preston that flooded in July or have flooded in the past, please let us know. We are collating a list of vulnerable areas within East Preston for a joint West Sussex and Environment Agency Flood Taskforce.

Also, if you have noticed a blocked drain or a broken one in your road, which might contribute to a flooding problem, please report it to: Highways, West Sussex County Council, phone: 01243 642105 or visit www.westsussex.gov.uk.



Photograph courtesy of Valerie Sharp



Photograph courtesy of Graham Street

Royal Memories

Do you have a Coronation, Silver, Golden or Diamond Jubilee memory that you would like to share with our readers. Perhaps you have met the Queen or have had a fantastic street party? Please tell us about it and we will try and publish a selection of your stories in the next Newsletter.

The most interesting stories will win a limited-edition East Preston Diamond Jubilee Mug. We would love to hear from you!

Village Orderly Vacancy

After three years of excellent and dedicated service to the village, Dennis Watts has decided to hang up his Village Orderly gloves. Not only does Dennis do a fantastic job but he is also well-known and respected by many local residents.

So what does a Village Orderly do? Every weekday, Dennis visits areas of the village that are the responsibility of the Parish Council, ensuring that they are kept tidy and litter-free. These areas include the Village Green, Two Acres, and the Warren Recreation Ground including the tennis court and most importantly, the children's playground. Twice a week Dennis visits the village's four wooden bus shelters, whilst on a more ad-hoc basis Dennis visits others areas of the village that may require his special attention. At weekends, Ed Gleason works a slightly shorter shift focussing primarily on the children's playground.

If you can spare ninety minutes each weekday and think that the role of Village Orderly might suit you, please contact the Council Office for more information.



Pride in living in East Preston and a friendly disposition are both desirable qualities for this post. Closing date for applications is midday on Monday, 17th September.

The council wishes Dennis all the very best for the future. He genuinely will be sorely missed.

Community Speedwatch

Are you fed up with motorists apparently speeding in and around the village? Want to do something about it?

Well, we need your help to set up, in conjunction with Sussex Police, a Community Speedwatch Scheme. This hopefully will be a flagship to inspire other parishes to do the same.

We already have some East Preston councillors willing to take part, but it is not a Council Speedwatch, it is a Community one, so come and join us for this worthwhile project.

To find out more, contact Simon Cross, Clerk to the Council – details below.

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

80% saving on the cost of tennis!

East Preston Parish Council has reduced the cost of playing tennis at the Warren Recreation Ground from £5 per hour to **£1 per hour**. Tickets may be purchased from Hedges Newsagents.

This has been a great success to all age groups as the number of people using the courts seems to have increased. Why don't you brush up on your tennis skills?

Could we please remind tennis court users to lock the gate when they have finished. It helps keep the court secure and prevent vandalism. Based on our recent community survey we know that 75% of respondents would prefer use of the tennis court to be free and we are considering that.



Contact point: Parish Clerk - Simon Cross, Assistant Clerk - Tracy Khoo
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