



East Preston Football Club

Have you ever watched East Preston Football Club in action?

As you probably know the Club is having another great season. East Preston Football Club has done its best to put the village firmly on the map in the last year. After winning County League Division 2 in emphatic record breaking records along the way last season the team has made an exceptional start to the current season. The club has only lost one of its first 14 league games and at the time of writing sit proudly on top of Sussex County Division 1.

Progress brings its own challenges in terms of up-grading the facilities. An application has been sent to the Football Foundation for a grant towards the estimated £10,000 cost of providing an additional 50 seats. This is mandatory before the end of March if we are stay in our current league. The club is actively fund raising with adverts in matchday programmes, new advertising boards, and sponsorship packages. Support has been encouraging from local businesses and residents alike. If any reader would like to help, please contact Terry Doyle (07712 660359) or any other committee member via the Club.

New support would be very welcome. Saturday home matches kick off at 3pm. Our fixtures up to Christmas are:

- 3 November - Horsham YMCA
- 10 November - Lingfield
- 1 December - Hassocks
- 15 December - Selsey
- 22 December - Arundel

There are plenty of opportunities to see the club in action at its ground in Lashmar Road. Home matches before Christmas - 1st December - Hassocks; 15th December - Selsey; 22nd December - Arundel.

Visit www.eastprestonfc.co.uk/ for more details. All Saturday matches start at 3pm, so why not pop along and show your support? Tickets are £6 for adults, and £3 for juniors and senior citizens.

Community Action Plan on page 3 of this newsletter.

Photographs in this newsletter courtesy of Anni Stevens, Richard Standing and Simon Cross

Should we buy the Martlets bungalow site?

West Sussex County Council has applied for planning permission to build five new homes on the existing 'Martlets bungalow' site at the Fairlands – Sea Road junction, probably the last undeveloped site near the centre of East Preston.



We have explored ideas of alternative uses for the site but there appears to be little justification for such an investment. At its 5th November meeting the council agreed to consult you. Should we let WSCC develop the site or do we buy it and use it for a 'Community Garden'? What this means has not been defined beyond demolition of the existing bungalow to provide another open space in East Preston.

It is decision time! Do you want the Parish Council to act on your behalf, buy the Martlets bungalow site and create an open space? It is likely to cost around £400,000 to buy the site plus costs to clear and make the site safe. We would fund the purchase through a Public Works Board loan. This equates to an increase in our Community Charge of one pound per month per household.

There will be a public meeting to discuss this at the East Preston Infants School, Lashmar Road on Saturday 24th November from noon to 1pm. If you can't attend please let us know your views, contact details on the back page. Alternatively, please fill in and return the comment slip below.



Please mark the appropriate box below and return this slip to the Parish Council by **Friday 14 December**.

I agree and support the councils proposal to buy the Martlets site

I disagree with the proposal and do not want the council to buy the Martlets site

Name (optional):

Address (optional):

.....
.....

“Let’s Create”



On 1st and 2nd November, the council worked with Aby Mason of Creation Station Worthing to run two two-hourly playscheme sessions for local children. Both sessions sold-out and as you can see seem to have been enthusiastically enjoyed by everyone that attended. Thank you to everyone who helped make the two days so successful.

Village Life

December

- 3rd Full Council
- 6th Councillor Surgery (Council Office, time tbc)
- 10th Planning Committee (6pm)
- 14th East Preston Film Society presents Skyfall (Conservative Hall, 7pm)
- 17th Finance & General Purposes Committee

January

- 7th Full Council
- 14th and 28th Planning Committee (6pm)
- 16th East Preston & Kingston Preservation Society presents a talk with music – The Copper Family (Conservative Hall, 2.30pm)
- 27th East Preston Film Society film night, film tbc (Conservative Hall, 7pm)

February

- 2nd Friends of Langmeads Litter Pick (meet at Scout Hut, The Street, 11am)
- 4th Full Council
- 11th and 25th Planning Committee (6pm)

All council meetings start at 7pm at East Preston Infant School, Lashmar Road unless otherwise noted. For all meetings, please consult the Noticeboards and website a few days before the meeting for the Agenda.

Sponsor a Bench

Residents have expressed a need for a bench at the Bus Stop in North Lane, just south of Windlesham Gardens. The Council has considered moving existing benches nearby but has now concluded these are best left in their current locations.

The Council does not have budget this year to install a new bench and would like to ask whether anyone in the village would consider sponsoring one? To supply and site a new bench would cost around £500.00 and a personal plaque could be included.

Please contact the Parish Office if you would be interested in sponsoring a new bench at the bus stop location.

Can you hear us?

We are always looking at ways to improve how we share news and information with you: we hold public meetings, see our diary on the last page; we run an informative web site; you can subscribe to our email newsletter, see separate article; there is this quarterly newsletter delivered to every household in East Preston and supported by a monthly update available from East Preston library, the British Legion, Hedgers Newsagents and the Council Office

What else should we do to improve how we contact you?

More importantly, are we listening to you? Apart from the public meetings mentioned above, we hold regular Councillor Surgeries (the next one is 6th December), you can email or phone us, or make an appointment to call in to the Council Office. Office hours are 10am to midday, Monday to Thursday, but appointments can be arranged outside those times by mutual agreement.

Christmas Lights 2012

The Christmas Lights in East Preston will come on this year on Thursday 29th November until Friday 4th January inclusive. As in previous years, they are scheduled to light up at 4.30pm until 11pm each day.

As previously notified in our Newsletter, there will be no official “Lights On” event this year but individual traders may put on some festivities so look out for these.

There will be a limited lighting scheme once again due to the new PFI regulations on lamp-posts. The scheme will consist of motifs on four of the steel lamp-post columns at the northern shops, live tree lights at the northern shops and a Village Green Christmas Tree. Some traders will also put up small Christmas Trees outside their premises as well as the sparkle.

It is hoped next year will see the return of the full Christmas Lighting Scheme but this is subject to the PFI work being completed.

The Parish Council would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Community Action Plan Launch Saturday 24 November

East Preston Infant School, Lashmar Road, 10 am to 11:30 am

Earlier this year over a thousand East Preston residents told us what they liked, disliked, wanted to change and wanted to keep about where we live. Your amazing responses have now been collated and analysed to produce an East Preston Action Plan.

This is a community-led plan: written by local volunteers and I would like to thank them for their time and effort

in producing this plan. The plan has been unanimously accepted by the Parish Council and has become a Policy Document which will guide future work. Please come to the informal event on 24th November where you will be able to talk to the volunteer team and make your comments about the priority of the issues we have identified. A summary of the issues you identified is below.

Big Issues	Action
Roundstone Level Crossing	Start discussion with stakeholders (ADC, WSCC, Network Rail) to understand what we have to do to justify and fund a level crossing replacement.
Development	Remind all new planning applicants of Village Design Statement. Produce Neighbourhood Plan.
Environment	Action
Dog fouling	Ensure Arun dog warden patrols our area. Consider the need for funding our own dog warden.
'Tidiness' issues	Ensure Arun regularly empty our rubbish bins. Form volunteer 'litter picking' teams, initially focus on beach and beach access.
Noise	Work with Police to identify noise 'hot spots' and address causes.
Education	Action
East Preston Schools	Improve with plantings Inner Quadrangle and general appearance of the School.
Family Centre	Review levels of use.
Adult Education	Improve awareness of what is available locally and access other providers of Adult education for Villagers.
Library	Examine further uses for the Library building and promote its facilities through Parish Newsletter.

Transport	Action
Frequency of bus services & choice of destinations	Set up meetings with the bus company to request improvements.
Low use of Community Bus Scheme	Meet with bus operator to consider ways to increase usage or cessation of service and re-distribution of funds.
Low incidence of car sharing	Ensure Parish Council is aware of & involved in local/national car sharing initiatives. Facilitate car sharing by residents through a council led scheme.
Traffic volumes and speed within the village	Set up meetings with Police to request speed checks & Highways to investigate implementation of traffic calming measures. Form Community Speedwatch team.
Development	Action
New build	EPPC to apply all available regulatory means to keep housing construction to the lowest level possible.
Localism	Apply Localism Act to benefit of community.
Flat conversion policy	Support conversion of large single family dwellings to multi-occupancy, provided it does not impact neighbours.
Community	Action
Define Community Facilities	Identify all local organisations which see themselves as part of our 'community facility'.
Multi-use sports area	Identify suitable site.
WRG Tennis Court	Consider removing all user fees and making it available to all.
Youth Club Play Schemes	Extend opening hours.
Library	Provide more holiday time children's play schemes.

Village Green Registration

The Council has been considering very carefully whether to formally register the piece of land on Sea Road, which has served as the Village Green over the years, as a Village Green.

Section 15 of the Commons Act 2006 changes the legal definition of a town or Village Green and sets out the qualifying circumstances in which land may be newly registered. Essentially anyone can apply to have land registered as a Green if it has been used by local people for recreation 'as of right' (i.e. without permission, force or secrecy) for at least 20 years. Section 15 came into force throughout England on 6 April 2007.

As owners of the land, the Parish Council has discovered that registration is a complex process and has sought legal advice. It currently is not in favour of registering the Village Green due to restrictions over use of the land for future generations. Some examples are: fencing would need to be taken down as a Village Green cannot be fenced (leaving the land open to travellers); no permanent fixture could be put on the Village Green as it should be left as an open space (therefore enhancements such as the Boules

Pistes would not be possible and the existing Boules Piste would have to be removed to comply); play equipment could not be erected; any form of building is incompatible with Village Green status. Benches, Picnic Tables, Noticeboards and Bins would probably be permitted as long as they were sited around the edge of the Village Green and did not interfere with the "open space".

The Council's solicitor advised:-

"If the proposed Green is in an area where there may be a wish for it or part of it to be used for other community purposes at sometime in the future, then it is unwise to register it as a Village Green as no alternative use, or works is permitted.

"Our advice to Parish Councils, particularly where they own the land, is that Village Green status is not appropriate."

All facts need to be considered not just the one to stop any future building. The absence of Village Green status does not mean that the open space will cease to be public open space.

NEW SCHOOL SAFETY ZONE FOR EAST PRESTON

Over the summer you will have noticed new flashing lights and road markings around the schools all adding up to a "School Safety Zone". The Parish Council and the schools have long been campaigning for improved safety measures for our children, and hopefully the School Safety Zone will be a major contribution to our children's wellbeing.

The Safety Zone is now operational, so **please observe the 20mph** speed limit when the lights are flashing.

Parish Emails

Would you like to be kept up to date with East Preston news as it happens? The Council has an email circulation list which is used to keep subscribers informed of news and events. This email list is only used for local news and event details, subscriber details are not shared with any other organisation. Please send us an email, details below, if you would like to subscribe to our email list – over 200 households and businesses in East Preston already subscribe.

Goodbye Dennis, Hello Steve

Last issue we had an article about Dennis Watts retiring from the post of Village Orderly. Having advertised the post, the council interviewed three applicants and decided to offer the job to Steve Rolph. Steve lives in the village and is already well-known by many of you. Steve started on 29th October and Dennis finished on 2nd November. Below is a photograph of Dennis handing the council's litter-pick over to Steve, watched by Councillors Robert Ellis and Joop Duijf.



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



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