



Chairman's Annual Report for 2012-2013



**Chairman of the Council,
Councillor Joop Duijf**

In the council year gone by the Council, its officers and volunteer councillors, have been very active and found that there is always more work to do. For the best part of the year we had a full crew of thirteen councillors, some with a long track record of experience whilst others, myself included are novices. Many of us have attended courses, seminars, etc. to keep up to date with the wishes and ever-changing

rules and regulations to serve the Parish.

Our six committees, Amenities, Finance & General Purposes, Audit & Governance, Community Engagement, Planning and Personnel, and the various active Working Parties all have their regular meetings to serve the Parish. Most of the time Planning Committee members see each other every other week to discuss Planning Applications and to advise Arun District Council Planning to keep the Village in line with the Village Design Statement. Some of the Applications are refused and others passed. Most important recently has been the refusal of Planning Permission for Chandlers to build a new showroom on the south-eastern side of the A259-A280 roundabout following combined pressure from Angmering, Kingston, Ferring and East Preston Parish Councils. Many County Council and District Council meetings are also attended to make our views clear.

East Preston Needs You!

East Preston is currently producing a Neighbourhood Plan. This comes from the government's 'localism' agenda, giving us more say in what happens in our area. Its scope is 'land use' rather than 'dog poo' issues. Our plan will need to identify our expectations in four key areas: Landscape and Environment, Community and Infrastructure, Transport and Traffic, and Housing.

The Neighbourhood Plan will establish what development is required in the short-to-medium term and where it will be located. It will respond to both the current and future needs of the community.

A Steering Group has been set up and representatives will be at various events during Festival Week, looking for your support, help and encouragement. It is important that the Plan reflects the views of as many residents as possible. Please come and have your say.

Due to two flood events in 2012 our Flooding Working party, led by Cllr Judith Akhurst is currently the most active.

Our quarterly newsletter is read by many and responded to. Almost on a weekly basis there is an electronic news email sent to subscribers. We stopped our monthly News Update, available at several outlets, because there was too little uptake. News, minutes and agendas are available on our Notice Boards and website.

We would like our monthly Full Council meetings, held on the first working Monday of the month at East Preston Infant School, to be attended by more parishioners and get their feedback. Arun District and West Sussex County councillors do attend these meetings to inform and to answer questions raised.

The Community-Led Plan and resulting East Preston Action Plan was prepared and accepted by the council. Many thanks to Cllr Peter Vincent and his team of volunteers.

We have taken up Central Government's challenge to start our Neighbourhood Plan which we hope will be finished in 2014. We are looking for many more volunteers to help to set the future of East Preston.

Finally, after several years of campaigning, a School Safety Zone was implemented around our two schools before the start of the new school year last September. Hopefully, drivers will respect the 20 mph signs during school drop-off and pick-up times and make the village safer for our children, parents, grandparents and great-grandparents.

Regular meetings are held with the council's tenants: Angmering-on-Sea Lawn Tennis Club, the East Preston & Kingston Village Hall Foundation, the East Preston Cricket Club and the East Preston & Kingston Bowls Club.

Our now monthly Business Breakfast meetings with local businesses are successful and attract a variety of local businesspeople. On a regular basis a Councillor Surgery is held in the Council Office to give everybody the opportunity to have their say. Also, every other month, Sussex Police hold a surgery to meet residents with local crime and disorder concerns.

The Council is Trustee to the Warren Recreation Ground and has its own Annual General Meeting. Neighbours to the Recreation Ground still have their concerns over the continuing playing of cricket on the ground. This has the full attention of the Council.

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Chairman's Annual Report cont.

We are in the process of restoring the Fives Court to its original glory and hope to achieve this by the end of this year in conjunction with the Village Hall.

Negotiations have started with Arun District Council to install a Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) at Lashmar Recreation Ground.

A bid to purchase the Martlets bungalow site has been put forward to West Sussex County Council (WSSC) to transform this into a community garden. This is still pending as WSSC has yet to decide when to market the site.

Looking at the financial side, the Parish Council budgeted £188,100 and spent roughly £143,000. Consequently, the council decided that its portion of the council tax be frozen for the coming year.

During the year, some of the money spent was spent on the following:

- enhancement to the Children's Playground, a new sealion springer and multiplay unit (partly funded by developer money)
- two new seats were installed, one donated by EP Film Society

- Diamond Jubilee mugs for all East Preston Infant and Junior school age children
- cleansing, maintenance and improvements to our public toilets (Sea Road and South Strand)
- and grants to various organisations providing services to parishioners like the Cricket Club, Football Club Juniors, friends of EP Infant School, Festival Committee, 1st East Preston Scouts, Arun Co-ordinated Community Transport and St Barnabas Hospice

Our main challenges for this year will be the Neighbourhood Plan, the MUGA at Lashmar, the Five Courts, Flood Prevention and more.

One thing to remind we cannot do our work without the input of residents being that coming to meetings, drop into the office, surgeries and talking to us. And do not forget we councillors are all volunteers.

I would like to finish with thanking the Clerk, the Assistant Clerk and our two Village Orderlies for all their work and support and the councillors for their input and efforts to make East Preston THE village to live and work in.

Joop Duijf - Chairman

East Preston Parish Councillors 2012-13

Mrs Judith Akhurst	95 Sea Road, East Preston, BN16 1LN	Tel: 773676
Victor Bowthorpe	6 The Homestead, Sea Road, East Preston, BN16 1LN	Tel: 856363
Peter Dallimore (Vice-Chairman)	96 Sea Road, East Preston, BN16 1NP	Tel: 07802 326814
Joop Duijf (Chairman)	22 Normandy Drive, East Preston, BN16 1LU	Tel: 07790 149728
Mrs Carol Ellis	35 Hillview Crescent, East Preston, BN16 1RG	Tel: 783494
Rob Ellis	53 Sea Road, East Preston, BN16 1LN	Tel: 778535
Mervyn Howdle	11 Kenhurst, East Preston, BN16 1LL	Tel: 778715
Elizabeth Linton	'Springfield', 6 Madehurst Close, East Preston, BN16 2TH	Tel: 07956 256012
Glyn Mathias	'Thalassa', 16 Tamarisk Way, East Preston, BN16 2TF	Tel: 859191
Patrick Radbourne	5 Farm Acre, East Preston, BN16 1TJ	Tel: 07845 902068
Michael Taggart	33 Manor Road, East Preston, BN16 1QA	Tel: 782873
Hazel Tester	70 Orchard Road, East Preston, BN16 1ET	Tel: 07828 643384
Peter Vincent	Please contact via the Council Office	

Members of the public are asked, where possible, to direct enquiries for individual councillors through the Clerk. All named correspondence will be passed on to the relevant councillor(s).

Rubbish

When I walk around the village I notice that sometimes there is quite a bit of rubbish left around. We are talking about bottles (generally empty), takeaway packaging, food wrappers, you can go on and on.....

Wouldn't it be nice to see no rubbish carelessly dropped or left around and to be able to enjoy our beautiful village. We don't know who accidentally drops all the rubbish but we have a good idea, don't we?

Maybe some family words could help. We can all moan about it but that does not help the issue go away.

How about, when we see rubbish around, we pick it up and dump it in our own bin? If we only do our own stretch what a difference it would make!

Joop Duijf - Chairman

Police news

Sussex Police has started to hold regular combined surgeries and bike-marking sessions at the Council Office in Sea Road. The surgery part is so that any local resident can chat confidentially with a police officer about any non-urgent matter that may be concerning them.

The bike-marking is to record any resident's bike on the national Bike Register scheme, for free. To have your bike registered you need to have a valid email address and bring some ID.

The next event will be on Tuesday, 18th June at 10am.

www.bikeregister.com www.sussex.police.uk

Young resident's idea contributes towards responsible dog ownership

One of the most frequent moans received by this council is about dog owners that do not clear up after their dog. Apart from breaking the law, these dog owners are creating a health hazard for other village residents. It's a national problem and there seems to be no simple solution.

Last year, Noah Amoo, now 10, and his older brothers Isaiiah and Eli, contacted the Parish Council asking that it provide a dog bag dispenser on the Village Green where they and their friends sometimes play football. Impressed by the boys' commitment to pick up after other people's dogs rather than step in un-cleared mess, the council has now provided a dog bag dispenser.



Pictured here are Noah and the dispenser, which can be found on the northern side of the Village Green. Please use it responsibly.

In the words of the posters, "There's no such thing as the dog poo fairy!!"

Another moan heard often in the Council Office is of dog owners who do bag up after their dogs but then throw those bags into other people's front gardens or on top of other people's garage roofs. If you know of why anyone would do that, please let the council know as it has us baffled.

Village Life

June

- 3rd Full Council
- 5th Business Breakfast (8am)
- 9th East Preston Festival ends
- 10th Planning Committee (6pm)
- 17th Finance & General Purposes Committee
- 18th Sussex Police Surgery and bike marking (10am, Council Office)
- 24th Planning Committee (6pm)

July

- 1st Full Council
- 2nd West Sussex County Council, Joint Eastern Arun Area Committee (7pm, Woodlands Centre)
- 3rd Business Breakfast (8am)
- 8th Planning Committee (6pm)
- 17th Amenities Committee
- 20th Councillor Surgery (10:30am to midday, Council Office)
- 22nd Planning Committee (6pm)
- 29th Community Engagement Committee

August

- 5th Full Council (tbc)
- 12th Planning Committee (6pm)
- 27th Planning Committee (6pm)

All council meetings begin 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.

Postcard finally delivered to the right person

What do you do when you receive a wrongly-delivered postcard? This was the dilemma that Peter and Colette Galloway of Vermont Drive recently faced.

The postcard was addressed to Louis Storey, 11. Thinking that maybe it should have been for Vermont Way, Peter took the card round to that address, but Louis was not known there. A quick Google search found that there was a Louis Storey who plays for the East Preston Cricket Club. The Parish Council contacted the club on behalf of Mr Galloway, and a few weeks later, Louis's dad Joel called into the Council Office believing that the postcard was there. It was not as it was still with Mr Galloway. Not only was the card addressed to the wrong road, it was also addressed to the wrong house number.

The Council Office contacted Mr and Mrs Galloway again, passing on Louis's address details. Later that day, Louis and his postcard were finally united.



Pictured: Sports fan Louis with his well-travelled postcard

Calling all makers of bunting

Some time ago the Parish Council was asked to consider creating some bunting that could be used for various events, not only by the council but also by other organisations in the village.

So far we have received some offers of help from a small number of local residents, both WIs in the village and from the Guides. We have also received an offer to put the bunting together, so we need triangles.

Could you help?

If you feel you could make one or more of the triangles please let us know. The colours and designs are your choice, all we ask is that they be 6inches across by 9in tip to top.

If you need more information, please get in touch. Thanks.

Community Tree Watch / Planting



Over the years, there has been a visible reduction in the number of trees in the village both along the highway and on land under the Parish Council. With climatic change and other environmental issues, some of our trees are struggling to survive and need to be felled.

The Parish Council is concerned that over time the tree population will noticeably reduce if we don't start looking at implementing a longer term tree planting programme now. For instance, what do you think about setting up a 10 year replanting scheme, let's say ten trees a year? More trees would be nice but it comes at a price! We would be looking at a cost of around £150-£200 per tree. For that amount a tree can be bought and planted but not looked after. As many people are probably aware, it is simple to plant a new tree but unless it

is cared for in its early years, chances of survival long term are slim.

This is why the Parish Council is looking towards asking residents to take an interest in their parish and help care for a tree near to them. In conjunction with our Tree Wardens, residents can monitor and check a tree or trees near to them and report back any trees showing signs of stress. If new trees are planted nearby, then residents could help by watering and caring for the trees during their early years.

A group of new trees could be planted together each year in one area and over the years different areas in the village would benefit resulting in more of an impact. Hopefully, this may also help to prevent people parking on the verges resulting in a tidier looking village. We may be able to also convince West Sussex County Council to fund and plant a few extra new trees as well!!

Apart from generally observing trees outside your home or business, if you would be interested in being part of an active group in caring for trees in our village, please contact the Parish Office. Also let us know any areas you feel would benefit from new tree-planting.

Wouldn't it be nice to see many more trees in East Preston again?

Speeding Issues

One of the top issues in our Community Led Plan is establishing Traffic Calming measures to stop people driving too fast through our village.

To tackle this through the Highways Department may prove a long route and would need to be negotiated and would require funding. It would appear the majority of the culprits, probably about 90%, are

people living in the village. A little discussion with our family and friends might help to reduce speeding more or less immediately and that would not cost anything to the parish.

See if you can convince someone to slow down a little?

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



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