



Back in the game!

Over the past couple of years, the Parish Council has worked closely with the Warren Recreation Ground charity (of which it is trustee) and the East Preston & Kingston Village Hall Foundation to get the Fives Court on the Warren Recreation Ground back up and running.

The Fives Court was probably built in the 1920s as a practice court for two local boys who were at public school. It is not strictly a Fives Court, although it's near enough.

In the early 1980s, the Fives Court was leased to the Village Hall Foundation. Early in 2011, the Village Hall



The past

Foundation's management committee took the difficult decision to fence off the Fives Court area due to safety concerns. Late in 2011, a public meeting was held at which

the overwhelming majority of residents present called for the area to be recommissioned.

Peter Dallimore, on behalf of the Council and Christine Trice, on behalf of the Village Hall set up a joint working party to bring it back to life.

It has been a long process but we believe the newly-restored Fives Court will provide play opportunities for generations to come.

In addition to the Village Hall Foundation, the council would like to thank West Sussex County Council and the Bernard Sunley Foundation for their generous grants towards the work, and also thanks to Dart Ltd. for their hard work, patience and expertise over the past couple of months.



The future

Youth Forum

As part of its ongoing objective of meeting more members of the public with different views of the village, the council hosted a Youth Forum in October. Publicised around the village and online, six local boys spent a useful and informative hour chatting to us about what they saw as good about living in East Preston and what they thought East Preston lacks.

All of the participants made interesting and thoughtful comments which the Community Engagement Committee is reviewing. The challenge is to find resources to satisfy their expectations.

Everyone thought it was a worthwhile event and we will run another early in 2014. If you are aged between 12 and 18 and would like to get involved, please email, call or write to the Council Office. It would be useful to hear some girls' views too.

World War I Anniversary

2014 marks the centenary of the start of World War 1. The Parish Council is currently assisting a local author publish a book remembering local people who lost their lives in WW1. We would also like to assist or support any appropriate local initiative that remembers the loss and suffering of millions of people, from all nations.

Please contact us if you have any

Needed! A new parish councillor!

There is currently a vacancy for a parish councillor. In addition to being a great way of becoming involved in village life, Parish Councillors can help to shape the future of East Preston.

If you would like to know more, please contact the Parish Office for an informal chat with Simon or Tracy or to arrange to meet one of the current councillors.

Planning Committee

Continuing our look at parish council activities, this issue we cover the Planning Committee. Unlike the Amenities Committee which has the largest budget, the Planning Committee has no budget but it has more meetings than any of the council's other committees. This is because it has to provide comments on planning applications by specified dates.

What does the committee do? The planning system is quite complex with lots of ever-changing rules, policies and guidelines. The system is controlled by government but at a local level is operated by Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) which have a requirement to consult Parish/Town Councils (Statutory Consultees) and this means that Arun District Council (ADC – our local LPA) must invite East Preston Parish Council to comment on the majority of planning applications submitted for work to be carried out in the parish of East Preston.

The Planning Committee is authorised by the Council to undertake the appraisal of all such applications on its behalf and to send a response to ADC. All planning applications submitted to ADC have to be dealt with in an agreed timescale and therefore comments from EPPC must be made within a set time. This means the Planning Committee must meet regularly to meet ADC's timescale and therefore it usually meets on the second

and fourth Monday of each month, provided there are plans to be looked at, meaning it probably meets about fifteen times a year.

What does the committee actually do? The committee provides comments on the various applications. However, it needs to have an understanding of the planning process and know what comments are worthy of making to ADC. In general the comments need to be about matters that can affect the decisions made by ADC planners and these are known as being "Material". It is not sufficient for the committee to say it disagrees with an application, it must say why and quote a Material Consideration the ADC planners can act upon. This is usually something the committee believes is contrary to the policies or guidelines to be used in determining an application.

The committee meetings are generally held in the Infant School at 6 pm in Lashmar Road. Members of the public are welcome to attend, especially applicants, and there is time for members of the public to speak at the beginning of the meeting to express their views.

If you would like more information on the work of the committee, please contact me via the Council Office - **Glyn Mathias, Chairman of the Planning Committee**



Business Breakfasts

Organised by the Parish Clerk, local business people meet at a local venue to network and listen to short presentations about local businesses. This initiative has been running for about two years and has grown from a few curious attendees to the point where we regularly have about 20 businesses represented each month: from locksmiths to graphic designers, charity organisations to care homes, accountants to barbers. The range of skills and experiences amongst this group of people is amazing and just through local networking this expertise has helped many.

The Parish Council is delighted that this group has taken the initiative and formed the East Preston Business Community, its objective being to develop and promote East Preston businesses to East Preston residents, simply to keep the East Preston Pound in East Preston, which is good for everyone.

Run a local business and want to join us? Contact the Parish Clerk for more details, or find the East Preston Business Community page on Facebook.

Village Life

December

- 2nd Full Council
- 3rd Business Breakfast (8am)
- 9th Planning Committee (6pm)
- 16th Finance & General Purposes Committee
- 23rd Planning Committee (6pm)
- 24th Council Office closed until 2nd January

January

- 2nd Business Breakfast (8am)
- 6th Full Council
- 13th Planning Committee (6pm)
- 23rd Dogs Trust free microchipping (9am, Council Office)
- 27th Planning Committee (6pm)
- 27th Community Engagement Committee

February

- 3rd Full Council
- 10th Planning Committee (6pm)
- 24th 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.

** Please note the above list is incomplete due to the requirements of publishing dates **

Make friends with the Twinning Association



East Preston Twinning Association (EPTA) was set up to promote friendship and encourage as many links as possible between our village and the people of Brou, a town of 3,500 near the cathedral city

of Chartres in France. Its main annual activity is a weekend visit either from here to Brou or vice versa. The EPTA has about seventy active members who take part in a range of social activities including meals out, boules and skittles, participation in the village festival etc. Have you been to the festival's "Call My Wine Bluff"? That's us! We are currently promoting sports activities to compete in annual tournaments between East Preston and Brou.

We are looking to appoint a new Chairman who will carry on the fantastic tradition of the EPTA. The present chairman, Linda Rooke, will have completed her five year stint in April 2014.

This unpaid position would suit an enthusiastic, self-motivated person who will work closely with a committee of like-minded individuals. It is an interesting and rewarding role with duties including charring committee meetings (minutes taken by a secretary with financial matters handled by a treasurer).

Linda will be happy to explain any of the above in more detail to interested parties. The ideal candidate will have organisational skills, a zest for living and maybe a smattering of French language.

If this could be you, please get in touch - Email: eastprestontwinning@yahoo.co.uk Tel: 01903 776031

Flooding and Operation Watershed - an update from Parish Council Chairman Joop Duijf

Since last year's flooding much has happened to reduce the flood risks in East Preston but we still have a long way to go before we can say everything is under control.

In response to the floods, the Parish Council set up a Working Party to investigate the problems and identify solutions. At the same time West Sussex County Council (WSSCC) reviewed its procedures to minimize flooding in the County. You have to remember that WSSCC had a steep learning curve to climb as it had only recently become the Local Flood Authority. Surface water drainage has only recently become WSSCC's responsibility.

WSSCC sets its priorities for the whole of West Sussex which may differ from the local aspirations of parishes and towns, and in this, flooding is no different. One of WSSCC's responses to the flooding was to launch the 'Operation Watershed' project which included funding for local initiatives to minimise flooding and making people aware of flood risks and what they should do themselves. However, this funding was only available on the condition that it be used on projects identified by a local community. A community team has to identify

a flooding problem, estimate the cost of resolving it and be willing to project manage any implementation work.

The EP working party has been successful in achieving funding for several projects and more are proposed. This has been achieved by a very few people, not all councillors, for the whole community's benefit, at no cost to East Preston residents.

Therefore I find, as chairman, that it is disappointing that we did not get more support from EP residents – those directly at risk of flooding. Only one member of the public joined our Flooding working party and thanks to him a lot of progress has been achieved. Operation Watershed funding is limited and it is not possible to guess how much more could have been achieved with more volunteers.

I am interested to hear from you how we can involve you to achieve the best for our village. Please contact me, confidentially if needed, through the Parish Office.

Christmas Lights 2013

The Christmas Lights in East Preston will be switched on this year from Thursday 28th November until Friday 3rd January inclusive. As in previous years, they are scheduled to light up at 4.30pm until 11pm each day. There will be no official "Lights On" event this year but individual traders may put on some festivities so look out for these.

The same limited lighting scheme as last year will be in place, due to safety regulations on the village's existing 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 to add to the sparkle.

Next year we hope to do something completely

different! It is too early to give details but we are working on an idea to run a major Christmas event that will include the Village Hall and both sets of shopping areas. Watch this space!

The Parish Council would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a very -



Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year!

Neighbourhood Plan Update

Thank you to those who filled out the recent Neighbourhood Plan survey.

A small Steering Group of volunteers, led by group Chairman Richard Akhurst, is in the middle of analysing your comments and will present the results soon. As you are aware the Plan is being written to set the future of East Preston land use according to what you want and what is possible within the law.

Completion of the Neighbourhood Plan is of utmost importance for the future of our village. There are opportunities if you would like to volunteer to come and help complete the plan. Please help us to get it all right. Contact us through the Parish Office.

As Christmas approaches please could we all spare a thought for those less able to enjoy the season. Through circumstances beyond their control many people and families find themselves unable to provide food, not just the extra Christmas trimmings but basic essentials. There are two places in Littlehampton where non-perishable items can be donated, **Littlehampton Baptist Church on Tuesday and Friday between 10am and 12 noon or the Wick Information Centre on a Thursday again between 10am and 12 noon.** They also appreciate toiletries for both men and women. This time of the year can be very lonely but need not be a time of hunger, please donate if you can.

Newsletter

Every quarter we publish and deliver you this Newsletter about issues and events we believe are relevant to East Preston residents. Are we missing anything from these newsletters? Articles written by you, of interest to us all, could make a better Newsletter to which we could all look forward. Comments or suggestions to the Parish Office.

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



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