



East Preston Neighbourhood Plan

Consultation complete!

Consultation on our draft Neighbourhood plan has now closed. We held two 'drop-in' events where a number of interested residents from across the village questioned the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group (the team of volunteers leading the Plan's development) about our proposals. A number of interesting and very relevant comments were made. We also received a number of comments directly to the Parish Office. The Steering Group is now reviewing all the comments in detail and will adjust the draft Plan where thought necessary. **Thank you for your interest and your comments!**

Why are we doing this? Why have a small number of volunteers spent hours preparing this Plan and spent a considerable amount of money ensuring it has been delivered to every household and business? We do not have to do this. We could sit back and let anything, in any style, be built anywhere land could be grabbed. For your benefit we have taken advantage of recent legislation which allows the Parish define the style and location of new building and significant extensions within the village.

Distribution of our draft plan is part of the legal consultation requirements and your comments, together with our review of those comments is an important part of that process which helps us write the formal Neighbourhood Plan which will contain formal Policies and Proposals which will guide the form and type of development and land use in the parish of East Preston until 2029.

Once we have updated the Plan, based on your comments, it will be sent for external review (an Examination) to check it makes sense and complies with legal requirements. Once it passes the examination the final plan will be subjected to a public referendum. You get the final say as to whether it becomes part of our planning 'rules' by voting for or against it. This should happen in December 2014. If more than 50% of people voting support the Plan, it will be adopted.

Again, thank you for your interest and support and thank you to the team involved in writing our Neighbourhood Plan. This is the most important thing we can do to protect the village's character.

Another successful Beach Clean

We would like to say a big **THANK YOU** to the sixty-three local volunteers who joined four councillors at the recent Beach Clean. In spite of variable weather this was a great turn out, and over forty bags of rubbish were collected as well as other random items such as three blankets and various bits of wood. Thanks also to Arun District Council and the Willowhayne and Angmering-on-Sea Estate Residents' Associations for their support of this event.

The next beach clean is currently scheduled for Sunday, 28th September, as an end-of-season clean.



Highway Grass Verges

From 1st March, the Parish Council has taken over the grass verge cutting from West Sussex County Council in an attempt to have more flexibility on when to cut the grass verges throughout the village. This should fit in better with the ever changing weather patterns and should help to reduce the grass clippings left which look unsightly and clog up the drains. It is also worth residents noting, generally highway grass verges do not have the clippings taken away due to excessive disposal costs. However, there are a few verges in the village which are cut by our Grounds Maintenance or Planting Contractors who do take away the clippings as these are considered verges of particular interest.

Given this is a new Contract, there may be a few teething problems and the Parish Council would appreciate residents to bear with us. WSSCC Maps have been given to the new contractors, Plant Logic and it is hoped these are accurate enough to include all relevant verges. However, if you feel a verge near you is being regularly missed, please get in touch with the Council Office and we can ensure it is included in the cutting programme.

Chairman's Annual Report for 2013-2014



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

The Parish year 2013/14 was gone before we knew. A lot of work has been done by the elected and co-opted councillors, officers and volunteers. Some projects have been completed successfully and others are progressing.

It is impossible to give a complete overview of the activities and achievements of the past year. To mention

a few, those that have been discussed a lot by the parishioners and councillors: the possible purchase of The Martlets bungalow site, Roundstone Crossing, Pagett's Crossing and the Fives Court.

Much progress has been made in the past year in preparing East Preston's Neighbourhood Plan. A small group of volunteers and councillors have prepared the Pre-submission Plan based on the parish-wide survey, public meetings and much publicity. Your thoughts on the draft plan are very important. Hopefully we are a long way towards an accepted Neighbourhood Plan which will dictate the form of housing development in East Preston for the next fifteen years.

Funding has been obtained under Operation Watershed for works in Sea Lane and Two Acres to minimise the risk of flooding. Council has also decided to solve the flooding in the Village Green car park. All these works will start in the next few months.

Our MUGA (Multi-Use Games Area) at Lashmar Recreation Ground still has not materialised due to disagreements between West Sussex County Council (WSSC) and Arun District Council. The Youth Centre facilities have been reduced to an unacceptable level and options are being discussed.

The Warren Recreation Ground Fives Court saw its official re-opening in November 2013. This was well-attended showing the love residents have for the Fives Court. The Fives Court, although very rarely used for playing Fives, is very well-used for practising a range of other sports.

A risk assessment survey of the Warren Recreation Ground was undertaken in December, focussing on the playing of cricket. Some recommendations contained in the report have already been implemented whilst others are currently being considered.

Finally at the Warren Recreation Ground, everybody seems to be happy that the Tennis Court is now free to use.

We have taken over the grass-mowing of the verges from WSSC after requests from residents. This is not an inexpensive initiative, but public response to the new grass-cutting contractor has so far been very positive.

Another initiative is East Preston Day: a day of festivities for everybody on Saturday, 22nd November. Please put this date in your diary now, and look out for more information as the months pass.

We had to abandon any plans to obtain The Martlets side as the financial implications were too high with no clear consensus on possible future use of the site.

We are looking to commission a survey at Roundstone Crossing to find out if improvements can be made to take away the frustrations of many. A working party has been created to deal with our traffic and parking issues.

Council realised an additional member of staff was required, and Alison Roberts started work on 1st April as Receptionist and Admin Assistant covering the hours the office is open. Alison has already settled in and is making a positive contribution to the running of the office.

To realise all this, an increase in the precept was unavoidable. We also anticipate that we may have to take over certain services from County and District due to continued cuts by Central Government.

Council and Police surgeries are held on a regular basis. Committees and Working Parties have been working hard to improve life in our village. One thing is certain: it is impossible to make everybody happy despite the fact that we, as volunteers, do our best to make East Preston the best place to live in.

To achieve this all we need your help, be it a few hours of your time at a regular Beach Clean, some specialist advice, borrow your ideas etc. Please help us so we can help you. Consider shopping in the village so we can keep the shops we have, pick up after your dog, please do not park on the verges and please do not speed – both motorists and cyclists.

Finally may I thank the council's staff – Simon, Tracy, Steve and Ed – for all their support and hard work over the past year.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joop Duijf'. The signature is stylized and fluid, with a large loop at the end.

Joop Duijf - Chairman of the Council

East Preston Youth Club update

East Preston has had a youth club for many years and until its closure at the end of March this year, this was based at the East Preston Neighbourhood Youth Centre in Lashmar Road, located between the two primary schools. It was built in the 1960s to a rather unusual design and over the past fifteen or so years has undergone some major internal improvements. It was equipped for a wide range of activities including table tennis, billiards, computers, television and even a recording studio.

The Youth Centre is a Registered Charity (no. 295427) with a Management Committee as Trustees, but was operated on our behalf by West Sussex County Council Youth Services (WSCC YS). In 2006 WSCC YS granted a licence to another organisation allowing it to use the premises for a Breakfast Club and an After School Club when not being used as a Youth Centre.

As a result of Government cut backs, WSCC needed to make savings and Youth Services was one of a number of areas to face cuts. Originally, three or more years ago, the Management Committee was told East Preston would not be affected. However, last year we were told the Youth Club would close at the end of March 2014, and the premises would be leased wholly to organisation mentioned above, but provision would be made for the Management Committee to continue to run a youth club.

The Management Committee was anxious a youth club should continue to be provided in East Preston and asked WSCC

YS to ensure the lease included a provision for at least two evenings a week to be allocated and sufficient storage space to run a youth club. In December 2013, the Management Committee was told verbally only Friday evening would be made available to run a youth club.

East Preston Parish Council has agreed to provide both financial and staff support to assist in the provision of a youth club, in conjunction with the Management Committee, and would like to see a youth club re-open as soon as practicable. Two options are being considered: The first is to find a provider who could supply the service as a total package i.e. Provide necessary staff and programme for an agreed fee against an agreed requirement. The second option is to recruit and employ directly the youth worker(s).

However, the current situation is WSCC has not provided written details of the terms of the lease relating to the provision of a youth club or the terms of a licence for the youth club to operate as such (i.e. day, times and storage facilities). The Parish Council and Youth Centre Management Committee cannot commit to anything until it has some form of written contract with WSCC. As soon as this is resolved we are committed to restarting a Youth Service in East Preston.

Councillor Glyn Mathias
Chairman - East Preston Neighbourhood Youth Centre
Management Committee

Village Life

June

- 2nd Full Council
- 4th Business Breakfast (8am)
- 9th Planning Committee (6pm)
Community Engagement Committee
- 16th Finance & General Purposes Committee
(7.30pm)
- 23rd Planning Committee (6pm)

July

- 1st Business Breakfast (8am)
- 7th Full Council
- 14th Planning Committee (6pm)
- 16th Amenities Committee
- 21st Community Engagement Committee
- 28th Planning Committee (6pm)

August

- 4th Full Council (tbc)
- 5th Business Breakfast (8am)
- 11th Planning Committee (6pm)
- 19th Community Engagement Committee
- 26th 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.

Business Breakfasts are for local businesses and take place at a variety of venues. Please contact the office if you would like to attend.

*** Please note the above list may be subject to change ***

Santa's Helpers Wanted!

New Christmas Event in East Preston

Christmas already? No, but we are launching a new Christmas 'Lights On' event on 22nd November 2014. Working with residents and local businesses this Christmas Celebration will showcase all that is great about East Preston.

Father Christmas will be in attendance and more details will follow but we expect events or activities in the Village Hall, Conservative Hall, at both sets of shops and along Sea Road. The Christmas Tree lights will be turned on during the late afternoon before we enjoy refreshments and live music at our local hosterlies.

Note the date, Saturday 22nd November, and come and enjoy yourself. Even better, come and help us organise this celebration. We have an enthusiastic team but you would be very welcome to become one of Santa's Helpers!

We are having an informal meeting at East Preston Infant School on 12th June starting at 7pm. Please come and join us and discover what fun you can have.

Community Engagement Committee

Over the past few Newsletters we have described some of the council's committees - Community Engagement is the final main committee to be in this spotlight. The Community Engagement Committee is relatively new, being launched at the start of this council (May 2011), following a desire to gain a better understanding of residents needs and expectations.

The purpose of the Community Engagement Committee is to work with residents and organizations within the village to find out how they would like to see the village improve and to ensure the council acts broadly in the line the wishes of the majority of residents. Our most obvious product is this Newsletter overseen by the council's editorial team. It may only be published four times a year, but considerable effort is put into making it balanced and interesting. We are always willing to publish articles from local charitable/volunteer-run organizations to help promote their 'cause', for the benefit of local residents. Supporting the quarterly newsletter are articles in local magazines such as All About East Preston, All About Kingston, St Mary the Virgin's Parish Magazine and Sea Inside and the almost weekly emails currently sent to about 500 households and businesses in the village.

One major source of your views is the East Preston Action Plan published in 2012 which is based on a survey of all residents. Nearly one third of all East Preston households completed and returned their survey forms which gave a good basis to understand what you think about our village and your views on how it should develop in the future. The completed Action Plan is an important document because it is guiding the Parish Council's activities over the next five to ten years. For example it is a major input to Amenities Committee activity.

Please keep talking to us! We always want to hear your views, either through public comments at our meetings, feedback to the Council Office and councilor surgeries. Please try to avoid corresponding anonymously though as it makes it very very difficult for us to respond!!

Peter Vincent, Chairman of the Community Engagement Committee

World War I

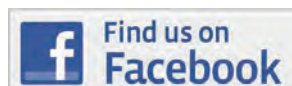
Many of you may already know we are working with local historian and author Richard Standing to publish his book East Preston & Kingston in The Great War 1914-1918. This will be a fascinating book for anyone interested in the history of the village or interested in how the First World War affected a typical rural community. Any profits from the book will go to charity. We hope the book will be available by the end of June.

East Preston Parish Councillors 2013 - 2014

| | | |
|---------------------------------|--|-------------------|
| 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 |
| Petrina Kingham | 9 Lashmar Road, East Preston, BN16 1ES | Tel: 07853 166013 |
| 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 |
| 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 | 27 Lavinia Way, East Preston, BN16 1EF | Tel: 256438 |

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

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



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