



End of term review

This council's term ends on 7th May, you then have the opportunity to elect a new team of parish councillors. Our current team thought it would be interesting to look back over the last four years to give you an idea of our achievements, but not forgetting some of our disappointments. Could this be a challenge to you to stand for election as a Parish Councillor?

We started our new term in May 2011 having recently moved our office from a 'Portacabin' to 122 Sea Road, for the first time providing a truly permanent base for the council and its staff. We should here acknowledge the on-going support and professionalism of our paid staff. They are the often-unrecognised force behind our activities to support our village. This includes answering your questions on a very wide range of topics, supporting numerous council meetings each year, ensuring our suppliers do as asked and are correctly paid, patrolling the village and helping to keep it tidy and much more besides.

As a new council in 2011 we wanted to make sure we focused on issues important to you. Remember the community survey? Nearly a third of all East Preston households completed it, an amazing result. Your comments set our priorities: Roundstone level crossing, the form of future development, dog fouling and inadequate car parking.

A major success has been the writing of our Neighbourhood Plan which you approved at the 28th January Referendum. With your input and written by a small team of volunteers we have now set guidance on what can and cannot be built in East Preston. It is now part of Arun District Council's (ADC) Local Plan. It is a major planning tool and gives us greater control over East Preston's future development.

Our progress in finding a solution to pedestrian safety and traffic congestion around Roundstone level crossing has been steady though slower than we would have liked. It is clear that unless we accept more development (i.e. more new houses – where?) there will be no major funding for level crossing improvements. However do not despair; we are taking a piecemeal, small-steps, approach to the crossing issue. See our initial ideas elsewhere in this newsletter.

We have joined a wider ADC scheme to fund a dog warden who patrols East Preston to monitor dog owner responsibility. A lot of advice and a few prosecutions have been given out. An issue we continue to monitor.

After years of pressure from this council, WSCC implemented a School Safety Zone around East Preston's Junior and Infant Schools, incorporating timed flashing lights advising drivers to drive at no more than 20mph during drop-off and pick-up times. This is in addition to the

continued presence of our school crossing patroller.

We are sure you remember the local floods of June and December 2012. Subsequently we formed a volunteer group to support the West Sussex County Council (WSCC) 'Operation Watershed' flood relief initiative. Through the group's work improvements have been made to East Preston's drainage network.

Refurbishment and re-opening of the Fives Court was another success in November 2013. Such is the demand we have seen groups of children queuing for their turn to use it. Our thanks to the East Preston & Kingston Village Hall Foundation, the Bernard Sunley Foundation and West Sussex County Council (WSCC) for their contributions to the project. The children's playground has also seen on-going refurbishment and improvement, with more ideas on the way. We made the Warren Recreation Ground (WRG) tennis court free to use and have started a work program to catch up with WRG maintenance.

Started by the previous council, the half-term playschemes for younger children continue to be popular. However we struggle to attract older children and teenagers to events directed specifically at them. The loss of the WSCC -operated but Parish Council part-funded Youth Club is a disappointment. We are looking to find a replacement for the Youth Club and need your ideas and help to progress this.

We started a monthly Business Breakfast networking group for local businesses which has grown into the independent and thriving East Preston Business Community: 'keep the East Preston pound in East Preston' is its motto.

The 2014 East Preston Christmas Celebrations event was a great success, thanks to the volunteers who organised it but also to you who supported it.

Our twice-yearly beach cleans are successful and popular. The next will be on 12th April.

To keep you up to date we have this quarterly Newsletter, our regular email updates, our councillor surgeries where you can discuss issues with Parish Councillors or you could just pop-in to the Office when you have a question.

With the coming elections in May, perhaps you have some spare time to join the new Council for the next four years. It would be great to have some new councillors who have the potential to provide the council with some continuity into and maybe even beyond the 2020s. Make your skills and expertise available to benefit your community - it can be very rewarding. Don't hesitate: contact the Council Office now for an informal chat or to arrange a meeting with one or some of the current Councillors.

Roundstone Crossing

The one issue in our 2012 Community Survey that most respondents commented about was poor pedestrian safety and road traffic congestion at Roundstone Level Crossing. Fortunately, through luck and skill, there have been very few reported accidents at the crossing. Unfortunately this means that the responsible authorities have no reason to prioritise our concerns, despite numerous meetings with them. The only concession being that if we could suggest low cost improvements they would be considered.

In response the Parish Council has funded a Transport Consultancy to monitor the crossing and make suggestions as to what could be achieved to improve pedestrian safety and reduce traffic congestion. They monitored traffic patterns, driver and pedestrian behaviour and have produced a report. Their proposals are summarised in the following drawing. The full report may be downloaded from the Parish Council website or a paper copy may be obtained from the Council Office.

In summary, to reduce road traffic congestion it has been proposed that Roundstone Lane be closed to southbound traffic and right turns prohibited from Old Worthing Road into Roundstone Lane. This should help reduce west to east congestion along Old Worthing Road due to right turning vehicles at the Roundstone Lane junction. It should also stop Old Worthing Road being blocked by vehicles forcing their way out of Roundstone Lane.

South of the level crossing it has been proposed to

move the North Lane junction with Worthing Road slightly east. No enough to disturb Roundstone Crescent residents but it should, with new road markings, help emphasise the fact that North Lane / Worthing Road is a T-junction and North Lane is the minor route. It will not solve poor or anti-social driver behaviour, no low cost solution will. Please continue to use 'Operation Crackdown' if you see anti-social driver behaviour.

The major improvement should be for pedestrians. Currently there is no safe way to cross Worthing Road near the crossing. The closure of Paggetts crossing has made this worse. Also, walking north along the east side of North Lane leaves no safe way to cross to reach Roundstone Lane, unless you wait for the crossing gates to be lowered. The addition of a pedestrian refuge in Worthing Road would allow us to cross the road in two 'bites', checking for traffic in one direction at a time. Repositioned crossing points in Old Worthing Road would be a major benefit, giving better sighting of approaching traffic and only having to look two ways instead of three.

Don't worry about the details because they will be resolved as the proposals are refined. What do you think? We want to understand if these proposed changes would make your use of the Roundstone Crossing easier, safer, worse or no difference? Should the Parish Council continue to look for low-cost, incremental improvements? Please let us know before we progress it further. Please send your comments to the Council Office by 16 March 2015.

Keeping your kids safer online - a local workshop and talk for parents

Do you know what "ratting" is? Suppose you saw the letters "LMIRL" on your child's smart phone - any idea what they stand for? These are just two terms your kids probably know, but you may not - but you should if you want to help keep them safe online.

East Preston resident Ann Bird runs workshops and assemblies in schools for Childline, but believes many parents are struggling keep up with their children's social media activity and the dangers they can face online.

In this special workshop and talk aimed at parents, Ann will seek to raise awareness by highlighting:

- possible risks children face
- what tools are available to help parents and children
- ways families can work together to improve online safety
- where to go for more information and help

So if you don't know the minimum age for using Facebook or what "WYRN" stands for, join other parents just like you at this Parish Council-sponsored workshop!

When? - Thursday, 19th March 2015, 7.30pm-8.30pm

Where? - The Guide Hut, Lashmar Road, East Preston (by EP Football Club)

Cost? - £5 per person (the workshop is not connected to any charity, but all proceeds will be donated to the NSPCC).

Do I need to book? - YES! We can only accommodate 35 attendees. Please contact the Council Office.

This is aimed at parents - please do not bring children.



EXISTING ONE-WAY ROAD MARKINGS REALIGNED TO SUIT JUNCTION PROPOSALS.



NO ENTRY SIGNS TO DIAG. No. 616 OF DIT'S TRAFFIC SIGNS MANUAL.

ROUNDSTONE LANE ALTERED LOCALLY TO 3 METRES IN WIDTH FOR EXTENT OF ONE-WAY TRAFFIC FLOW.

PROVISION OF FOOTWAY TO LINK PEDESTRIAN CROSSINGS ACROSS ROUNDSTONE LANE AND OLD WORTHING ROAD.

PROVISION OF ONE-WAY ROAD MARKING TO ILLUSTRATE NORTHERN ONLY TRAFFIC FLOW.

INSTALLATION OF PEDESTRIAN CROSSING POINT ACROSS ROUNDSTONE LANE AND TO INCORPORATE TACTILE PAVING AND DROP KERBS.

EXISTING STOP-LINE ROAD MARKING MOVED EAST OF PEDESTRIAN CROSSING POINT.

INSTALLATION OF PEDESTRIAN CROSSING POINT ACROSS THE B2140 OLD WORTHING ROAD INCORPORATING TACTILE PAVING AND DROP KERBS.

EXISTING STRAIGHT-AHEAD/ RIGHT-TURN ROAD MARKINGS REALIGNED TO SUIT JUNCTION PROPOSALS.

EXISTING ONE-WAY ROAD MARKINGS REALIGNED TO SUIT JUNCTION PROPOSALS.

EXISTING CARRIAGEWAY REALIGNED ALONG NORTH LANE TO FACILITATE THE EXTENSION OF THE RIGHT-TURN LANE.

EXISTING BANK BETWEEN NORTH LANE AND ROUNDSTONE CRESCENT REGRADED TO SUIT KERB REALIGNMENT.

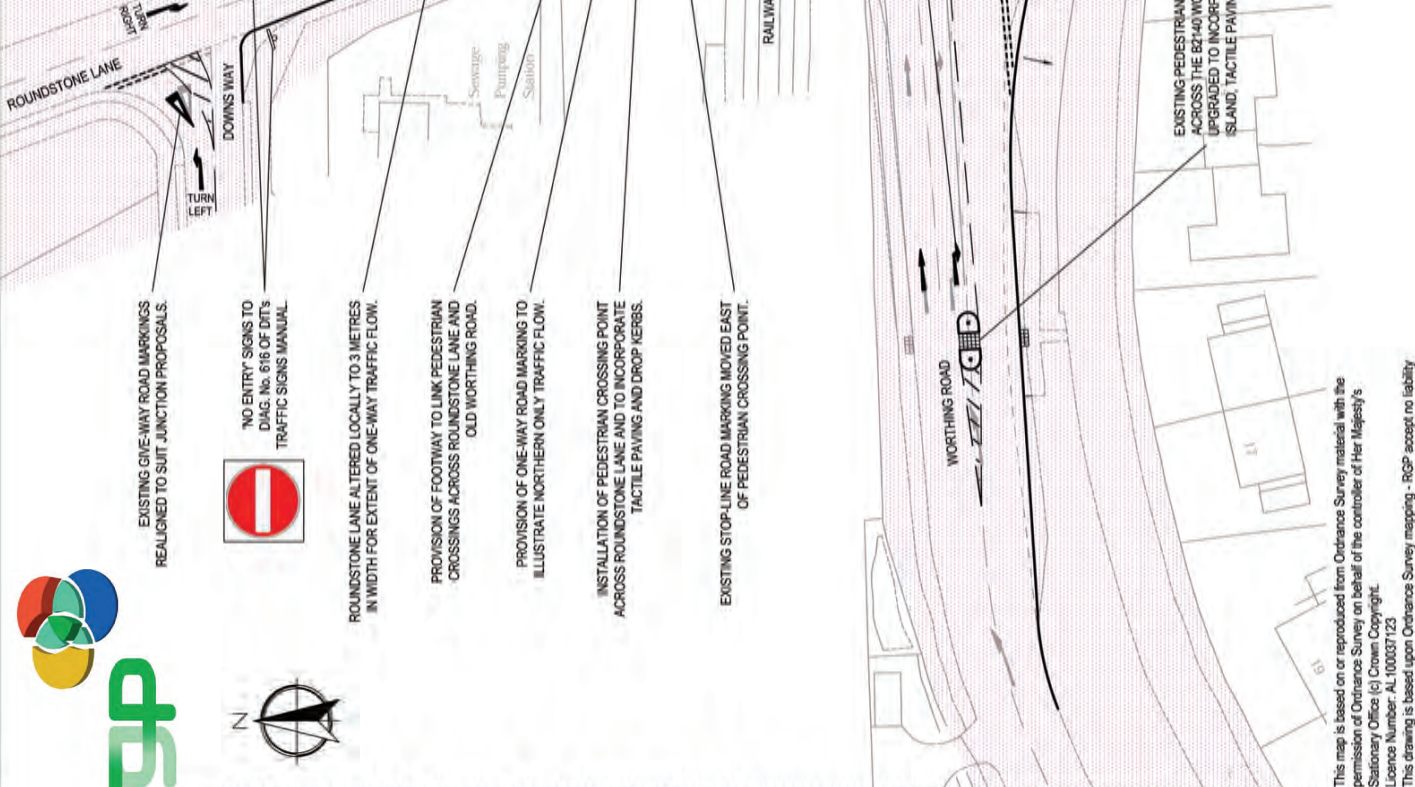
EXISTING LEFT-TURN / RIGHT-TURN ROAD MARKINGS REALIGNED TO SUIT JUNCTION PROPOSALS.

EXISTING PEDESTRIAN CROSSING POINT ACROSS THE B2140 WORTHING ROAD UPGRADED TO INCORPORATE A REFUGE ISLAND, TACTILE PAVING AND DROP KERBS.



NO RIGHT TURN SIGNS TO DIAG. No. 612 OF DIT'S TRAFFIC SIGNS MANUAL.

- LEGEND**
- HIGHWAY BOUNDARY
 - BUS ROUTE
 - GRADED BANK



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Client	East Preston Parish Council
Project	Roundstone Level Crossing East Preston
Drawing Title	Proposed Junction Arrangements
Scale	1:500 @ A3
Drawn By	RAA
Checked By	ALB
Approved By	PMR
Drawing No.	2013/1952/001
Date	November 2014

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Finance News – 2015-16 Precept

The biggest recent decision from the Finance & General Purpose Committee was to recommend a budget and precept for the coming financial year. At its January 2015 Full Council meeting, the Parish Council accepted the recommendations and set the council budget for 2015-16 at £259,499.27. At the same time the council set the precept (the portion of your Council Tax which comes to the Parish Council) at £206,796.00.

The increased budget reflects the council's commitment to the village. Projects include a major overhaul of the northern boundary of the Warren Recreation Ground (other works around the ground to follow in the coming years), improvements to the council-owned flat about the Council Office, the initial stages of improvement works to the Sea Road toilet block, additional Christmas lighting and a village contribution to the provision of a Multi-Use Games Area at Lashmar Recreation Ground. The council is also looking at employing a handyperson for a few hours each week.

The precept has been increased by £14,404, a third of which is to counter the reduction in a grant all Town and Parish Councils have previously received from central government (via Arun District Council).

The new precept equates to £76 for the year for a Band D property, an increase of less than 41p per month. The gap between the budget increase and the precept increase will come from the council's reserves.



green waste club

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SUPPORT OUR MUGA

The Parish Council has been working hard to secure funding from Sport England to install a new Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) on the Lashmar Recreation Ground.

As landowner, Arun District Council has to submit any funding bids. The initial bid was rejected for two reasons. Firstly, there was no programme of use showing Community Involvement and greater participation, rather than just being an open unplanned facility. Secondly, the bid needed to demonstrate how the facility was going to be sustained (ie. money set aside or raised towards the ongoing upkeep and necessary replacement of the facility).

The Parish Council is working with Arun District Council and local groups to try and cover these issues with the aim to submit a revised bid to Sport England in time for the June deadline.

In the meantime, if you run or belong to a Community Group which may be able to offer support to make this application a success by addressing one of the two issues above, please contact the parish office as soon as possible.

Thank you in advance for your support.

Would you like to take an active part in East Preston's fabulous Festival?



The East Preston Festival Committee is looking to recruit more people to support it with the organisation of the annual East Preston Festival. The Committee is a small but dedicated group supported by a band of hardworking and experienced 'Festival Makers', all of us giving our services free to promote East Preston and help unite our community. We need to expand our friendly and enthusiastic team so that we can continue to deliver this great traditional event each year. If you are interested in joining us, please email eastprestonfestival@hotmail.co.uk or phone Pam on 01903 771988.



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