



East Preston Action Plan update

In 2012 we sent a questionnaire to all households in the village the output from which was published in the form of the East Preston Action Plan.

Three issues were clearly at the head of your concerns: Roundstone level crossing, parking and dogs.

The following actions have been taken in respect of each:

The council commissioned a survey to look at options for the Roundstone level crossing. Although there was some concern about the proposals, generally public opinion was in favour of the proposals and these were put forward to West Sussex County Council (WSCC). Unfortunately, as we have already reported, WSCC is not prepared to consider any of the proposals until after improvements have been made to the A259, currently scheduled for late 2017. Requests from residents for WSCC to reconsider have so far been unsuccessful.

Parking is an increasing problem across the country, not just in East Preston. Young people are leaving home later than ever before but also travelling further to work, necessitating another car on the family's drive or, more often, on the road or grass verge. Some residents would like to see more bollards on verges to keep the verges neat, others think bollards themselves can be equally

unsightly. There is no easy answer, but we are happy to discuss with you any suggestions you may have.

In the past few years we have installed dog bag dispensers on the Village Green and the Warren Recreation Ground. These have been well-received but it is very frustrating some people still think it is acceptable to help themselves to as many bags as possible. Repeatedly. It's not and it means other dog owners with a genuine need may find there are no bags available. Additionally, the council has bought into Arun District Council's dog warden scheme over the summer months. It is impossible to know what impact this has had on the problem, however dog owners have told us they feel it is a good thing to have a visible dog warden presence in the village. Similarly, the council also embarked upon a campaign of spray-painting un-cleared mess to highlight the problem – our thanks to community volunteers who have helped with this. At the end of the summer, the dog warden came to our September council meeting and reported the problem was not as widespread in East Preston as in other parts of the Arun district.

The council will continue to work on all three of these challenges, but if you feel there are any new challenges we should be considering, please get in touch. Thanks.

Finance News

2016 – 17 Precept

At its January meeting the Parish Council debated and set the Council budget for 2016-17 at £260,629.07

After an informed and robust discussion, the Council agreed to increase the precept (the portion of your Council Tax which comes to the Parish Council) by 2% to £211,789. The precept has been increased by £4,993.00, which is a lower increase than in previous years.

The new precept equates to £77.55 for the year for a Band D property, an increase of £1.55 per year. The difference between the budget increase and the precept increase will come from the council's reserves.

For the past three years, the precept has been set lower than the budget which has reduced the Council's reserves. The Council is mindful that it needs to exercise caution in this respect as it is unable to predict what services could be devolved to this tier of government in future.

The Parish Council continues its commitment to improve facilities and services to East Preston Village.

Community Speed Watch

By now some of you will have seen our Community Speed Watch Team operating in and around East Preston.

The team is made up of Parish Councillors and volunteers who have undergone the necessary training with Sussex Police and are now able to monitor, record and report back to the Police motorists who are driving too fast in East Preston.

The Community Speed Watch Team has come about as a response by East Preston Parish Council to complaints from villagers who have witnessed vehicles moving through the village at excess speed. The council has been asked to do something to reduce the possibility of accidents happening in the village and to help make the roads in the village safer for everybody.

Following a patrol, Community Speed Watch operators report speeding vehicles to Sussex Police via the Community Speed Watch website. This will initially trigger a letter from Sussex Police.

The moral to this is if you do not want a rather nasty police letter dropping on your doormat please keep to the speed limit and drive with care.

Food and Drink Festival



This year the council is going to organise what is possibly a first for East Preston, a Food and Drink Festival, taking place on Saturday, 27th August. In addition to the French market from last year's Christmas event, a variety of hot and cold foods and drinks will be available from both village suppliers and companies from slightly further afield. This should be a really good day, with something for everyone. If you would like to talk about taking part or know more about volunteering opportunities, please get in touch. More details will follow nearer the time.

Beach Clean 7

The next of the council's popular Beach Cleans will take place on 3rd April. Please register with council reps at the bottom of Sea Road between 11am and midday and bring any tools you have. The council can supply some tools but every little helps.

The council will again be placing large wheelie-bins at the bottom of Sea Road and Sea Lane this year. Last year, regular beach users reported a marked reduction in the amount of litter on the beach, and hopefully some of that reduction is due to these bins.

We are grateful to the local U3A which has started a twice-monthly beach clean on Thursday afternoons. This will help keep on top of beach litter throughout the year.



Happy Birthday, Your Majesty

In advance of her 90th birthday, we would like to wish Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II a very happy year.

Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) – Lashmar Road

Progress on this project was delayed whilst the Parish Council waited for a second decision from Sport England to see whether it had been successful in their bid for funding. Sport England received many worthy applications for funding



this time round and so sadly East Preston was unsuccessful. Since this news, Arun District Council (ADC) has undertaken cutbacks and no longer has officers who can allocate time to this project.

The Parish Council however is determined not to give up on this project, as this facility is something which the village clearly wants. It is planning to ring-fence funds set aside for the MUGA in 2015/16 and has budgeted further funding in 2016/17 to get this project up and running. The Parish Council has proposed to ADC, the landowner, the Parish Council starts to get quotes for a new MUGA and choose the contractor with ADC's agreement. If this goes ahead, further funding options can be explored using the chosen contractor's funding resources.

New Youth Club for East Preston

We are pleased to announce a new Youth Club is up and running in East Preston at the youth centre in Lashmar Road. This is thanks to a partnership between the Youth Club Management Committee, East Preston Parish Council and 'ACCELERATE' the children's and youth work arm of Arun Community Church who already run several other successful youth clubs in the area. It's early days but local young people are starting to attend and enjoy the activities on offer.

"We're very excited about opening the centre again," said youth worker Ben Young for **ACCELERATE**, "it gives East Preston young people a space of their own and a chance to get involved with something on their doorstep".

The youth club will be open to young people aged (11-14 year olds), and sessions will be from 7-9pm on Fridays during term-time with additional outings during school holidays. Entry is FREE for the first time, 50p for **ACCELERATE** Members, and £1 for non-members. Joining as a member costs just £1. Young people can simply turn up.

For more details on the Youth Centre opening, contact **ACCELERATE** on **01903 782744** or the Council Office.



Warren Recreation Ground Improvements

This year, the Amenities Committee has started to make improvements to the boundaries around the Warren Recreation Ground. The first stage of this project was to tackle the eastern side of the northern boundary which was badly overgrown and had some aged conifer trees which needed to be removed. Following clearance work along this boundary, a new fence was erected and shortly some new flowering Cherry trees will be planted along this stretch. Grass seed will then be sprinkled along here which should make the area much tidier and easier to maintain.

It is hoped before the end of this financial year, that the Warren Recreation Ground car park can also be re-configured to allow better parking. New slightly larger parking bays will be marked which will include a disabled bay and emergency yellow hatching at the entrance onto the recreation ground.

A new inclusive roundabout has been ordered for the Children's Playground and will be installed ready for Spring!

The next phase of work in 2016/17 will be clearance and tidying of the western end of the northern boundary.

The East Preston & Kingston Preservation Society has approached the Amenities Committee about being involved with this project and will be meeting shortly to discuss further improvements.

Village Life

March

2nd	Business Breakfast (8am)
7th	Full Council
14th	Planning Committee (6pm)
21st	Community Engagement Committee (7pm)
29th	Planning Committee (6pm)

April

3rd	Beach Clean 7 (11am, bottom of Sea Road)
4th	Full Council
7th	Business Breakfast (8am)
11th	Planning Committee (6pm)
13th	Amenities Committee (7pm)
25th	Planning Committee (6pm)

May

5th	Business Breakfast (8am)
9th	Annual Full Council
10th	Planning Committee (6pm)
23rd	Planning Committee (6pm)
	Community Engagement Committee (7pm)
31st	Finance & General Purposes Committee (7pm)

N.B. The full schedule of committee meetings has not yet been set.

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 may be subject to change ***

It may only be February, but the council and a team of volunteers is already working on this year's **Christmas Celebrations** event. If you have any suggestions for attractions or would like to know more about volunteering opportunities, please get in touch. Meanwhile, please pop **Saturday, 26th November** in your diaries now.

New dog bin

Late last year, in response to a letter to the council from Janeen Warman asking for a new dog bin in North Lane, East Preston Film Society offered to underwrite the full cost of purchase and installation. This offer was accepted by the council and the bin is now in situ at the junction of North Lane and Elm Avenue. In honour of Janeen's dog, the new bin has been named "Poppy's dog bin." The photo below shows Janeen, Poppy and the new bin of which they are both so proud.

The remaining Film Society showings for this season are 9th March, 8th April, 5th May and 3rd June. Look out for posters around the village.



East Preston Business Community

As a way of highlighting the wealth of businesses and services available in East Preston, over the next few editions we will be offering a fictional scenario and showing what is available on your doorstep. For this edition, our Chairman would like to arrange a 21st birthday party.



All ticked items are easily available from East Preston businesses.

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

Correspondence Corner

If you would like something considered for publication in this section, please email us or write in, marking your envelope or email, Correspondence Corner.

Our third entry in Correspondence Corner is:

INCONSIDERATE PARKING

More and more people seem to think they can park wherever they like. Just because it is convenient for them apparently makes it acceptable to everyone. The previous Correspondence Corner complained about parking on grass verges, but the problem is much greater than that. Recently, my husband and I have noticed people parking on double yellow lines; people parking wholly or partially on pavements – forcing some pedestrians, wheelchair users and parents with pushchairs into the road to get past; double parking – just to pop a letter in the post or to pop in and buy something from a local shop, which others have to wait to get past; parking in ways which would prevent an emergency vehicle from getting to its destination, risking lives and property; and parking on bus stops, causing disruption not just to the bus service but to other traffic in the area at that time.

We all lead busy lives these days and you parking in such a way as to help your busy life does not necessarily help everyone else's.

PLEASE BE A RESPONSIBLE PERSON AND PARK ONLY WHERE YOU SHOULD.

JL

Ping Pong Al Fresco

Following last year's very successful installation of Outdoor Gym Equipment, East Preston's Film Society has again been busy raising funds from its film nights to enhance the village. Its latest project is to purchase an outdoor Table Tennis Table.

The Parish Council would welcome suggestions from youngsters and residents as to where they would like to see this new facility sited.



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