



Sea Road Public Toilets Refurbishment

For a while now, the Council has been considering updating the Sea Road Public Toilets in the Village Hall car park to offer a more inclusive facility.

Plans are well under way to turn the existing Sea Road Public Toilets into a new disabled facility along with two unisex toilets. The main external changes will be the addition of a ramp for disabled access and modified entrances. The Council has sought professional advice on the large Fig tree outside the toilet block and this has shown that the tree is rotting in parts and will unfortunately need to be removed in due course for safety reasons. The Council is aware of the sentimental value to some residents and every effort will be made to try and take some cuttings in an attempt to re-establish the tree elsewhere in the village.

Although the new disabled toilet is sadly too small to be a full *Changing Places* toilet (<http://www.changing-places.org/>), it will include all the equipment available in a *Changing Places* facility. This means a full adult-sized adjustable changing table and hoist-assistance can all be included.

Council agreed at its February meeting to submit plans to Arun District Council to obtain planning permission for the necessary modifications outside the building. Whilst this is underway, quotations will be received for the work.

Local groups SENCAT and the Disability Action Group have been involved in the planning phase and are giving valuable input into the project as it progresses. They will also be helping the Council to fundraise for the refurbishment. It is hoped that much of the funding for the new toilets can be raised through external and local community grants as the new facility will benefit the village enormously.

This is an exciting time for the village and the Council as having a disabled public toilet facility in the village will help put East Preston on the map.

If you have a particular interest in this project or would like to make a donation towards the refurbishment, please contact the Parish Office who will be happy to assist you.



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Mrs Betty Wagstaff



We were saddened by the death in October of former councillor, Mrs Betty Wagstaff. Betty was well-known in the village as a librarian, as a school governor and, for 32 years from 1978 to 2010, as a parish councillor. As well as being known for visiting every Planning Application put before the Planning Committee, of which she was chairman for many years, Betty was well-known, quite simply, as a lovely person. Betty will be missed by people across the village and our thoughts are with all her relatives, especially her sons Simon and Peter.

Minor Injuries Unit

Did you know you can go to Park Surgery, St Flora's Road, Littlehampton BN17 6BF for minor injuries?

They will help with grazes, bumps, bruises, stings, cuts, splinters, insect and dog bites, burns and scalds, advice on wounds and foreign bodies in eyes.

They are NOT for injuries over 24 hours old, suspected fractures, x-rays, children's head wounds and tetanus.

The surgery is open from 09:00 - 17:30 Mondays to Fridays and you do not need to be registered at The Park Surgery to be seen. Patients requiring treatment for a minor injury can telephone (01903) 717154 or just turn up at the practice. Park Surgery Minor Injuries Unit tries to see all patients who require treatment within 30 minutes. You can attend this service without a referral.

Accident and Emergency facilities can be found at Worthing Hospital, (01903) 205111 or St Richard's Hospital, Chichester, (01903) 788122.

If the injury is life threatening call 999 without delay.

Village Green Car-Park

Back in 2014, the Parish Council carried out drainage work on the Village Green Car-Park. This work proved very successful and now prevents the car-park from flooding during heavy rainfall.

In a further attempt to use the car-park more fairly, the Council is now looking to address anti-social parking, where despite polite notices, vehicles still park for extended lengths of time thus blocking spaces for others trying to use the car-park.

The Council has started to look at ways it could resolve the parking issues and at the same time recoup the money it pays out on running the car-park, occasional maintenance and the rates being the greatest expenses.

The Council has a view to installing some kind of metered parking. A small hourly charge along with a realistic time limit on parking will help the car-park to be available to more users. This should benefit residents, businesses and visitors to the village.

A final decision on the best system to use is still being considered by the Council. Before any changes are implemented, signage will be put up in the car-park to inform users when the enforced parking will commence. Please get in touch if you have any particularly strong views on this matter.

We will keep you updated as this project progresses.

Finance News 2017 – 18 Precept

At its January meeting the Parish Council debated and set the Council budget for 2017-18 at £264,946.12, a 1.7% increase over the current year.

Not without some discomfort, the council also agreed to increase the precept (the portion of your Council Tax which comes to the Parish Council) by 10% to £234,773.12. This increase mainly reflects the council's needs to protect and secure its reserves for the future but also the council's commitment to improving the facilities within the village. Some of the projects we have in hand are the refurbishment of the Sea Road toilet block (see page 1 of this newsletter), the long-awaited provision of a Multi-Use Games Area on the Lashmar Recreation Ground, further improvements to the Christmas lighting in the village – which boosts the local economy and makes almost all of us feel a little bit happier when its on, and the purchase of improved sound equipment for use at Full Council meetings. Some of these projects come with legal fees attached so additional money has been put in the budget to cover those.

The new precept equates to £85.31 for the year for a Band D property, an increase of £7.76 per year. This equates to less than 24p a day for the services the council provides the village.

Thanks to -

Everyone who helped to make the 2016 East Preston Christmas Celebrations another successful event in the village. This year's Christmas Celebrations event will take place on **Saturday, 25th November** If you think you would like to help in some way, please contact us.

Special thanks also to all of the sponsors of the East Preston Christmas Celebrations event. Without the contributions of many local businesses, the event would be far less enjoyable. There really is not room to list all our sponsors, but here are some of the major sponsors: Cloud 9, The Natural Therapy, Refined Images, Deckmeister, D.K. Rowland, Seaview Stores, Pixie Doodle, Finch & Co., Cooper Adams, The East Preston Clinic, Biffa Green Waste Club and Glyn Jones.

East Preston Football Club

The East Preston FC Academy Under 12 team (photo opposite) played its first ever game on Saturday 14th January, a friendly match against Worthing Town. Formed in late August with only one player, they lost 6-2 to a strong Worthing team with East Preston's goals coming from Harrison Taplin and Will Hodson. The match was played at East Preston FC in front of an enthusiastic, large crowd of 62. This was also the first match played using the brand new portable goals the Academy purchased with money raised by the Academy itself, and sizeable donations from the East Preston FC Under 16s / 1st team, as well as the wonderful East Preston Festival Committee.

The team is still looking for players (Year 7) to add to their squad as they play more friendlies before entering the league next season. Training is every Saturday between 9am and 10:30am at East Preston FC, Lashmar Road, East Preston.



For more information, please contact Gary Wallis on **07971 131107** or email **EastPrestonFCAcademy@gmail.com**

Be a helping hand

Over the winter, many of you will have been thoughtful towards our neighbours who maybe no longer have a car and for whom the bus stop is a long walk in biting cold winds.

Spring is still a few weeks off but please continue to think about any vulnerable or less able neighbours. Please keep a look out for curtains closed all day, no lights on in the evening or windows shut when

normally they would be open.

Do you have a few minutes to spare for a visit? A chat over a cuppa is a way to get to know a neighbour and for someone on their own it would be a welcome break in a long lonely day.

Remember it's not being nosy it's being interested enough to have a chat.

Fairlands - every little helps

West Sussex County Council's Highways department - supported by County Councillor Evans - has suggested moving the eastbound bus stop at the eastern end of Fairlands about six metres to the east, i.e. closer to Sea Road. This should give even more space between the two easternmost bus stops in Fairlands allowing better traffic flow when buses are sitting at both stops.

The shelter will not move so there will be a slightly longer walk to board the bus. However, moving the bus shelter is not an option at this time. The move is planned for later this year.

If you have any comments, please contact the Council Office.



Village Life

March

- 6th Full Council
- 13th Audit & Governance Committee (tbc)
Planning & Licensing Committee (6pm)
- 20th Amenities Committee
- 27th Planning & Leisure Committee (6pm)
Community Engagement Committee

April

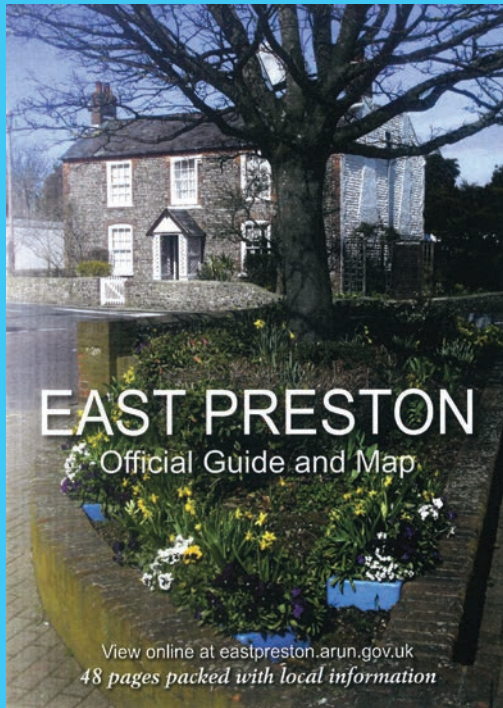
- 2nd Beach Clean No.9 (bottom of Sea Road, 11am - 1pm)
- 3rd Full Council
- 10th Planning & Licensing Committee (6pm)
Personnel Committee (tbc)
Warren Recreation Ground Annual General Meeting (7pm)
- 24th Planning & Licensing Committee (6pm)
Annual Parish Meeting (7pm)

May

- 2nd Community Engagement Committee
- 8th Full Council
- 9th Planning & Licensing Committee (10am) (Office)
- 15th Amenities Committee
- 22nd Finance & General Purposes Committee (10am) (tbc)
Planning & Licensing 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 may be subject to change



New Official Guide coming

Every couple of years the Parish Council works with Local Authority Publishing to produce an up-to-date Official Guide and Map.

The Guide contains a host of information about the village and thanks to the advertisers the only cost to the village is the small delivery charge to ensure as many households as possible have a copy. Copies will also be available from outlets such as the Council Office, the library and local shops and businesses.

The 2017-18 Guide is about to go to print. It will be distributed to households across the village in March, together with the 2017 East Preston Business Community Directory (see below). Please keep both publications safe and close at hand.

Love East Preston businesses

The East Preston Business Community is a group of East Preston businesses that work together to raise awareness of just what a great place East Preston is for doing business. There are over 160 businesses in our village and we formed the East Preston Business Community to promote all the businesses in East Preston.

One way of doing that is the publication of the yearly East Preston Business Community Directory. The final touches are being put to the 2017 edition and this will be distributed to households across the village in March, together with the new East Preston Official Guide and Map 2017-18 (see above).

The online version of the directory can be found at www.eastprestonbusiness.co.uk – please have a look at the diverse businesses in the village.



The Parish Council works closely with the Business Community and hosts monthly Business Breakfasts. If you have a local business and would like to come along, please get in touch.

Councillor Surgeries

From time to time the council has run councillor surgeries at which members of the public could drop in to meet with councillors and discuss any matters in confidence. Some have been well-attended, some not so.

During the last year's Festival, the council ran a kind of enhanced councillor surgery, Come and Meet Your Local Councillors, and this was very successful. The council will run the event again this year on Thursday, 8th June between 10:30 and 12:30, more details next issue.

The council has also taken surgeries into other people's event (with permission!) and this has been fairly successful. Perhaps if you have an event coming up and would like to offer the council surgery space there, please get in touch.

Finally, it is not necessary to wait for a councillor surgery if you would like to meet councillors. You are welcome to attend Full Council meetings on the first working Monday of most months and can meet councillors immediately before those. Alternatively, you can contact the Council Office and a mutually-convenient time will be found for you to meet councillors, again in confidence.

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



Contact point: Parish Clerk - Simon Cross, Assistant Clerk - Tracy Khoo
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This issue was written by Tim Bigger, Simon Cross, Joop Duijf, Tracy Khoo, Elizabeth Linton, Hazel Tester and Gary Wallis.