



Changes at the Village Green car-park

Further to the article in last Winter's quarterly Newsletter and minimal comments received, the council introduced charging for the use of the Village Green car-park on 16th October.

To recap briefly, the charges were introduced after a number of businesses at the southern end expressed frustration at the domination of the car-park by a number of vehicles parking there for long periods both day and night – polite notices had proven ineffective. These vehicles were both private and commercial. The council was also receiving comments from local residents unable to use the car-park because of the inconsiderate parking mentioned above. The third reason was the council recently invested in improving the drainage as the car-park regularly used to flood in the winter and there is annual maintenance expenditure necessary now.

The council explored various options and decided to proceed with introducing a 50p an hour charge for daytime use of the car-park, limited to three hours. Overnight would be £1 for fourteen hours. One bay is available, free-of-charge, for the use of blue badge holders.

The council has intentionally kept the hourly rate low and is disappointed some residents appear so reluctant to pay just 50p an hour for up to three hours safe parking, preferring instead to park in ways which are inconsiderate to other residents. For people visiting these businesses just to collect or drop-off quickly, the council appreciates 50p is seen by some as a high surcharge on top of what

you are spending.

With immediate effect, for people just wishing to pop to a shop or business, the council has negotiated a 15-minutes grace period before any ticket will be issued. This is not retrospective and no correspondence on previously-issued fines will be entered into.

There are great businesses throughout the village but increasing numbers of trade vehicles and cars generally have given the council problems it has tried genuinely to relieve. This is not the end of the village as we know it. This is not the council destroying the village. This is the council tackling an issue for the benefit of the majority.

Community Speed Watch – volunteers needed

East Preston Neighbourhood Speed Watch team is looking for new volunteers.

Overseen by Sussex Police, the team monitors traffic speed at ad-hoc sessions with the aim of reducing speeds in the village. Volunteers would undergo training including examinations before they are able to join in. An average session lasts about ninety minutes, is always in daylight and no volunteer would ever operate alone.

If you would like to know more, contact the Council Office and we will pass on your details to the local co-ordinator. Alternatively, you can register your interest here - <https://www.communityspeedwatch.co.uk/>

Chairman looks to the future



After six years as a councillor, most of them as Chairman of the Council, Cllr Joop Duijf has resigned the chairmanship owing to a change in his life's priorities. He will remain a councillor until the end of April. A new Chairman will be appointed in due course.

Cllr Duijf joined the council in February 2012. At that time the council had neither a Chairman nor a Vice-Chairman and just three months later, Cllr Duijf was elected Chairman of the Council, a post he has held ever since.

Under his leadership, the council has started a programme of improvements to the Warren Recreation Ground; worked with West Sussex County Council to improve drainage in Sea Lane; introduced the highly

successful Food & Drink Festival; relaunched the village Christmas event to much acclaim; completed its last three Annual Returns with no negative comments from the independent external auditors; created and published the East Preston Neighbourhood Plan; introduced popular twice-yearly Beach Cleans; successfully fought an attempt to create a new gated community in the village; refurbished the Fives Court; and begun projects to implement a Multi-Use Games Area on Lashmar Recreation Ground, to improve access to East Preston beach - for everyone - and to refurbish the Sea Road toilet block.

It has not always been smooth sailing and the loss of the 1860s Slater's Cottage in The Street is of particular sadness to Cllr Duijf.

The council thanks Cllr Duijf for his chairmanship and wishes him well for the future.

Come to a committee meeting

The Committees of the Parish Council are, in no particular order, Planning & Licensing, Community Engagement, Amenities, Audit & Governance, Personnel and Finance & General Purposes.

Most of these committees are allocated a budget each financial year and the committee is then able to spend against that budget. Where a proposal is agreed and has not formed part of that committee's budget, a proposal is put to a monthly Full Council meeting for agreement to spend on that proposal.

The Planning & Licensing Committee works slightly differently as it rarely spends any money but responds to Planning & Licensing Applications lodged with Arun District Council and West Sussex County Council.

All committee meetings are open to the public. Time is set aside at the beginning of each meeting for members of the public to speak about any item on the Agenda. On occasion, it may be necessary for members of the public to be excluded legally for part of a meeting because of the nature of the topic to be discussed.

It is at committee level where the council most welcomes the views of local residents. Historically, attendance at committee meetings has not been high. Several of the current councillors though became councillors after attending a committee meeting and getting "a taste for it".

Committee meeting dates are published quarterly in this newsletter, subject to occasional change of course, and can be found on the Committees page of the council's website. Agendas are published in the council's noticeboards and on the council's website during the week preceding the meeting.

Please come along and join us soon.

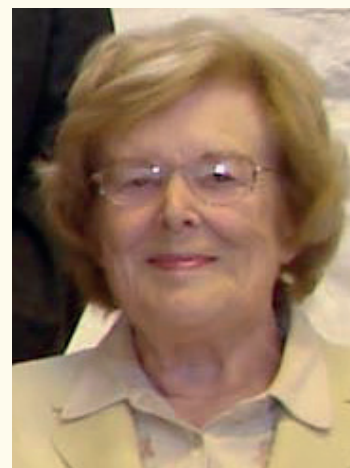
Mrs Anne Harberson

We were saddened by the death in August of former councillor, Mrs Anne Harberson.

Anne moved to East Preston in 1996 and very soon joined the council. A former teacher with a huge passion for education, Mrs Harberson had previously served on Lewes District Council.

Here in East Preston, Mrs Harberson primarily served as the Chairman of the Amenities Committee and oversaw improvements such as updating the children's play area at the Warren Recreation Ground and the council's purchase of the Village Green in 2007 for just £1. Anne was one of the working party which finally saw the council set up an office in the village in 2006. Anne resigned from the council in October 2011 in order to spend more time with her newly-retired husband, Robert.

Anne's abilities as a councillor were much-respected by past and present councillors alike, some of whom are contributing towards a wild flower bed in Anne's memory as she particularly loved the floral displays in the village. Please contact the office if you knew Anne and would like to contribute too.



Attention book lovers

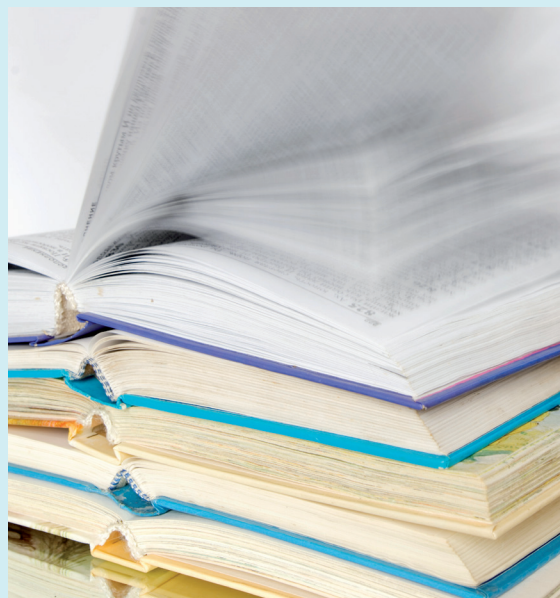
Are you or someone you know finding it difficult to visit the library? Do you know about West Sussex Libraries' Home Library Direct Service?

This free service is for anyone who is unable to access the library due to age, illness, disability, caring responsibilities or other reasons.

A volunteer will select your choice of books - including large print and audiobooks - deliver them to your home, and return them to the library. All of our volunteers are DBS checked.

You can also download items from our Digital Library 24/7 - eBooks, eComics, eMagazines and eAudio, without visiting the library.

If you would like this service or know anyone else who would benefit, please contact or visit your local library for an application form, or complete the online form here: www.westsussex.gov.uk/HLD



Have you been to Age UK at The Laurels yet?

Age UK has recently started to run a daytime drop-in centre at The Laurels in Station Road, just behind Willowgreen Surgery. Anyone is welcome to drop in from 9:30am onwards, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays.

There are a number of classes and activities including Sit to Get fit, Carpet Bowls, Flower Arranging, Canasta, the Music Makers Choir and even jewellery-making. A beauty therapist is available each Thursday and Friday - treatments are reasonably priced and very enjoyable.

Great home-cooked food is available at very reasonable prices: lunches are £4.00, whilst a dessert is just £1.00. Snacks are also available; for example a jacket potato with salad costs from £2.50.

Please feel free to pop in. Membership is £25 per year or £2 per day.

Age UK looks forward to seeing you.



Council provides new defibrillator

Thanks to a successful National Lottery Awards for All application, the council is able to provide a new defibrillator for the village. This will be located at the southern end of the village on the wall of the Council Office in Sea Road.

Other defibrillators in the village are the 24-hour accessible one at the Village Hall, also in Sea Road, and limited-access defibrillators at Angmering-on-Sea Lawn Tennis Club in Homelands Avenue and East Preston & Kingston Bowls Club in Sea Lane. Others nearby include one at the eastern end of Downs Way and one at Angmering Station.

We hope the new defibrillator will be available for use sometime during February. Later in the year, the council will run a couple of familiarisation sessions for anyone wanting to learn more about how defibrillators can help you save someone's life.



Village Life

March

- 5th Full Council (7pm)
- 7th Business Breakfast (8am)
- 12th Planning & Licensing Committee (6pm)
Audit & Governance (tbc)
- 19th Amenities Committee (7pm)
- 26th Planning & Licensing Committee (6pm)
Community Engagement Committee (7pm)

April

- 4th Business Breakfast (8am)
- 9th Full Council (7pm)
- 10th Planning & Licensing Committee (10am,
Council Office)
- 16th Warren Recreation Ground Annual General Meeting
(6pm) (tbc)
Annual Parish Meeting (7pm) (tbc)
- 23rd Planning & Licensing Committee (6pm)

May

- 1st Business Breakfast (8am)
- 8th Planning & Licensing Committee (10am,
Council Office)
- 14th Full Council (7pm)
- 15th Amenities Committee (7pm)
- 21st Finance & General Purposes Committee (10am,
Council Office)
Community Engagement Committee (7pm)
- 29th Planning & Licensing Committee (10am,
Council Office)

Council meetings are usually held at East Preston Infant School, Lashmar Road. 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.

Budget and precept for 2018-19

At last month's Full Council meeting, the council agreed unanimously to increase the amount of Council Tax each household pays to the council by 3%. For a Band D property, this means an increase of £2.64 to £87.95 for the year or just 5.1p a week. 3% is just below the rate of inflation as it stood in mid-December.

This increase in the council's budget is mainly related to the rising cost of living, and the increased precept reduces the impact the council's budget will have on the council's reserves. In addition to continued work on the implementation of the Multi-Use Games Area at the Lashmar Recreation Ground and the refurbishment of the Sea Road toilet block, the council remains committed to improving access to the beach, providing two school crossing patrollers in the village, a new website (necessary following the withdrawal of Arun District Council's support of our current website), some replacement Christmas lighting, planned improvements to the Village Green, support for the East Preston Youth Club and more.

We hope the majority of residents will feel the council does the best it can with your money.

The new MUGA on Lashmar Road should be almost complete and ready to use by the time this Newsletter reaches you



The graphics will not be put on the surfacing until the Spring when the weather improves. The Council looks forward to holding an informal opening ceremony once the surface graphics have been completed.

You may have noticed the youth shelter has been removed as a result of this work. The shelter was unavoidably damaged when it was removed from the ground and the cost to salvage it is high. For a while now, there have also been reports of the shelter being used as a drugs den and providing a meeting place for anti-social behaviour leaving many residents not wanting to use the recreation ground. The council is seriously considering whether there is a place for a shelter here anymore and will make a final decision in conjunction with the landowners, Arun District Council.

Thanks to....

Thanks to everyone who helped make the East Preston Christmas Celebrations such a success. The event will be run again this year, on 24th November.

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Thanks to Paul Amoo and his St Mary the Virgin team and to the Peters at Mrs Beeton's for providing places for local residents to have a sociable Christmas Day lunch.

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Thanks to Tracy Kigano for her time as school crossing patroller since 2011. We wish Tracy luck for the future.



School Crossing Patrol - East Preston

£7.90 per hour - School Crossing Patrol needed to assist children and parents safely across busy roads.

West Sussex County Council employs a large team of dedicated men and women who assist children across busy roads, improving their route to school and reassuring many parents and guardians.

This is a great opportunity to play a key role in your community and benefit other people.

Using specific procedures and after full training, you will control traffic and pedestrians, including young children and their parents, every school day around school start and school finish times.

Shifts include school days, am and pm (or am only / pm only).

Benefits include full training, uniform provided free and access to further your career in West Sussex County Council. Successful candidates will be subject to a DBS background security check and medical assessment.

To apply, please contact the **School Crossing Patrol Group at West Sussex County Council.**

Tel: 03302 225 450 or

Email: caroline.m.martin@westsussex.gov.uk

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



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Arun District Council (01903) 737500 West Sussex County Council (01243) 777100

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