

East Preston Business Community

With approximately 3,000 delightful properties and a population of over 6,000, East Preston is a wonderful place. It could also be said that East Preston is a great place to do business; however, due to the geography of the village, it can be harder that you may imagine for businesses to create awareness and thrive. There are over 180 businesses known to be running from East Preston, fewer than fifty have an obvious "high street" presence.

Because of this dilemma, East Preston Parish Council initiated monthly informal Business Breakfast meetings to support local businesses. These give businesses an opportunity to network and raise their profile.

I am a local graphic designer. With the intention of raising the profile of East Preston businesses as a whole, I proposed an umbrella name and identity, thus the East Preston Business Community emerged. Businesses could subscribe to a website and have a page that showcased their products or services. Importantly, each page features a photo of the proprietor so residents could recognise the people they may do business with.

The community has had some great experiences and businesses have benefitted from this initiative, so much so that we are now in our fifth year. There is still much work to do in promoting the businesses in the village



and we need everyone's help. If you are a business in the village, have you subscribed yet? You could be part of this great initiative to ensure residents know how great East Preston is in meeting their needs for goods and services. Please email me and I will happily talk to you about what we are doing and how you can play your part.

As a resident, please think of the East Preston Business Community first because the chances are, you'll find what you need right here! Take a look at the website as East Preston businesses are only too happy to help and try to provide the things you need. The site is easy to use and you can contact individual businesses by using the contact details provided.

We are confident, with everyone's help, not only will East Preston remain a wonderful place to live but also be a great place to do business.

Tim Bigger – East Preston Business Community - tim@abstractcreative.co.uk - www.eastprestonbusiness.co.uk

KEPT – Keep East Preston Tidy

Last autumn, John Wintle and Lindy Hinsley-Wintle decided to set up KEPT – Keep East Preston Tidy.

The group's initial objectives are:

- To pick up/clear up dropped and discarded items of litter throughout the village
- To educate people not to drop in the first place; take pride in where they live
- To educate people as to what can be recycled
- To include as many people and groups who reside in the village to participate, not only in the East Preston Spring Clean and similar events, but also to support and carry on going forward; for example, Scouts, Youth Club, Schools
- To get the support and backing of local businesses on the day and going forward; sponsorship of equipment, keep the area in front of their premises tidy, smoking areas with bins
- To encourage local residents to do their bit on their local "patch" as well as throughout the whole village, defined as outside where they live to the kerbside, as well as maybe their actual street
- How to get through to the persistent "to\$\$ers" who are the minority who drop the most litter

As mentioned above, the group will be leading, with this council's support, an East Preston Spring Clean on Sunday, 24th March, when it hopes many residents will work together to give the village a good spruce up setting off from the Warren Recreation Ground car-park at 10:30am.

If you would like to take part, please let John know by emailing him at – keptsussex@gmail.com.

Facebook users can join the KEPT Facebook group to keep track of ways in which they can help the group to meet its objectives. For more information, please contact John on the above email address.

The photograph on the right shows a selection of cans and bottles picked up from a single location in about 10 minutes!



East Preston's first blue plaque

On a bright Saturday afternoon in November, a small group of people gathered outside Far End in Sea Lane. There, Mrs Shirley Zangwill unveiled a blue plaque in honour of her parents-in-law, Israel Zangwill and Edith Ayrton. Mrs Zangwill said, "I thank East Preston Parish Council so much for asking me to unveil the Blue Plaque to honour Edith and Israel Zangwill. It was a fantastic occasion for me and I enjoyed every minute of it, meeting so many lovely and interesting people. Such a wonderful day."

This is the first blue plaque in the village and its unveiling in 2018 was particularly apt as both were lifelong campaigners for women's suffrage and world peace. Emmeline Pankhurst is believed to have stayed in the house at the height of the women's suffrage movement.

A question to responsible dog owners

Like many councils across the country, this council receives complaints from residents about the amount of dog mess which is not cleared up by owners – both on pavements around the village and on greenspaces such as the Warren Recreation Ground and Village Green. Some residents have called for a ban on dogs on these open spaces.

When we take action to highlight the problem, such as spraying uncleared dog mess with fluorescent paint, we then receive a different set of complaints from residents who think the patches of bright paint are also unsightly and stay around long after the dog mess has been removed.

We believe the majority of dog owners in the village are responsible, clearing up after their dogs, proving it is not a difficult thing to do.

So this is a question to the responsible dog owners in the village. What ideas do you have for how this council can tackle this problem? Any suggestions made will be considered by the council.

Current owners of Far End, Amy and Simon Comins, said, "We were absolutely delighted to have been approached by EP Council about the possibility of receiving the first blue plaque in the village. We are very proud of the history associated with our house and the historical significance of the early suffragette movement in our local area."

Cllr Elizabeth Linton added, "The council is very pleased to be able to commemorate, on its first blue plaque, this wonderful couple. They were well known for their literary works and their active idealism for a better world. We were especially pleased to welcome their daughter-in-law Shirley to carry out the unveiling for us."



Photograph courtesy of Graham Lewis

Thanks to....

Everyone who supported the East Preston Christmas Celebrations.

Ted for his incredible job of mapping the St Mary the Virgin churchyard.

Carol for helping to keep the council's noticeboards up-to-date.

DART Ltd. for installing the village's first blue plaque at no cost to the village.



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East Preston Parish Council

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50th

50 issues strong

This issue marks the council's 50th newsletter to East Preston residents and businesses.

The earliest issue we still have is no. 4 (below left), which was published in the summer of 2006. Also below are the front covers of every 10th issue to show you how the newsletter has changed over the years.



Policing in East Preston

On the evening of Thursday, 21st February, the council will host an evening with the Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner, Katy Bourne, at the East Preston Junior School in St Mary's Drive.

Mrs Bourne is responsible for setting the strategic direction and priorities for Sussex Police and will talk about her priorities for policing in Sussex before taking questions from local people.

We expect this event to be popular so, although it is free to attend, please contact the Council Office to reserve a space as we do not want to have to turn people away on the evening if the hall is full. *Thank you.*



We hope you agree this newsletter is a good way of keeping in touch with residents across the village throughout the year. We thank everyone who has ever contributed to the newsletter, and its development, in any way over the past fourteen years and especially dedicate this edition to two of the initial editors, the late Anne Harberson and Betty Wagstaff.

We are missing issues 1, 2, 3 and 5 from our archive. If, by any chance, you happen to have a copy of any of those, please get in touch. *Thank you.*

Clive Maltby and David Quick

The council was saddened by the deaths of former councillors Clive Maltby in November and David Quick in December.

Clive joined the council in May 2007 and David in May 2011. Sadly, both were forced to resign due to ill health early in 2012.

Despite their very different characters, both cared passionately about the village. Both shall be missed and our thoughts are with their families at this time.

Looking back over the past term

As the current (four-year) council term comes to an end, we asked our twelve current councillors to have a quick look back over the term.

We asked them all the following four questions:

- 1. When did you join the council?
- 2. What is the best part of being a councillor?
- 3. What is the council's best achievement over the past four years?
- 4. How have you contributed as a councillor?

Here's what they had to say:

Steve Toney (Chairman)



- 1. July 2015
- 2. Having been a firefighter in the village for 36 years, I found Monday nights very dull as this had been our training night. I decided to stand as a Parish Councillor and to help make the village a better, cleaner and hopefully safer place to live.
- 3. We have had great success with the Food and Drink Festivals and the Christmas Celebrations events. Another great achievement was to see the MUGA up and running for the use of the local community.

Our next project is underway - the Sea Road toilet block refurbishment and Hoist Assisted Toilet facilities.

We have also had some success in tidying and improving the Warren Recreation Ground with a rolling programme to follow.

- 4. I have always participated as much as I can. Becoming Chairman in 2018, I attend every council meeting. I very much enjoy this role, although it can be very time consuming and demanding.

I look forward to many more years of service to the village.

Elizabeth Linton (Vice-Chairman)



- 1. June 2012
- 2. I love being involved with the local community

and continuing to make East Preston the best place to live whilst keeping its local character. I am mindful that not all villagers think the same way and always want to hear both sides of any problems and, hopefully, find an answer that is acceptable to all.

- 3. The large community events such as the Food & Drink Festivals and the Christmas Celebrations.
- 4. Starting with something small, overseeing the village's first blue plaque from the moment we received the initial suggestion to being at the unveiling was very special for me. Beyond that I have served conscientiously as Chairman and Vice-Chairman of a number of committees and take my role as a community representative very seriously

Christine Bowman



- 1. July 2016
- 2. Being involved in all aspects of life in East Preston and hopefully making a difference
- 3. The three Food & Drink Festivals we have organised since 2016, bringing all ages and groups of the community together.
- 4. Being involved both in community events and an opportunity to be involved in developments within East Preston.

Andrea Chapman



- 1. July 2018
- 2. East Preston is a village I love and know well. I really enjoy helping with events and projects that will help move the village forward without, hopefully, losing its unique charms. I feel privileged to be part of such an active and industrious Parish Council.

- 3. I know a lot of councillors and officers put in a lot of effort to get the multi-use games area on to Lashmar Road, a new sports facility for people of all ages.
- 4. I'm still in my first year, but I led the council volunteers at the Comic Capers playscheme in October, spent most of the Christmas Celebrations event as council contact and helper and am already excited to be working on events for this coming year.

Lisa Duff



- 1. July 2015
- 2. Being involved in a village I grew up in and love.
- 3. Working hard to keep the village a beautiful place to live and enhancing facilities for residents.
- 4. I'm proud to be part of the team who provide village events, the first Food and Drink Festival would be my highlight. Seeing the village come together for these events makes all the work worthwhile. From playschemes for children and parents to cleaning the beach, I love being involved and meeting people, preserving what East Preston is all about!

Barbara Gale



- 1. August 2015
- 2. As a registered disabled person, I feel I can understand and help other people like me.

- 3. The Multi-Use Games Area on Lashmar Rec – a great resource for kids of all ages
- 4. I have helped the council in recruitment and management of its staff; I have helped respond to complaints from residents; I have been a voice for less mobile residents.

Pat Gander



- 1. July 2015
- 2. I became a Parish Councillor to help and support the community. During this time I have learned more about the village and met many people.
- 3. The Council has installed the multi use games area (MUGA) in Lashmar Recreation ground, promoting health and well-being. The Christmas Celebrations and the Food and Drink Festival events are wonderful opportunities for the community to get together.
- 4. I am committed and willing to listen to the views and needs of the community, and react responsibly. I have spent time on most of the council's committees and have chaired both the Finance and Personnel Committees.

I have been very proactive in organising the large events in the village and attending meetings with other agencies. I am enthusiastic about initiatives which can improve the health and well-being of local residents.

Glyn Mathias



- 1. May 1995
- 2. As a councillor you have the opportunity to encourage and influence changes that enhance and improve our village. I similarly try to ensure that detrimental changes are avoided or at least minimised. I am in a privileged position of knowing what is being proposed for

the village and am invited to participate in the discussions and the outcome.

- 3. This has been my sixth term as a Parish Councillor. I think that two of the best achievements in recent times have been the Christmas Celebrations and the Food & Drink Festival both of which provide the villagers with events in which they can participate and enjoy. The council has also worked on the re-provision of a youth service in conjunction with the East Preston Youth Club management committee.

- 4. Although in my time on the council I have been involved with most of the committees, I have served longest on Planning and Finance. I have a keen interest in trying to ensure new developments in the village are in-keeping and appropriate. Beyond that I also chair the Audit & Governance Committee which makes sure the council is running as it should. The last three external audits have all been clear, which is great news.

Rick McElroy



- 1. May 2015
- 2. Feeling that I make a difference for my local community and family.
- 3. I cannot narrow it down to just achievement. Ensuring good value for money; projects such as MUGA and the large events to bring the community together.
- 4. Pushing forward the refurbishment of the Sea Road toilet block to make it more accessible for everyone and the MUGA as an exercise facility for everyone.

David Moore



- 1. July 2015
- 2. I have enjoyed being on the Planning and Licence Committee

and recently I joined the Amenities Committee. Prior to becoming a parish councillor I knew next to nothing about how local government worked. It has been long learning process.

- 3. I think the council works hard trying to keep the village a very pleasant place to live and work in, I therefore don't think there is one particular achievement that shines out.
- 4. I hope I have made a good contribution as a councillor, by taking a serious approach to the committees I serve on and by doing other council duties as they arise.

Danny Shah



- 1. October 2015
- 2. I like being able to represent some of my customers during council discussions and also being able to explain council decisions to curious or disgruntled members of the public.
- 3. Working with the Film Society to provide little touches such as the outdoor table tennis table and outdoor table football table. Small attractions for the benefit of the whole of the village.
- 4. Looking at the council's bank accounts and seeing opportunities for the council's money to work harder for the village, earn more interest.

Steve Wilkinson



- 1. November 2017
- 2. Much of what we do as councillors is carried out in the background, but seeing and hearing how our residents appreciate all the hard work done by the parish council makes it all worthwhile.
- 3. Multi-use Games Area at Lashmar Rec and ongoing work on the refurbishment of the Sea Road toilet block.
- 4. I contribute to the success of our council by serving on a number of committees that directly influence parish life.

East Preston Parish Council council tax for 2019/20

Each year, this council spends money in the village and that money is part of the council tax you pay annually to Arun District Council. The money raised through the council tax which this council can spend is called the precept.

East Preston councillors devote a lot of time to keeping East Preston a lovely place to live and part of that is spending time building a budget each year to encompass both short-term and long-term projects. At the January Full Council meeting, the council agreed an annual increase of £7.15 to £95.10 per year for a Band D property. This equates to an increase of less than 14p a week. For those who prefer such figures in percentage terms, that is an increase of 7.5%. The council appreciates this is above the most recent rate of inflation, but please rest assured the council did not agree this lightly - every line of the council's budget is considered by the relevant committee before a figure is recommended to the council.

Despite the increase, the council's budget will still be higher than the amount raised from your council taxes in the coming financial year. The council will dip into its reserves to address this shortfall. Some of this shortfall

will also be addressed by the increased amount of interest the council has been earning on its reserves over the past couple of years thanks to regular reviewing of its bank accounts to ensure the council's reserves are working hard for the village.

The over 800 residents on the council's e-mailing list were once again given the opportunity to comment upon this increase in the days leading up to the council meeting. Only one resident chose to comment and his comments were seen by the council prior to the meeting.

This increase in the council's budget is mainly related to the need to increase the council's staffing profile as reported in the Autumn 2018 Newsletter, delivered to homes during November. This time last year, we had hoped the refurbishment of the toilets in Sea Road would have been completed, but despite best efforts that has not yet been possible. The council has delivered, in the past year, the multi-use games area at Lashmar Rec, a successful Food & Drink Festival and a successful Christmas Celebrations event, both enjoyed by many residents, a playscheme for younger children, all from an office which helps numerous residents on a very wide range of issues and concerns.

News from the Friends of St Mary's Church

Following many requests over the past two years, we have agreed to run a third Christmas Tree Festival in the church later this year. This will run over a weekend leading up to Christmas. We plan to make it bigger and better than before, maybe extending out into the churchyard. The 2016 Christmas Tree Festival raised just under £10,000 and attracted 2,000 visitors. We hope you will agree this is something to look forward to.

This is all part of the Friends campaign to raise about £100,000 for essential repairs to maintain the Grade I-Listed building in a good, useable state. We believe this is important for almost everyone in the village, whether they are getting hatched, matched or despatched or just attending one of the social events we run throughout the year.

The Friends intend on launching an appeal in about September of this year. All funds raised by the Friends goes solely towards expenditure on the building itself. The building's Grade I-Listed status means it is a very expensive building to maintain, but it's worth it. To find out more about this year's appeal project or to offer help, please contact me on the telephone number below.

Malcolm McLelland – Chairman 01903 412961

Village Life

March

- 4th Full Council (7pm)
- 5th Business Breakfast (8am)
- 11th Planning & Licensing Committee (6pm)
- Audit & Governance Committee (tbc)
- 19th Amenities Committee (7pm)
- 24th East Preston Spring Clean (10:30am)
- 25th Planning & Licensing Committee (6pm)
- Community Engagement Committee (7pm)

April

- 1st Sussex Police – Rogue Traders Presentation (6pm)
- Full Council (7pm)
- 4th Business Breakfast (8am)
- 8th Planning & Licensing Committee (6pm)
- Personnel Committee (7pm)
- 14th Beach Clean No. 13 (11am)
- 15th Annual Parish Meeting (7pm)
- 23rd Planning & Licensing Committee (10am)
- 29th Finance & General Purposes Committee (10am)
- Major Events Committee (7pm)

May

- 7th Planning & Licensing Committee (10am)
- 13th Annual Full Council (7pm)
- 20th Planning & Licensing Committee (6pm)
- Amenities Committee (7pm)
- 28th Community Engagement Committee (7pm)

Most council meetings are held at East Preston Infant School, Lashmar Road. However, for all meetings, please consult the Noticeboards and website a few days before the meeting for the Agenda and venue.

Please note the above list may be subject to change.

We also thank former councillors Joop Duijf, Rob Ellis, Paul Kelly and the late Hazel Tester for their contributions to the past four years.